



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: October 5, 2017

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OBWB Directors

Tracy Gray - Chair,
Regional District of Central
Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-
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North Okanagan

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North Okanagan

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District of Central Okanagan

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District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Sue McKortoff, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Peter Waterman, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Lisa Wilson, Okanagan Nation
Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Brian Guy, Okanagan Water
Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB will be 10 a.m.
November 7, 2017 at the
Regional District of Central
Okanagan in Kelowna.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Greater Vernon Water enhancing communications with agricultural customers:

Jennifer Miles, Water Sustainability Coordinator for RDNO—Greater Vernon Water, gave an overview of the utility’s agricultural water program. The utility is working with the Water Board and the B.C. Climate Action Initiative to pilot a mass notification system that enables them to send water supply updates instantly by email, text, and voicemail. The notification system will be particularly useful in communicating with producers early and often in drought years. GVW also offers AgConnect, an online resource that provides information on water allocation and monthly use for agricultural customers.

Water Board directors meet with B.C. Minister of Environment: The importance of preventing an infestation of invasive mussels into B.C. waters was the focus of meetings between Water Board directors and Minister George Heyman at the recent Union of BC Municipalities conference. The Minister was very receptive, and requested a detailed and prioritized list of prioritized recommendations.

Board of Control holding public meeting and premier of The River Film: The International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control will hold their annual public meeting on October 17 at the Sonora Centre in Osoyoos. At the meeting, there will be a special screening of The River Film, a documentary about the trans-boundary challenges of managing Osoyoos Lake, and the uses and needs of residents and ecosystems along the lake and the Okanagan River. A second red-carpet screening is planned for October 25 at the Oliver Theatre. Register for your free ticket at <https://a-river-film.eventbrite.ca/>.

Make Water Work wraps up, announces winners: The OBWB’s Okanagan WaterWise program has wrapped up its [Make Water Work](#) outdoor residential water conservation campaign. The initiative, delivered in partnership with local utilities throughout the valley, encourages residents to Take the Challenge and pledge to Make Water Work more effectively and efficiently and be entered to win a \$6,000 WaterWise yard upgrade. This year’s winner is Laurie Weisgarber of Kelowna. The community with the most pledges collected per capita is also recognized. This year, the City of Armstrong was named “Make Water Work 2017 Champions.” Find tips to protect our water year-round at www.OkWaterWise.ca.

Climate change front-and-centre at the Water Board’s annual public meeting:

The OBWB hosted its annual public meeting on September 8. The theme was “Weathering Extremes” in reference to the floods, fires, and droughts we’ve been increasingly experiencing in the Okanagan. The Pembina Institute’s Maximillian Kniewasser talked about the state of climate action in B.C. and opportunities for growing the clean energy sector. Shaun Reimer, the provincial ministry person who operates the Okanagan Lake dam system, spoke about how this year’s historic flooding resulted from a combination of late snowpack and record-breaking rainfall.

Download the Annual Report, view presentations & video at obwb.ca/annualreport

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