



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: April 4, 2013**

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### **OBWB Directors**

**Stu Wells - Chair,**  
Regional District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

**Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,**  
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Water Stewardship Council

**Michael Brydon,** Regional  
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Okanagan

**Doug Dirk,** Regional District of  
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Nation Alliance

**Toby Pike,** Water Supply  
Association of B.C.

**Tom Siddon,** Regional District  
of Okanagan-Similkameen

**Gerry Zimmermann,** Regional  
District of Central Okanagan

**The next regular meeting of  
the OBWB is 10 a.m.,  
May 7, 2013 at Regional  
District of Central Okanagan,  
Kelowna.**

## **Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights**

**Okanagan Water Stewardship Council wins national award:** Board of Directors recognized the work of its technical advisory body the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (WSC) and its recent win of the “Award of Excellence in Water Stewardship” by the Council of the Federation. The award was established by the council – a collaboration of Canada’s provincial and territorial premiers – to recognize outstanding achievement, innovative practice and leadership in water stewardship. The WSC was chosen from 16 B.C. nominations. In presenting the award, the council noted the WSC is “bringing about demonstrable change through leading-edge research, decision-making tools and plan development. All of this is done in a highly collaborative environment with a broad spectrum of interests.”

**Projects awarded grants to protect and conserve water:** The board approved \$300,000 in funding from its Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program to 29 projects in the valley. Five projects will receive funding in the North Okanagan worth a total of \$57,300. Another 9 in the Central Okanagan will receive \$177,300, and \$65,400 has been awarded to five projects in the South Okanagan. Projects include support for an invasive mussel prevention program, the Kalamalka demonstration garden showcasing smart rainwater capture and water conservation practices, creek restoration work by Ecole KLO Middle School, and a waterwise landscaping project by Summerland Ornamental Gardens.

**Stop zebra mussel campaign picking up steam:** Directors were provided an update on efforts to keep the Okanagan zebra and quagga mussel free. Efforts include a public meeting in Osoyoos April 4, 7-9 p.m. at the Sonora Community Centre (details: [www.okwaterwise.ca](http://www.okwaterwise.ca)). Meetings are also being held with Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society and Invasive Species Council of BC to ensure strong collaboration and prevent duplication of efforts. A committee, led by the OBWB’s Okanagan WaterWise program, has been created to help launch an Okanagan-specific campaign and includes representatives from the local tourism and business community. Presentations are being given to local governments in the valley and other interested groups. Those interested in such a presentation can contact staff at 250-469-6271.

**Annual state of Okanagan water supply webinar planned:** The OBWB’s annual water supply webinar is set for April 23, 10-11 a.m. This free online seminar will review current Okanagan water supplies and provide weather forecasting. Farmers, water utility managers and others will be provided up-to-date information to help plan and prepare for the upcoming growing and irrigation season. Past speakers have included representatives from Environment Canada, B.C.’s Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and the OBWB. Details available soon at [www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca).

**OBWB’s Water Supply and Demand Project receives national recognition:** The Water Board was recently recognized for “Leadership in Collaboration” for its Water Supply and Demand Project in this year’s edition of *Waters Next* – an annual publication of *Water Canada* which highlights Canadian water achievements. Each year, 12 industry leaders are chosen by a selection committee of Canadian water experts. More information can be found at: <http://watercanada.net/waters-next/>.

**For more information, please visit: [www.OBWB.ca](http://www.OBWB.ca)**