



Photo by RDCO—Parks Services



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: October 6, 2011

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www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

Stu Wells - Chair,
Regional District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,
Regional District of North Oka-
nagan

James Baker, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Bernie Bauer, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Buffy Baumbrough, Regional
District of North Okanagan

Gwen Bridge, Okanagan
Nation Alliance

Michael Brydon, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Gordon Clark, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Graeme James, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of BC

The next regular meeting of
the OBWB is 10 a.m.,
Nov. 1, 2011 at the Regional
District of Central Okanagan,
1450 KLO Rd., Kelowna.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board of Directors approve 2012-2013 budget: Board Directors reviewed and approved the budget for the coming year. The \$3.4 million budget includes a 7.3 per cent reduction from the previous year. The budget funds the OBWB Watermilfoil Control Program, Sewage Facilities Grants, the Water Management Program, and the new UBCO Water Research Chair.

Osoyoos Forum prompts report to ensure Okanagan water needs voiced:

The board discussed the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum, held Sept. 18 to 20, and talks around the renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake. The orders expire in February 2013 and regulate the lake's water between Canada and the United States, ensuring enough water reaches Zosel Dam in the U.S. Of particular concern is a U.S. recommendation that new orders include guaranteed minimum flow over the dam to protect fish and other U.S. water needs. The OBWB is worried about the potential impact this could have in the case of an Okanagan drought. Directors asked that a report be submitted to the International Joint Commission — in charge of renewing the orders — with a recommendation protecting water for fish and water needs below Zosel Dam but without minimum flow requirements, ensuring Okanagan water needs are met.

Effort to protect Okanagan shoreline to be reviewed: Water Board directors noted that shoreline protection in their communities is an important issue and a coordinated approach to addressing it valley-wide is needed. The board asked staff to provide a recommendation on how the OBWB can assist in this process.

OBWB to attend federal talks on protection of Okanagan mussel:

Water Board staff will be attending a Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada meeting Oct. 18 in Penticton, regarding the potential listing of the rare Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel as endangered. Such a listing could impact the Water Board's program to control non-native, invasive Eurasian watermilfoil in Okanagan lakes. Local government officials in the Okanagan were encouraged to attend to address any other potential issues. For more information and to RSVP contact sara@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

Board to send letter requesting protection of Rose Valley Reservoir:

Board directors asked staff to draft a letter to the B.C. government encouraging protection of the Rose Valley Reservoir. Surrounding lands are currently proposed to be swapped as part of a deal between the province and Westbank First Nation. The board is concerned the lands should remain in public hands to ensure ongoing protection of the reservoir's drinking water. The letter will echo past correspondence with the province regarding proposed disposition of lands around reservoirs and will include a copy of the OBWB's 2009 policy (<http://tiny.cc/8mxnb>) on this issue.

For more information, please visit: www.OBWB.ca