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Board Report June 3, 2008

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

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

Representing Okanagan Interests: The OBWB received a staff report analyzing the Ministry of Health’s “Turbidity and Microbial Risks in Drinking Water” report. The staff report highlighted (1) the continued need for water suppliers including local governments to develop a common approach and common set of risk communication messages for the Okanagan; (2) the need for a review of alternatives to mandatory filtration; (3) the questionable requirement for bottled water in elementary schools under water quality advisories; and (4) the need to support mechanisms for source protection. The OBWB will send a letter to the Health Minister requesting information on the next steps to be taken by the Ministry in response to the turbidity report.

The OBWB exchanged correspondence with Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell regarding the sale of crown owned leased recreational lots. The Board sent a response to a referral request from Integrated Land Management Bureau on the sale of lease lots on Swalwell (Beaver) Lake reiterating our position.

Communication: The OBWB received an advance copy of the Ministry of Environment’s “Living Water Smart, British Columbia’s Water Plan”. The plan compliments and extends many aspects of the *Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy*.

OBWB staff participated in two Okanagan Water Governance Workshops in May hosted by the Provincial Government. The workshops provided OBWB staff with important feedback and information to support the development of the *Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy*.

Providing Science Based Information: Staff reported on the progress of the UBC Okanagan Endocrine Disruptor Project—Dr. Jeff Curtis, Project Supervisor will be starting water sample collection and analysis in July.

The Water Stewardship Council has completed the first draft of the *Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy*. A final draft will be presented for the Board’s review July 3 and the public launch is planned for October 23, 2008 at the *One Watershed—One Water Conference* in Kelowna.

Implementing Basin-Wide Programs: Rototilling for spring milfoil control in Okanagan main-stem lakes have been completed for the 2008 tourist season. The milfoil crew is now focusing on equipment maintenance and preparing for the harvesting program that will begin in July.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the OBWB is for **10 am, July 8 2008** at the office of **Regional District North Okanagan**

For more information, please contact the OBWB at: info@obwb.ca