



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

Science. Management. Governance.

BOARD REPORT: September 1, 2009

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www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

Stu Wells - Chair
Mayor, Osoyoos

Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair
Director, Regional District North
Okanagan, Area D

James Baker - Mayor,
Lake Country

Doug Findlater - Mayor,
West Kelowna

Michael Brydon - Director,
Regional District Okanagan-
Similkameen, Area F

Gordon Clark - Councillor,
Summerland

Buffy Baumbrough - Councillor,
Vernon

Gyula Kiss - Councillor,
Coldstream

Toby Pike - Chair,
Water Supply Association of BC

Bernie Bauer - Chair, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Timothy Manuel - Chiefs'
Executive Council, Okanagan
Nation Alliance

**The next regular meeting
of the OBWB is scheduled
for 10am on October 6,
2009 at the Regional
District North Okanagan.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Brian Given Memoriam: The passing of Brian Given was a big loss to the OBWB. During his short time as Chair, Brian spearheaded initiatives for improving OBWB communication with the public and clarifying OBWB governance structure. Brian's strong leadership and vision will be missed by OBWB Directors and staff.

OBWB Election: *Stu Wells*, Mayor of Osoyoos, was elected as Chair, and *Rick Fairbairn*, RDNO Area D Director, was elected as Vice Chair.

Turbidity Notification and Filtration Policy: Dr. Andrew Larder, Senior Medical Health Officer with Interior Health, answered questions about the new "decision tree" for water suppliers to respond to turbidity events and issue advisories. He also clarified issues surrounding filtration of water supplies. IH requires that water systems meet the 4-3-2-1-0 drinking water objectives, but this is an outcome-based policy and there is flexibility for how communities meet this standard.

Communication and Outreach: Think. Marketing presented a draft Okanagan Water Education and Outreach Strategy, and the results of a survey on water completed by Okanagan citizens. The strategy will help the OBWB deliver information about water issues in a way that encourages citizens to participate in sustainable water practices.

OBWB Annual General Meeting: The OBWB will host an annual general meeting on September 18, 2009, from 9:00-noon at the Creekside Theatre in Lake Country. The meeting will provide an opportunity for elected officials to hear about OBWB programs, ask questions, and provide input on the most pressing water issues facing the Okanagan.

Governance: A Governance Manual is being prepared by the OBWB. The manual is intended to make the OBWB more transparent—providing clarity about OBWB's mandate and procedures. The manual will be forwarded to the Regional Boards for comment before it is finalized.

Basin-wide Drought Planning: In July the OBWB convened a workshop on Okanagan drought preparedness with presentations by scientists, water purveyors, politicians and planners. Recommendations from the workshop will be forwarded to local and senior governments.

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