



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: July 4, 2013

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OBWB Directors

Stu Wells - Chair,
Regional District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

Bernie Bauer, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Michael Brydon, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Juliette Cunningham,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

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
District of Central Okanagan

The annual general meeting of the OBWB will be held **Sept. 7, 2013** at Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna. Details to follow.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Don't Move a Mussel campaign rolls out: Directors were updated on the DontMoveAMussel.ca campaign, helping keep invasive zebra and quagga mussels out of the Okanagan. The campaign's website explains the risks these mussels pose to the valley's water, fisheries, beaches, tourism, property values and infrastructure. The website also has prevention information and how to report a sighting. The campaign includes posters, handouts, radio ads, billboards and a partnership with SunFM and Power 104's event crews. Radio crews will talk with locals and tourists at venues throughout the valley, handing out Don't Move a Mussel muscle shirts and more. The initiative was developed in partnership with the Invasive Species Council of BC and the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society to coordinate efforts and prevent duplication.

Take the Make Water Work pledge and enter to win big: The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program has re-launched its outdoor water conservation Make Water Work campaign this summer in partnership with municipalities throughout the Okanagan. Residents are invited to "Take the Make Water Work Pledge" at MakeWaterWork.ca and enter to win \$5000 in WaterWise yard upgrades. The prize is courtesy of kelownagardens.com and new this year – the prize can be transferred to a family member, friend or charity.

Water Stewardship Council welcomes new members: The Board approved the addition of three new agencies to be represented on its technical advisory body – the Water Stewardship Council. The council includes volunteers that meet monthly to discuss water issues as it relates to their sector and the Okanagan as a whole, and provide advice to the board. New agencies approved by the board include the BC Institute of Agrologists, the International Association of Hydrogeologists, and a representative of the Okanagan chambers of commerce. Current members include representatives from the fruit growers, cattlemen, forestry and real estate community, as well as local and senior levels of government, including Okanagan Nation Alliance, UBC Okanagan, the BC Groundwater Association, and others.

Vernon receives funds to extend sewer services: The Water Board approved funding to City of Vernon for a sewer extension in the Bella Vista area. Provisional approval was also given to another three sewer extensions in Vernon, one with Westbank First Nations, and an upgrade to the Lake Country Wastewater Treatment Plant. The OBWB's sewage facility grants program is one of its oldest programs and was introduced to help address water quality issues in the valley.

Board adopts financial statements: The Board adopted its audited financial statements for 2012-13. The financials will be included in the OBWB's annual report and presented at the agency's Annual General Meeting to be held Friday, Sept. 6, 2013 at the Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna.

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