



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: April 8, 2016

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www.obwb.ca

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

Cindy Fortin, 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

To be announced,
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. May 3, 2016 at
Regional District of Central
Okanagan in Kelowna.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board approves \$300K for Okanagan water projects: Directors approved 18 projects for funding as part of this year's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program. In total, there were 27 applications with a combined ask worth \$495,523. Funded projects include drought plans, mapping of foreshore and sensitive habitat in riparian zones, wetland restoration, a mobile app to document and report damage in watersheds, xeriscape demonstration projects and more. Some \$3.5 million has been awarded to 215 projects throughout the Okanagan since the grant program began in 2006. Details here: www.obwb.ca/?p=9666.

Funding approved for OK Falls land purchase to build wetland: The Water Board will be providing a \$19,344 grant to the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen towards purchase of land to construct a wastewater treatment wetland. The project falls within the OBWB's Sewage Infrastructure Grant Program. The project will allow OK Falls Wastewater Treatment Plant to discharge to the wetland rather than directly into Okanagan River and alleviate concerns about the impact of endocrine disrupting compounds on fish in the channel. This wetland will ensure another level of water treatment.

Water Board to send province thanks for mussel protection efforts: The board voted to send a letter to the province acknowledging their efforts to ensure eight inspection stations were ready to go for the 2016 boating season. The province announced the program on March 30, noting a \$2 mill. funding commitment from BC Hydro, Fortis BC, Columbia Power and Columbia Basin Trust for staffing, decontamination stations, highway signage, outreach and more. The OBWB has been pressing for inspection stations since 2012. The letter will include a request that permanent funding be secured for the program and that station locations be monitored and evaluated to ensure appropriate protection.

Feds asked to approve science panel on Columbia River Treaty: A letter will be sent to federal Minister of Foreign Affairs Stéphane Dion, supporting a request by scientists with the Canadian Water Resources Association, that a Canadian Science Advisory Panel be created to advise on the Columbia River Treaty (CRT) renewal. The Okanagan and Similkameen tributaries to the Columbia River are not part of the treaty area, however the outcome of negotiations could affect the Okanagan especially as it relates to fisheries.

State of Okanagan water focus of upcoming webinar: The Water Board's annual water supply webinar will be held April 15, 11 a.m. to noon. This free online seminar will include an update on current reservoir levels, snowpack, groundwater and weather forecast. This event will be of particular interest to local government planning and engineering staff, the farm community and fishery managers. Register at <http://tinyurl.com/jmmlhvp>.

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