

Letters To The Editor

WATER PROJECT WILL SERVE AS BASIS FOR SOLUTIONS TO WATER ISSUES

Posted on 06 April 2010 by admin

Editor:

Re: Editorial dated March 30, 2010: Supply and Demand Project falls a bit flat

Your recent editorial reminded me of the Mark Twain quote, “Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody ever does anything about it.”

Climate change mitigation is certainly critical, but we really need to both reduce carbon emissions AND prepare for the future.

Climate change adaptation is about responding in a direct, pragmatic way to things that we can see and feel – like putting on a hat to prevent a sunburn.

For example, the Okanagan Basin Water Board’s recent Okanagan water supply and demand study shows that if you and I and all our neighbours do half as much outdoor watering – by tuning up our irrigation systems and replacing some lawn with beautiful drought-tolerant plants – we can double our domestic water supply without building dams or other expensive new infrastructure.

Call it climate change adaptation or call it being a responsible citizen.

My experience is that while many “know” about the Okanagan’s water issues, it has been hard to solve them.

Where does one start?

What would have the biggest benefit for the cost?

People have been quick to blame agriculture, but no one knew how much we were wasting on our own back yards.

The supply and demand study gives a base of science for practical actions that can be taken by local governments and individuals to reduce the pain of shortages for all water users.

Most importantly, it gives powerful computer models to help planners and water managers guide these actions.

I strongly agree that we need to focus on change – this is not something to let sit on the shelf.

The federal grant announced on March 26th will help put this science into action.

I’ll be making a presentation on the water study to the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society, along with Osoyoos Mayor and OBWB Chair Stu Wells, on May 20th.

Please come and bring your ideas.

Contact the society for more details.

Anna Warwick Sears,

Executive Director

Okanagan Basin Water Board