



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: March 6, 2014

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OBWB Directors

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James Pepper, Okanagan
Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Don Dobson, Okanagan Water
Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB is 10 a.m., April 1st,
2014 at Regional District of
North Okanagan.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

OBWB calls on Province for Made in BC plan to stop mussels: The Okanagan Basin Water Board is recommending to the Province that it develop a “Made in B.C.” business plan to help prevent the spread of invasive zebra and quagga mussels into British Columbia waters. The suggestion is a potential sticker program for watercraft owners tied to inspection or licencing similar to successful programs in the U.S. The Water Board continues to urge the federal government to pass pending legislation allowing Canada Border Services agents to inspect boats coming in from the U.S. For more about the mussels visit www.DontMoveAMussel.ca.

Funds approved for Okanagan irrigation training: The Board approved funding to subsidize training for Okanagan irrigation installers this fall through the Irrigation Industry Association of BC to help address the shortage of certified installers in our valley. Subsidies will be available to those conducting agricultural, commercial and residential installs.

Board commends B.C. on proposal to get tough on off-road vehicles: OBWB will be forwarding a letter to the Province commending proposed legislation to have off-road vehicles (e.g. dirt bikes and quads) licenced when used on public land and fines increased from \$500 to a maximum \$5,000. The board believes the legislation will be significant in helping protect water quality.

Report on Endocrine Disruptors in Okanagan waste water delivered: Tricia Brett, Water Quality and Environmental Technologist, presented her research on Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs) in Okanagan wastewater. Current wastewater treatment methods are unable to fully remove estrogen compounds. In controlled testing, the EDCs were shown to cause feminization in male fish, when released from wastewater facilities into a local reservoir. The board will be including this information in a recommendation to the federal government to allow Okanagan Falls to divert wastewater from its new treatment plant into a wetland before being released into the Okanagan River channel. This type of additional filtering is considered best practice to address EDCs.

Film screening, public forum & kids contest for Canada Water Week: The OBWB’s Okanagan WaterWise program has several events planned to celebrate UN World Water Day/Canada Water Week. Monday, March 17, we present a special screening of the award-winning *Watermark* film. **Tickets must be purchased in advance** at <http://tinyurl.com/lj3569d>. Thursday, March 20, is our popular and FREE public forum, this year MC’d by well-known Kelowna broadcaster Phil Johnson. We will also be presenting a special “Water Leadership Award” to journalist Judie Steeves who has semi-retired. **Tickets are required** – find them at <http://tinyurl.com/m4w5513>. And go to www.OkWaterWise.ca for more on our contest for kids – prizes include a boat cruise!

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