

## Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



**DATE:** Tuesday, December 5, 2017

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**PLACE:** Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen  
101 Martin Street, Penticton, B.C.

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

1.1 Acknowledgement of First Nations Traditional Territory

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

**3. DELEGATION**

3.1 Lisa Scott of OASISS – Update on the 2017 Okanagan Aquatic Invasive Species Program

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 7, 2017 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan ([page 1](#))

**6. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

- 7.1 Executive Director Report ([page 7](#))
  - 7.1.1 2018 FINAL Meeting Schedule
- 7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report ([page 11](#))
  - 7.2.1 Water Stewardship Council Monthly Report
- 7.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report ([page 15](#))
- 7.4 Communications Director Report ([page 17](#))

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 8.1 Letter from B.C. Min. of Environment and Climate Change Strategy George Heyman to OBWB re: Water Board introduction to new government ([page 20](#))
- 8.2 Letter from Federal Min. of Fisheries and Oceans Domenic LeBlanc and Min. of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Ralph Goodale to MPs Mel Arnold and Dan Albas re: invasive mussels ([page 22](#))

**9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, February 6, 2017 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**



Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
Dec. 5, 2017  
Agenda No: 5.1

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD NOVEMBER 7, 2017, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN  
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

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**PRESENT**

Chair Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Kathy Holland	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Brian Guy	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littlely	Operations and Grants Manager
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Chair Gray respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of Okanagan Nation and welcomed Kathy Holland, attending on behalf of Dir. Lisa Wilson.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS OF LATE ITEMS**

7.3.3 B.C. Invasive Mussel Defence Program Fall 2017 Status Report

7.3.4 Letter sent from OBWB to Province with ranked recommendations for mussel program

**3. DELEGATIONS**

3.1 River Film screening – short documentary on the complexities of water management in the Okanagan. Funded by International Joint Commission, Washington State Department of Ecology, and the OBWB

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 7, 2017 be approved as amended.”***

**CARRIED**

**5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 3, 2017 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

A few changes in attendance noted.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 3, 2017 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream be approved as amended.”***

**CARRIED**

**6. CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Gray noted that in reviewing the Province’s Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for mussels, that it was vague with response details. It was noted that the report was unveiled in February 2015 and perhaps it’s time to review and update it.

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

**7.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Sears provided an update on the 2018 board meeting schedule. There was some discussion about the rotation of the meetings between RDNO, RDCO and RDOS and the driving distance and carbon footprint for North and South Okanagan directors. Dr. Sears agreed to provide an updated schedule at the next board meeting with five meetings in the Central Okanagan, and two each in the North and South.

***“THAT the meeting schedule be updated to include five meetings at Central Okanagan Regional District, two at North Okanagan Regional District and two at Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District.”***

**CARRIED**

The board was provided an update on local applications to the Union of BC Municipalities for Floodplain Mapping Grants, including the shortlisting of applications for RDCO and RDOS.

Dr. Sears noted a bathymetry study (looking at the topography of the bottom of a water body) done by the Washington State Dept. of Ecology on at the mouth of Osoyoos Lake and Okanagan River channel, and its use in milfoil control and other water management efforts. She added there is discussion about the Dept. of Ecology conducting a similar study on Osoyoos Lake as a whole.

The OBWB is a partner with UBC Okanagan on a Community Water Forum set for Nov. 14. This is part of the work being done through the Water Research Chair, trying to engage the wider community on water conversations.

The Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association recently received international “Biosphere Certification,” a commitment to environmental sustainability with its members. The OBWB was invited to participate and advise on these efforts, offering an opportunity to promote protection of upland watersheds and other sensitive areas. Directors were interested in how this designation and OBWB’s input could help mitigate impacts on water.

Dr. Sears updated the board on water conditions in the Okanagan, noting that the valley was still in nominal drought as of the previous week.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated Nov. 1, 2017, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report**

Mr. Jatel reported on the October council meeting and presentations by Michael Rusello on

UBCO water fishery research and Brian Symonds and Shaun Reimer on the 2017 flood year.

The Nov. 9 council meeting will include a presentation from RDNO's Renee Clark on efforts to address backcountry recreation in their watershed, Denise Nielsen with Ag Canada on climate change-related agriculture initiatives in the Okanagan, Okanagan and Collaborative Conservation Program's Scott Boswell on projects including foreshore inventory mapping, and OBWB's James Littlely with an update on the Water Board's policy initiatives to address invasive mussels.

The OBWB and Canadian Water Resources Association is co-hosting an Environmental Flow Needs national conference October 17-19, 2018 in Kelowna. Preparation is now underway.

The BC Water Use Reporting Centre allows utilities to report their water use to the province online. An interface was added for ag water users which is being piloted in B.C. for the next three months. The BC Oil and Gas Commission is also considering it for licencees in this sector.

***"THAT the Water Stewardship Director's report, dated Nov. 1, 2017, be received."***  
**CARRIED**

### 7.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littlely provided an update on milfoil operations, explaining that rototilling has started and Zosel Dam operators are keeping Osoyoos Lake water levels high enough to allow the milfoil crew to continue to work. It was noted that the south end of Kelowna's Rotary Beach has changed from hard-packed sand to silty and muddy conditions, possibly from increased dock building in past years, which could create problems with the shallow water tiller getting stuck.

Work is continuing to find a solution for rototilling on Vaseux Lake.

The board was reminded of its meeting with federal officials in June regarding invasive mussels and that there has still been no formal response. It was suggested that the board follow-up with a letter. Dir. Findlater suggested the letter be cc'ed to Okanagan MLAs and MPs, as well as those who attended the Ottawa meeting, including Terry Beech.

Dir. Pike referenced the Communications Director's report, noting a conference call with the province and B.C. invasive species groups, regarding aquatic invasive outreach efforts, during which it was said that invasive mussels have not been a priority in the Lower Mainland or Northeast B.C. Staff noted efforts to bring this to the attention of the Fraser Basin Council.

***"THAT staff prepare a follow-up letter to federal ministers regarding the urgent need for more federal action, and a news release referencing both provincial and federal actions over the last summer."***

**CARRIED**

The board reviewed the latest provincial inspection stats.

Mr. Littlely presented the board with the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement 2018-19 Grant Program's call for applications. Applications are due Friday, February 16th at 4 p.m.

There was discussion about annual themes as funding priorities. Dir. Dirk asked that recommendations be provided with supporting documentation.

***“THAT for the 2018-19 WCQI grant competition annual theme, the OBWB seeks projects focused on drought and flood preparedness, mapping, water quality and source water protection; THAT applications in these categories are prioritized for funding during staff review with the awarding of up to 10 extra points toward the total score; and THAT the process and scoring criteria for the grant competition be approved as outlined.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated Oct. 31, 2017, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 7.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson gave an update on the release of “The River Film,” adding she is compiling requests from those interested in additional screenings and/or a DVD copy for follow-up.

The board was briefed on the WaterSmart Innovations conference put on by the Southern Nevada Water Authority in October.

Following up on the earlier discussion regarding the Province’s Invasive Mussel Outreach and Inspection 2107 Wrap-up with local invasive species groups, Ms. Jackson reported that the province is working with the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund on logistics to award funds to groups to conduct invasive mussel water monitoring. This is part of the \$450,000 over three years, announced by the province in March 2017.

Directors were told about a letter that has now gone out to environmental professional groups (e.g. Engineers and Geoscientists of BC), regarding best practices to prevent the spread of the mussels. An article is also being drafted to appear in their magazines and newsletters.

The board was told that the OBWB and its Okanagan WaterWise program was named a finalist and presented with a plaque at the Kelowna Chamber Business Excellence Awards for the ‘Don’t Move A Mussel’ marketing campaign.

Ms. Jackson noted that the OBWB is a sponsor of the Building Sustainable Communities Conference, Nov. 21-24, 2017. She has been helping with promotion of the conference and staff will also be presenting on a number of water topics.

Staff have also re-applied to the UN Association of Canada – Green Corps Program to assist with the hiring of another placement to provide additional communications and outreach support.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Nov. 1, 2017, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 7.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia updated the board on the development of a database of approximately 60 bylaw toolkits and planning guides, including a number developed by the OBWB (e.g. Soil Bylaws Toolkit), which will be available on the CivicInfo BC website. The site will include a searchable database and more guides will be added as they are published. This effort is an attempt to raise awareness of these guides and increase their use.

The board was provided a final update on the province's Drought Response Team for 2017. The OBWB, along Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and others, were included on weekly calls with B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development (FLNRORD) to review current water conditions, The last call for 2017, in October,

allowed for a review of the past season and potential communication improvements for 2018, between the province, local utilities, ag users, and the public.

Ms. Garcia attended the Water Supply Association of BC (WSABC)'s Annual Conference and presented on current OBWB drought preparedness and response initiatives.

Also, a workshop was held Nov. 6 with water suppliers to discuss proposed Mainstem Drought Triggers Guidelines. About 20 large water suppliers attended, The general consensus was that the guidelines have improved. The next step is to look at ways to support water suppliers in putting triggers into their drought plans. The guidelines are intended to help these suppliers determine when lake levels reach a certain level what water restrictions are needed.

***“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated Oct. 31, 2017, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

**8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8.1 Proposed OBWB budget for 2018-19 - Budget Features Memo**

Dr. Sears presented the draft 2018-19 budget with an overall requisition at \$3,450,733 million, a small decrease from the previous year. There has not been a requisition increase since fiscal year 2011/12.

A four-year review of the Water Management Program will be undertaken in 2018 with a reauthorization request to the three Okanagan regional districts, she added.

There was some question as to whether a reduction in requisition was prudent due to potential increase in service costs (e.g. with climate change and invasive mussels). Dr. Sears noted that there needs to be a compelling reason to build the reserves. It is possible that recommendations in the updated Sustainable Water Strategy will require increased funding, but not at this time.

***“THAT the Proposed OBWB budget for 2018-19 - Budget Features Memo, dated Nov. 1, 2017, be received.”***

**CARRIED**  
***Dirs. Pike and Guy abstained.***

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

**9.1 Letter from Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson re: Kelowna Chamber nomination for “Don’t Move a Mussel” campaign**

***“THAT the correspondence from Kelowna-Mission MLA Steve Thomson to the OBWB re: Kelowna Chamber nomination for ‘Don’t Move a Mussel’ campaign be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, December 5, 2017 at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 7, 2017 be adjourned at 1:33 p.m.”***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
December 5, 2017  
Agenda No: 7.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Anna Warwick Sears  
Date: November 29, 2017  
Subject: **Executive Director Report**

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### **Final 2018 Board Schedule**

I've provided the final version of next year's schedule as an attachment to this report, and James has sent out Outlook meeting invitations. The only further adjustments may be to the timing and length of the meetings, for example, with the joint OBWB/Water Stewardship Council meeting in May, and the AGM in August. Thanks for helping fit our unusual year into a workable schedule.

### **UBCM Floodplain Mapping**

I've been continuing to meet with RDCO, RDNO and City of Kelowna staff about the UBCM floodplain mapping grants, and making preparations. The funding decisions are to be made in January, and we anticipate success. The LiDAR remote-sensing flight, to measure topography, should ideally be flown in early March, so there will be very little turn-around time between funding confirmation, releasing an RFP, and getting a flight scheduled. Everyone is firmly committed to working together, and it is shaping up to be a model of collaboration. We won't get notification about the RDOS funding until later in the spring, but that process is also going to be collaborative. By year's end we hope to have most of the valley mapped.

### **BC Water Funders Water Monitoring Scan**

For the last several months, OBWB has been leading a partnership project with the BC Water Funders, to understand the state of water quality and water supply monitoring in B.C. That is, we wish to understand who is doing the monitoring, where it is happening, what they are monitoring for, and the quality and accessibility of the data. To date, we have received \$37,500 through funding agreements with the Real Estate Foundation of BC, the Pacific Salmon Foundation, the Columbia Basin Trust, and the Ministry of Environment. The funds go toward the costs of a consultant, a series of webinars, and a workshop. The workshop is scheduled for early December, and will include leaders in the field in B.C. The final consultant's report will be completed in January.

The OBWB has been working on bringing together water supply monitoring information for many years, between the surface flow gauges, the groundwater observation well networks, the BC Water Use Reporting Centre, and estimating irrigation needs with the Water Demand Model. Water quality monitoring in the valley is much less organized. I've been collecting all the available links to data and technical reports on our water quality webpage: <http://www.obwb.ca/water-quality-monitoring/>



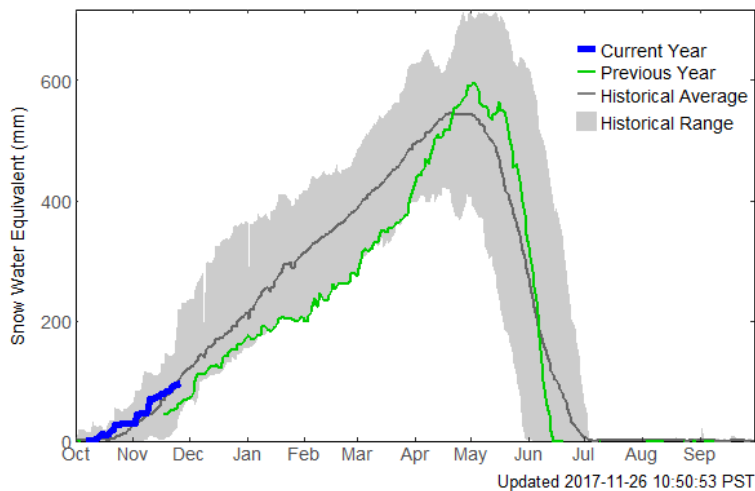
## Okanagan Falls Wetland Project

The Okanagan Falls treatment wetland project is moving forward in 2018. This is an ambitious project to construct a wetland next to the treatment plant to receive and further polish the tertiary treated effluent before it is finally discharged to the river. This step reduces the level of endocrine disruption compounds in the river channel, an important salmon-spawning area. It also reduces the risk of accidental nutrient releases downstream.

The wetland was part of the original design of the plant, but ran into a number of obstacles – including the Canadian Wildlife Service rescinding their approval to build the wetland on federal lands, and the need for RDOS to purchase property on the east side of the river. As sewage treatment infrastructure, the wetland construction is eligible for OBWB funding (16% of costs associated with pre-1978 development). UBC-Okanagan and Ducks Unlimited Canada have also expressed interest in the project, and we hope to assist RDOS with finding external funds for developing boardwalks, signage and public access as an open classroom.

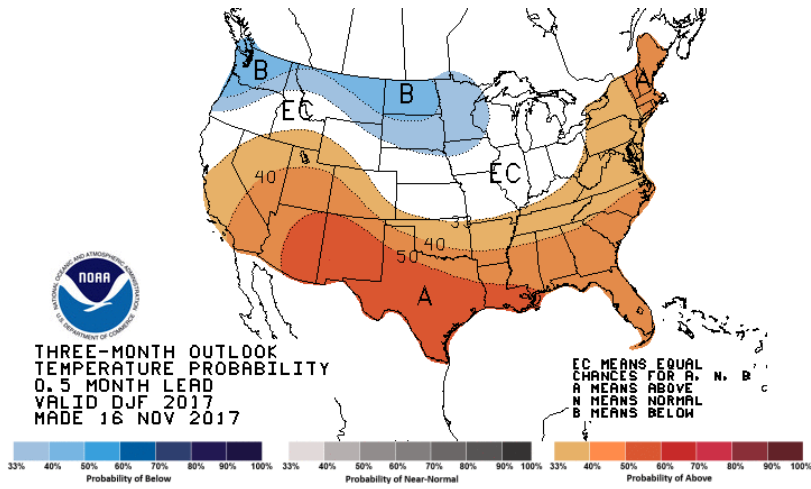
## Weather Report

The Mission Creek and Brenda Mines snow pillows are exactly tracking the historical averages for snow-water accumulation for this time of year. As there isn't much to see, I'm only including a chart for Mission Creek (our biggest water source).

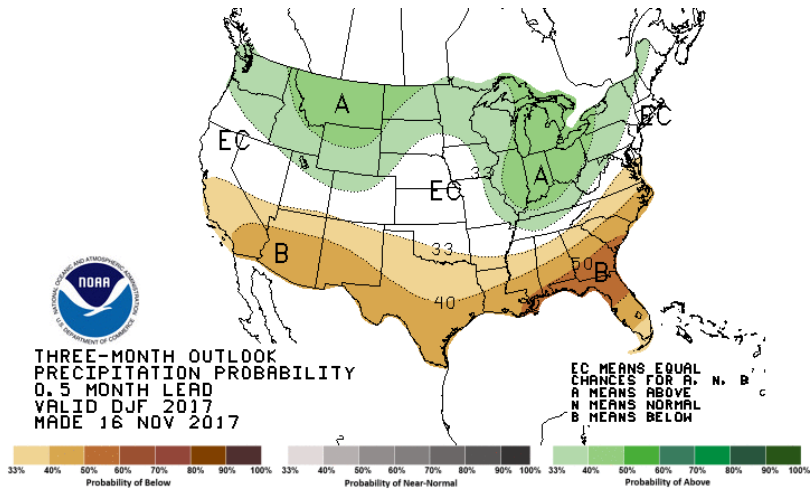


NOAA predicts moderate below normal temperatures through February 2018 (Map 1, below), this is consistent with the ECCC prediction last month, and is the most recent seasonal prediction available. They also forecast above normal precipitation (Map 2, below). How this plays out will be determined by the developing La Niña conditions in the Pacific Ocean. Weak La Niña conditions are predicted to continue (~65%-75% chance) at least through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2017-18, with a 51% chance of continuation through February-April 2018. During La Niña, B.C. is typically colder and wetter than normal.

### Map 1. Temperature Probability



### Map 2. Precipitation Probability



### Board Meeting Schedule for 2018

Month	Date	Location	Notes
January	Tuesday, Jan 2	<b>Cancelled</b>	Day after New Year's STAT
February	Tuesday, Feb 6	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Election of Chair/Vice-Chair Approval of Stewardship Council appointments for May 2018 – October 2019 term.
March	Tuesday, March 6	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton	Approve plan for Water Management Program 4-year Review
April	Tuesday, April 3	Regional District North Okanagan, Coldstream	WCQI grant approvals
May	Tuesday, May 1	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Joint OBWB/Stewardship Council meeting
June	Tuesday, June 5	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton	Adopt audited financial statements and approve Water Management Program 4-year Review
July	Tuesday, July 3	<b>Cancelled</b>	Day after Canada Day STAT
August	<b>Friday</b> , August 10	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Annual Public Meeting/OBWB regular meeting
September	<b>Friday</b> , September 7	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Present draft 2019-20 OBWB budget
October	Tuesday, October 2	Regional District North Okanagan, Coldstream	Adopt 2019-20 OBWB budget
November	Tuesday, November 6	<b>Cancelled</b>	Pending board appointments following election
December	Tuesday, December 4	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Election of Chair/Vice Chair for 2019

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
December 5, 2017  
Agenda No: 7.2

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors  
From: Nelson R. Jatel  
Date: November 28, 2017  
Subject: Water Stewardship Director's Report

### Water Stewardship Council (Council) November's meeting

A summary of the November Council meeting is attached. The November Council meeting included four presentations:

Source Water Protection & Regional Collaboration: Grizzly Recreation Site

- **Renee Clark**, North Okanagan Regional District

Summerland Research Program update and climate change-related agriculture initiatives in the Okanagan

- **Denise Neilsen**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Collaborating for success: foreshore inventory mapping, drought & flood planning, boat zoning

- **Scott Boswell**, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program

Active OBWB project: invasive mussels' prevention

- **James Littley**, Okanagan Basin Water Board

### December 14<sup>th</sup> Council meeting

All board members are invited and encouraged to attend our December 14<sup>th</sup> council meeting at the Coast Capri Hotel from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Focusing on climate change impacts, the Council will hear from an expert panel on climate change trends and implications for the Okanagan including:

- **Francis Zwiers**, Director, Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium
- **Scott Smith**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- **Brian Guy**, Associated Engineers (retired)

We will be presenting the *River Film* at the end of the Council meeting with an annual holiday potluck reception to follow.



**Project updates:**

*Okanagan Wetland Strategy:  
November 20 workshop*



In support of the multi-phase Okanagan wetland strategy, an Okanagan wetland workshop was hosted by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) on November 20<sup>th</sup> in West Kelowna. Wetlands are the key feature of green or natural infrastructure within any community. Nested in a regional context that provides stronger justification for local government decisions about individual private properties, the conservation and restoration of wetlands helps address flooding, drought, biodiversity and ecological health challenges.

This workshop brought together local government and provincial staff along with local and regional experts and conservation partners to achieve the following: 1) provide an update on recent wetland conservation initiatives and activities in the Okanagan, 2) increase awareness of the role of the WSA in wetland protection, 3) identify best practices for local government tools for wetland conservation, and 4) identify strategies and opportunities to improve wetland conservation outcomes in the Okanagan.



The conference was hosted by the Ecosystems Section of the Ministry of FLNRORD in partnership with the Okanagan Basin Water Board and Ducks Unlimited Canada and with the support of the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, the BC Wildlife Federation, and the Planning Institute of BC.

## ***Okanagan Constructed Wetlands Guidebook***

We have begun preparing a guidebook for local governments to use in the design and implementation of engineered wetlands for stormwater retention and treatment in the Okanagan (“the guidebook”).

The vision underlying this guidebook on constructed wetlands is to build a framework from relevant sections of existing municipal stormwater wetland plan(s) and include critical Okanagan information specific to stormwater wetland function.

We will use readily available information and avoid duplication of effort, and will clearly define the guidebook content and information needs and potential gaps upfront.



OBWB has identified that source water protection is a growing area of concern, as well as the expanding urban development pressure on water infrastructure that leads to an increase of volumes of stormwater runoff, which increase water quality concerns. Using constructed wetlands in stormwater management planning can reduce water quality concerns and increase the protection of Okanagan water sources. OBWB’s Okanagan Wetland Strategy Project (currently in Phase III) has identified the need to organize and provide resources for wetland-related activities, including the need for further wetland inventory, prioritization of high value conservation wetlands, reduction of urban development pressure on wetlands, and reduction of impacts of stormwater discharge into natural, native wetlands. Recommendations also include the development of comprehensive and reliable wetland information to support effective planning, law-making, and policy development (Okanagan Wetland Strategy Project Phase I, Patterson et. Al. 2014).

This guidebook will satisfy these recommendations by producing clear location-specific guidelines for implementing constructed wetlands in the Okanagan.

Key concepts to consider when constructing a wetland for stormwater management in the unique Okanagan Basin include:

- Hydrologic regime of the Okanagan Basin, the driest region in B .C.;
- Water supply and demand of the urban and agricultural setting (i.e. extensive vineyards in South Okanagan);
- Climate change predictions on precipitation patterns in the basin (i.e. warmer wetter winters, hotter drier summers); and
- Flooding of natural river systems in urbanized floodplains (i.e. channelized sections of Okanagan River, Mill Creek and Mission Creek).



November 2017

## Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Technical advisory committee to the OBWB

### Council Members

(Term 7: November 2016 – April 2018)

#### Appointed representatives / alternates

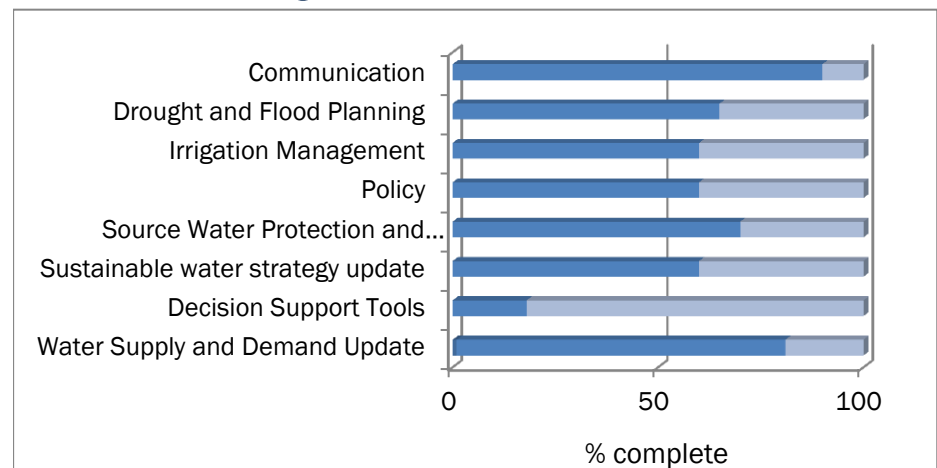
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>AAFC, Research Branch</b> Denise Neilsen / Tom Forge</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>APEGBC</b> Don Dobson / Susan Lapp / Shawn Badasha</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BC Agriculture Council</b> Hans Buchler / Christine Dendy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BC Cattlemen's Association</b> Lee Hesketh / Linda Allison</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BC Fruit Growers Association</b> Glen Lucas / Kevin Day / Richard McDonald</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BC Ground Water Association</b> Marta Green / Remi Allard</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BC Ministry of Agriculture</b> Andrew Petersen / Stephanie Tam</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BC Water Supply Association</b> Bob Hrasko / Patti Meger</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8</b> Doug Flintoft / Lorne Davies</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Canadian Water Resources Association</b> Brian Guy/ Dwayne Meredith</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City of Kelowna</b> Rod MacLean</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City of Vernon</b> Ed Stranks / Rob Miles</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fisheries and Oceans Canada</b> Doug Edwards</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Interior Health</b> Rob Birtles / Judi Ekkert</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kelowna Chamber of Commerce</b> Tom Dyas / Jeff Robinson</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IIABC</b> Ted van der Gulik / Bruce Naka</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of FLNRO: Fish/Wildlife</b> Lora Nield</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ministry of FLNRO: Resource Mgmt</b> Robert Warner / Ray Crampton</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Okanagan Collaborative Conservation</b> Scott Boswell / Tanis Gieselman</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Okanagan College</b> Allison MacMillan / Rob St Onge</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board</b> David O'Keefe / Howard Neufeld</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RD of Central Okanagan</b> Danika Dudzik</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RD of North Okanagan</b> Renee Clark / Jennifer Miles</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RD of Okanagan –Similkameen</b> Zoe Kirk / Evelyn Riechert</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association</b> Murray Wilson / Michael Bragg</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>UBC Okanagan</b> Bernard Bauer / Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Okanagan Nation Alliance (observers)</b> Zoe Eyjolfson /Elinor McGrath /Natasha Lukey</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECCC Canada– Pacific&amp;Yukon (observers)</b> Kendall Woo / Ian Rogalski</li> </ul>

### Council Meeting Highlights\*

- Presentation by **James Littley, OBWB** about invasive mussel prevention in the Okanagan. He pointed out huge infrastructure costs are realized in regions where mussels are spread (e.g. USD 2.5M. for two years of inspection and decontamination in Montana). Although tightening inspection rules can result in prolonged periods of decontamination and quarantine for travelers with boats, the potential risk is a significant threat to Okanagan waters.
- **Denise Nielsen, AAFC**, presented "Climate Change – Implications for Crop Sustainability". Changes in land use might follow climatic changes as agricultural sector becomes aware of industry-related risks and opportunities and adapts to changes in winter temperatures, soil moisture etc.
- **Renee Clark, RDNO**, presented the project implemented by district 'Grizzly Recreation & Trails BC site' – an example of establishing the recreation facility on Crown land to enable better control and enforcement in a community watershed.
- **Scott Boswell, OCCP** 'Realizing a vision for conservation through collaboration - Biodiversity conservation strategy for Okanagan region'. Several initiatives funded by local and regional governments include establishing the ecological corridors across the region, and outreach and communication aimed at increasing the awareness among landowners about lakeshore management best practices.
- Irrigation Industry Assoc. of B.C. - Blue Ecology Workshop in Richmond on Nov 28 – Three levels of certified irrigation technician courses will take place.
- FLNRO – working with local governments to document the flood recovery works.
- BC Water Use Reporting Tool – testing in progress to link licenses to geographic locations
- Constructed Wetlands Guidebook project – local governments encouraged to respond to mail survey.
- Council meeting scheduled for January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. There are a few changes in next year's Board and Council meeting schedule due to the upcoming early (October) local government election. Joint WSC and Board meeting will take place in May, 2018 and the Annual Meeting will be held in August 2018.

\* Council meeting minutes are posted at: [www.obwb.ca/wsc](http://www.obwb.ca/wsc)

### Active council working committees



For more information contact:

**Nelson Jatel, Water Stewardship Director**  
Okanagan Basin Water board

[nelson.jatel@obwb.ca](mailto:nelson.jatel@obwb.ca)

(250) 469-6295

[www.obwb.ca/wsc](http://www.obwb.ca/wsc)

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## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
December 5, 2017  
Agenda No: 7.3

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: James Littley  
Date: November 28, 2017  
Subject: **Operations and Grants Manager Report**

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### Milfoil Control Program Update

2018 is the final year of our 5-year environmental permit for the milfoil treatment program. Over the next several months, I will be working with our GIS contractors to submit a new application for permits. Our intent is to apply for a more general permit, which is based on the activities we conduct, rather than on limited specific treatment areas. This approach should increase our flexibility to respond to new requests for milfoil control, and save time for both OBWB and provincial staff as well as frustration for the public.

### Invasive Mussel Update

At the November board meeting, staff was directed to prepare a follow-up letter for federal ministers regarding the urgent need for more federal action, and a news release referencing both provincial and federal actions over the last summer. Following the meeting, Dr. Sears and I were invited to join a conference call with MP Mel Arnold to discuss a response letter he had received from the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, and from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (both in correspondence). We have drafted a new letter to the federal ministers which will be forwarded to the board for consideration before the upcoming meeting.

### Sewerage Facilities Assistance Grants

With recent changes to the SFA grant program, we have sent the new Terms of Reference to all eligible local governments to remind them that the program is available. The SFA program is intended to move communities from septic systems to tertiary community sewer in order to improve water quality throughout the basin, and to construct advance sewage treatment plants. The program has been running since 1977, and has aided in significantly reducing the amount of nutrient loading in basin lakes.

To summarize:

- The grant program funds upgrades to treatment plants using old technology and extensions of sewer service to subdivisions, created prior to 1978 that are still on septic.
- Funding will be 16% of total eligible project costs.
- As per OBWB's Supplementary Letters Patents (circa 1976), the Water Board can levy up to 21 cents per \$1,000 assessed value for SFA grants on all properties within the Okanagan drainage area (2018-19 levy is at 1.9 cents/ \$1,000 assessed value).

171205\_OGM\_memo



- The OBWB will only fund sewage infrastructure applications in communities that comply with its 1 Hectare Policy, where the community has zoning policies or bylaws prohibiting the creation of lots smaller than 1 ha that are not serviced by community sewers
- Grants are paid on a 20 or 25 year basis, and include an interest payment, based on the current interest amount set by the Municipal Finance Authority when the grant is first funded.

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
December 5, 2017  
Agenda No: 7.4

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Corinne Jackson  
Date: November 29, 2017  
Subject: **Communications Director Report**

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### Destination BC – Okanagan Destination Development Strategy

The OBWB was invited to participate in Destination BC's working group planning session on Nov. 28 to help develop a 10-year "Okanagan Valley Destination Development Strategy." This is a follow-up to a meeting I attended back in September at which time issues raised included lake access, water-based and back country recreation, trail development, water management, and management of natural disasters like flood and fire.

Those attending this follow-up meeting included Tourism Kelowna, Travel Penticton, various tourism operators (e.g. hotels, transportation companies, back country tours), Recreation Sites and Trails BC, Sncewips Heritage Museum, the South Okanagan-Similkameen National Park Network, the Okanagan Collaborative Counservation Program, and others. As Dr. Sears noted at the previous board meeting, the OBWB provided support to the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association in its effort to gain international "Biosphere Destination" certification, which is a commitment to sustainability. Organizers were looking to ensure sustainability was built into this 10-year-plan, including water sustainability. I ensured a voice for water, providing input on the fragility of the Okanagan's ecosystems (including in the back country with our watersheds, and valley bottom lakes and riparian areas), and potential impacts of tourism to these areas, the implications of lake access, and the importance of marketing the region as unique and special, and in need of protection.

### Other Communication Initiatives:

Our application to the UN Assciaton of Canada – Green Corps Program was accepted, helping with the cost of an Okanagan WaterWise Communications and Outreach contract position (February to September 2018). We have now posted our position and are beginning to receive and review resumes.

As part of the Water Stewardship Council's Communications Committee I have been assisting with a council member survey to follow-up with those who have lower attendance, as well as projects to improve communications with presenters and help archive presentations.

The OBWB is co-hosting an Environmental Flow Needs Conference with the Canadian Water Resources Association, Oct. 17-19, 2018 in Kelowna. As the Communications Chair I am starting to build out a website for the conference and will be providing additional communications support.

The Water Board was a sponsor of last week's Building Sustainable Communities Conference, Nov. 21-24, in Kelowna. I provided some promotional support. Staff also presented on various water issues (see "Recent Presentations" below), including a session on "Fighting Invasive Species with the 'Don't Move a Mussel' Campaign." We also had a table at the conference which provided an opportunity to talk with local government, non-profit, business and other attendees about the work of the OBWB and outreach efforts through Okanagan WaterWise.

We were also a co-host with UBC Okanagan on a Community Water Forum on Nov. 14 and provided promotional support.

A news release was issued regarding the Water Conservation Quality Improvement Grant Program and call for applications.

### **Summary of Recent Media**

- Nov. 3 "Just 1 in 1,500 boats found to have issue with mussels," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Nov. 5 "Water board official says underwater maps of Valley lakes would be helpful," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Nov. 6 "Funds for creek mitigation," *Castanet*
- Nov. 7 "Documentary examines Okanagan water conflicts," *Kelowna Capital News, Salmon Arm Observer*
- Nov. 7 "Keremeos resident Makes Water Work," *Keremeos Review*
- Nov. 8 "[Invasive mussel warnings unheeded.](#)" *Kelowna Capital News, Penticton Western News, Salmon Arm Observer*  
  
*Feedback on a follow-up Kelowna Capital News Facebook post can be found here:*  
<https://www.kelownacapnews.com/news/invasive-mussel-warnings-unheeded/>
- Nov. 12 "Community forum on water," *Castanet*
- Nov. 14 "Okanagan Basin Water Board calls for grants apps for flood preparedness," *Vernon Morning Star*
- Nov. 15 "Sediment removal begins Thursday at pond at Westside water plant," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Nov. 15 "Water grants available," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Nov. 15 "[Water prof - Okanagan residents could be in for rude awakening.](#)" *Lake Country Calendar, Kelowna Capital News*
- Nov. 16 "An alternative for Okanagan mud boggers," *Kelowna Capital News*
- Nov. 17 "[Vernon mud boggers.](#)" *CBC Radio Daybreak South (find interview at the 7:40 mark)*
- Nov. 17 "Building Sustainable Communities - Fighting mussels and the 'Don't Move A Mussel' campaign," *AM1150 The Early Edition*
- Nov. 24 "[OBWB out front on mussel disaster prevention.](#)" *Kelowna Capital News, Vernon Morning Star, Salmon Arm Observer*

**NOTE:** Montana Public Radio has launched a new podcast, "SubSurface: Resisting Montana's Underwater Invaders," which looks at Montana's experience since finding baby invasive mussels (veligers) a year ago, and what would happen if a full-blown infestation takes hold. You can find the podcast here: <http://mtpr.org/post/reporting-future-subsurface-episode-1>

# SubSurface: Resisting Montana's Underwater Invaders

HOSTED BY: NICKY OUELLET

**SubSurface**  
Resisting Montana's  
Underwater Invaders



*SubSurface: Resisting Montana's  
Underwater Invaders*

changed the Great Lakes region, and examines Montana's efforts to detect and prevent their spread.

Montana was invaded last summer. Not by land, not by air, but by water. A microscopic alien showed up in water samples from the Tiber Reservoir, opening the door to a wide range of potentially devastating impacts for Montana's fisheries, outdoor enthusiasts and industries.

What happens if Montana fails to stop the coming invasion of zebra and quagga mussels threatening the state's water bodies? MTPR's Nicky Ouellet looks into Montana's future (or one possible future) to see how the invasive mussels

#### WAYS TO CONNECT

[Podcast feed](#)

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## Recent Presentations

- Nov. 20 "Okanagan Wetland Strategy," to Okanagan Wetland Workshop – Nelson Jatel
- Nov. 22 "Fighting Invasive Species with the 'Don't Move a Mussel' Campaign," to Building Sustainable Communities Conference – James Littlely and Corinne Jackson
- Nov 22 "Building social capital through water stewardship networks" panel at Building Sustainable Communities Conference – Nelson Jatel
- Nov 22 "Water-Food Nexus" panel at Building Sustainable Communities Conference – Anna Warwick Sears

## Corinne Jackson

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Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
December 5, 2017  
Agenda No. 9.1

**From:** Minister, ENV ENV:EX <ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2017 8:16 AM  
**To:** Corinne Jackson  
**Cc:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Letter - Okanagan Basin Water Board - Introduction to Okanagan water concerns  
**Attachments:** 2017-08-08 OBWB Introduction to New Government.pdf

Reference: 311511

*November 21, 2017*

Tracy Gray, Chair  
Okanagan Basin Water Board  
c/o Corinne Jackson, Communications Director  
Email: [corinne.jackson@obwb.ca](mailto:corinne.jackson@obwb.ca)

Dear Ms. Gray:

Thank you for your letter of August 8, 2017, regarding ongoing collaboration between the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and the provincial government on regional water issues. I apologize for the lengthy delay in responding.

It was a pleasure to meet several OBWB staff and board members at the Union of British Columbia Municipalities convention in September. The OBWB provides a unique and valuable opportunity for the provincial government to work with local governments and I look forward to maintaining and enhancing this relationship.

The provincial government shares your concern about zebra and quagga mussels, including the potential degradation of native ecosystems, damage to infrastructure, and hazards to human health and safety. The province appreciates the support of the OBWB and will continue to work with its international, federal, provincial and regional partners to ensure the threat of invasive mussels is addressed effectively. Program enhancements in 2017 included the addition of two new watercraft inspection stations along the United States border, additional signage as well as expanded lake monitoring and early detection efforts. Overall inspection season operations have been extended to mid-November, and the expanded program includes an increase from 32 to 68 inspectors. We will be evaluating the results of this season's program to ensure provincial resources and the efforts of our partners are maximizing effectiveness.

With respect to emergency planning and preparedness, OBWB has been an excellent partner in both drought and flood planning and response, a leader in promoting water conservation and valued communication resource for local governments. The provincial government will continue to support the OBWB by providing comprehensive and timely information, when needed, on flood and drought in the Okanagan Basin. The province has made improvements in drought response and flood safety, but we acknowledge that there is more we can do. Staff are currently developing a Provincial Drought Management Strategy and Provincial Flood Risk Strategy and look forward to OBWB's continued input as we develop these and other new resources.

Regarding the *Water Sustainability Act* (WSA), the province appreciates the positive working relationship with the OBWB and the valuable advice you provided during the development of the legislation and regulations. The

OBWB's support for WSA implementation, including its outreach to groundwater well owners and participation on the Environmental Flow Needs committee, is much appreciated. The WSA includes a number of new water governance-related provisions including the ability to create advisory boards, establish water objectives, prepare water sustainability plans and area-based regulations. We look forward to continuing to work with the OBWB as we develop and implement these and other regulatory tools that increase our ability to better address water security.

Staff in my ministry and the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development would be happy to meet with the Okanagan Basin Water Board at any time to review these and other provincial programs and explore opportunities for further progress.

Sincerely,

George Heyman  
Minister

cc: Honourable John Horgan, Premier  
Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

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**From:** Corinne Jackson [mailto:corinne.jackson@obwb.ca]

**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2017 2:43 PM

**To:** OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Minister, FLNR FLNR:EX; Minister, ENV ENV:EX; Minister, AGRI AGRI:EX; Minister, HLTH HLTH:EX; Minister, MAH MAH:EX; Farnworth.MLA, Mike LASS:EX; Transportation, Minister TRAN:EX

**Cc:** Ashton.MLA, Dan LASS:EX; Foster.MLA, Eric LASS:EX; Larson.MLA, Linda LASS:EX; Letnick.MLA, Norm LASS:EX; Thomson.MLA, Steve LASS:EX; Tracy Gray; jcunningham@vernon.ca; ddirk@coldstream.ca; rick.fairbairn@rdno.ca; ricvic@vip.net; Doug Findlater; Cindy Fortin; rhovanes@oliver.ca; smckortoff@osoyoos.ca; pwaterman@summerland.ca; mayor@summerland.ca; nrmanager@syilx.org; pike@sekid.ca; brian-guy@shaw.ca; Anna Warwick Sears; Corinne Jackson

**Subject:** Letter - Okanagan Basin Water Board - Introduction to Okanagan water concerns

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB). The OBWB is a unique form of local government responsible for providing leadership on water issues that span the Okanagan valley, one of Canada's most water-stressed regions. The letter highlights a few of the most pressing water-related concerns that face our valley, and the province as a whole. We look forward to continuing to work with the Government of B.C. to address these issues.

If you have any questions, please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,  
Corinne

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Corinne Jackson --- Communications Director  
Okanagan Basin Water Board  
1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4  
Office: 250.469.6271 Mobile: 250.718.7249  
[www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca)  
[www.okwaterwise.ca](http://www.okwaterwise.ca)



Mr. Mel Arnold, M.P.  
North Okanagan–Shuswap  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Mr. Dan Albas, M.P.  
Central Okanagan–Similkameen–Nicola  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Thank you for your correspondence of September 6, 2017, regarding aquatic invasive species in British Columbia's Okanagan and Shuswap watersheds.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) takes seriously the threat posed by aquatic invasive species, and is committed to preventing the entry, spread, and establishment of aquatic invasive species in Canadian waters. To address this issue, DFO worked closely with provinces and territories to develop the federal *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*, which as you know came into effect on May 29, 2015.

The Regulations provide provinces and federal government departments, including the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA), with tools for the prevention and control of aquatic invasive species. The Regulations prohibit the importation of dead or live zebra and quagga mussels into Canada, as well as the transportation, possession, or release of dead or live zebra and quagga mussels into British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. These prohibitions aim to prevent the spread of these species further west in the country.

With respect to border crossings, the CBSA enforces the import prohibitions listed under the Regulations. This prohibition, along with the *Customs Act*, allows CBSA officers to refuse entry, detain, or refer to DFO or provincial enforcement authorities, any boat or trailer suspected of carrying aquatic invasive species.

DFO collaborates with the CBSA and the provinces through the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers' National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee to ensure that CBSA officers have the information they need to enforce the import prohibitions of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations*.

.../2

As you are aware, Budget 2017 provided \$43.8 million over five years to continue and expand programming for aquatic invasive species, and the Government of Canada is working to identify key actions, such as preventative actions at the border, to minimize the arrival of high-risk species in vulnerable areas. These new funds will allow DFO to continue its collaborative efforts with the CBSA and the provinces.

In British Columbia, there will be new DFO resources to develop, coordinate, and implement regional aquatic invasive species activities. DFO will engage with its federal and provincial partners (including the CBSA) regarding the development of its Aquatic Invasive Species program—this engagement will begin within the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Thank you for writing. I trust that my response has addressed your concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

- c.c.: The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change  
Mr. Todd Doherty, M.P.  
Cariboo–Prince George  
Mr. Eric Foster, M.L.A.  
Vernon–Monashee  
Mr. Greg Kylo, M.L.A.  
Shuswap





**OCT 25 2017**

Mr. Mel Arnold, M.P.  
North Okanagan-Shuswap  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Mr. Dan Albas, M.P.  
Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Arnold and Mr. Albas:

Thank you for your co-addressed correspondence of September 6, 2017, concerning invasive zebra and quagga mussels.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) continues to work with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and the provinces and territories to prevent the importation of invasive alien species and plant and animal diseases into Canada.

The CBSA's role under the DFO's *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* is to enforce the import prohibitions listed in Column 4 of Part 2 of the Schedule of the Regulations, which include zebra and quagga mussels.

The Agency is also working with various western provincial authorities to address the movement into British Columbia (BC) of zebra and quagga mussels. Part of this collaboration has included aquatic invasive species sessions held by the BC Ministry of Environment for CBSA officers.

The CBSA is co-operating with BC Ministry of Environment conservation officers and has allowed temporary inspection and education stations to be set up near land border ports of entry in the Okanagan and Kootenay District. Whenever practicable, the CBSA will continue to provide support to the BC Ministry of Environment in allowing these stations to be set up on request.

Under this program, the CBSA is provided with seals to affix on watercraft slated for inspection inland. The Agency retains all of a watercraft's data, licence plate number, etc., and shares it with the inspection site. It is mandatory for all watercraft to stop at roadside inspection stations.

The BC Ministry of Environment is responsible for any enforcement activity resulting from non-compliance.

I appreciate your interest in this important issue.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Goodale', is written over a faint, illegible typed name.

The Honourable Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.,  
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Environment and Climate Change