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Board Report July 8, 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

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the OBWB for the month of August is to be announced.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Basin-wide Initiatives: The Board was updated on the Water Supply and Demand Project. The steering committee met in June to discuss plans for moving forward. The water management and use analysis has now been completed, as well as groundwater modeling of the south Okanagan and a study estimating evaporation from mainstem lakes. Contracts will soon be awarded for surface water hydrology and estimating minimum stream flows needed for environmental health.

The Board was presented with a Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Plan developed by staff for the Ministry of Environment. It describes the ecology and spread of milfoil in the Okanagan, treatment areas and priorities, along with information on program operations and safeguards for environmental protection. Milfoil growth has been slow this year due to cool temperatures, however summer harvesting operations are set to begin this month.

OBWB staff reported on discussions with the Ministries of Community Development and Environment on the feasibility of developing a streamlined reporting system for water utilities in the Okanagan. Rather than reporting to multiple agencies, in the new system utilities would enter information on a single form. This would help meet objectives of the new BC Water Plan, and improve the quality of Okanagan water data.

Communication: Board members had the opportunity to review and provide comment on *The Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy* Draft III. Also discussed was the timeline for the public release of the Strategy which is expected to be at the One Water—One Watershed Conference in Kelowna October 23.

The OBWB received a letter from the Wetland Stewardship Partnership to Premier Campbell commending him on the new BC water plan *Living Water Smart* where the Partnership's Green Bylaws Toolkit was recognized for its value and importance.

The new Okanagan Water website has been brought online as part of the Waterbucket partnership at www.waterbucket.ca/okw. One of the highlights of the site is the posting of the 1974 Okanagan Basin Study, now available to the public.

Canada-Wide Concerns: OBWB supported a request by the Forum for Leadership on Water to endorse an open letter to be published in Ottawa's Hill Times titled "*Can Canada Avoid a Water Crisis?*" The letter requests the Government of Canada deliver on their commitment to implement a new national water strategy.

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