

## Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



**DATE:** Tuesday, May 1, 2018

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**PLACE:** Ramada Hotel & Conference Centre  
2170 Harvey Ave., Kelowna, B.C.

---

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

1.1 Acknowledgement of First Nations Traditional Territory

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2018 at Regional District of North Okanagan, Coldstream, B.C. [\(page 1\)](#)

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

- 6.1 Executive Director Report [\(page 6\)](#)
- 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report [\(page 8\)](#)
- 6.3 Communications Director Report [\(page 11\)](#)
- 6.4 Policy and Planning Specialist Report [\(page 15\)](#)

**7. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- 7.1 Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program Review Memo [\(page 16\)](#)
- 7.2 Water Management Program (WMP) Review Memo [\(page 25\)](#)
  - 7.2.1 WMP Draft Review [\(separate email attachment\)](#)

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 Letter from Federal Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness to OBWB re: invasive mussels [\(page 28\)](#)

**9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, June 5, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. South Okanagan location to be confirmed.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD APRIL 3, 2018, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN  
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, B.C.**

---

**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
Alt. Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Alt. Director Mark Pendergraft	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Toby Pike	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Brian Guy	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**REGRETS**

Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
----------------------	--

**OBWB STAFF**

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littley	Operations and Grants Manager
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Jocelyn Whalen	Communications and Outreach Coordinator

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

The Chair respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

7.1 Discussion re: meeting with B.C.'s 2017 flood and fire review committee

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2018 be approved as amended."*

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 6, 2018 at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen in Penticton.

*"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 6, 2018 at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen be approved."*

**CARRIED**

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

7.1 Board Chair Report

Chair Gray informed the board of an upcoming meeting between herself, OBWB Vice-Chair Juliette Cunningham and Dr. Sears with Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr re: invasive mussels.

Dr. Sears noted that the OBWB was asked by the Co-Chairs of the province's 2017 Flood and Wildfire Review committee, Maureen Chapman and George Abbott, to host a meeting between the committee and the Water Stewardship Council. Additional local government staff, who are not part of the council but who were on the front-lines of last year's flooding were also invited. About 20 people attended and provided feedback and recommendations.

Drs. Findlater and Wilson entered the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Mr. Jatel added that there was discussion about long-term sustained provincial funding (e.g. possibly through the carbon tax) to continue flood planning and mitigation efforts. Other topics included the need for better hydrometric data, and the financial burden small local governments faced when they had to come to the table with funding for flood damage.

Mr. Waterman entered the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Dir. Guy said that the information and recommendations that are coming out of various reports are aligning and should help address these issues (e.g. the Auditor General's report that B.C. will not be able to meet its commitments on climate change, a report provided to the province on last year's flooding and the need for capacity-building). The Flood and Wildfire Review committee's final report is expected April 30.

**6. STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears updated the board on the following month's joint board/council meeting at the Kelowna Ramada Hotel on May 1, adding that BC River Forecast Centre's Dave Campbell will be guest speaker.

Okanagan floodplain mapping is now underway with the first LiDAR flight last week. Data should be ready and available to local governments in December.

The board was given an update on the Water Management Program review and budget projections. Dr. Sears added that there has been increased productivity but there is no request for budget increases with this renewal. There were some questions. Dir. Guy asked about the long-term ability to meet increasing water management demands with no budget increase, especially as issues exacerbate with climate change.

Chair Gray exited the meeting at 10:39 a.m. and Vice-chair Cunningham stepped in.

The province is looking for input on its updated blue-green algae protocols. Several years ago, the OBWB assisted the Ministry of Health to develop its protocol after it became clear there was a gap in how to address the blooms in recreational waters. The Water Board commissioned a

review of this update by local aquatic biologist Heather Larratt. The review will be circulated to local governments and forwarded to the province.

The OBWB has received an Agriculture Canada grant to hire an intern to do GIS models looking at ag water demand in the valley.

Dr. Sears added that the higher-than-normal snowpack is worrisome and that weather and temperature will figure heavily in how it melts and how communities are able to deal with it. At this time, the South Okanagan is offering sandbags, there is mitigation work occurring in the Central Okanagan, and the province is bringing the lake level down to make room for freshet. The result of bringing the lake level down is that some fish will be killed in the process. The forecast is for a cool spring and hot summer.

Chair Gray reentered the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

***“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated March 27, 2018, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

## 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel provided an update on last month’s council meeting and wrap up reports from various committee chairs. A new council term begins May 2018.

Partnerships with Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) and B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) are continuing with the Environmental Flow Needs (EFNs) work and sampling of 18 priority streams.

Staff are involved in two upcoming conferences. One with Canadian Water Resource Association (CWRA) in May and an Okanagan session, and a joint OBWB-CWRA conference on EFNs in Kelowna in October. The local conference is looking to share the EFN work being done in the Okanagan but also to learn from others in Canada and elsewhere.

A local government guidebook for establishing constructed wetlands in the Okanagan is now available on the OBWB website. It will also be added to the toolkit database on CivicInfo BC.

Mr. Jatel noted that a pilot project is being explored by the City of Kelowna to improve hydrometric data management to support Emergency Operation Centres during flooding and fire.

Water Supply webinars are being organized for April 16 and May 8 at 11 a.m. The webinars will include updates from provincial staff and others on precipitation/weather, flow and storage. groundwater levels, Osoyoos Lake levels, and fire preparation.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s report, dated March 28, 2018, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

## 6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated the board on the arrival of a new milfoil rototiller this week. Staff are now working towards a new five-year milfoil control permit with the province.

In response to last month's board discussion, a Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program review is underway. A survey has been sent to past grant recipients to help inform the review.

The board asked for an update on milfoil control on Vaseux Lake. Mr. Littlely said that he is waiting for a report from the Osoyoos Indian Band and ONA, and for RDOS to advise on a potential pick-up location.

***"THAT the Operations and Grants Manager's Report, dated March 27, 2018, be received."***

**CARRIED**

#### 6.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson reported on the RFP process for this year's Make Water Work and Don't Move A Mussel campaigns and the hiring of Hiilite Creative. A planning session is set for this week with the MWW committee and Hiilite, and then a follow-up meeting with Hiilite's marketing team.

Canada Water Week featured a one-night-only movie night, featuring "The River Film," a Q&A with some of those interviewed in the documentary, information tables and a mix and mingle. The event began with a special opening from Syilx Nation's Krystal Lezard. The feedback from attendees was very positive.

The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program is partnering with RDCO's Waste Reduction Office to sell rain barrels during their composter sale. A limited number of both items will be available on a first-come, first served basis during Earth Day, April 22 at Okanagan College.

The Invasive Species Council of BC is updating the 2015 Invasive Mussel Prevention Framework for Western Canada and asked for a case study from the Okanagan. Ms. Jackson provided a report on the Don't Move A Mussel campaign and its impact on raising awareness of zebra and quagga mussels. The board was also updated on outreach that was provided to the organizers of an Okanagan fishing derby to ensure that attendees from outside the valley were mussel-free.

Dir. Findlater added that he was talking with MP Dick Cannings who raised the mussel issue, asked where things are at, and offered to assist. It was noted that having wider support from our region on this issue could be helpful.

Ms. Whalen provided an update on events she has been attending including Seedy Saturdays throughout the valley. Whereas there is more outreach at this time on MWW, the focus will shift and include DMM as boating season starts, she added. Directors offered a couple suggestions of events to attend.

***"THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated March 27, 2018, be received."***

**CARRIED**

#### 6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia reported on a webinar OBWB cohosted with the Fraser Basin Council to introduce the new online planning guides hub available on the CivicInfo BC website. The webinar software also allowed for polling of attendees during the meeting and a follow-up survey. Project partners will be following up on the feedback and recommendations to help improve the project and ensure greater uptake of the toolkits.

Work is continuing to update the board’s 2008 Sustainable Water Strategy, helping guide the priorities of the OBWB and its Water Stewardship Council for the next decade. Updates include Climate Change Adaptation, EFNs, invasive mussels and B.C.’s new Water Sustainability Act. In response to a question about the value of the strategy, Dr. Sears added that the last SWS identified drought plans as a priority which then guided the board’s efforts on that issue. Ms. Jackson added that the last SWS identified the need for greater public communication which led to the start of the Okanagan WaterWise program, Make Water Work, Don’t Move A Mussel and more. Dir. Hrasko also noted that it fills the voids in local government plans by providing a valley-wide lens to water issues.

Ms. Garcia told the board about a BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative workshop she attended, reviewing Okanagan projects funded through the program over the last five years, including the ag water e-alert program she assisted with. The session also looked at ideas for the next five years to help address climate change issues in agriculture.

***“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated March 26, 2017, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

**7. IN-CAMERA**

7.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(1)(m) of the Community Charter)

A resolution was presented that the board go into closed meeting at 12:30 p.m.

***“THAT the board meeting be closed under sec. 90 (1) (m) of the Community Charter.”***  
**CARRIED**

**8. RISE & REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA**

8.1 The board rose from in-camera at 1:16 p.m. and reported on the approval of 2018 WCQI grant funding as presented.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be an abbreviated meeting on Tuesday, May 1, 2018 at 10 a.m., followed immediately by a joint Board-Water Stewardship Council meeting until 3 p.m. Both meetings will be held at the Ramada Kelowna Hotel & Conference Centre.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of April 3, 2018 be adjourned at 1:17 p.m.”***  
**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
April 3, 2018  
Agenda No: 6.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Anna Warwick Sears  
Date: April 25, 2018  
Subject: **Executive Director Report**

---

### **Water Management Program Review Update**

I have completed the Draft Water Management Program Review, and included it in the agenda package under New and Unfinished Business. The review's Appendix A includes the draft financial schedules (prior year's revenues/costs, and future projections) that the board received at the April meeting (final numbers for the current year will be updated by the June meeting). Appendix B is the WCQI grant program review, given as a separate agenda item. The final, formatted version will be ready for approval at our June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, and I have already scheduled presentations at RDOS (June 7<sup>th</sup>), RDNO (June 20<sup>th</sup>) and RDCO (July 19<sup>th</sup>).

### **Audit and Annual Report**

Our annual year-end is underway, and our audit will take place this month. We anticipate that the audited financial statements will be ready for board approval at our June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. They will be incorporated into our annual report, which will be presented at our Annual Public Meeting on **Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup>**, 2018. Note that this is a month earlier than normal. Because of the early election schedule, the OBWB's budget approval schedule is moved forward to September/October.

### **LiDAR Capture**

I attended a conference call with GeoBC on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and the contractor will have all the valley floor LiDAR completed within the next week or so, before freshet. The lakeshore area is complete already (see attached).

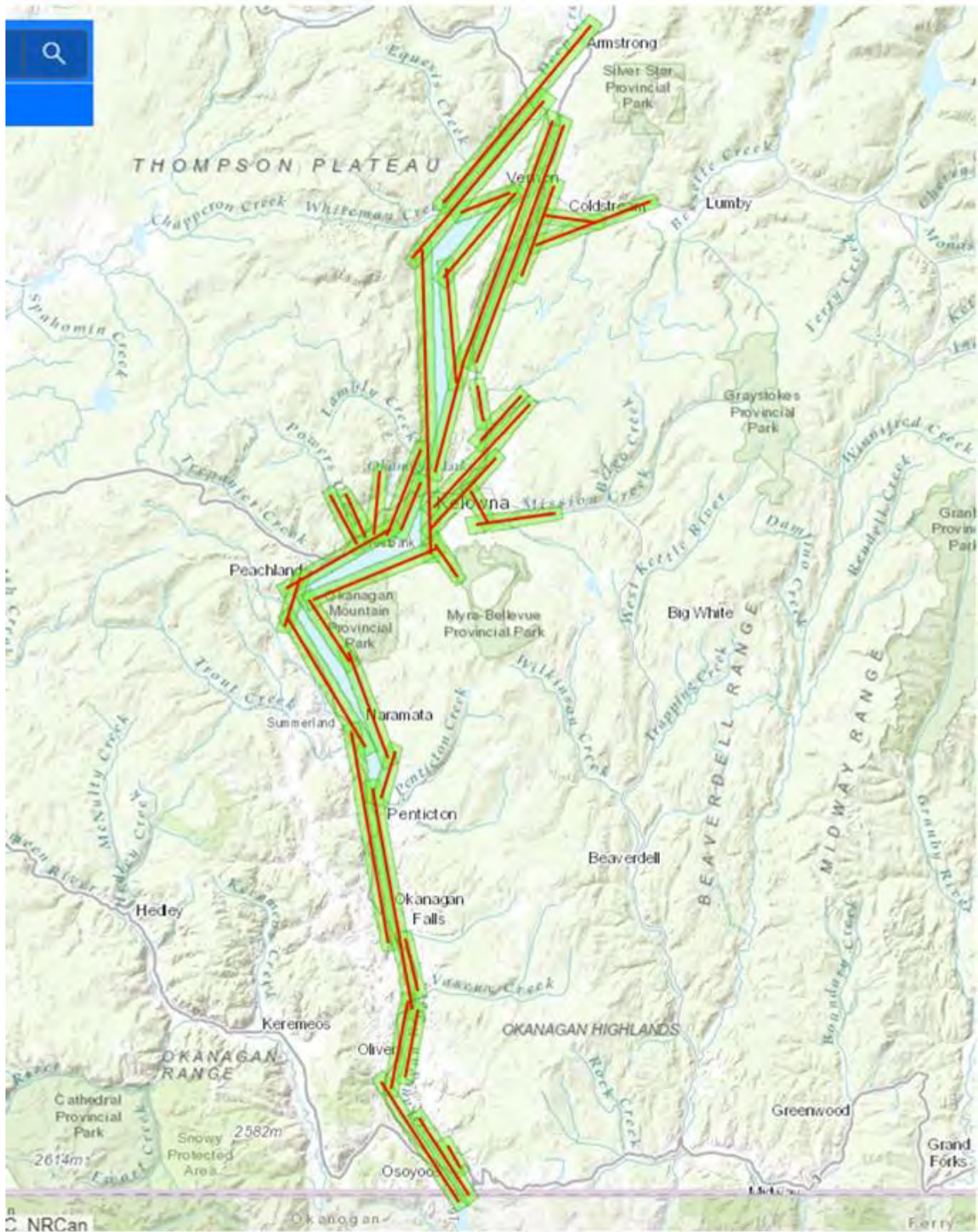
### **Land Awards Nominations Open**

The Real Estate Foundation of BC is holding its biennial Land Awards on October 11, 2018. The call for nominations is now open, and it would be great to have recognition of Okanagan people and initiatives. There are two leadership awards, for Land Champion and for Emerging Leader, and three project award categories: Land Use and Conservation; Built Environment; and Fresh Water and Food Systems. For more information, see: [www.landawards.com](http://www.landawards.com)

### **Weather Report**

As we are expecting a report later on the agenda from Dave Campbell of the B.C. River Forecast Centre, and as the weather/snow pack conditions are changing very rapidly, I have not included a weather report in this memorandum.

Lidar Low Water Acquisition – 100%





## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
May 1, 2018  
Agenda No: 6.2

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors  
From: Nelson R. Jatel  
Date: April 25, 2018  
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

---

### **April Water Stewardship Council meeting**

The April meeting marked the transition to the 8<sup>th</sup> term of the Council. Dr. **Denise Neilsen** was elected Chair, Mr. **Scott Boswell** was elected Vice-Chair, and Dr. **Brian Guy** will continue to provide support and leadership as Past-Chair. The Board's goal of supporting excellent source water quality has provided a focus of discussions at the Council table. Ms. **Nicole Pyett**, FLNRORD, provided a well-received presentation on a recent groundwater well inspection pilot project. Source water quality continues to be a major focus of the Council's action plan and sub-committee work.

Copies of Council presentations are available online:

- <http://www.obwb.ca/about-the-council/presentations-videos/>

The next Council meeting will be held at Kelowna's Coast Capri Hotel from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. on June 14, 2018. June's Council meeting will focus on the development of our 18 month work plan. All Board members are invited and encouraged to attend.

### **Project management: project updates**

In addition to supporting the communication, organization and project management of the WSC and its committees, the project activities and highlights for the month of April included:

#### **Okanagan Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) project**

The project team including the Okanagan Nation Alliance Fishery Department, FLNRORD staff and the OBWB staff are finalizing the final reporting framework. Final in-stream data collection continues as the field teams are working on adding new data points to the rating curves as stream flows increase throughout the Okanagan. Naturalized flows for Whiteman Creek are now complete and will be used to support the first set of Okanagan Tennant and Weighted Usable Width calculations to develop stream specific Okanagan Environmental Flow Needs.



### **Mission Creek groundwater study**

Data analysis and writing of the final report continues. The final analysis and project report will be completed in May and distributed to partner organizations.

### **Hydrometric monitoring project**

Development of a new dashboard integrating various levels of water data and information including Environment Canada and local hydrometric stations as well as snow pack information is being piloted at the Okanagan Emergency Operations Centres (EOC) in Kelowna and Penticton, for decision support during times of flood (and fire). The first cut of the portal is being launched by the Province of B.C. in early May. Mr. **Gurdeep Singh**, Portfolio manager with GeoBC, will be presenting at the next project meeting in May.

### **Organization of Environmental Flow Conference (October 17-18, 2018)**

Momentum continues to build for the upcoming Okanagan EFN conference as the committees focus on finalizing our speaker list, sponsorship, and attendance. Program information is available online at: [www.EFN2108.ca](http://www.EFN2108.ca). Sponsorship opportunities are still available and participant registration is open. The conference will be held at the Coast Capri Hotel in Kelowna.

### **Canadian Water Resource Association National Conference (May 28 – June 1, 2018)**

As a program committee member of this national conference, the program team has finalized the program agenda including selections from over 204 paper submissions for this year's CWRA water conference, hosted in Victoria, B.C. There is a dedicated Okanagan session at the conference and the preliminary program is now available online: <https://conference.cwra.org/>. Registration is also now open and the initial registration update has been strong – register early if you are interested attending.

### **BC Water Use Reporting Centre (BCWURC) project**

The new agriculture water license reporting section of the BCWURC project is now complete and I have been wrapping-up our funding report with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture. Information about this project is available on our website at: [www.obwb.ca/bcwurc](http://www.obwb.ca/bcwurc). This important water data reporting project has been a collaborative effort involving: local water purveyors, farmers, Growing Forward 2, B.C. Government and the Government of Canada.

### **Okanagan Water Supply Webinars**

The April 16<sup>th</sup> Okanagan Water Supply Webinar was well attended, with participants joining the virtual webinar from across the Okanagan, Vancouver, and Victoria. Hosted by **Nelson Jatel**, the presentation team included: water supply and weather forecasts from: **Dave Campbell with the B.C. River Forecast Centre**, **Shaun Reimer - FLNRORD** on Okanagan River and Lake level report, **Gwyn Graham - IJC** report on Osoyoos Lake Levels, **Nicole Pyett - FLNRORD** on Okanagan groundwater, **Kellie Garcia - OBWB** on flood and drought communication strategies, and **Ray Crampton - FLNRORD** on 2017 Flood & Fire review report. The webinar video is

at <https://youtu.be/14RCgaQmJ2Q>. Planning for the second water supply webinars is going well and a panel of experts is being finalized. Additional details on weather forecasts will be central to our May 8<sup>th</sup> webinar. The next webinar is scheduled for **May 8<sup>th</sup>** at 11 a.m. and registration is open:

- Registration URL: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/35522312034855170>

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year that the OBWB has hosted these water supply webinars that have been growing in popularity with local governments, agriculturalists, tourism operators, consultants, and members of the public logging on and listening. Mark your calendars and join us for the important May water supply update.

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
May 1, 2018  
Agenda No: 6.3

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Corinne Jackson  
Date: April 25, 2018  
Subject: **Communications Director Report**

---

### **Make Water Work (MWW) & Don't Move A Mussel (DMM) 2018**

Work is now underway for the launch of MWW – our valley-wide outdoor water conservation campaign and DMM – our campaign to raise awareness regarding invasive mussels. Meetings have been held with the MWW committee, made up of local government and utility partners throughout the Okanagan, and with Hillite Creative. Additional conversations will be occurring over the next few weeks as we look to launch both campaigns before the May long weekend.

As some directors may be aware, there was a mussel-fouled boat stopped at the Osoyoos border crossing last weekend. We learned of the incident through a tweet by the BC Conservation Officer Service (BC COS) and followed up with Martina Beck, Invasive Fauna Unit Head for B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. According to Ms. Beck, the boat was coming from Lake Havasu and was destined for Osoyoos. The boat had been sitting in dry dock for several years before it was purchased by the current owner so the mussels were dead. We also asked about the upcoming inspection and outreach season and were told that “the program will be very similar to last year in terms of the number of inspectors. There have been some adjustments made to hours of operation and location adjustments based lessons learned from the 2017 season. For example the inspection season will be closing at the end of October this year based on the winter conditions that the crew’s experienced and the health and safety concerns with having the stations open under these conditions and very little boater traffic was intercepted in November last year. Also after working closely with Ministry of Transportation some location adjustments have also been made in the East Kootenays to address traffic coming from both the east on Hwy 3 and from the south (Montana) on Hwy 93. There will be an announcement happening in mid-May with full details about the 2018 inspection season and the details will also be available on our website.”

With news of the boat at Osoyoos, we have started reaching out to the public regarding the start of water-recreation season and the need to be vigilant, to “Clean-Drain-Dry” watercraft and other gear, to talk with neighbours, snowbirds and friends. You can see the BC COS tweet (with photo) and our response here: <https://bit.ly/2HPWki8> and updated here <https://bit.ly/2Ka9d5f>.

I have also followed up on a request for more information from Manitoba’s Riding Mountain Biosphere Reserve (RMBR) which is interested in the Don't Move A Mussel campaign. The RMBR is one of 18 biosphere reserves in Canada designated by the UN. Our website and other information is already linked to their site. The chair of the reserve will be holding a board meeting this week and will be contacting me again.

Based on a call from one local government, interested in purchasing DMM boat launch signs, I sent an email out to local governments to gauge additional interest in the signs. It looks like there is interest from a number of municipalities. I will be gathering orders over the next week and then work with the sign company to ensure we have signs ready as soon as possible for boating season.

**Rain Barrel & Composter Sale**

We had a very successful rain barrel sale on April 22, Earth Day with all 125 barrels selling within the first 90 minutes of a six-hour sale. The sale was held in partnership with the Regional District of Central Okanagan's Waste Reduction Office which was selling composters. This is the third year we have participated in this sale, and the one-day-only, first-come, first-served format was new for us. We will be having a debrief meeting later this week.



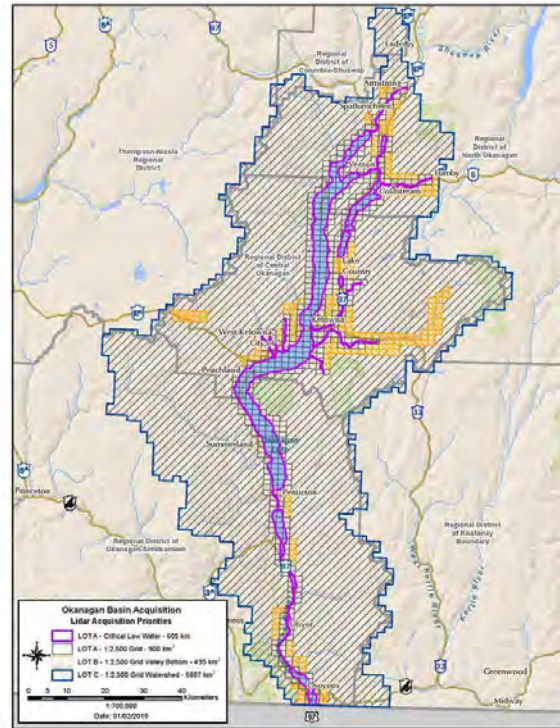
### Other communication initiatives

On April 10, with only a few days to prepare and gather speakers, we held a news conference at Kinsmen Park to announce \$1.45 million in LiDAR funding for Okanagan flood mapping. Special thanks to Okanagan Nation Alliance staff and Coun. Chief Chad Eneas, Shaun Reimer with B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (in charge of Okanagan Lake dam operations), Chair Gray and Dr. Sears, and City of Kelowna staff who assisted to ensure a successful outdoor event. The news conference was well-attended. More photos are available here: <https://www.facebook.com/OkWaterWise/posts/1883650484999133>.

News clippings are noted below.



Top: OBWB Chair Gray provides opening comments to media as ONA Coun. Chief Eneas, OBWB's Dr. Sears and BC FLNRORD's Shaun Reimer look on. Right: LiDAR flight map. A larger version can be seen here: <https://bit.ly/2HqhcNP>.



I am continuing to work with the EFN Conference organizing and communications committees on the build-out of the event's website and other communication tools.

### Summary of Recent Media

- March 25 "The xeriscape way - Making changes in the garden," *Kelowna Capital News*
- March 28 "Lake Country preparing for floods," *Lake Country Calendar*
- March 28 "Anti and pro national park petitions wrap up," *Oliver Chronicle*
- April 3 "Bracing for spring flooding across Okanagan," *Lake Country Calendar, Kelowna Capital News, Penticton Western News, Vernon Morning Star*
- April 3 "Save water, buy a rain barrel," *Kelowna Capital News*
- April 10 "Big bucks for flood maps," *Castanet*
- April 10 "Okanagan valley receives \$1.45 million for floodplain mapping," *Kelowna Capital News, Penticton Western News, Salmon Arm Observer, Lake Country Calendar*
- April 10 "Okanagan Basin Water Board Receives \$1.45M for Floodplain Mapping," *WaterCanada*
- April 10 "[Okanagan communities get \\$1.45M boost for 3D flood maps.](#)" *CBC News*
- April 10 "Okanagan lake levels going 3-D," *Kelowna Daily Courier, Penticton Herald*
- April 10 "[Okanagan will use LiDAR to map flood plain.](#)" *Global Okanagan*
- April 10 "The Okanagan Valley receives \$1.45 M for flood mapping project," *KelownaNow*
- April 10 "This high-tech tool may help Okanagan communities be better prepared for flooding," *InfoNews*
- April 13 "Big money spent on flood forecasting," *Peachland View*

April 14 "Water supply top of mind," *Castanet*  
April 17 "Feds, B.C. provide funds to help Okanagan map its floodplains," *Osoyoos Times*  
April 17 "Okanagan Basin water projects funded," *Vernon Morning Star, Kelowna Capital News, Lake Country Calendar, Penticton Western News*  
April 17 "Valley water-quality projects receive \$300,000 in funding," *Kelowna Daily Courier*  
April 19 "4 projects earn water grants," *Penticton Herald*  
April 19 "\$300K for water quality," *Castanet*  
April 22 "[Rain barrels, compost bins popular on Earth Day in Kelowna,](#)" *Lake Country Calendar, Kelowna Capital News*  
April 22 "Rain barrels aid in conservation of water," *Kelowna Daily Courier*

#### **Recent Presentations**

April 12 "OBWB Drought Initiatives," to Water Supply Association of BC spring workshop – Kellie Garcia  
April 16 "Okanagan Water Supply Webinar," to webinar participants – Nelson Jatel, Kellie Garcia  
April 17 "Pooling water knowledge: Water monitoring and environmental flows," to BC Water Funders Collaborative leadership team – Nelson Jatel

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
May 1, 2018  
Agenda No: 6.4

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Kellie Garcia  
Date: April 24, 2018  
Subject: Policy and Planning Specialist Report

---

### Presentation at Water Supply Association of BC Spring Workshop

On April 12, I gave a presentation at the Water Supply Association of BC (WSABC) spring workshop. The workshop was very well attended by elected officials, administrators, managers and operators from around the Okanagan region.

I gave an update on the Sustainable Water Strategy, mainstem drought stage triggers, and agricultural water supply communication projects. I also once again encouraged the preparation of local drought plans across the valley, and the use of consistent language and definitions for watering restriction stages. Other presenters provided information on the 2018 snowpack levels and the 2017 flooding; the groundwater licensing process; the duties and responsibilities of elected officials; current Interior Health initiatives, wildfire risk reduction planning, and the state of our reservoirs after the 2017 floods and fires.

WSABC was established in 1923 (95 years ago!) to represent the interests of B.C.'s public, domestic and irrigation water suppliers and their customers. The association takes part in issues such as protecting source water supplies, the safety of drinking water, promoting appropriate water treatment technology, and competent allocation and management of water resources.



### 2018 Sustainable Water Strategy

Most of my time this month was spent writing and editing the 2018 Sustainable Water Strategy. Like the 2008 strategy, this updated strategy will bring together information from many sources, highlight the most important water challenges of today, and recommend actions. The strategy will help guide priorities and projects of the Council and OBWB staff for years to come.



## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
May 1, 2018  
Agenda No: 7.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: James Littlely  
Date: April 25, 2018

**Subject: Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Review**

---

Attached is a **DRAFT** version of the 2018 WCQI grant program review findings. The review updates previous grant numbers, and also addresses questions raised by Directors at the March and April board meetings. The final review will include a summary of all 250 projects funded from 2006-2018, with updates on progress and an assessment of the cumulative impact of the grant program.

## 2006 – 2018 WCQI Program Summary

**Number of Projects funded: 250**

**Total WCQI Grants: \$4,106,654**

**Total Project Budgets: \$29,927,059**

WCQI Funding distribution by category:

Category	Number of Projects	Total Budgets	WCQI Funding
Drought Planning	9	\$318,357	\$138,197
Education - General	12	\$871,468	\$168,203
Education - Outdoor Activities	7	\$164,110	\$75,625
Education - Water Quality	8	\$215,096	\$82,700
Groundwater	9	\$546,900	\$144,500
Indoor Conservation	5	\$164,168	\$59,560
Irrigation	11	\$682,245	\$183,480
Mapping	21	\$840,364	\$428,470
Metering	8	\$5,314,779	\$157,185
Restoration	37	\$10,471,517	\$586,728
Source Protection	32	\$1,474,680	\$576,535
System Improvement - Conservation	14	\$2,583,180	\$179,459
System Improvement - Water Quality	3	\$108,240	\$70,310
Water Flow Monitoring	10	\$419,477	\$176,343
Water Management Plan	9	\$565,398	\$147,025
Water Quality Project	15	\$779,633	\$222,940
Water Treatment Study	5	\$682,025	\$94,620
Xeriscape	17	\$1,010,698	\$284,774
Other	1	\$150,000	\$30,000

## Program Review Objectives

The WCQI Grant program is reviewed every four years as part of the broader OBWB Water Management Program review. The first objective of this review is to tie the goals of the program to the outcomes of water conservation and quality improvement. The second objective is to review the grant program processes.

Past reviews have summarized funded projects, categorized them, and looked at the strategic and cumulative impacts of the projects on water conservation and quality improvement in the valley. As part of the 2013 review, we also created an online database of all previous projects, which is available on the OBWB website. The summaries and database have been updated through the 2018 review (in process).

Ongoing reviews form a record of the overall success of the program over time. In this way, projects which may seem unrelated can be understood in the bigger picture to see progress being made throughout the basin.

In addition to updating the database and the big picture of project impact, the Board has directed that the following questions be addressed during the 2018 review:

- Is there still a need for the WCQI program?
- Is the intent of the program, to conserve water and improve water quality, still being met?
- Is the amount of money allocated to the program still sufficient to meet its objectives?
- Should there be separate streams of funding for non-profits and local governments?
- Is the requirement for a local government resolution of support still necessary?

In order to address these questions, several methods were used, including an applicant survey which was sent to all prior applicants to the program, whether they had received grants or not.

The following section describes the program changes that have occurred since the last grant review, followed by recommendations for further changes to improve the effectiveness of the program.

## Changes Since 2013 Grant Review

In the 2013 WCQI program review, several recommendations for improvements were made to the Board. The first recommendation in 2013 was that the OBWB host a workshop every three-years for grant-eligible organizations to share project successes, improve basin-wide collaboration and identify ways to achieve OBWB strategic goals. In 2015, the OBWB hosted the first of these workshops, “Celebrating Collective Impact – 10 years of water funding in the Okanagan.” The workshop was attended by over 90 people, with information posters from each of the previous grant projects, and presentations from several past grantees. We also invited other environmental/water funders to make brief presentations to enhance the capacity of grantees to do projects in the future. The next WCQI Workshop will be scheduled for October 2018 to coincide with the release of the call for applications for the 2019 grant year.

In another change to the program, the OBWB now sends an annual letter to local governments providing information clarifying the basis for supporting applications to the WCQI program (consistent with water management objectives of the community, consistent with community values, other subjective criteria that would go into regular consideration for a resolution of support, but not ranking or competing one application with another). While this process was intended to provide clarity for local governments, the current review recommends eliminating the requirement for a resolution of support, and replacing it with other processes that meet program objectives, while reducing the administrative burden for applicants and local governments.

In 2014 and subsequent years, the board also integrated an annual theme, or themes as an area of focus, directing the staff to prioritize proposals which met the boards annual theme objectives. Within the scoring criteria, projects may now be given up to 10 additional points for directing efforts toward the OBWB annual priority areas.

In 2013, a policy was also adopted to clarify that grant funding is not discussed on a region-by-region basis when OBWB directors vote on grant awards. Since OBWB is a valley-wide agency, directors award grants based on their overall merit, while respecting the regional distribution of funding allocated for this particular program.

Another result of the 2013 program review was the development of a database of prior grant projects, which is publicly available, as an information sharing tool, to enhance cooperation between different organizations. The database allows a proponent to find prior similar projects, and to contact the project coordinator to apply lessons learned to improve efficiency and avoid mistakes.

The granting process has also been significantly streamlined since 2013, with the creation of electronic forms, the publication of scoring criteria, and the simplification of both the application process and the competition process. Each change has been made with the approval of the Board of Directors.

## Recommendations for the Future

This section addresses specific questions that were asked by board directors when establishing the terms for the 2018 WCQI program review. Further recommendations for program improvements are also made for board consideration, and to provide an ongoing record of changes and recommendations for future program reviews.

### 1. Is there still a need for the WCQI program?

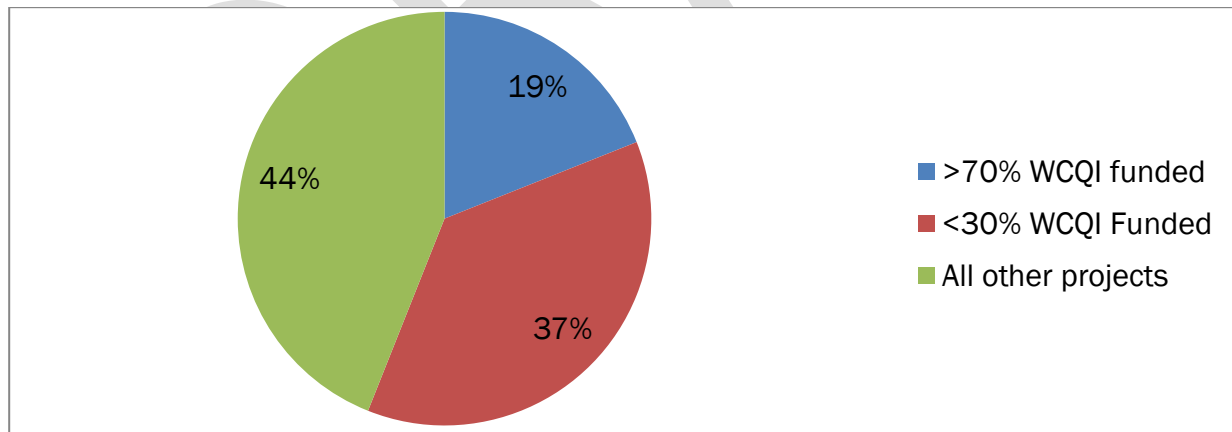
Without the WCQI program, many projects may have insufficient funding or be cancelled.

In order to address this question, we reviewed the percentage of each funded project's budget that was provided through the WCQI program, and also assessed the responses to a survey given to all previous WCQI Grant applicants.

Between 2006 and 2017, WCQI grants accounted for 42% of the average budget for funded projects. 19% of projects received more than 70% of their total project budget through this program, while 37% received less than 30% of their budget through WCQI grants. In cases where WCQI funding made up 70% or more of a project's budget, it is likely those projects would not have been carried out without the WCQI program (an average of four per year). This number does not address the projects which may have been cancelled if they were not awarded funding. Where OBWB funding is less than 50%, it can also be essential for meeting the matching funds requirement for many grant programs, like that of the Real Estate Foundation of B.C. or Environment Canada.

While all granted projects benefit from WCQI funding, it is the primary source of funding in 35% of eligible water projects. Therefore, the WCQI program increases the number of water-focussed projects which happen every year.

Figure 1 – Percentage of funding through WCQI program for all funded projects:



### 2. Is the intent of the program, to conserve water and improve water quality, still being met?

All projects must demonstrate an effect on water conservation or water quality improvement to be eligible for grant funding. Each year the program is over-subscribed, showing the ongoing demand to undertake water-related projects.

It is difficult to quantify the amount of water conservation and quality improvement that comes directly as a result of this grant program. The majority of granted projects are physical works that result in near-term improvements to water conservation and quality improvement, such as restoration works or system improvement projects. These projects are usually more costly, involve more partners, and have measurable results. Other projects inform future actions that have a direct result on WCQI, such as baseline water quality studies prior to a restoration project, or source protection plans which may lead to water quality improvements once implemented. Projects such as demonstration gardens and public outreach may have a broader, longer-term impact, but are extremely difficult to quantify in terms of direct results on WCQI. Rather than being quantifiable, these projects lead to behaviour changes which support the objectives of the more action-focused projects, contributing to WCQI throughout time.

**Changes for the future:** A component of the Final Report for each project could be included to describe what effect the project has had on water conservation or quality improvement.

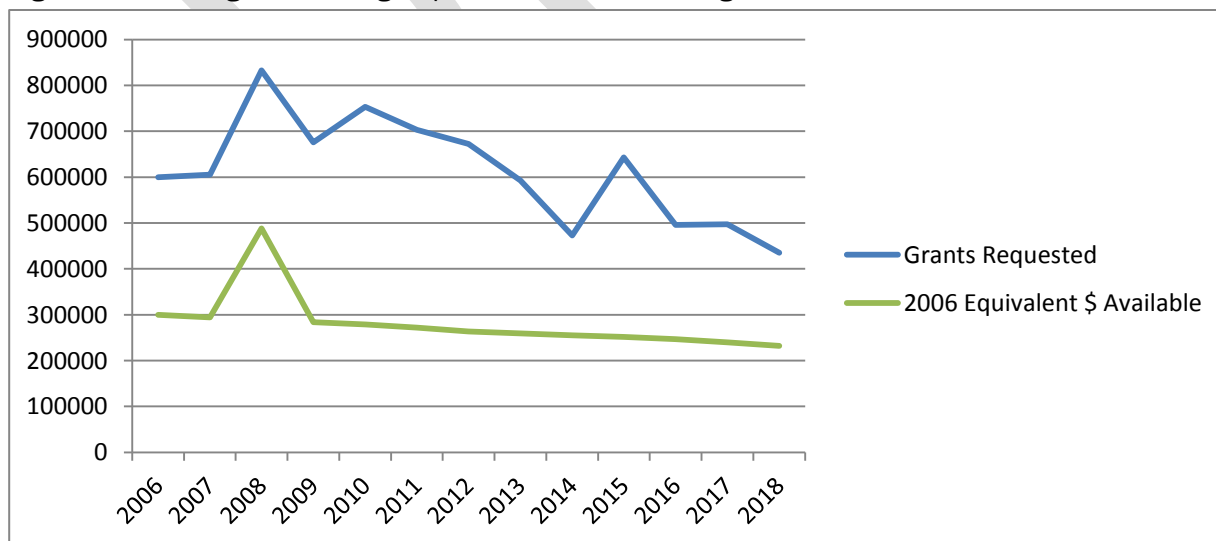
### 3. Is the amount of money allocated to the program still sufficient to meet its objectives?

Trends show that the more funding there is available, the more applications we receive, and the higher the requested funding for water-related projects.

Over the life of the program, the annual requests for funding have been going down, and in recent years, the total number of grant applications has also been going down. As project costs go up due to inflation, the grant program has not had an increase from the original \$300,000, allocated in 2006. In 2018, accounting for inflation, \$370,000 would be needed to provide equivalent funding to the original 2006 amount. In other words, the original 2006 program funding is only equivalent to \$245,000 today. In some cases, applicants are not willing to apply, believing that the funding available is insufficient to make the application process worthwhile.

Another sign that more funding will lead to more projects is that in 2008, when \$500,000 was made available for the WCQI program, requests for funding were \$80,000 higher than the next highest year (2010), and \$219,000 higher than the average ask, over the program's history. Figure 2 shows a similar trend between funds requested, and the value of funds available.

Figure 2 - Annual grant funding requested and real funding available:



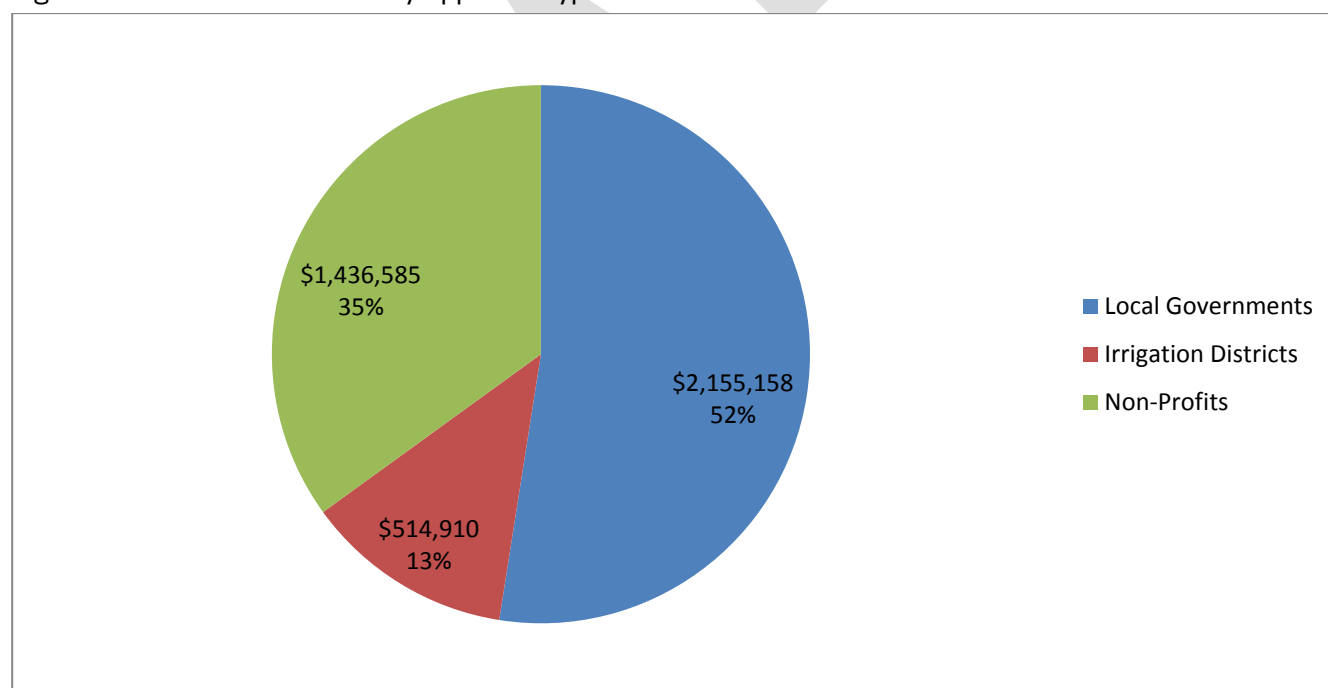
**Changes for the future:** In 2019, it is recommended that the total amount of grant funding available be raised to \$375,000/year to account for inflation, and the amount reviewed every four years as part of the WCQI program review.

#### 4. Should there be separate streams of funding for non-profits and local governments?

A single stream of funding allows grants to go to the projects with the most merit, regardless of whether the applicant is a local government or non-profit.

There are some concerns about the requirement for a local government resolution of support for non-local government applicants, which could be addressed through the creation of separate funding streams. However, the goal of the competitive process is to award funding on a merit basis, based on the board approved scoring criteria. A single stream of funding allows the best projects to be funded each grant year. Over the life of the program, 77% of non-profits applications have received WCQI funding, while 68% of local government, and 55% of irrigation district applications have been successful. Figure 3 shows the percentage of funding, and the total funding that each category of organization has received from 2006 – 2018. Further, creating two streams of funding would increase the amount of administration for the program, and concerns about fairness in the existing program will be addressed by replacing the requirement for a local government resolution of support, as outlined in question 5.

Figure 3 Total Grants Received by Applicant Type 2006-2018



#### 5. Is the requirement for a local government resolution of support still necessary?

The resolution of support could be replaced by other specific processes for local government and non-local government applicants.

Resolutions of Support are intended to ensure that proposed projects are consistent with local water management objectives and to give local governments a role in the screening process. It also allows

elected officials to be better aware of projects undertaken in their community, and ensures that they endorse applications coming from their own organization.

In some cases, resolutions of support have been misunderstood, and used by boards or councils to compete applications against each other, prior to submitting them to the OBWB for the formal assessment process. This can create a perception of unfairness in the competition process.

**Changes for the Future:** As an alternative to a local government resolution of support for every project, non-local government applicants who are proposing physical works can submit a standard checklist to local government water managers to ensure that the proposal is consistent with the water management objectives and plans in the project area. Local government staff may require a letter of authorization, depending on the local government's internal processes.

Changing the requirement for a formal resolution of support will save local government staff and council time, as well as save time for applicants, and reduce perceived conflict. These processes will be developed and approved by the Board, prior to the 2019 Call for Applications.

DRAFT



## WCQI Grants: 2006 - 2018

Between 2006 and the current 2018 grant year, the WCQI grant program has awarded 250 grants, totalling \$4.1 million in funding for projects with combined budgets of over \$29.9 million. Since the last program review in 2013, the program has seen significant changes to create more transparency and to streamline the application and reporting process.

### Benefits of the Program

#### Easy Process:

Throughout the life of the WCQI Grant program, improvements have been made to ensure that the process for applying and reporting on projects is always improving. Recent changes have made the program more accessible, more streamlined, and easier to understand. Application and reporting processes for the program are simple, short and straightforward. The process has also been improved to include specific scoring criteria, available to all applicants to make the competition process more transparent.

#### Local:

The administration of WCQI grants through the Okanagan Basin Water Board means that proponents have a local office, with local area knowledge and local expertise to help through to project completion. Through the program, OBWB staff are also available to assist proponents in identifying key partnerships, collaborative opportunities, and past project managers who can make projects easier and more efficient.

#### Flexible:

The program provides flexible funding solutions to proponents, allowing a portion of the money to be paid in advance to support projects getting off the ground. We also maintain flexibility in completion deadlines, recognizing that projects may be delayed due to weather conditions, external funding requirements or other reasons. We stay flexible to focus on the success of the project.

#### Leverage to bring money into the Okanagan:

Many external funders require matching dollars to provide grants to organizations. WCQI funding provides local matching funds to many projects which then bring new money into the Okanagan basin. Without the matching WCQI funds, many projects would not be successful.

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
April 3, 2018  
Agenda No: 7.2

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Anna Warwick Sears  
Date: April 25, 2018  
Subject: **Water Management Program Review Memo**

---

According to our Governance Manual, the Water Management Program must be reviewed and renewed every four years (originally three years) by the member regional districts. This was a condition established in 2005, and re-endorsed in 2008, 2011, and 2014. The final, formatted version will be ready for approval at our June 5<sup>th</sup> OBWB meeting, and I will be seeking regional district approval of that version immediately afterwards: RDOS (June 7<sup>th</sup>), RDNO (June 20<sup>th</sup>) and RDCO (July 19<sup>th</sup>).

Essentially, we are asking for a renewal of the program, with no changes. If the board wishes to do an inflation adjustment to the WCQI grant budget, or change the application process (i.e., getting local government resolutions of support), these do not need regional district approval. If the WCQI was changed to a valley-wide apportionment, not divided into different amounts for different regional districts, that would require regional district approval.

The Draft Review has been organized into the following sections:

- *An introduction to the Water Management Program, its mandate, vision, and goals;*
- *A review of the Program's operational and financial structure;*
- *A review of the Water Management Program staffing*
- *A review of the core components of the Water Management Program:*
  - *The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council;*
  - *Water Science and Policy Projects;*
  - *The Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program; and*
  - *The Communications and Outreach Program;*
- *A look forward to what we hope to accomplish between now and 2023.*

Appendix A includes Financial Schedules:

- *Revenues and costs for current term – from the audited financial statements and estimates for current year;*
- *Financial projections for the upcoming term*

Appendix B includes a detailed review of the WCQI Grants Program.

The following is the Terms of Reference for the Water Management Program from the OBWB's Governance Manual, as adopted by the regional districts in 2010, with amendments in 2013.

## 7.2 Water Management Program

- 7.4.1 *The OBWB Water Management Program was formalized in 2005 by the participating regional districts.<sup>1</sup> Basic elements include:*
- *Reinstatement of the Liaison Committee<sup>2</sup> as the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council;*
  - *Establishing the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants program;*
  - *Expanding the Board to include representatives from the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Water Supply Association of BC, and the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.*
  - *Granting OBWB authority to approve its operating and capital budgets.*
- 7.4.2 *Funding for the Water Management Program is capped at \$0.02 per \$1000 assessed property values within the Basin.<sup>3</sup>*
- 7.4.3 *The OBWB carries over project funds across fiscal years.<sup>4</sup>*
- 7.4.4 *The total cost of the Water Management Program and the Eurasian Watermilfoil Control Program cannot exceed the ceiling of \$0.036/\$1000 as given in 7.1.3, above.<sup>5</sup>*
- 7.4.5 *The Water Management Program has a 4-year renewal period.<sup>6</sup> It is next scheduled for renewal in 2019.*
- 7.4.6 *The OBWB must document the activities of this program in their annual report.<sup>7</sup>*
- 7.4.7 *The Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants Program provides funding to Okanagan local governments for water management projects with Basin-wide significance.<sup>8</sup>*

**Recommended resolution: That the OBWB adopts the 2018 Water Management Program Review Draft, in principle, and directs staff to move forward with the final version subject to minor revisions as requested and required.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Joint regional district resolution approving *Proposal to Enhance the Effectiveness of the OBWB*, (2005, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> SLP Clause 14. "The Water Board shall establish a Liaison Committee consisting of persons appointed by such municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts and Government agencies as the Water Board may determine, and the Liaison Committee shall advise on such matters as may from time to time be referred to it by the Water Board."

<sup>3</sup> Joint regional district resolution approving *Proposal to Enhance the Effectiveness of the OBWB*, (2005, 2008).

<sup>4</sup> SLP, Clause 5 (ref. to Municipal Act Sect. 782 (2)), Appendix II.

<sup>5</sup> SLP, Clause 6, Appendix II.

<sup>6</sup> Joint regional district resolutions (2005, 2008, 2011, 2014).

<sup>7</sup> Joint regional district resolution, on renewal of the Water Management Program, (2008).

<sup>8</sup> Terms of reference available on [www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca). Program must be renewed by every four years.



MAR 28 2018

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
May 1, 2018  
Agenda No. 8.1

Tracy Gray  
Chair  
Okanagan Basin Water Board  
1450 KLO Road  
Kelowna, British Columbia V1W 3Z4

Dear Tracy Gray:

Thank you for your co-addressed correspondence of January 30, 2018, concerning invasive zebra and quagga mussels.

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) works with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Environment 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 DFO developed the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* (AISR) under the *Fisheries Act* to help prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species (AIS) into Canadian waters and to control and manage their establishment and spread if introduced.

As I indicated in my response to your predecessor, Doug Findlater, on February 15, 2017, the CBSA's role under the AISR 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 CBSA continues to work with western provincial authorities to address the movement of zebra and quagga mussels into British Columbia (BC). Part of this collaboration included AIS sessions held by the BC Ministry of Environment for CBSA officers, as well as the establishment of watercraft inspection stations along the BC - Alberta border, funded through partnerships with BC Hydro, FortisBC, Columbia Power, and the Columbia Basin Trust.

Under the program, the CBSA is provided with seals to affix on watercraft scheduled for inspection inland. The CBSA retains pertinent watercraft data (licence plate number, etc.) and shares it with the inspection site. It is mandatory for all watercraft to stop at roadside inspection stations.

Once the CBSA refers a vessel to a designated inspection station, there is no mechanism to ensure compliance from the owner/operator. The BC Ministry of Environment is responsible for any enforcement activity due to non-compliance.

The CBSA continues to cooperate with BC Ministry of Environment conservation officers and has allowed temporary inspection and education stations to be set up just north of land border ports of entry (POEs) 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 when they are requested.

The CBSA is committed to working with partners and stakeholders to prevent the spread of AIS. In this regard, a CBSA representative attended INVASIVES 2018 - the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia's Annual Forum and Annual General Meeting, which took place in Richmond, BC, from February 6 to 8, 2018. This occasion provided the Agency with the opportunity to outline the invasive species monitoring programs in place at CBSA POEs and the Agency's role in enforcing the AISR.

I appreciate the ongoing interest of the Okanagan Basin Water Board in this important issue.

Thank you again for writing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Goodale', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

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