



BOARD REPORT: May 8 , 2015

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4
P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011
www.obwb.ca



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

OBWB Directors

Doug Findlater - Chair,
Regional District of Central
Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-
Chair,** Regional District of
North Okanagan

Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Bob Fleming, Regional District
of North Okanagan

James Baker, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Tracy Gray, Regional District
of Central Okanagan

Andre Martin, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Sue McKortoff, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Peter Waterman, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Peter Waardenberg,
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. June 2, 2015
in Penticton, B.C., location to be
announced.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board adopts position paper on invasive mussels: After sounding the alarm on invasive zebra and quagga mussels since 2012, sending numerous requests to senior governments to take action, and launching its own “Don’t Move a Mussel” awareness campaign, the board has adopted a position paper. The paper notes the province’s recent announcement of \$575,000 in 2015-16 to fight the mussels with three roving inspection stations (\$1.3 million from April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2017). For a little more funding, the OBWB suggests the province could have the permanent stations that local governments around B.C., Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, and others have been calling for. The paper also notes the OBWB’s concern about downloading and the province’s statement that once the mussels are beyond eradication it will be up to local governments to address. The board has adopted seven resolutions. Find the full statement at <http://tinyurl.com/pd9oofx>.

Mussel awareness efforts gets boost with local “Mussel Threat” film: Water Board efforts to raise awareness regarding invasive mussels received significant support recently with the launch of a six-minute film by Brynne Morrice. The part-time Okanagan, part-time New York filmmaker and actor contacted the OBWB last fall after noticing its DontMoveAMussel.ca billboard and learning more at the website. After reading about the devastation zebra and quagga mussels can cause, he wanted to learn more and do something to help protect our waters. The result is a very moving film that compares the pristine waters of B.C. to the infested waters in several U.S. states. You can find the film at www.ProtectOurFreshwater.ca.

Make Water Work Plant Collection unveiled to help WaterWise valley: The board was updated on the launch of a “Make Water Work Plant Collection” (featuring low-water plant material). The project was developed in partnership between the OBWB’s Okanagan WaterWise program, the Okanagan Xeriscape Association, and Bylands Nursery. The collection will be prominently displayed and available for sale at garden centres throughout the valley. It will also be promoted as part of the larger “Make Water Work” campaign, a valley-wide local government initiative to promote outdoor water conservation. Learn more at www.MakeWaterWork.ca.

Water Board hosts “State of the Basin” webinar: The OBWB will be hosting a webinar Friday, May 15, 11am - noon, providing an update on the state of the valley’s water supply, including reservoir levels, snow pack, groundwater and current weather forecast information. The webinar will be of interest to local government and water managers, the agricultural community and water professionals. The webinar is free. Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/jwcvzeg>.

OBWB to help Okanagan communities prepare drought plans: Directors approved support for a drought planning project for the Okanagan. Work will now begin on determining the barriers and opportunities to get all Okanagan local governments to adopt appropriate drought plans for their community. This project is based on an extensive OBWB survey conducted last year that reviewed the state of existing plans in the valley and identified further work was needed.

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