



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: December 6, 2012

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www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

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Water Stewardship Council

Michael Brydon, Regional
District of Okanagan-
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Juliette Cunningham,
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Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Keith Fielding, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

James Pepper, Okanagan
Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Tom Siddon, Regional District
of Okanagan-Similkameen

Gerry Zimmermann, Regional

The next regular meeting of
the OBWB is 10 a.m.,
Feb. 5, 2013 at the Regional
District of Central Okanagan-
Kelowna.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board urges province to make milfoil control a priority: B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations staff attended this week's board meeting to discuss its permitting process for milfoil control on Okanagan lakes. Following extensive discussion, the OBWB has been granted approval to winter rototill at all of its regular work sites except one at Kin Beach because live mussels of a rare species were found there. Summer harvesting at this particular spot will still be done. Directors urged FLNRO to make milfoil control a priority and reduce the regulatory burden on the Water Board, recognizing the program's importance to ensuring a healthy water ecosystem, to tourism and public enjoyment.

Zebra Mussel outreach plans for 2013 discussed: Lisa Scott, from the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society, reported on public outreach efforts this past summer regarding invasive zebra and quagga mussels, and plans for 2013. The OBWB is concerned about the potential introduction of these mussels into Okanagan waters, the impact they will have on the ecosystem of our lakes, the tremendous damage to infrastructure, and the cost to fix. Clean-up efforts are costing cities in Eastern Canada and in the U.S. millions each year. The OBWB noted it would support the society's continued outreach efforts in 2013 and do complementary outreach as well.

2013 water conservation and protection grant program approved: The Board approved a call for applications to its Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program. The program funds projects that provide valley-wide benefit and are available to non-profit community groups, local governments, and irrigation or improvement districts. Successful applicants can receive up to \$30,000. Deadline for applications is Feb. 22, 2013 at 4 p.m. Full details are at www.obwb.ca/wcqi/.

Improvements to water use reporting app unveiled: The board was given an update on the BC Water Use Reporting Centre (BC WURC) – a web-tool developed by the OBWB, the Province of B.C. and Environment Canada. The tool allows water utilities to report their water use online, track their water use and use by other utilities, and will ensure the region can be more responsive to shortages. Since its launch in March 2011, 16 major Okanagan water utilities have joined and more are expected. The tool is also being used by the Nanaimo Regional District. For more information, visit <http://www.obwb.ca/bcwaterusereporting/>.

Osoyoos Lake Level website discussed: The OBWB is in discussions with the International Joint Commission and the Town of Osoyoos about the development of a new interactive webpage to help international Osoyoos Lake residents monitor and anticipate lake level changes. The proposed project is seen as a way to improve communication with Zosel and Penticton dam operators, to reduce problems for milfoil equipment, boats, and moorage.

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