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Board Report May 6, 2008

OBWB Board Members

- John Slater** - Chair, Mayor of Osoyoos
- Graham Reid** - Vice Chair, Mayor of Peachland
- Dan Ashton** - City Councillor, Penticton
- Lorraine Bennest** - Councillor, District of Summerland
- Patty Hanson** - Director, Regional District Central Okanagan
- Robert Hobson** - City Councillor, Kelowna
- Rick Fairbairn** - Director, Regional District North Okanagan
- Buffy Baumbrough** - City Councillor, Vernon
- Glen Taylor** - Councillor, District of Coldstream
- Toby Pike** - Vice Chair, Water Supply Association of BC
- Tom Siddon** - Chair, Okanagan Water Stewardship Council
- Timothy Manuel** - Chiefs Executive Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Presentation: The OBWB heard a presentation from Remi Allard and Doug Gellar of the Groundwater Association of BC, about groundwater development in bed-rock aquifers and the high vulnerability of these aquifers to depletion through over-pumping. They highlighted problems associated with development approvals in absence of knowledge about groundwater processes and recommended further support for groundwater studies. Attention was also placed the importance of groundwater for maintaining environmental base flows in surface streams.

Leveraging Resources: The OBWB made resolutions of support for two grant applications from staff, totaling \$65,000, to the Federal Gas Tax Innovations Fund and the MCS Infrastructure Planning Grant Program to develop a Local Government Groundwater Supply Bylaw Toolkit, to complement and extend the recently released Green Bylaws Toolkit.

Communication: Director Pike made a presentation on the report prepared for the Minister of Health titled "Turbidity and Microbial Risk in Drinking Water". The technical advisory committee made a number of findings on risk communication and reduction, including a recommendation to re-examine requirements to filter all surface waters. Copies of the report are available at <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/protect/dwcommittee.html>

Correspondence was received from Minister Pat Bell regarding the sale of crown owned leased recreational lots. **Action: the OBWB directed staff to convene a meeting between the Minister and Okanagan local government leaders to communicate local concerns on Okanagan drinking water reservoirs.**

Sponsorships: The OBWB approved sponsorship of the 2008 City of Kelowna Mayor's Youth forum in the amount of \$500. In fall 2008, high school youth aged 15 - 18 will participate in a survey discussing issues regarding water use and conservation and put forward policy recommendations to the Mayor and Council of Kelowna.

Water Stewardship Council: The OBWB received information on the status of the Sustainable Water Strategy development by the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council. On May 15th the Council will review the first draft in an all day workshop and will have the final document ready for release to the public on October 23, 2008 at the joint CWRA, OBWB "One Watershed, One Water" conference.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the OBWB is for **10 am, June 3, 2008** at the office of **Regional District Central Okanagan**