



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: October 9, 2015

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OBWB Directors

Doug Findlater - Chair,
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**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-
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Sue McKortoff, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

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District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Peter Waardenberg,
Okanagan Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Rob Birtles, Okanagan Water
Stewardship Council

**The next meeting of the OBWB
will be 10 a.m. November 3,
2015 at Regional District of
Central Okanagan in Kelowna.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Strong Okanagan voices appointed to Canada-U.S. water board: OBWB Director (and Osoyoos Mayor) Sue McKortoff and Water Board Executive Director Anna Warwick Sears have been named to the International Joint Commission (IJC)'s International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control for a one year term. The IJC was established to help the governments of Canada and the United States prevent and resolve disputes over the use of shared waters. The Osoyoos Lake Board was established in 1946 to manage water levels on Osoyoos Lake, regulated by Zosel Dam in Washington state.

Ecole KLO Middle School shares Fascieux Creek restoration success: The Board was updated on the Fascieux Creek restoration project at Ecole KLO Middle School by one of the effort's volunteers, just ahead of its grand opening this week. This multi-year project was launched by students and staff after discovering baby Western Painted Turtles in their long jump pit, considered a species of special concern. The project has attracted support of parents, several community groups and businesses and has included removal of 200 m of culverts and concrete pads on top of the creek. The newly daylighted creek is already home once again to turtles, ducks, and hundreds of fish, including kokanee. The project was partially funded through the OBWB's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program, with \$30,000 in 2013 and \$28,000 in 2015.

Contract awarded to determine stream flow needs of fish: Vernon's Summit Environmental Consultants were awarded a contract to develop methods for determining environmental stream flow needs (EFNs) in the Okanagan. EFNs consider the minimum amount of flow needed in a creek during drought to maintain a healthy ecosystem for fish and other animals and plants. With the new provincial Water Sustainability Act, a method to determine EFNs will be critical to ensure flows meet the needs for human use without damaging the environment in drought years. The project will look at 18 creeks determined to be high-priority throughout the Okanagan.

OBWB and UBC-O partner to review milfoil equipment management: The Water Board's Milfoil Control Program and UBC-O Faculty of Management are working together on an asset management plan for the OBWB's unique milfoil removal equipment. The equipment – some now over 40 years old – is customized and has special asset management requirements. Students will learn about local government asset management, and provide recommendations to the Board on planning for equipment replacement reserves, and repair and replacement schedules for machine components. This project should allow for less maintenance down-time in the program and ensure sufficient reserve in the event of an unanticipated breakdown.

Okanagan Nation Alliance hosts Okanagan Water Forum: The board was reminded of Okanagan Nation Alliance's upcoming Water Forum: "From Knowledge to Forward Thinking" on Oct. 14. The event is intended to build partnerships between Okanagan Nation representatives and regional water stakeholders to create water management solutions for the Okanagan. Details at: <http://www.sylx.org/events/4266/>.

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