

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2012

TIME: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

PLACE: Regional District Central Okanagan
1450 KLO Rd., Kelowna, B.C.

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

2. **APPOINTMENTS TO THE OBWB**

2.1 Board Appointments and Elections for 2012 *(page 1)*

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

5. **INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

6. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

6.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 1, 2011 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna, B.C. *(page 2)*

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

7.1 Executive Director Report *(page 7)*

(Note: a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the OBWB will also be provided at the meeting)

7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report *(page 12)*

7.2.1 Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Backgrounder *(page 14)*

7.2.2 Groundwater Monitoring Project Report *(page 16)*

7.2.3 Okanagan Water Supply Communications Report *(page 19)*

7.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report *(page 22)*

7.3.1 OBWB Communications Overview *(page 26)*

7.4 Grant Administrator Report *(page 36)*

8. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8.1 Signing Authority Memo *(page 37)* *(includes recommendation)*

8.2 The Year Ahead – Strategic Planning *(page 39)*

8.2.1 Aggregated Planning *(page 40)*

8.2.2 Strategic Planning Summary Report *(page 46)*

8.3 Report on Can.-U.S. Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) meeting *(page 51)*

8.4 Request for funding – Meadowlark Festival *(page 53)*

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

9.1 City of Kelowna to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada re: mussels *(page 56)*

9.2 International Joint Commission to OBWB re: renewal of Osoyoos Lake
Operating Orders *(page 57)*

9.3 Town of Osoyoos to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada re: mussels *(page 58)*

10. **NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held March 1, 2010 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2012
Agenda No: 2.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Date: February 1, 2012
Subject: **OBWB Board Appointments**

Following on last November's local government elections, and appointments being made by the three Okanagan regional districts, the Okanagan Basin Water Board is now made up of the following representatives:

OBWB Directors appointed from **Regional District of North Okanagan** are:

Rural Area Dir. Rick Fairbairn
Vernon Coun. Juliette Cunningham
Coldstream Coun. Doug Dirk

Alternates are:

Vernon Mayor Rob Sawatzky
RDNO Electoral Area 'B' Dir. Bob Fleming
RDNO Electoral Area 'C' Dir. Mike Macnabb

Appointed from **Regional District of Central Okanagan** are:

West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater
Peachland Mayor Keith Fielding
Kelowna Coun. Gerry Zimmermann

Alternates are:

RDCO East Electoral Area, Dir. Patty Hanson
Lake Country Mayor James Baker
Kelowna Coun. Gail Given

Appointed from **Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen** are:

Osoyoos Mayor Stu Wells
Rural Area Dir. Tom Siddon
Rural Area Dir. Michael Brydon

Alternates are:

Oliver Mayor Ron Hovanes
Penticton Mayor Dan Ashton
RDOS Electoral Area 'A' Dir. Mark Pendergraft

Directors Toby Pike (Water Supply Association of B.C.), Bernie Bauer (Okanagan Water Stewardship Council [OWSC] – technical advisory body to the OBWB Board of Directors), and James Pepper (Okanagan Nation Alliance) continue to serve as directors on the board. Bob Hrasko (WSABC), and Ted van der Gulik (OWSC) remain as alternates.



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD NOV. 1, 2011, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Stu Wells	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Buffy Baumbrough	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Graeme James	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Gordon Clark	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. director Mark Pendergraft	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bernie Bauer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC

REGRETS

Director Gwen Bridge	Okanagan Nation Alliance
----------------------	--------------------------

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications and Research Coordinator
Melissa Tesche	Water Projects Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

7.1 In-camera to adopt minutes of last in-camera meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 1, 2011 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 4, 2011 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream, B.C.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 4, 2011 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream."

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Anna Warwick Sears told Board of Directors about an OBWB climate adaptation tools training workshop on Nov. 22 and 23 for local government and consultants. Natural Resources Canada is providing \$13,700 with the OBWB providing \$4,000.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Oct. 26, 2011, be received.”
CARRIED

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel noted that Mr. Robert Sandford will be speaking at the next Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting.

Drilling for additional groundwater wells is going ahead in November and the council is discussing the best process to support valley-wide shoreline management.

Alt. Dir. Pendergraft entered the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Mr. Jatel reported on a funding application that has been submitted to model the implications of an Agricultural Water Reserve (AWR) project in up to five Okanagan sub-basins. The work of the AWR is intended to inform the Water Act Modernization process. The BC Agriculture Council, which is also looking into an AWR, has developed guidelines for a reserve and the Water Stewardship Council is evaluating these guidelines.

Following on questions, Mr. Jatel noted that recommendations regarding an AWR will come from the Water Stewardship Council and the board will be asked for feedback.

Dir. James asked to see a copy of the BC Ag Council report and noted his interest in attending some of the stewardship council’s AWR committee meetings.

Mr. Jatel reported that 15 to 20 Okanagan utilities will be participating in the OBWB’s Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT), reporting monthly water use. This represents about 65% of all Okanagan Basin extractions.

The council is working to establish hydrometric monitoring stations. It is also conducting a study that looks at hydrometric connectivity in the valley and what happens under different scenarios under the current First-in-Time First-in-Right system, and then what happens in the case of drought, climate change and population growth. This study will help plan for water management in the Okanagan under various scenarios, Mr. Jatel explained.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Oct. 25, 2011, be received.”
CARRIED

5.3 Communications and Research Coordinator Report

Ms. Jackson provided board directors with copies of the *Slow it. Spread it. Sink it!* homeowner’s guide to collecting and using rain as a resource on their property.

Directors provided a number of suggestions for distribution of the guide including libraries, middle and high schools, garden clubs (perhaps with a speaker going to speak to the clubs), the construction industry and development agencies (e.g. UDI), and local government building departments.

It was also suggested that a brochure be created, paring the information down to a few pages.

“THAT the Communications and Research Coordinator’s Report, dated Oct. 25, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 SARA listing of Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel

Dr. Warwick Sears reported on the recent Government of Canada public consultation meeting in Penticton, regarding the proposed listing of the Okanagan’s Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel as “endangered” under the Species at Risk Act. A number of people spoke on the reasons for listing the mussel, she said, but many questions remain, including whether or not it’s even possible to bring the population back.

The impact from the listing needs to be considered, as well as other methods to protect the RMRM, added Dr. Warwick Sears. To allow the listing would affect the ability of the OBWB to control milfoil in the Okanagan, which in turn would have an economic impact on local governments. A listing could also affect lake level management and the ability to respond to drought and climate change impacts. Furthermore, surveying and relocation of the mussels, that could be required with a listing, would be costly.

The RMRM is at risk but we need to be more flexible and find other strategies to address the issue, added Dr. Warwick Sears. For example, there is great concern regarding the real potential for invasive zebra and quagga mussels to enter Okanagan waters. These mussels clog up water intakes and other infrastructure, and will certainly hurt the remaining RMRM population. They have driven freshwater mussels extinct, she added. Currently, the federal government is not addressing this issue.

After lengthy discussion, the board agreed to send a letter asking the federal government to take immediate action against zebra and quagga mussels.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board urge Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Government of Canada to take immediate action against the spread of zebra and quagga mussels into Okanagan lakes.”

CARRIED

Directors discussed the impact that listing the RMRM as endangered would have on milfoil operations, the resulting economic impact, the ability to control lake levels in the face of drought and climate change, and agreed to forward a second motion to Fisheries and Oceans Canada and to Okanagan political representatives.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board send a letter to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, along with all other agencies involved and our Okanagan political representatives, recommending against the Species At Risk Act “Endangered” listing of the Rocky Mountain ridged mussel, because of potentially high economic impacts on local governments, potential restrictions on Eurasian watermilfoil control, and potential restrictions on lake level management reducing the flexibility to respond to drought and climate change.”

CARRIED

6.2 Report to International Joint Commission (IJC)

Dr. Warwick Sears provided a report to the board, commissioned by the OBWB, with

recommendations to the International Joint Commission, regarding the renewal of operating orders for Zosel Dam and Osoyoos Lake.

The report notes that an agreement to guarantee flows, being recommended in the U.S., cannot be done without drawing the lake down. If the concern is for fish flows, then this can be addressed by improving the operating of Zosel Dam. The report also suggests the potential to create a canal from the Similkameen to near the base of the dam, if necessary.

These recommendations, added Dr. Warwick Sears, would address Canadian flooding concerns and Canadian sovereignty to control flows on the Canadian side of the border, which will become increasingly important with climate change.

After some discussion, the board asked staff to draft a cover letter for review that states the OBWB's concerns with the renewal of the orders, that the board is in substantial agreement with the report, and highlighting some of the major points from the report. Once input has been received, staff were directed to forward the letter and report to the IJC. The board also asked that the letter and report be forwarded to the four Okanagan MPs, Foreign Affairs and Jason Kenney.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve, in principle, the commissioned report on the Renewal of Osoyoos Lake Operating Orders and that a letter be drafted with an opportunity for director input that notes the board is in substantial agreement with the report.

“AND, once approved, that the letter and report be forwarded to the International Joint Commission and Osoyoos Lake Board of Control . And that the letter be forwarded to Okanagan MPs, Foreign Affairs, and Jason Kenney.”

CARRIED

7. ADJOURN TO IN-CAMERA MEETING

7.1 Matters pertaining to staff compensation

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board adjourns to an In-Camera meeting at 11:52 a.m.”

CARRIED

8. RESUME REGULAR MEETING

8.1 Regular meeting resumed at 1:45 p.m.

8.2 Roundtable discussion: board successes, improvements, and future priorities

Dr. Warwick Sears thanked directors for their work while sitting on the OBWB board, recognizing that most are either up for re-election or have decided not to run again in upcoming local government elections. Directors were then invited to say a few words about their time on the board.

A number of the directors noted the growing importance of the OBWB's voice on water issues in B.C. and even Canada. The agency is small in staff numbers, but everything is done with great deliberation, and with proven results. The fact that the OBWB represents three regional districts and speaks with one voice carries great weight.

The need for continued outreach and public education on water issues was noted, at the local government level, but also with the general public. The important role of the Water Stewardship

Council was also mentioned. There was also encouragement to try and find additional solutions for milfoil control on Okanagan lakes.

It was noted that the OBWB needs to be careful to not take on provincial responsibilities and that the work of the OBWB needs to continue to promote First Nations inclusion in Okanagan water management.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

9.1 District of West Kelowna letter to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans re: Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board receives the correspondence from District of West Kelowna to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans re: Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel.”
CARRIED

10. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The tentative date for the next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board is February 7, 2012 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

11. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 1, 2011 be adjourned at 1:05 p.m.”
CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2012
Agenda No: 7.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Date: February 1, 2012
Subject: **Executive Director Report**

This “Executive Director’s Report” is intended to update the Board on developments in our core programs, and on initiatives that are of special interest to the Directors.

Update on Administration

Having completed the Sewage Facilities Program audit, this year I have begun working with Carol Teschner, our contract accountant with RDCO, to help me evaluate the milfoil equipment reserve, and streamline project management and contract/grant administration for the Water Management Program. I am also developing an HR policy guidebook, with the support of an attorney specializing in employment.

Water Management Program

Memos are provided separately on the status of the Water Conservation and Quality Improvements Grant Program, Water Stewardship Council, and on the status of ongoing and planned projects.

Watermilfoil Program

Rototilling has been completed for the Vernon Arm, and for the South end of Wood Lake. Work is now underway in Kalamalka Lake. We moved the MRV (our largest machine) to the Kelowna foreshore in mid-January. We have completed areas north of Bennett Bridge, and started work south of the bridge as of January 30.

Most of the north end of Osoyoos has been completed, as well as a portion of the Osoyoos Sailing Club area. The January cold snap forced us to pull the machines, and re-launch on the west side of Okanagan Lake. This year we have been given new restrictions for work windows on the west Side, to avoid creek mouths and spawning areas. Where we are allowed to work depends on the sediment type, so we are working with Ecoscape Consultants to verify our new control areas. Under our permit requirements, the work areas can change from year-to-year within our target areas.

Sewage Grant Program

Through 2010 and 2011 changes were made to the administration and financial systems for the Sewage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grant Program. The program is now simpler and more streamlined with standard forms and templates for applications and annual reporting. OBWB has created a step-by-step guide that will be provided to all communities and available on the OBWB website. This is the final step in refining and modernizing the program. A copy of the guide will be available to directors at the meeting.

Water Research Chair

Now that the provincial funding has been approved for the Chair in Water Resources and Ecosystem Management, we are beginning to organize the Community Advisory Committee. I am meeting with Dr. Janmaat (the new Chair), the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and the Associate Dean of Research, to plan our approach.

OBWB Directors should let me know if they have ideas about who would be a valuable committee member. The regional districts will be represented, as well as a number of people from business and local water experts. There may be some overlap with the Water Stewardship Council, but the intention is to create a fresh committee with a very specific focus. The Chair has already submitted a proposal for research funding to Environment Canada (for water conservation studies), and are looking at other opportunities.

IJC/Osoyoos

In November 2011, the OBWB provided a report to the IJC and Osoyoos Lake Board of Control, outlining recommendations for the renewal of the 2013 Operating Orders. The report was written by the Canadian scientists who authored many of the IJC studies to inform (with science) the renewal process. The recommendations relied in large part on the results of the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project.

The next step is for the Department of Ecology for the State of Washington to submit an application for renewal (and possible modification) of the Osoyoos Lake Operating Orders to the IJC. The secretariat for the Osoyoos Lake Board of Control has promised that OBWB will be notified as soon as the application is submitted.

The report for the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum was recently completed, and is being reviewed by the IJC (the funder for the report). The final, approved version will be distributed to OBWB directors and placed on the OBWB website.

Water Governance

The B.C. Government's Water Act Modernization process continues. Although the schedule calls for final recommendations to be submitted to government and for draft legislation to be released for public comment in 2012, things are moving slowly in Victoria. There is need for slow and thoughtful work with many of the most important issues: water for the environment, water for agriculture, and groundwater legislation. Also, First Nations have not been satisfied with the process, and it is unclear how that will be resolved.

OBWB staff attended a workshop on watershed collaboration on January 26 and 27. The Okanagan is seen as the leading area for water management in B.C., primarily because the OBWB and the Water Stewardship Council provide a way for communities to share resources and establish priorities. I've attached a press release from the workshop, co-authored by myself, David Marshall from the Fraser Basin Council, and Oliver Brandes from the Polis Institute at UVic. This will appear in the *Vancouver Sun* on Monday, February 6th.

Water Supply and Demand Project

The Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project partners were nominated for an Award of Excellence in the Water and Wastewater Community – Group. The partners include the OBWB and B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations as lead agencies, along with the 12 other agencies, universities, and industry groups that participated. Awards will be given out at the BC Water and Waste Association's 2012 conference, April 22-24 in Penticton. This year, the project will also be submitted for a Premier's Innovation Award.

Work continues in developing applications for Okanagan water supply and demand modeling and data.

RBC Blue Water Panel

In December, 2011 I attended a meeting of the RBC Blue Water Project advisory panel, and was invited to replace Tom Siddon, who has stepped down from the panel. The panel usually meets once per year in Toronto, and travel expenses are covered. The RBC established a 10-year, \$50 million grants program in 2008, and appointed the panel to help with the following:

- Developing a strategic approach and providing guidance on grants.
- Reviewing and commenting on specific initiatives.
- Recommending program assessment criteria.
- Acting as a "sounding board" relative to engagement for the Project
- Providing advice on an ad hoc basis with respect to issues, trends and developments.

Invitational Drought Tournament

Sue Lapp, the Watershed Management specialist for FORREX (based out of UBC-O), and Keith Culver, the UBC-O director for the Okanagan Sustainability Institute have proposed that we co-host a "drought tournament," based on a successful event in Saskatchewan last year. We would hold it in late June, and invite local government representatives, water utilities, and farmers. A summary from the Saskatchewan event follows. I will provide more details at the March 6th OBWB meeting.

"Extreme climate events, such as drought, can be problematic for Canadians, particularly the agriculture and agri-food sector. The Invitational Drought Tournament (IDT) is a developmental framework designed to help institutions build their capacity around drought preparedness. Through the IDT, multi-disciplinary stakeholders have a forum to discuss climate preparedness and adaptation strategies. Typically, teams of five players are guided through a multi-year drought scenario of unknown length, throughout which they will work collaboratively to discuss and select adaptation options that will help them better prepare for, adapt to, respond to, and recover from the drought's impacts. The goal of the game is to maximize your team's economic potential, minimize social stress and upheaval, and ensure environmental sustainability. Ultimately, the IDT will be provided as a "tool kit" for educational institutions and multi-disciplinary practitioners to construct their own scenarios involving various environmental extremes (not only drought, but also floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.). In this way, the game could be useful across multiple environments, to a variety of users, but always with the intention of assessing and improving our adaptive capacity and preparedness regarding environmental extremes."

Learning to Think Like a Watershed – Collaboration and the Future of Watershed Management in BC

By O.M. Brandes, D. Marshall and A. Warwick Sears

Whether we like it or not, the BC economy currently relies on resource development – from forestry to fishing, to energy and mineral extraction, to tourism. Our communities would like to move on the good projects, and leave the others behind. How do we go from conflict to agreement? Last week, people from across Canada gathered in Vancouver to talk about using collaboration to solve resource conflicts in watersheds, and move to new “solutions” that better engage citizens, governments including First Nations, the resource sector and environmental organizations.

The need for collaboration is especially clear for water. Few things are so intimately linked with life and prosperity. In the past it’s been easy to take it for granted, but as soon as there are problems - too much, too little, scarcity and drought, pollution - we feel the pain right away.

Everyone in BC agrees that we want to keep our lakes and rivers clean and flowing – and that we have to share it between different uses and different kinds of users: for the environment, for washing and drinking, for farms and for fish, for economic opportunities and, most fundamentally, to ensure ecological function. It seems sensible to sort through competing interests and potential conflicts by getting those interests – and those affected – to talk together.

The ability to take action requires more than just decision-makers; the community has to be on board, and industry has a crucial role to play as well. Having the right people in the room has always been a recipe for good governance - well before the Romans and Greeks. What may be new is formally using collaboration to improve how water is managed in BC watersheds.

Tight government budgets are another stark reality across Canada and increasingly in BC. Sometimes partnerships – between the province, local governments, First Nations, the private sector and community groups – are the only way to solve problems like log jams on the Fraser River, or droughts in the Nicola Valley. Pooling funding, pooling expertise, and using the capacity that already exists in local communities: this is the wave of the future.

BC has wildly varied geography. What works for Nanaimo’s water planning might not be right for Dawson Creek. But government, with its limited resources, doesn’t necessarily have the capacity to know what will work for each community, and what local values need protecting. Instead, communities have to learn how to structure collaborations, communicate between resource sectors, and identify shared solutions for their regions and watersheds.

We’ve created a few strong, regional institutions that have brought collaboration into the mainstream: the Fraser Basin Council, the Columbia Basin and Gulf Islands Trusts, and the Okanagan Basin Water Board, and many smaller regional groups that are making great progress. There are other examples in Alberta and Ontario that we

can learn from. Ten years into the 21st Century, the idea of collaborative watershed management has come of age, and watershed groups across the province are eager to participate.

How can we foster this collaboration in BC? The gathering last week was a catalyst, to develop networks of groups with shared interests in watershed health. Delegates included government, industry, First Nations, and citizen groups, learning about what's working and how to collaborate within and between their communities.

The timing is significant. The government of British Columbia is contemplating significant changes - a long-overdue update – to our water laws, and to put their visionary "Living Water Smart" water plan into action. Some of the provisions – like groundwater regulation – are widely supported, but still need extensive negotiation and public dialogue before they can be passed into law. The Plan also calls for more grass-root contributions from local citizens, governments, and industry.

Dialogue is always a precursor to action in a healthy democracy. The challenge is to include a broader cast of characters so that more than just the "usual" suspects are involved in decisions. This forum was designed with the belief that collaborative solutions are within reach, calling on successful stories of change.

The future is now. The success of our economy and the health of the environment depend on us getting this right.

Oliver M Brandes is the co-director of the University of Victoria's POLIS Project on Ecological Governance

David Marshall is the founding Executive Director of the Fraser Basin Council

Anna Warwick Sears is the Executive Director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2012
Agenda No: 7.2

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel, Water Stewardship Director
Date: January 31, 2012
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report – February**

This memo provides an update of the Water Stewardship Council (Council) activities and active priority initiatives.

The Council has been engaged in discussing five strategic topics over the past 16 month term: source water protection, agriculture water reserve policy, groundwater, modernization of the BC Water Act and hydrometric monitoring in the Okanagan (we can't manage what we don't measure).

Building on a tradition of developing water discussion papers (such as the case with Okanagan upland reservoir lots), the Council is developing the following discussion papers to enable and communicate best practices that support strategic priorities that have been developed in the Sustainable Water Strategy and discussed in detail at the Council table. Discussion papers that are currently under development include:

- **Efficient irrigation in the Okanagan: Wise water management through efficient irrigation strategies**
 - o Approximately 35,000 ha of agricultural land is in production and 18,500 ha are being irrigated¹. If water was not available for irrigation, most of the agricultural commodities would not be sustained at current levels in the Okanagan. Efficient irrigation can be described as meeting crop water needs to sustain optimum growth and production at the lowest capital and operating cost possible. Efficient irrigation is achieved by correctly designing and operating the irrigation system to match climate, crop and soil management limitations². With an increasing population in the Okanagan and variable precipitation resulting from climate change, it is ever more important to maintain agriculture and food self-reliance in the Okanagan while encouraging irrigation systems to be an efficient user of water resources.

¹ Agriculture Water Demand Model Report, 2010

² Irrigation Factsheet, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1988

- **Source water protect in the Okanagan: A primer**
 - o The document *Source Water Protection in the Okanagan Primer* brings together current source water protection (SWP) ideas from those involved in developing and managing Okanagan policy.

- **Water licences and real estate transactions in BC**
 - o Under the Ministry of Agriculture a water licence is attached to the land or “appurtenant” and not to the owner of the property or licence. This means that if the land is sold the water licence remains with the property. Under the current real estate system in B.C., the onus is on the buyer to ask questions regarding issues of specific importance, rather than relying on a real estate licensee. The buyer has a responsibility to use "due diligence" to inspect the property and ask questions. There is a rule called "caveat emptor" (or buyer beware) that means that if the buyer does not use due diligence, he cannot later complain of defects or unknowns which are inconsistent with the seller's representations about the property.

- **Agriculture Water Reserve: Modeling exercise**
 - o The Province of British Columbia’s Living Water Smart document made a commitment to securing access to water for agricultural lands. The agriculture water reserve is a component of the Water Act Modernization process. To ensure that the language in the new Water Act will enable an effective Water Reserve, consultation sessions between the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and BC Agriculture Council have been held. In addition, the Okanagan Basin Water Board has also initiated an Agriculture Water Reserve Committee to provide another venue for consultation. Both of these processes are currently on-going.

February 9th Water Stewardship Council meeting

The next meeting of the Water Stewardship Council, technical advisory committee to the Board, will be on February 9th from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. at the Best Western Inn in Kelowna.

This month’s guest speaker is Justin Hall, Executive Director of the Nisqually River Council located in Washington State. Flowing 78 miles from its source at the Nisqually Glacier on Mount Rainier to its delta at the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, the Nisqually is a direct link between the summit snows of Washington’s highest peak and the marine waters of Puget Sound. It is a land greatly affected by human decisions and activities. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2012
Agenda No: 7.2.1

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel, Water Stewardship Director
Date: January 31, 2012
Subject: **Water Stewardship Council: backgrounder**

This memo provides a backgrounder of the Water Stewardship Council (Council) and the Sustainable Water Strategy.

Water Stewardship Council: Technical Advisory Committee of the Board

The OBWB Water Governance Manual (p. 8) outlines the role and responsibility of the Council and provides the following description, responsibility and relationship to the Board:

Since its inception, the OBWB has formed committees to address matters under its responsibility and authority. For example, the SLP require the OBWB to maintain a Liaison Committee. Committees do not have delegated authority, and can only make recommendations to the full Board.

5.2.2 The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (the Council) is a permanent Standing Committee of the Board and is composed of technical experts and water stakeholders.

- ✓ *The OBWB established the Council as an advisory committee to enhance the effectiveness of OBWB recommendations and to provide a communication channel to water stakeholders, consistent with the requirement of establishing a liaison committee.*
- ✓ *The Council was designed to include a diversity of stakeholder organizations to expand two-way communication with Okanagan water sectors, and decreases conflict among these groups.*
- ✓ *The Council does not have delegated authority and reports directly to the OBWB.*
- ✓ *The Council recommends only those actions that can be undertaken within the bounds of the OBWB mandate.*

The Council supports the Board to accomplish the following essential functions:

- **Advocating and representing** local needs to senior government planners and policy makers – protecting Okanagan interests
- **Providing science-based information** on Okanagan water to local government decision makers and water managers – for sustainable long-term planning
- **Communicating and coordinating** between government, non-government, universities and businesses – increasing the effectiveness of water projects and research
- **Building funding opportunities** by providing leverage grants, securing external dollars and identifying cost-sharing partners – expanding local capacity

The Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy: Action Plan 1.0

The Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy (the “Strategy”) is the culmination of three years of work by the Council.

In 2008, the Council completed a Sustainable Water Strategy for the Okanagan Basin with top priority action items to be implemented in the coming years. This strategy complements the B.C. Government’s Living Water Smart plan. It will take ongoing investments to move these actions forward, but the cost of doing nothing is potentially very great. Economies of scale are created by pooling funds, sharing resources, and by multiplying the value of local contributions by leveraging dollars from outside our basin.

The Strategy provides direction on sustainable water management for the Okanagan Basin. It is aligned to provincial and federal mandates; however, it also recognizes our specific regional issues and provides the means in which to realize, understand, act, and adapt to local water issues.

Our long term well-being and survival is directly tied to our environment and our water supply. Looking after this basic resource should be of highest priority. The Strategy recommends 45 action items to be carried out over the next 10 years. Some of the recommended actions can be implemented immediately, but it may take years to modify other practices presently used for managing water.

How do we plan for a future with enough water for all priorities, including ecosystems? What happens in drought years—where is water allocated and in what proportions? What can we do to reduce our demand and use water more efficiently? How do we develop the required storage needed to capture water in the spring for use later in the year? How can we ensure high water quality is maintained and sensitive riparian and wetland ecosystems protected? What is the best structure for water governance in the Basin? These are critical questions that the Strategy explores.

A key aspect of the Strategy is the 12 Guiding Principles which set out its moral compass. These principles provide a benchmark upon which sound water management decisions can be evaluated. The chapters, “*The Need for a Sustainable Strategy,*” “*Protecting our Lakes, Rivers, Wetlands and Aquifers,*” “*Securing our Water Supplies,*” and “*Delivering the Strategy*” demonstrate the interrelationships between water quantity and quality, humans and the environment.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2012
Agenda No: 7.2.2

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel, Water Stewardship Director
Date: January 31, 2012
Subject: **Groundwater Monitoring Project**

This memo provides a background report and an update on the groundwater monitoring project led by the Okanagan Basin Water Board in partnership with B.C. Ministry of Environment, Environment Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and local governments throughout the Okanagan.

Background

Environment Canada has designated the Okanagan and Similkameen as a priority ecosystem region, recognizing the inherent water availability challenges and the importance of groundwater management in the basin. Recent scientific groundwater studies¹ show that there is a need to increase the observation wells throughout the Okanagan, both to develop better local information in priority areas, and to gain a better understanding of ongoing changes to groundwater supplies in the valley as a whole. The installation and operation of monitoring wells help water managers understand the composition and basic health of the aquifers (trends in water table), and how they are affected by human use and changes in rain and snowfall. The management of local groundwater plays an integral role in the environmental and socio-economic sustainability of the region.

In partnership with the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Environment Canada and the OBWB, a review has been conducted and a list of recommended strategic aquifers (see map of Proposed Aquifers for Establishment of New Observation Wells) that require water monitoring has been developed.

The primary goal of the Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project is to develop 15 new observation wells in the Okanagan basin over the next three years; with five monitoring wells drilled this year. Financial and on-going data collection and reporting resources have been contributed by project steering committee team members.

A draft project budget (Figure 1.) indicates the estimated costs to partner Local Governments and the contributions of the project steering committee team. The costs associated with different

¹ HyGeo Consulting Review (2009); Golder Associates (2009) – Phase 2 Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project.

monitoring wells will vary depending on location and depth, and will be finalized upon determination of interested Local Government partners.

Qualifying sensitive aquifers in the Okanagan

A total of 10 unconsolidated aquifers (potentially 13 based on Golder (2009) recommendation) and 8 bedrock aquifers were identified for the establishment of new observation wells. It is recommended that expansion of the network be targeted to these priority aquifers in the next three years where it is anticipated that observation well data will be needed to support water management decision making and local water services planning.

Accomplished-to-date

The primary goal of the Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project is to develop 15 new observation wells in the Okanagan basin over three years (2010-13); six wells were drilled in 2010-11 season and an anticipated five monitoring wells are to be drilled this year. Wells have been drilled on Anarchist Mountain outside of Osoyoos, two in Oliver, two in Twin Lakes (near Keremeos), and one in Spallumcheen.

The seventh monitoring well was drilled recently in the Joe Rich area. The Joe Rich monitoring well was identified by the Ministry of Environment in partnership with the OBWB as being sensitive due to limited water supply and increasing demand. An OBWB news conference on February 3rd showcased the collaborative efforts contributed by all levels of government in making this initiative a success.

Next steps

Continued dialogue with local government and project partners will be required to support the funding for the remaining identified wells. Monitoring wells are proposed in Ellison, Summerland, West Kelowna, UBC Okanagan aquifer and Penticton.

Figure 1. Proposed draft budget to develop one monitoring well

	2010 \$ (1,000's)
Project Revenue (Proposed)	
Ministry of Environment	
Equipment (5 monitoring stations)	8.0
On-going data collection / web reporting	5.0
Well sighting and consultation	5.0
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	7.5
Okanagan Basin Water Board	6.0
Local Government contribution (estimate – depends on well depth) ²	6.5
Total Monitoring Well Revenue	
Expenses	
Well monitoring stations	8.0
On-going data collection / web reporting	5.0
Well sighting and consultation	5.0
Well drilling (estimate – depends on well depth)	20.0
Total Expenses	38.0
Project surplus (loss)	-

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2012
Agenda No: 7.2.3

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel, Water Stewardship Director
Date: January 31, 2012
Subject: Okanagan Water Supply Communications: Proposed 2012 Water Management Activities

This memo describes the water scarcity management and planning activities proposed by OBWB staff for the upcoming year.

Background

Water scarcity in the Okanagan is a recurrent feature of climate involving a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time, resulting in a water shortage for activities, communities or aquatic ecosystems. In the semi-arid Okanagan, water scarcity may be caused by combinations of insufficient snow accumulation, hot and dry weather or a delay in rainfall.

Water scarcity conditions can impact communities and individuals in many different ways. Water scarcity can lead to reduced water availability for household and business use. Lower streamflows may cause warmer river temperatures, which impacts fish and other aquatic life. It can also affect the growth of agricultural crops and limit the water available for irrigation. Low streamflows can also have impacts on groundwater levels. Aquifers can be impacted in a given year as there may not be enough water to allow for recharging. If natural water sources or adequate storage is not available in a community, it may also lead to insufficient supplies for fire fighting. The season for water scarcity in the Okanagan also coincides with summer tourism and associated increased demand for water. Reduced water availability during the summer can have significant economic impacts where communities rely on the summer tourism industry. (Source: BC Drought Strategy).

Spring Water Supply Webinar

As part of the OBWB water management program, staff have been delivering a series of webinars in the early spring to report on current water supply (i.e. reservoirs, groundwater, snowpack) and solicit a forecast for the upcoming year. The webinars have been well-attended in previous years with 30-65 participants listening to the presentation over the phone and watching the content reel on their office/home computer.

This year's first Okanagan water supply webinar is scheduled for Friday, March 9th and will include up-to-date information from the BC River Forecast Centre, and local meteorologist and weather forecasting professionals. If required, additional webinars will be hosted throughout the spring. Examples of the information gathered and shared in the webinars is shown in Figure 1, illustrating current Okanagan Lake levels, and Figure 2, indicating current snow pack levels in the Mission Creek watershed.

Figure 1. Okanagan Lake Levels (as of January 31, 2012)

OKANAGAN LAKE AT KELOWNA [BC] (08NM083)

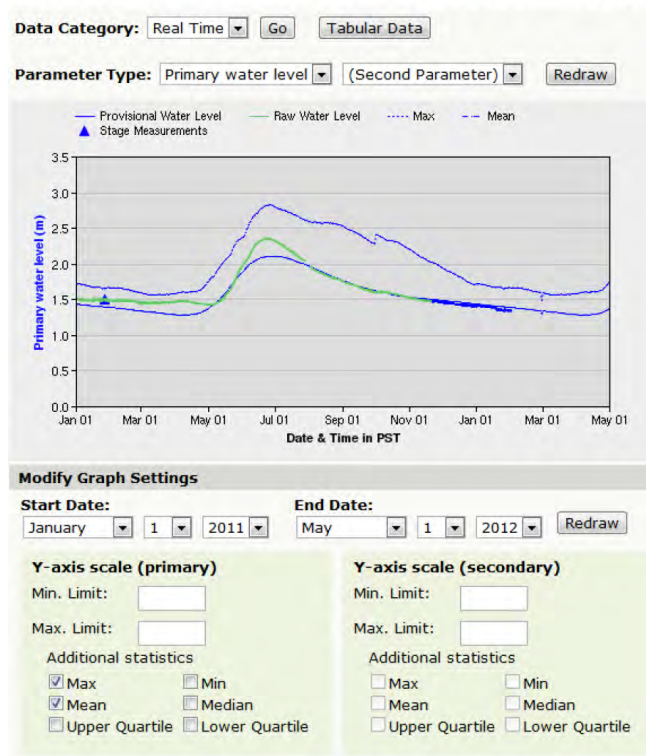


Figure 2. Mission Creek watershed snow pack levels (as of January 31, 2012)

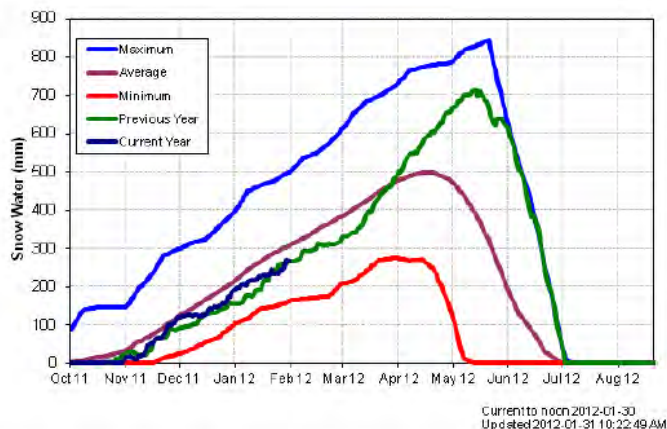
Automated Snow Pillow Real-Time Data

2F05P - MISSION CREEK

Drainage: Okanagan
 Latitude: 49° 56'
 Longitude: 118° 56'
 Elevation: 1,794 m

Owner: Ministry of Environment
 Year Established: 1969
 Sensors: Air temperature, precipitation, snow water and snow depth

Download current year's hourly real-time data*: [Click here](#)
 Download daily archive data: [Click here](#)



Proposed Next steps

- Staff to develop a 2012 communications strategy that includes a series of webinars that bring together knowledgeable professionals providing an outlook and forecast on this year's water supply. The webinar is intended to serve water utilities, local governments, agriculture, tourism and other water dependent economic sectors throughout the Okanagan.
- Organize a drought planning workshop to support the development of an Okanagan drought management strategy. A basin wide strategy will complement water utility drought strategies and the BC Drought Planning guidebook.
- Develop a drought communication strategy in the Okanagan that would address the different levels of government involved in drought communication and demand management. Specifically, it should define their different roles (likely summarized in a matrix of some kind). It would also need to consider the communication needs of the range of different water users (residential, agricultural, commercial, etc.) and the media channels available in the region. A communication strategy like this would typically include a number of "Issues Sheets" in an appendix that would go into further detail on specific problems likely to arise locally in the midst of a drought. Identification of priority issues that require more detail would be developed once the project commences and would be included in the final product.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Feb. 7, 2012
Agenda No: 7.3

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Corinne Jackson
Date: Jan. 31, 2012
Subject: **Communications and Research Coordinator Report**

Make Water Work

Following on the success of Phase 1 of the Make Water Work outdoor water conservation campaign last summer in the North Okanagan, the Water Board is now preparing for Phase 2 with the creation of more materials and an effort to go valley-wide.

As the board might recall, work on the Make Water Work (MWW) campaign began last spring with the gathering of a valley-wide committee of water utility and communications staff from throughout the Okanagan. The committee was struck to ensure that the valley-wide message would not conflict with local government communication programs and ensure that there is no duplication of efforts. Rather, the campaign is an extension of the work of local communities, creating a link between the messages, recognizing that we all share one valley, one water.

Background to Make Water Work

Over the course of the Spring/Summer 2011, phase 1 of the campaign was developed and the slogan "Make Water Work" adopted – chosen for its positive message, making sure to avoid shaming or scare tactics. Instead, the campaign is empowering and fun – encouraging people to get their water to work harder and more productively for them. A few materials have been developed and were launched as a two-month pilot project in the North Okanagan.

Following on the success of the pilot project, the OBWB is working with its partners in the development of Phase 2 to further develop materials and launch them valley-wide.

Phase 2 of MWW

All materials (e.g. posters, audio PSAs/radio ads, web-based content, brochures, direct mailers) will be freely available to local governments in the Okanagan. In addition, the OBWB has offered \$2,000 and \$3,000 matching grants to local governments to assist with MWW advertising costs in their own communities this summer.

By matching funds and ensuring that the message is heard in communities in the North, Central and South Okanagan, we are helping ensure the message is echoed valley-wide and thus, even more effective for individual communities and the valley as a whole.

Communities who have already registered interest in this funding opportunity include: the Regional District of North Okanagan/Greater Vernon Water, City of Armstrong, District of Lake Country, City of Penticton and Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Kaleden, Oliver and Osoyoos.

We believe the strong interest is based on the recognized value of the buy-in. Communities are being provided with professionally developed materials with their logo/name attached to it, expert support in creating a media buy plan, the time-saving support of arranging the media buy, as well as actual advertising. For \$2,000 (offered to smaller communities) or \$3,000 (offered to the valley's three largest municipalities), these partners are receiving a value of at least \$32,000 (\$5,000 in materials, \$15,000 in matching advertising funds from the OBWB to leverage efforts in the valley, and \$12,000 from community partners identified so far. (This does not include the \$4,000 in materials from last year that are also available.)

With strong support in the North and South Okanagan, we are still looking for one more partner in the Central Okanagan.

Once the partnerships have been confirmed, the OBWB will once again engage the committee in creating Phase 2 materials and developing a plan to ensure they are used and noticed by residents throughout the valley.

World Water Day/Canada Water Week

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is again partnering with UBC Okanagan in marking March 22 UN World Water Day and creating a week-long celebration. The theme this year is Water and Food Security. (Events will also coincide with Canada Water Week – March 19 to 25.)

OBWB specific events include a panel discussion moderated by Nelson Jatel. Panelists include Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Vice-Chair Ted van der Gulik (B.C. Ministry of Agriculture), providing a provincial perspective on food security, Michael Nickels and Javin Bernakevitch – leaders in B.C. permaculture, and Yehalem Metiku, from Ethiopia and a representative of the Enderby-based non profit Partners in the Horn of Africa, bringing an international perspective. Date and location of the event are still to be determined. We will be organizing the panelists for radio interviews and submitting articles to the local newspapers as well.

Staff are organizing a contest for youth similar to last year's Okanagan WaterWise challenge in an effort to engage young people in discussions around local water issues. The contest will, once again, be announced at the start of Canada Water Week and end during Drinking Water Week in May.

Drinking Water Week

The BC Water and Waste Association is again organizing a Drinking Water Week campaign for May 13-19, 2012. The campaign's focus is on source protection and raising public awareness regarding the water journey, from source to tap to source and the need to protect it.

The OBWB is among several local government agencies throughout B.C. represented on a BCWWA committee, helping guide the creation of materials that will work throughout the province and helping communities get involved with DWW.

Like last year, the BCWWA, is developing a number of outreach materials (e.g. worksheets for children, posters, advertising and more). The materials are available to committee members for co-branding. As such, the OBWB will include the OkWaterWise logo on materials, helping us raise awareness for our program.

The BCWWA and its committee is also looking to assist local governments, water utilities and others involved in water hold public outreach events (e.g. watershed tours, water treatment plant tours) that raise awareness around water protection. Last year, the OBWB worked with a number of Okanagan communities to hold events including Armstrong, Vernon, Coldstream, Kelowna, Peachland, Summerland and Naramata.

More information will be provided in the coming months. However, Okanagan communities are invited to contact the OBWB for more information.

Summary of Recent Media

- Oct. 27 "Trepanier Creek banks stabilized by volunteers," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Nov. 2 "OkWaterWise series: Rain as a resource," *Lake Country Calendar*
- Nov. 2 "OkWaterWise series: Storm water requires diverse approach," *Vernon Morning Star*
- Nov. 2 "OkWaterWise series: Using rain as a resource & keeping it clean," *Keremeos Review*
- Nov. 4 "Holding the line on U.S. demands for valley water flow," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Nov. 4 "Mussel could stop weed control," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Nov. 4 "OBWB Board highlights-Endangered mussels in Okanagan," *Castanet (Kelowna)*
- Nov. 7 "Canada could lose control of flow," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Nov. 7 "Mussel could stop control of milfoil weed – Osoyoos mayor," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Nov. 7 "Water Board opposes endangered listing of mussel," *AM1150, Sun FM, EZ Rock (Kelowna)*
- Nov. 10 "Wastewater treatment plant project a long time coming," *Penticton Western News*
- Nov. 11 "Start managing our water better right now," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Dec. 1 "Keep storm water from running off," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Dec. 8 "John Slater - 30 Years and Counting," *Osoyoos Times*
- Dec. 9 "Board revisits old method of handling storm water runoff," *Vernon Morning Star*
- Dec. 15 "Okanagan Basin Water Board accepting grant applications," *AM1150, EZ Rock (Kelowna)*
- Dec. 16 "Cash for ideas that make a splash," *Castanet*
- Dec. 18 "Conservation grants available," *Vernon Morning Star*
- Dec. 18 "Grant program rewards water projects," *Westside Weekly*
- Dec. 20 "Grants for water conservation or improvement projects," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Dec. 22 "Sewer service costs increase for West Kelowna Estates area," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Dec. 28 "Water board grants available for projects that conserve or improve water," *Keremeos Review*
- Dec. 29 "Column by Judie Steeves: 2011 didn't favour the natural environment," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Jan. 4 "Spallumcheen council to keep tight reins on finances," *Vernon Morning Star*
- Jan. 8 "RDNO board appointments proceed," *Vernon Morning Star*
- Jan. 10 "Zimmermann named to water board," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Jan. 11 "Okanagan water board sports new look," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Jan. 11 "Water board directors named," *Summerland Review*
- Jan. 12 "Wild water is also tap water," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Jan. 13 "Weed whacker," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Jan. 18 "Regional districts talking transit, water and air," *Vernon Morning Star*

- Jan. 19 "Straight from DeHart: OBWB Board of Directors named," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Jan. 25 "West Kelowna opts to not fund water conservation campaign," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Jan. 29 "Council skipping water campaign," *Westside Weekly*
- Jan. 31 "Regional district applies to OBWB for grant," *Keremeos Review*

Recently Delivered Presentations

- Nov. 29 "Milfoil Program and Mussel Recovery," to Environment Canada (Vancouver) – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears
- Jan. 4 "Update on Okanagan water," to North Okanagan Naturalists (Vernon) – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears
- Jan. 12 "Update on OBWB," to RDCO Governance Committee (Kelowna) – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears
- Jan. 24 "Osoyoos Operating Agreement," to Kelowna Roundtable (Kelowna) – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears
- Jan. 24 "Make Water Work campaign," to District of West Kelowna Council (West Kelowna) – Ms. Corinne Jackson
- Jan. 26 "Water Governance Panel – Okanagan example," to Water Governance Forum (Vancouver) – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears
- Jan. 26 "Best practices: Maintaining the spirit of cooperation," to Water Governance Forum (Vancouver) – Mr. Nelson Jatel
- Jan. 27 "Collaborating between groups panel," to Water Governance Forum (Vancouver) – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears and Mr. Jatel
- Jan. 27 "Tools for water collaboration," to Water Governance Forum (Vancouver) – Mr. Nelson Jatel and Dr. Anna Warwick Sears
- Feb. 1 "Update on OBWB," to RDNO Board of Directors (Coldstream) – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Feb. 7, 2012
Agenda No: 7.3.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Corinne Jackson
Date: Jan. 31, 2012
Subject: **OBWB - Communications Overview**

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is the go-to agency for those looking for information on Okanagan water and those working towards water sustainability – in the Okanagan and even beyond. And for those not already engaged in water issues (e.g. members of the public), the OBWB has developed initiatives to reach them, recognizing that they also need to be at the table.

This report provides a background to OBWB communication efforts, which are continually expanding and adapting to respond to the changing needs of our audience. In providing this report, we invite comments and suggestions that will build an even stronger communication program.

The OBWB's audience is diverse and includes local and senior government officials, residents, researchers, media representatives and various other water stakeholders. The Water Board's communication tools and strategies are aimed at helping our audience understand water issues and encourage collaboration.

Some of the basic communication efforts include:

- monthly public board meetings
 - the agenda is distributed to the board, as well as to media, and is posted to the OBWB website (available at www.obwb.ca/obwb_minutes/),
 - minutes from the meetings are posted to the website,
 - a monthly Board Report is created and distributed widely, and available on the OBWB website,
- minutes from the monthly Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meetings are posted to the OBWB website,
- Annual General Meeting and Annual Report
 - We hold an Annual General Meeting, and the public is invited to attend,
 - We publish and distribute an Annual Report, and post the report to the OBWB website (www.obwb.ca/annual_reports/).



A sample of the Board Report, providing highlights from the monthly board meeting and distributed to local and senior government officials, stakeholders and media, and posted to the OBWB website for the public.

We also develop strategic communication efforts to reach certain segments of our audience (and sometimes these reach additional members of our audience.)

Local and Senior Government Communications

The OBWB works to promote regular communication with government partners in a variety of ways.

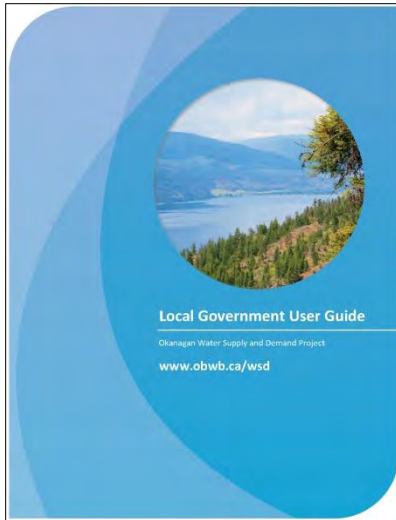
Presentations

OBWB staff members give regular presentations to municipal councils and regional district boards. Meetings are also held with various senior government officials (provincial, federal and international), representing the water interests of this valley and its stakeholders.

Water policies and documents

Water policies, and materials are created for use by government agencies (e.g. [Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit](#), and the recently released [Local Government User Guide to the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project](#)).

Submissions are also provided to senior government bodies to ensure the Okanagan is represented in decisions that may affect our water supply. For example, the OBWB provided a submission to the B.C. government as part of its Water Act Modernization and continues to be involved in this process. The OBWB has provided feedback to the federal government regarding the potential listing of the Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel under the Species at Risk Act. The Water Board also provided a written response to the renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake to the International Joint Commission.



This guide was created for local governments in the Okanagan and describes the various tools now available to them, as a result of the OBWB's extensive Okanagan Water Supply and Demand study, to assist with local planning.

A number of the initiatives noted below, while developed with our other audiences in mind, are often offered to government officials as well (staff and elected), recognizing the benefit to having all parties at the table.

Stakeholder Communications

With water essential to all life, everyone in the Okanagan is a water stakeholder. The OBWB brings interested stakeholders together in a variety of ways, including those from all levels of government, First Nations, the agricultural and ranching community, water purveyors, the tourism industry, business (e.g. chambers of commerce and real estate boards), educational and health institutions, scientists, and more.

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

This connection begins with the monthly Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meetings. This council is the technical advisory body to the OBWB's Board of Directors, and works to find common ground on water issues in the valley. Minutes from these meetings are taken and posted to the OBWB website at: http://www.obwb.ca/owsc_minutes/.



The monthly Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting often draws a large crowd, with each individual representing one of about 30 various water stakeholder groups.

Conferences and workshops

The OBWB holds a number of events in an effort to bring stakeholders together, helping better understand the issues Okanagan water is facing and ensuring its sustainability for all.

In September 2011, the Water Board held the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum, a Canada/U.S. gathering, sharing the latest scientific studies into Okanagan water and the waters that flow across the border. The event was an opportunity to hear water issues on both sides of the border and speak to the expected renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake. The orders, which govern water levels on the lake between the two countries, expire in February 2013. The International Joint Commission, who will be making a decision on the renewal, had members on hand to listen to the discussion.

The Water Board also held a workshop in December 2011 on the Okanagan Irrigation Management Tool, a program aimed at helping irrigation users (e.g. farmers) track and manage their water use.

On Feb. 27 and March 1, the Water Board is holding a workshop for local government staff, municipal planning and engineering consultants and others looking for climate change adaptation tools for their communities.



Osoyoos Indian Band Elder Modesta opened the Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum with a prayer. The forum ran Sept. 18 to 20 in Osoyoos, B.C.



It was standing room only at the opening of the Osoyoos Lake forum which began with an evening event on Sun. Sept. 18. Delegates included residents from throughout the Okanagan as well as Washington State and beyond.

Partnerships

The OBWB works with many partners on projects that are mutually beneficial. One such partnership is with Okanagan Conservation Planning (OKCP) and its website, with the aim of having a fully-integrated water system, meeting the needs of residents and agriculture while supporting wildlife and natural areas. The OKCP website provides a home for all Okanagan GIS products and environmental mapping information relevant to local planners (e.g. Foreshore Inventory Maps, Sensitive Habitat Inventories and Source Protection Plans – many of which the OBWB has funded). The website is under the partnership umbrella of the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (of which we are a member). The OBWB uses this site to make available all of the mapped water information collected through our Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) grant program, as well as our maps of watermilfoil control areas. This is an ongoing project with information being added all the time.

Public Outreach

Public outreach for the Water Board is continually evolving with the aim of engaging the general public in Okanagan water issues. Strategies include strengthening more traditional outreach methods (e.g. news conferences, public presentations, improving the corporate website and creating outreach materials for the public) to adopting new ones (e.g. developing a separate public education website, engaging in social media such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter, and launching a valley-wide advertising campaign).

The OBWB website

The corporate website for the Water Board includes the history of the agency and information on its board and its programs. It contains policy statements adopted by the board, meeting minutes, information gathered from various OBWB conferences and workshops, news releases and news clippings, and information about upcoming events. It has a section for the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study, and more. The website is intended for elected officials and local government staff, stakeholders, but also the public. While the OBWB is in regular contact with government officials and stakeholders (through the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council), it does not have regular face-to-face meetings with the general public. The website is one way to ensure the public has this information.

News conferences and news releases

The OBWB has built a strong connection with media in this valley in an effort to inform the public about water issues and their role in helping protect the resource.

The number of news conferences and frequency of news releases depends on the work being conducted by the Water Board, but has increased in the last couple of years and averages out to four news conferences and 14 news releases per year.

As a result of increased media coverage, public understanding of water issues and the role of the OBWB has increased. (Between April 1, 2010 and March 31, 2011, there were 172 news stories regarding the OBWB compared to 80 in the previous year.)



OBWB Executive Director Anna Warwick Sears speaking with Okanagan media about the Water Board's Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool (SWURT) at a news conference held in February 2011.



Media were invited to hear Bob Sandford, lead policy author of the report "Climate Change Adaptation and Water Governance" present his findings to the OBWB's Water Stewardship Council in November 2011. The Water Board's work figures prominently in the report. Here, Sandford is interviewed by CHBC - Global TV's Julia Wong.

Additional OBWB messaging is provided as articles in local water utility newsletters, and the recycling calendars for the North and Central Okanagan regional districts (RDOS no longer puts out a recycling calendar.)

Public presentations and community outreach events

With the growing awareness of water issues in the valley, there has been a growing request for presentations to various organizations. Some of the groups that the OBWB has been invited to speak to include the Naramata Citizens Association, Meadowlark Festival, a BC United Church workshop, Okanagan Science Centre – Set Sail with Science event, Okanagan College and the North Okanagan Naturalists Club.

The Water Board holds community outreach events such as our AGM and this past fall's Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum. The agency also holds an annual public forum during the week of World Water Day (in March).

The Water Board also partners with organization's holding events that are in-line with our mandate (e.g. the Organic Greens Festival and REEL Change Film Festival). We have also partnered with BC Water and Waste Association for Drinking Water Week (in May), helping shepherd community outreach events in Okanagan communities and providing Okanagan-specific materials for DWW. Where we can't participate, we will provide materials to assist with an event that helps us share our messages around water.



The OBWB hosted its annual World Water Day public forum last March at the Bohemian Café in downtown Kelowna. The event featured poetry by a UBC-O student (left), a panel discussion, and a great turnout of interested Okanagan residents.

Okanagan WaterWise

Okanagan WaterWise is a public education and outreach initiative of the OBWB, aimed at creating greater public awareness on water issues on a valley-wide scale. The initiative was born out of a growing recognition and call, by the Board of Directors and the Water Stewardship Council, that water conservation and protection requires everyone's participation. In part, this was based on results which came out of a three-year Okanagan Water Supply and Demand study which showed the second largest amount of water being used in the Okanagan (24%) is going on our landscapes. (The largest share, 55%, is used for agriculture.)

The OkWaterWise initiative includes a website at www.okwaterwise.ca. The site includes information on where our water comes from, where it goes, and what we can do to help look after our water. Information is geared to homeowners, businesses, students and educators.

The site is full of educational, but also fun activities and links, including our series of OkWaterWise videos, our Okanagan Waterscape poster, and the Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! homeowners guide for rainwater capture and use.



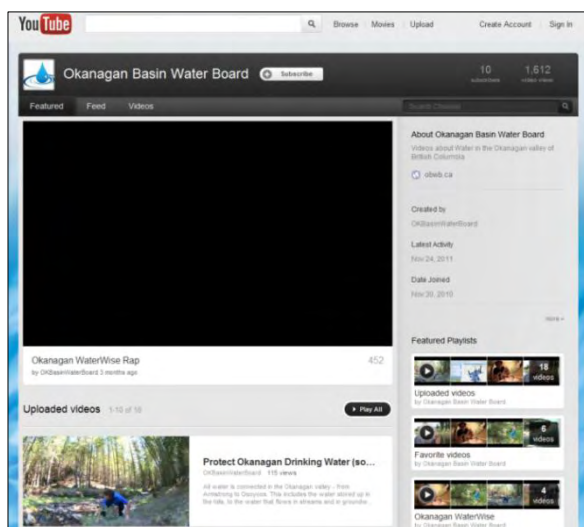
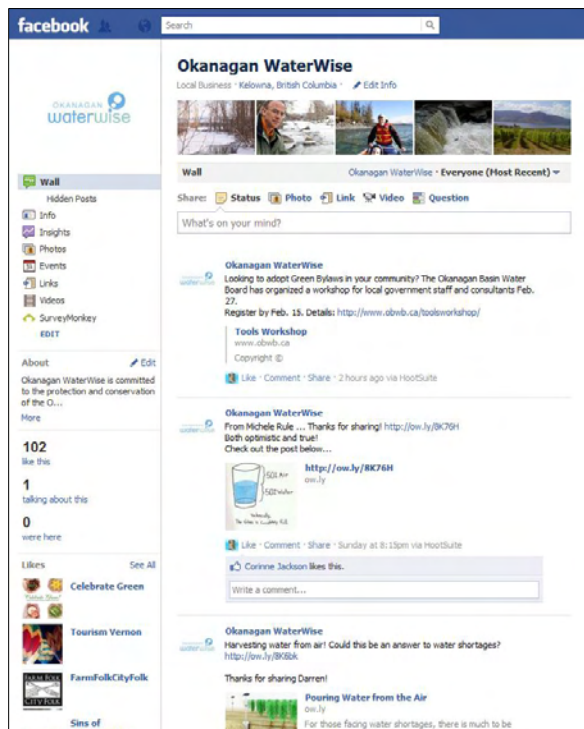
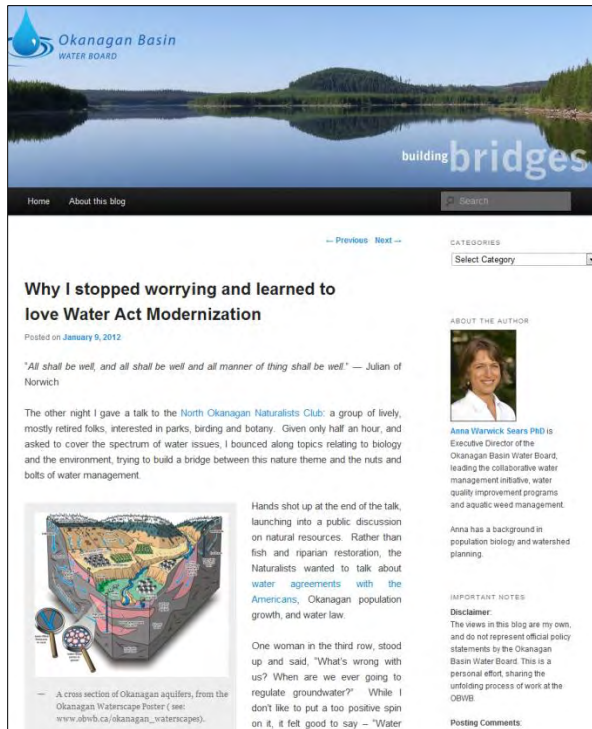
The Okanagan WaterWise website homepage. The site is designed to be friendly and inviting, encouraging residents, businesses and kids to learn more about Okanagan water and help protect it.

Social Media

The OBWB is using social media as a means to reach out to the public with our message. Okanagan WaterWise has a presence on Facebook (www.facebook.com/OkWaterWise) and Twitter (twitter.com/#!/OkWaterWise). We also have our own YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/OKBasinWaterBoard) which holds our OBWB and OkWaterWise videos, as well as other water-related videos.

The Water Board also has a regular blog, Building Bridges, written by Executive Director Anna Warwick Sears. It details the activities of the OBWB, its efforts in collaborative watershed governance and management, and allows for in-depth discussions around complex issues like the renewal of the Osoyoos Operating Orders, and concerns around the potential federal endangered listing of the Rocky Mountain ridged mussel. It is written for the public, partner agencies, and water stakeholders.

Using social media has been an important part of sharing WaterWise and OBWB messages, informing and engaging the public on water issues, and attracting an ever-increasing number of followers.

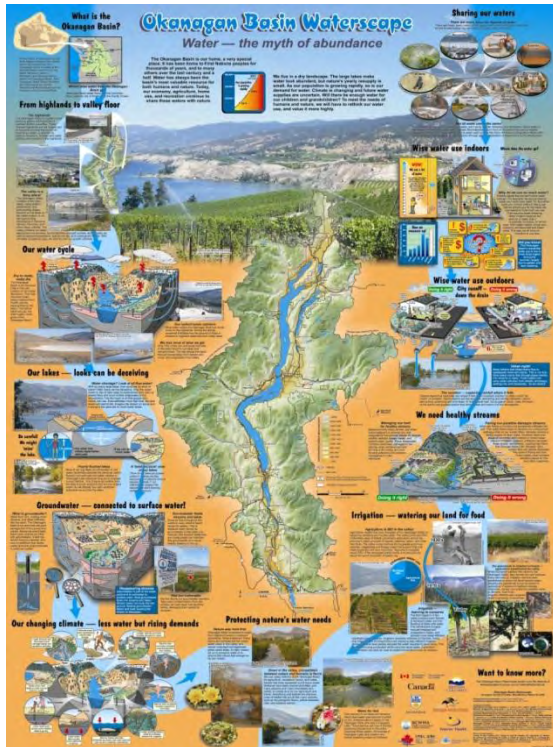


Like many local governments and other agencies, the OBWB is using social media as a way to connect with the public with our messages on water. These communication tools allow us a certain level of control over the message (e.g. not relying on others to deliver it for us), and allows those interested in the message to stay connected and even get involved.

Outreach materials

The OBWB has developed a number of public outreach materials, including the recent Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! An Okanagan Homeowner's Guide to Using Rain as a Resource, and the Okanagan Waterscape poster.

Like other communication tools, the OBWB sees outreach materials as an important way to share our message. They are also meeting a growing request from Okanagan residents for more locally-focussed materials.



(Left) The Okanagan Waterscape poster was updated in 2011 and has been a popular tool for educators and organizations interested in local water issues. (Below) The Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! guide is being distributed to local governments in the Okanagan and is planned for wider distribution this winter.



Make Water Work

Make Water Work (MWW) is a valley-wide advertising campaign aimed at reducing residential outdoor water use. The program began last spring with the gathering of a valley-wide committee of water utility and communications staff from throughout the Okanagan.

One of the committee's goals is to ensure that the valley-wide message does not conflict with local government communication efforts or duplicate local efforts. Rather, the campaign is an extension of the work of local communities, creating a link between the messages, recognizing that we all share one valley, one water.

Over the course of the Spring/Summer 2011, phase 1 of the campaign was developed and the slogan "Make Water Work" adopted – chosen for its positive message, making sure to avoid shaming or scare tactics. The campaign is instead empowering and fun – encouraging people to get their water to work harder and more productively for them. A few materials were developed including print posters, newspaper ads, radio spots, and a MWW "tips" page on OkWaterWise.ca (www.okwaterwise.ca/learn-mww.html). The campaign was launched as a two-month pilot project in the North Okanagan.

Following on the success of the pilot project, the OBWB is working with its partners in the development of Phase 2 to further develop materials and launch them valley-wide this spring/summer.

(Left) The Make Water Work page on the Okanagan WaterWise website, offers tips to get water working more effectively outdoors, thereby reducing the amount needed. The page also includes a drop-down menu of Okanagan local government partners and links to their community-specific water conservation messages. (Right) One of the print posters from the MWW campaign.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2012
Agenda No: 7.4

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Genevieve Dunbar, Grants Administrator
Date: January 30, 2012
Subject: Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants - 2012 Cycle of Funding

The Okanagan Basin Water Board's grant program for Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) projects has started accepting applications. Staff have spoken with a number of potential applicants, guiding them through the process and answering questions. The deadline for the 2012 cycle of funding is Friday, February 24, 2012. The grant program awards \$300,000 each year for the entire Okanagan basin - with each Regional District receiving the percentage share contributed through requisitions.

North Okanagan Regional District	19.3%	\$57,900
Central Okanagan Regional District	58.9%	\$176,700
Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen	21.8%	\$65,400

All grant applicants must have a resolution of support from a local government (regional board or municipal council), sent in advance of the OBWB's application deadline. Typically the applicant will either use a copy of their completed application or will write a letter describing the project in detail, asking for support. It is up to the applicant to determine the most appropriate local government to submit their application to and those that choose a municipality are not required to send it to the Regional Board as well.

The application form and Terms of Reference for the program are located on the OBWB website at: <http://www.obwb.ca/wcqi/>, click on "Application Information" from the menu on the left side of the screen.

The OBWB follows a process to evaluate and recommend projects for funding. In the first week after the application deadline, all applications are reviewed to ensure they are complete. In addition, if additional resources or information is needed for a particular application, staff will gather any extra details in the following week or two to assist in the application assessment.

Throughout the month of March, the OBWB staff will assess the applications independently. A ranking system is used to assess WCQI grant applications. Board directors will receive staff recommendations and award grants at the April 3, 2012 meeting and notification of successful recipients begins shortly after that.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2009
Agenda No: 8.1

File No.1610.01

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears
Date: February 7th, 2012
Subject: Updating Signing Authority

The new OBWB Chair and local directors need signing authority for banking and contracts.

Recommendation: That the OBWB adopt the following resolution.

“WHEREAS it is desirable for the Okanagan Basin Water Board (hereinafter called the “Corporation”) to authorize certain of its officers to, inter alia, sign cheques and contracts, deposit promissory notes and cheques, receive paid cheques, obtain and deliver from the Corporation’s bankers, copies of all or any stocks and bonds;

NOW THEREFORE, the Corporation hereby enacts as follows:

1. That all cheques of the corporation drawn on its General Accounts be signed on its behalf by [Insert Name of New], Chair; Doug Findlater, Director; Gerry Zimmermann, Director; or Keith Fielding, Director; and signed/countersigned by any one of the following: Marilyn Rilkoﬀ, Manager of Finance and Administration, or Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer of the Regional District of Central Okanagan.
2. That Marilyn Rilkoﬀ, Manager of Finance and Administration, and Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer be and is/and are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the Corporation to negotiate with, deposit with or transfer to the Corporation’s Bank (but for the credit of the said Corporation only) all or any Bills of Exchange. Promissory notes, Cheques and Orders for payments of money and other negotiable paper, and for the said purpose to endorse the same or any of them on behalf of the said Corporation either in writing, rubber stamp, or electronic printer.
3. That Marilyn Rilkoﬀ, Manager of Finance and Administration, and Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer be and is/are hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation from time to time to arrange, settle, balance and certify all books and accounts between the said corporation and the bank; and to receive all paid cheques and vouchers unpaid and unaccepted bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments.
4. That Marilyn Rilkoﬀ, Manager of Finance and Administration, and Harold Reay, Chief Administrative Officer be and is hereby authorized for and on behalf of the said Corporation to obtain delivery from the said bank for all or any stocks, bonds or other securities held by the said Bank in safe-keeping or otherwise for the account of the said Corporation and to give valid and binding receipts thereof.

5. That this resolution be communicated to the said Bank and remain in force until written notice to the contrary shall have been given to the Manager for the time being the Branch of the Bank at which the Account of the said Corporation is kept and receipt of such notice duly acknowledged in writing.
6. And that [*Insert Name of New*], Chair; Doug Findlater, Director; Gerry Zimmermann, Director; or Keith Fielding, Director, have the additional authority to sign contracts approved by the Okanagan Basin Water Board.”
7. This resolution shall take effect on the 7th day of February, 2012.

“That the Signing Authority Resolution be approved as presented.”

CARRIED.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 7, 2012
Agenda No: 8.2

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Date: February 1, 2012
Subject: **The Year Ahead - Strategic Planning**

The OBWB has a newly-appointed Board of Directors, and a three year renewal of the Water Management Program. A huge amount of work has been accomplished in the last six years, and the organization itself is stronger and more stable. Along with the Water Supply and Demand Project, the Sustainable Water Strategy, and all the other science and planning, we now have a Governance Manual, and have almost completely updated our financial management systems. Together, these create a strong foundation for further work.

In May, 2011, the OBWB held a strategic planning session to map out Okanagan Water priorities. Among these, were to focus on Stormwater Management, Source Protection, Water Supply in a Changing Environment, and Water Resource Allocation. The Directors also agreed that we need to continue to improve and expand our communication with the public, senior government, and water stakeholders. The Board also expressed a wish to identify and assess options for greater First Nations engagement in the OBWB.

I have attached a copy of the report from the Strategic Planning session. I believe it would be valuable, going into this new year, to hold another in April or May, to revisit and hone in on OBWB priorities. I have also attached a list of ongoing OBWB projects.

Essentially, I see that we have a firm footing of water information and science, we have an engaged community and stakeholder support, and we have a high level of credibility with senior government for our ability to follow through on projects. How shall we best use this opportunity to support water sustainability in the Okanagan during the year ahead?

New and Ongoing OBWB Water Management Projects

The following are a set ongoing water management projects which the OBWB is currently leading, or closely involved in. Many of these projects are inter-related, and most are closely linked to water supply issues.

I. Water Supply Projects

1. **Water Supply & Demand Project (2007–current)** – Current Funding Partners are: Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, BC Ministry of Agriculture.

The Water Supply & Demand project is an ongoing effort to maintain the highest level of information on Okanagan water availability and how it may be affected by climate change. The initial 3-year project generated a very large store of data and model results on current and future water supply. Current efforts are focused on putting these results to work.

- a. **Data Delivery to Local Governments** – Local government staff and local researchers have had high interest in using Water Supply & Demand data for planning. Their questions often require custom data queries for specific areas, and sometimes new model runs. We received funding to provide these services via a contractor, at minimal cost to local governments. This is an ongoing project, with external funding to April 1, 2012. A selection of projects is listed below. OBWB has developed a **Local Government User's Guide to the Water Supply & Demand Project**, available on our website.

- Penticton irrigation plan – A monthly breakdown of historical outdoor water use, by property, and a projection of water use during a future drought scenario. Some “gaming” was done on changing crop-types and irrigation systems, and on potential agricultural build-out.
- RDOS regional growth strategy – Current water requirements were provided for all areas designated as RDOS, Summerland or Penticton (excluding Band lands), broken into categories of indoor residential, institutional, commercial and industrial, outdoor domestic, and other outdoor, linked property by property.
- Twin Lakes aquifer viability analysis – The data focused on current and potential future health of the Twin Lakes aquifer, including data on precipitation and deep percolation (water going in) and extraction from the aquifer. Data was provided for the years 2010 - 2040 using two different (dry and wet) climate model variations.
- Kelowna Joint Water Committee planning process – Information was provided on water requirements for indoor and outdoor domestic needs, and agricultural water use, by distribution areas.
- City of Vernon Liquid Waste Management Plan – The City of Vernon is studying future capacity for spray irrigation of wastewater effluent. Information was provided on the current water demand in their spray irrigation areas – how much irrigation the land

can handle – and identifying other agricultural lands where the program could potentially be expanded

- Lake Country Master Water Plan – Work is in process. Information is being provided on the proportion of indoor, outdoor, and agricultural water use, separating areas that are on surface water from areas that are on groundwater.
 - RDCO Regional Growth Strategy – Holding meetings with RDCO staff to determine their data needs. There is potential for using the RDCO as a pilot area for modeling the availability of water for proposed development areas.
 - Peachland Master Water Plan – Received inquiry, but do not yet have a datasharing agreement.
 - West Kelowna water planning – Received inquiry, but do not yet have a datasharing agreement.
- b. **Okanagan Irrigation Management – a.k.a. OKIM** (2009 – current). This is a web-based pilot project to provide irrigation management information to farmers with water meters, and to provide a way for water suppliers to evaluate farm water use. It is based on the Water Demand Model developed through the Water Supply & Demand Project, and is currently being tested by Greater Vernon Water, District of Summerland, and Glenmore Ellison Irrigation District. The OBWB is hosting the tool on the Okanagan Water Database server.
- c. **Future Scenarios** – additional work is underway, using two new climate models, to get a range of potential water impacts associated with climate change. This project will be completed by April 1, 2012.
- d. **Database Development** – The Water Supply & Demand Databases contain extensive data and modeling results collected through the project. While the data is well-organized, and is now established at the OBWB, more work needs to be done on the system to allow easier access by local government staff or contractors who wish to use these resources. This is an ongoing project.
- e. **Okanagan Water Supply & Demand Website** – This website is the one-stop-shop for Water Supply & Demand general information and technical reports. It also houses a searchable database of all the technical water reports used in the study. The website is regularly updated, and can be found at www.obwb.ca/wsd.
- f. **Okanagan Water Viewer** – This is a sophisticated web-tool where users can look at maps and graphical views of Okanagan water supplies. The website is complete, and can be found at www.okanaganwater.ca. Last summer, we added a brief training film to help the public explore the Water Viewer's features.
- g. **Data delivery to University water researchers** (2010 – current). NRCan funds have also supported access to Water Supply & Demand Data by independent partners.

- Okanagan Groundwater: The OBWB has provided data for a book on Okanagan Groundwater by Murray Road (author of the Okanagan Geology book).
- Water Resources Mapping: The OBWB has provided data to BCIT students developing a water resources map for the Okanagan Basin. This map is intended to provide very simple information for the general public, such as the location of their water sources, and the names of different lakes and tributaries.
- Pollinator studies in Okanagan agricultural areas: The maps of agricultural areas developed in this project are being used by Dr. Jason Pither and his research team at UBC-O to study the distribution of different crops and how they may affect the presence and abundance of different pollinators.
- Virtual Water Use in the Okanagan: Dr. Hans Schreier at UBC-V used the maps and water requirements of agricultural areas, parks, and other large turf areas to determine the virtual use of water for local agricultural products (wine, for example), compared to the virtual water that is imported into the basin by import of agricultural products grown elsewhere.
- Deep Creek Watershed Sustainability: Dr. Adam Wei at UBC-O is using the hydrology model and the water balance model to evaluate the effects of climate change and increasing water demand on the Deep Creek basin, to identify water availability and vulnerability in different areas.
- Dam Safety: Dr. Dwayne Tannant, on faculty at the UBC-O School of Engineering, is using our data to evaluate the safety of dams in the Okanagan.

2. Groundwater Monitoring Wells – (2010 – current). Current Funding Partners: Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada, BC Ministry of Environment (in-kind), and local Okanagan governments.

The groundwater monitoring project has a goal to install a minimum of 15 new monitoring wells in at-risk aquifers identified through the Water Supply & Demand project, over a 3-year period. Funding is available until March 31, 2013.

3. Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool – (2010 – current). Current Funding Partners are Infrastructure Canada and Environment Canada.

How much water do we actually use each month? The SWURT project lets large water users in the Okanagan report their monthly water extractions on line through this web-based tool, and to track their water use and reservoir levels over time. The pilot initiative focuses on training the largest water utilities, but the goal is to have all large water users (including groundwater) report on line through this tool. This project is ongoing, with external funding until April 1, 2012, and we have budgeted to continue the outreach in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

4. Hydrometric Monitoring Governance and Database (2008 – current). Funding Partners: Environment Canada, with in-kind contribution being negotiated with the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations.

Restoring the streamflow monitoring network has been a top-priority for many years, but it has been difficult to make progress because there is no coordination of locally-collected data. This project seeks to expand the Okanagan Water Database to include locally-collected streamflow data. All streamflow data can be uploaded through the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool. This project is ongoing, with funding until April 1, 2012. We currently have two interns working on the project.

- 5. Hydrologic Connectivity** (2010 - current). Current Funding Partners: Natural Resources Canada, BC Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Community Development.

This project provides a technical basis for establishing valley-wide drought plans. It uses the Water Supply and Demand modeling results to evaluate how water use by one community affects water availability downstream. It also analyzes water license priority dates to determine water entitlements during droughts. The pilot phase of the project is nearing completion, and the goal is to use this approach to inform new allocation decisions. We are also using the model to evaluate the implications of a proposed Agricultural Water Reserve, and how to include environmental water needs (fish flows) into water decisions.

- 6. Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin – a.k.a. GAOB** (2005 - current). Funding Partner: BC Ministry of Environment.

Over several years OBWB received a series of grants from the BC Ministry of Environment, for groundwater studies in the Okanagan. These projects are undertaken according to mutual agreements by OBWB and MOE. There is one project underway, supervised by the Ministry of Environment, evaluating groundwater quality in the southern Okanagan. The ministry wishes for remaining funds to be used for implementation of the proposed groundwater regulation under the new Water Sustainability Act. There is no set end-date for use of these funds.

- 7. Lake Evaporation Study** (2011 pilot). Funding Partner: Environment Canada. OBWB is providing in-kind logistical support.

Lake Evaporation is the single largest area of uncertainty with Okanagan water supplies. After OBWB's Water Supply & Demand Project tested 17 separate desk-based evaporation models, Environment Canada resolved that the only way to accurately determine lake evaporation was with on-lake and shoreline meteorological studies. An extensive effort is underway through 2013, using researchers, equipment and techniques from the Great Lakes area. We now have 5 bouys and 2 shore-based stations collecting weather data. We are making arrangements with Environment Canada to have the data made available to researchers, local governments, and the public through the OBWB website.

II. Water Policy and Communication Projects

- 1. WaterWise Education Program** (2010 - current). In-kind Partners: Okanagan local governments. An overview of this project is presented in a separate memo.

The WaterWise program is the OBWB's public outreach. Activities range from regular water news columns in local newspapers and radio stations, to surveys and education programs for kids. This is a new program and is evolving as we develop new partnerships. It is guided by a committee that includes Water Stewardship Council members and water conservation staff from local governments.

2. **Recommendations for Water Act Modernization** (2011 – current). The OBWB submitted two separate sets of recommendations to the BC Ministry of Environment for their Water Act Modernization process. Involvement in this process is ongoing.

Recommendations include: the need to protect reservoir areas, the need for groundwater legislation, and the need for increased monitoring of streams and groundwater.

- a. The OBWB provided recommendations based on discussions of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
- b. The OBWB submitted recommendations as local leads on the Water Supply & Demand working group, providing a technical assessment of issues.

3. **Okanagan Water Supply Webinars** (2010 – current). In-kind Partners: Environment Canada, Agriculture Canada, Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations.

This series of webinars provides up-to-date information on water supplies, snow pack, and weather projections to help Okanagan communities and water suppliers prepare for shortages. Webinars are held monthly between February and June. They are free and open to the public. The project arose as a recommendation of the 2009 Okanagan Drought Workshop hosted by the OBWB. This is an ongoing project.

4. **Drought Signage** (2010 - current). In-kind Partners: Ministry of Environment, Okanagan local governments.

The goal of this project is to develop a consistent, uniform communication approach for water shortages, similar to the signs indicating forest-fire danger. The group is working to align local needs with the provincial drought criteria. The project arose as a recommendation of the 2009 Okanagan Drought Workshop hosted by the OBWB. This is an ongoing project.

5. **Topsoil Bylaws Toolkit** (2011 - current). Funding Partners: Ministry of Community Development, Green Infrastructure Partnership, Water Balance Model Inter-governmental Partnership.

Having adequate topsoil in developed areas is a key factor for reducing pollution from runoff and increasing water conservation, yet topsoil is often stripped away and not replaced in new developments. The goal of this project is to explain the benefits of topsoil and provide draft bylaws for adoption by local governments. This project is near completion.

6. Tools Training Workshop (February 27 and March 1, 2012). Funding Partner: Natural Resources Canada.

The OBWB is putting on a 2-day workshop for local government staff and municipal consultants, to showcase some of the new tools for climate change adaptation. One day will have a hands-on training on bylaw development by Deborah Curran, another day will have training sessions on the PIEVC risk assessment protocol by Engineers Canada, the Water Balance Model planning tool for reducing flooding and stormwater pollution in neighbourhoods, and on using Foreshore Inventory Maps to help planners work around environmentally sensitive areas.

7. Slow it, Spread it, Sink it, Homeowner's guide to Stormwater Management (2011 - current).

Current Funding Partners: Natural Resources Canada, BC Water and Waste Association (in-kind).

This project was to revise a homeowner's stormwater management guide, developed in California, and customize it for the Okanagan. This was a recommendation of the OBWB's 2010 Rain to Resource workshop, and uses climate change adaptation funding from NRCan. The project was led by a committee including local government engineers, local irrigation designers and landscapers, and green building experts. The guide is complete, and we are now working to distribute it throughout the valley.



OBWB

**Okanagan Basin Water Board – Board of Directors
Strategic Planning Workshop
May 2011**

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP

Introduction

On Tuesday, May 3, 2011, the Board of Directors for the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) held a facilitated strategic planning workshop. The workshop was an opportunity for the Board, as a collective, to set out the topic and project areas on which it wishes to focus the organization's resources in the coming years. Some of the Board's preferred topic areas, it was noted, may be ones in which OBWB is already active — in these cases, the Board can confirm its ongoing support. Other program areas may be ones that are new to the organization.

This brief report provides a summary of the day. Key points that were raised during the various discussions are identified here, as are the items on which the Directors reached consensus. The report's structure matches that of the workshop. A summary of the Board's discussion on OBWB's collaborative resource governance model begins the report. The renewal of the organization's Water Management Program is then noted, followed by a review of the Board's discussions on topic areas.

Collaborative Resource Governance Model

OBWB is a multi-jurisdictional body that plays an important role in water governance for the Okanagan Water Basin. The organization is a forum for local government representatives and stakeholder groups to exchange information, formulate water management ideas, and develop — collaboratively — Basin-wide strategies. OBWB's power is its ability to persuade others to take action. Its power is enhanced by the credibility it

has developed over the years, and by the incentives it is able to offer for certain types of actions (e.g., liquid waste treatment infrastructure upgrades). OBWB has no power to regulate or to force others to act.

From time to time, questions arise as to the efficacy and sustainability of the collaborative model. Is it still an effective approach to the governance of the Basin's water resources? Does OBWB need to consider a regulatory role? Questions also arise occasionally about the degree to which the organization is fully representative of key groups in the Basin — in particular, First Nations. Are Okanagan First Nations fully involved in discussions and decisions on water governance? What can be done to improve the level of engagement?

The group began its workshop with some discussion on the collaborative model. The facilitator asked some questions to begin the exchange:

- What are the advantages of the model? What does it do particularly well?
- Where does it fall short?
- Is there any appetite for change?

Prompted by these questions, Directors made the following points:

- For many, an advantage of the model is that it promotes equality among local government jurisdictions and taxpayers throughout the Basin. All jurisdictions contribute to OBWB at the same tax rate. All participating regional districts appoint the same number of Directors to the Board, and all voting is equal and

unweighted. (Note that not all Directors agreed that voting should be unweighted; most, however, were supportive of the current structure.)

- The model allows OBWB to represent the entire Basin — to serve the "citizens of the Okanagan Basin".
- There are many authorities with regulatory powers over various aspects of water resource management. Another authority is not needed. What is needed is a forum to bring different parties together and get views on the table. OBWB is this forum.
- Some Directors noted that there is simply no desire to have a body with authority to tell local governments how to manage their affairs in the area of water resource management.
- It was suggested that authority does not equal leadership, and that leadership on key issues is what OBWB is able to provide under its current structure.
- Some feel that (limited) regulatory authority would be helpful at some point to allow for tighter control over water resources. On the whole, however, Directors have no appetite for changing the collaborative, non-regulatory model at this time. A stronger, regulatory role can be assessed at a future date, when or if required.
- What helps make OBWB work is the tension that naturally arises in discussions with the various stakeholder groups. This tension, coupled with the fact that the group can only make decisions collaboratively, produces compromise.
- A regulatory agency, it was suggested, would find it very difficult to serve as a bridge builder among jurisdictions and stakeholders — an important role played by OBWB.

The key disadvantage that arose during the exchange was the lack of engagement of First Nations in OBWB discussions and business. The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) has one

appointee on the OBWB Board of Directors, but does not contribute financially to the organization and, as a consequence, does not vote on financial matters. The Director representing the ONA noted that First Nations wish to participate in OBWB as an equal of the regional districts.

All participants in the workshop expressed support in principle for a higher level of engagement by First Nations in OBWB. Directors noted, however, that there is a direct link between full participation in decision-making and financial contribution.

There was consensus among Directors to begin discussions with ONA aimed at developing options for improving First Nations' participation in OBWB.

- *The Executive Director will bring this issue back to the Board with a recommended process for these discussions.*

Renewal of Water Management Program

OBWB's Executive Director reviewed the organization's Water Management Program with Directors. The various projects underway through the Program were profiled. The renewal of the Program must be addressed in 2011 — all three regional districts must support renewal in order for the Program and its various projects to continue.

Board of Director's Priorities

As noted earlier, the workshop was presented as an opportunity for the Board of Directors to set its priorities for the organization. On what do Directors want to focus OBWB's resources in the coming years? What topic areas are most important to Directors? These two questions set the stage for the afternoon discussions.

Several topic areas were identified as possible priority items. Some of these topics are new to OBWB; others have been the focus of ongoing work. All of the topic areas raised and discussed by the group are reviewed here:

► Stormwater Management

The first item raised for discussion was stormwater management (one facet of the larger issue of source protection). Directors explored the issue from a number of perspectives, and considered whether or not there is a distinct role for OBWB to play in addressing stormwater concerns — that is, a role that is important and that other agencies are not well-suited to perform. The following points summarize the discussion:

- The recent Larratt study found that stormwater run-off constitutes a major source of lake pollution in the Okanagan Basin.
- In all, contamination from stormwater has drinking water impacts, recreational impacts and ecological impacts.
- Stormwater management is considered largely an urban issue by some Directors — something for municipalities to address. Other Directors noted, however, that stormwater management is also an agricultural issue that arises because of poor farming practices.
- One action for OBWB to consider is to expand its existing Sewerage Assistance Program to provide stormwater infrastructure grants to municipalities.¹
- Another role to consider involves the collection and dissemination of stormwater management best practices (e.g., re-use of stormwater). Some Directors noted, however, that there may already be considerable information available to municipalities on best practices.
- It was suggested that the first step for Directors moving forward is to convince themselves that stormwater management is a major issue in need of attention (not all Directors are convinced). Then, if warranted,

¹ To be clear, the suggestion is not to replace the Sewerage Assistance Program — support for sewage treatment infrastructure grants remains strong. The suggestion is to expand the existing program to include stormwater infrastructure.

OBWB can properly identify and assess program options.² As in all cases, OBWB's decision on actions to take will be based on two factors:

- The ability for OBWB create a niche role for itself — that is, to do something that is not being done, and that cannot be done well, by another body
- "Bang for the buck" — that is, maximum impact for resources spent

► Source Protection

Source protection is a multi-faceted issue (one facet being stormwater management). It is also an issue in which OBWB is already engaged through some of its activities in the Water Management Program.

It was suggested that Directors would benefit by having OBWB undertake a "threat identification" exercise to fully understand what exactly are the biggest threats to water quality in the Basin. The results of such an exercise would help to inform further effort aimed at protecting water sources.

It was pointed out again that in all of the topic areas OBWB considers, and in all of the actions it contemplates, thought needs to be given to what OBWB can be doing that is different from the efforts and responsibilities of other parties. Projects directed towards advocacy and holding others accountable, for example, are efforts to which OBWB is uniquely well-suited.

► Water Supply in a Changing Environment

OBWB has a number of projects under its Water Management Program directed at addressing water supply in a changing environment. It was suggested at the workshop, however, that this topic area deserves additional emphasis. It is felt that

² One Director suggested that OBWB produce an "Implications Paper" to explore the problem of stormwater contamination, and to assess various stormwater management options to consider.

OBWB needs to go further to educate stakeholders about climate change and its implications for the Basin's water supply. Conservation efforts also need greater emphasis than at present. OBWB needs to lobby senior governments, partner with agencies, communicate information, provide expertise — in short, do a range of activities required to help the Basin as a whole "get to a safer future place". Other points were noted as follows:

- There are a number of water supply challenges in a changing environment. There will be a need to identify areas that are at particular risk. There will be a need to target efforts. OBWB's priorities in this area should be based on the findings of the Water Supply and Demand Study.
- Adaptation strategies will be needed. OBWB could help to provide the information needed to develop these strategies.
- OBWB has the ability to provide leadership on this issue (and, indeed, is already providing leadership). Thought could be given to hiring an individual — a "model jockey" — to undertake some of the climate change and water supply modelling that will be needed to build the business cases required to convince others to take action.

➤ **Water Resource Allocation**

Directors had some discussion on the topic of water use by various stakeholders, and the related topic of water allocation. There is no support for OBWB to take on responsibility for determining allocation of the resource — i.e., responsibility for water licensing. Directors recognize, however, that water resource allocation is an important issue, particularly given the increasing competition for water resources among user groups, and the increasing pressure on water supply. Part of OBWB's role is to raise important issues and provide others the knowledge and information they need to act. To that end, OBWB could:

- draw attention towards, and provide information regarding, water resource

allocation on a Basin-wide macro scale (i.e., not within an individual local government jurisdiction)

- facilitate the development of local water use plans by acquiring and sharing knowledge
- examine the need and potential for an agricultural water reserve
- educate stakeholders (e.g., agricultural sector) and jurisdictions on water conservation needs and possibilities

➤ **OBWB Grants**

Under its Water Management Program, OBWB provides modest Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants to groups throughout the Basin. Standard practice dictates that grant funds raised within each participating regional district are awarded to recipients within that regional district — put differently, what is raised in a regional district stays in the regional district. Not all Directors favour this division of funds; several Directors, however, feel that it is both fair and necessary.

At the workshop, Directors pondered the notion that the grant program, which is over-subscribed, should be expanded. After discussion, however, Directors agreed that for the time being the program should be left as is. Over-subscription helps to ensure that only the best, most targeted programs receiving funding.

➤ **Other Items**

Over the course of the day, a number of existing efforts underway at OBWB were emphasized by Directors as being particularly important to continue. OBWB's efforts in the areas of education, advocacy and communication were cited most often. With respect to advocacy, Directors suggested that OBWB must focus its efforts on issues of major importance to the broader Basin. Resources should not be directed toward smaller issues, or toward issues that require OBWB to choose sides. All advocacy work should be based on credible information (OBWB's

forte), and where possible should suggest actions and provide supporting business cases.

In Closing

The May 3 workshop served as an opportunity for Directors to identify, and for the Board as a whole to agree on, the topic areas on which to focus OBWB's resources in the coming years. One new topic area — that of stormwater management — was identified as an area that the Board would like to explore, understand better, and consider as a target for future actions. Another area — that of water resource allocation — was identified as one in which the Board may also wish to become more active. OBWB staff will need to develop ideas and recommendations for the Board to move forward on these two fronts.

The Board wishes to begin a process of discussions with First Nations to identify and assess options for greater First Nation engagement in OBWB.

For the most part, the discussions that occurred at the workshop served to confirm that OBWB is directing resources in accordance with the Board's sense of priorities.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting February 7, 2012 Agenda No: 8.3

To: OBWB Directors

From: Dave Caswell, Milfoil Operator

Date: January 30, 2012

Subject: International Control of Invasive Aquatic Vegetation for the Upper Columbia River System Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA)

Okanagan Basin Water Board staff travelled to Wenatchee, Wash. on January 12 to participate in a cooperative meeting with representatives from cross-border agencies involved in the management of Invasive Aquatic organisms within the Upper Columbia River watershed region.

More detailed notes on presentations will be provided at the OBWB meeting.

The OBWB has participated in similar events in recent years as a way to stay connected with invasive species control work (particularly milfoil), between B.C. and Washington State. The meeting on January 12 provided participants the opportunity to provide an update on Aquatic Invasive management in their respective areas in 2011; and to discuss plans for the coming year. The discussion session regarding milfoil control primarily focused on current control methods such as herbicides (U.S) and rototilling (Canada), and around the potential of biological control agents (weevils) for Eurasian Milfoil control on both sides of the border.

In Attendance:

Dave Caswell, Okanagan Basin Water Board
Anna Lyon, Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board
Mike Mackey, Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Centre
Bob Fischer, U.S Army Corps of Engineers
Alan Stanley, Regional District of Kootenay Boundary
Mike Lesky, U.S Bureau of Reclamation
Waikele Fratz, Chelan County Public Utility District
John Moran and Ford Waterstrat, Lake Osoyoos Association (U.S.)
Todd Brownlee, Department of Natural Resources, Aquatic Resources Invasive Species Program

Discussion Notes:

There was discussion around the effectiveness of public information materials such as signage, pamphlets, etc. in effecting actual behavior, and how to target specific user groups such as fishing clubs, etc. with information regarding aquatic invasive species. Information was provided about existing public information programs such as the Invasive Plant Council of B.C's "Clean, Drain and Dry" program.

There was general agreement that information sharing and cooperation between agencies will be essential to the success of various programs. "We are all working on the same large project." It would be beneficial to get fish protection agencies on both sides of the border to recognize the potential of Eurasian Milfoil and other Aquatic invasive species to adversely affect game fish populations.

There was also agreement that until a more formal arrangement can be put in place, Mike Mackey of the Chelan County Noxious Weed Control Centre will be the 'clearing house' for Eurasian Milfoil GPS / GIS data and will store and compile the data to be shared amongst all participants in the CWMA. Participants agreed to share objectives and workplans for 2012, and develop additional ideas for cooperation and information sharing.

There was significant discussion around the use of weevils as a biological control agent. Some feel that a private firm should be hired to provide the service (EnviroScience), while some feel that the rearing and stocking of weevils can be done locally, perhaps through partnership between government and university. There was consensus that more research needs to be done on the efficacy and environmental impact of current control methods such as rototilling and herbicide application. Rototilling is not allowed in the U.S., and herbicides are not allowed in Canada. There was discussion that perhaps the two methods could be used in concert to achieve greater effects. There was also discussion as to what steps might be taken to encourage regulatory agencies to re-think current regulations.

January 27th, 2012

Anna Warwick Sears
Executive Director
Okanagan Basin Water Board
1450 KLO Road
Kelowna, BC
V1W 3Z4

Meadowlark Festival

Phone ☎ (250) 492-5275

Fax ☎ (250) 492-5295

Email ✉ meadowlarkfestival@osca.org

Agenda No. 8.4



Regular: In-Camera:

Date: Feb. 7, 2012

Dear Anna.

Re: Meadowlark Nature Festival 15th Anniversary Event

OBWB

Thank you for providing Anita with further help and advice.

I hope the following information and details attached are sufficient enough for your upcoming Board Meeting.

About OSCA:

The Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Alliance (OSCA) is a charitable non-profit society with a mission to conduct educational outreach initiatives promoting community environmental awareness, and land management practices that benefit species and habitats at risk in this region. The charity was established in 1997 and organizes the annual Meadowlark Nature Festival; Spotlight on Species Events; EcoManagement Industry Workshops; and EcoStudies School Programs.

About the Meadowlark Nature Festival:

The Meadowlark Nature Festival is both a cultural and environmental education event that provides local people and visitors to the Okanagan and Similkameen Valleys the opportunity to experience lessons in conservation, awareness and stewardship in a fun and interactive way. Over 80 workshops, field trips, school and cultural programs, art and First Nation activities - all led by respected experts and knowledgeable people in our communities - allow people to get involved and learn about our richly diverse area. At a time when climate change, water issues, sustainability, species at risk and loss of habitat are all topics which we read about in newspapers and magazines, or hear about through media, this Festival provides an opportunity for local people and visitors from across Canada to actually learn, first-hand, the impact and significance of these topics within our natural environment.

The Festival is heavily promoted with a 12-page program (30,000 copies) printed and distributed throughout the region by the Penticton Herald and Kelowna Daily Courier/Okanagan Today. Posters, flyers and programs are also distributed from libraries, schools, visitor information centres, local businesses, outdoor recreation groups and clubs and many other outlets.

The Festival is also promoted online with its own dedicated website (www.meadowlarkfestival.bc.ca) and through social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Targeted e-flyers and a program of events are sent out across the country and many email marketing campaigns take place too. Information is also distributed through Festival Partners to their membership.

The Festival receives a huge amount of publicity, and its media Partners include the Penticton Herald, Kelowna Daily Courier/Okanagan Today, Western News, CBC Radio, CHBC News, Giant FM, Astral Media and more! Other key Partners include the City of Penticton, the RDOS, Environment Canada, the En'owkin Centre, Penticton and Wine Country and Thompson Okanagan Tourism Associations, Fortis BC, Real Estate Foundation of BC and Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society. The Festival also works with the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program and its many Partners including BC Nature, The Nature Trust of BC and BC Ministry of Environment.

In 2011 the Festival attracted more than 3000 participants from across Canada (please see attached geographical graph) and its awareness and promotional material was read and the information absorbed by thousands more!

Summary:

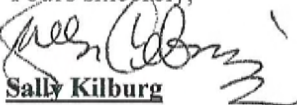
As discussed with Anita, OSCA would like to add water monitoring workshops to the Festival schedule, and reintroduce events using a 'water' theme to continue to highlight the connection between water and life. The aim will be to help raise general awareness and educate people about the impacts of water in the region.

OSCA would like to request financial support from the OBWB, and for the OBWB to be included as a funder/supporting Partner for the entire Festival. Monies received through possible funds (for example \$1000) would be directed to the delivery of these water monitoring workshops and water related events, and other components of the Festival including: educational programs for all ages (including youth); providing experiences focusing on water and climate change and how it is affecting our environment.

Thank you for considering this request, and I hope that OSCA can be provided with the opportunity to work with the OBWB this year to help raise awareness of these important issues.

I look forward to hearing from you, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

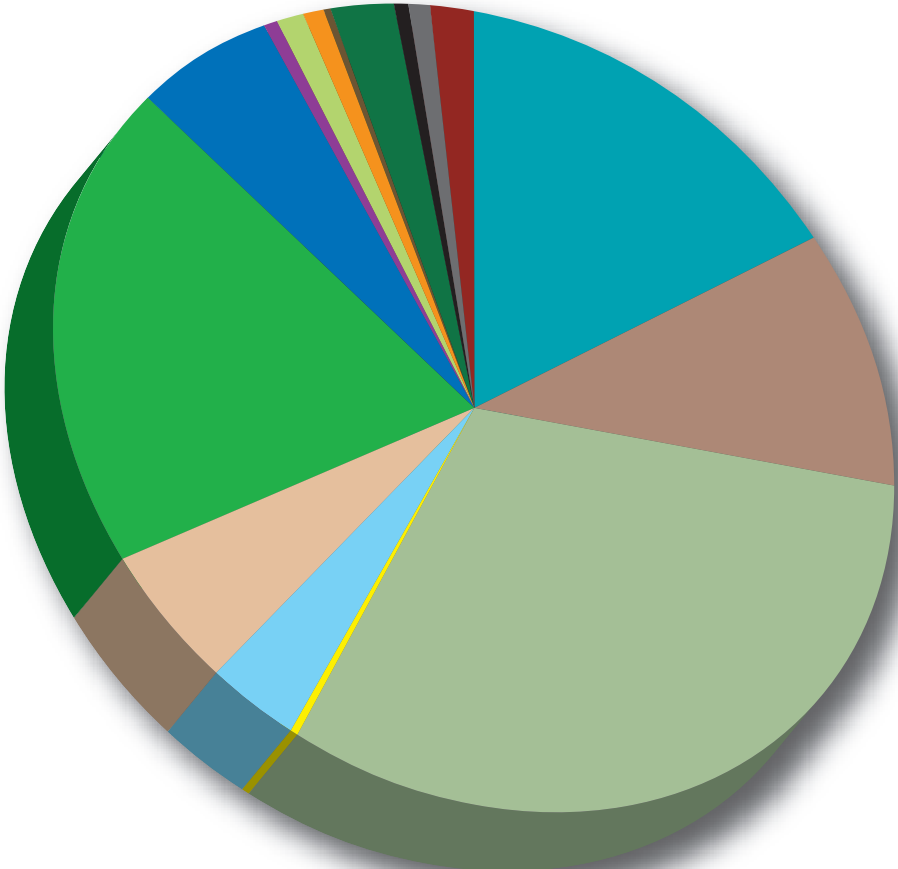


Sally Kilburg
Chair of OSCA

Encl.

Meadowlark Festival 2011

Ticket Sales Demographics



Manitoba

Alberta

USA

Golden, Revelstoke & Area

North Okanagan

Central Okanagan

South Okanagan (excl. Penticton)

Penticton

Prince George & Area

Kootenays & Area

Kamloops & Area

Vancouver & Area (inc. North)

Vancouver Island

Ontario

Quebec

New Brunswick

City of Kelowna



Office of the Mayor

Agenda No: 9.1

Regular: In-Camera:

Date: Feb 7, 2012



OBWB

November 16, 2011
File No. 0705-55

Honourable Keith Ashfield
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Ashfield,

At the November 14, 2011 Council meeting, City Council received an information package from the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) in regards to the proposed federal listing of the Rocky Mountain ridged mussel as endangered under the Species at Risk Act.

The OBWB is concerned that labelling the Rocky Mountain ridged mussel as endangered would result in potentially high economic impacts on local governments, potential restrictions on Eurasian watermilfoil control and potential restrictions on lake level management that would reduce the flexibility to respond to drought and climate change. City Council supports the recommendation of the OBWB's against labelling this species as endangered. However, Council's support of the recommendation is subject to additional scientific research and data be undertaken by Fisheries and Oceans Canada that supports the "endangered" listing of the Rocky Mountain ridged mussel. Furthermore, Kelowna City Council urges your Ministry and the Federal Government to take immediate action against the spread of zebra and quagga mussels into Okanagan Lake.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Sharon Shepherd
MAYOR

CC: City Council
Ron Mattiussi, City Manager
Okanagan Basin Water Board

International Joint Commission
Canada and United States



Commission mixte internationale
Canada et États-Unis

December 22, 2011

Agenda No. 9.2



Regular In-Camera:

Date: Feb. 7, 2012

OBWB

Mr. Stu Wells
Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board
1450 KLO Road
B.C. V1W 3Z4

Dear Mr. Wells,

Thank you for sending your comments from the Okanagan Basin Water Board regarding your recommendations for renewal of the International Joint Commission (IJC) Order on Zosel Dam. Your comments will be included in the record and shared with Commissioners of the IJC for consideration as the IJC prepares its report to the Governments of Canada and the United States on this matter.

Very Sincerely,

Chuck Lawson
Secretary
U.S. Section

Cc: Camille Mageau, Secretary, Canadian Section/IJC
Mark Colosimo, Engineering Advisor, U.S. Section/IJC
Robert Kimbro, U.S. Secretary, International Souris River Board of Control



Toll Free: 1-888-495-6515

Phone: 250-495-6515

Fax: 250-495-2400

Website: www.osoyoos.ca

Agenda No. 9.3



Regular: In-Camera:

Date: Feb. 7, 2012

OBWB

November 28, 2011

Hon. Keith Ashfield
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
Parliament Buildings, Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Hon Mr. Ashfield:

**Re: Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel
Our File No. CR-206**

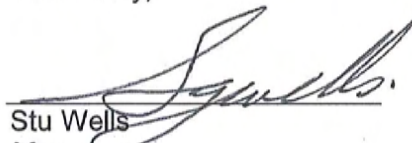
Osoyoos Town Council was informed at the Regular Council meeting held on November 7, 2011 that the rare Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel (Mussel), which exists in Okanagan Lakes is considered a species of special concern and may potentially be listed as an *Endangered Species*.

Council is concerned regarding this as a new and expensive requirement for conducting assessments resulting from this categorization. Any new requirements related to the Mussel may have significant impact on our community's ability to effect improvements to our waterfront as new requirements usually mean additional costs and time to any project, public or private.

Council supports the Okanagan Basin Water Board and its efforts to control non-native, invasive Eurasian water milfoil in Okanagan lakes. These activities may seriously be hampered by new requirements related to the Mussel. This would cause interruption of the Water Milfoil Control Program that would have serious impact on public enjoyment and use of the lake.

Council takes the issue of preservation and enhancement of our waterfront very seriously. This letter is to request that DFO and Environment Canada **NOT** up-list Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel under the SARA Legislation.

Yours truly,



Stu Wells
Mayor

SW/dc

cc: Council
Barry Romanko, CAO
Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board

E: sara@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca