



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

Science. Management. Governance.

BOARD REPORT: December 1, 2009

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www.obwb.ca

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BC

Timothy Manuel - Chiefs' Executive Council,
Okanagan Nation Alliance

The next regular meeting of the OBWB is scheduled for 10am on January 5, 2010 at the Regional District of North Okanagan office.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Minister of Environment Visit: The Honourable Barry Penner, BC's Environment Minister, met with the OBWB to discuss Okanagan water issues. The Minister acknowledged the need for adequate water monitoring networks. OBWB staff reported on the successful OBWB-MOE water science partnerships. The need to develop local and provincial partnerships was emphasized.

Modernization of the Water Act: John Slater, MLA for Boundary-Similkameen and Parliamentary Secretary for Water Supply and Allocation, outlined the developing communication strategy for modernizing the Water Act project. A transparent and inclusive process is being proposed by MOE staff. Community stakeholder meetings will be held in Spring 2010 and opportunities for online input are being developed.

OBWB Governance Manual: The Board has adopted a OBWB Governance Manual, and will be sending it forward to the Okanagan Regional District Boards for final approval and adoption. The Manual lays out the existing framework, history, roles, responsibilities, and operating policies of the OBWB.

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grants: The OBWB announced the 2010 call for grant applications with a deadline of February 19, 2010 at 4 pm. More information will be available mid-December at www.obwb.ca. Subject to funding approval, the program will be similar to previous years totaling \$300k in available grants.

Representatives from the City of Penticton and the Okanagan Region Wildlife Heritage Fund Society (ORWHFS) presented the outcomes of their 2009 projects to the Board. Penticton instituted a commercial water audit program—developing a template that can be applied in other communities. ORWHFS monitored Okanagan River water quality during channel restoration this past summer—improving fish habitat.

Okanagan WaterWise Outreach Strategy: The Board adopted a new public education and outreach strategy titled "*Okanagan WaterWise*". A public launch is planned for spring 2010

New Staff Member: The Board welcomed the new Communications and Research Coordinator, Corrine Jackson, who will be taking over from Kellie Garcia. The Board expressed their gratitude to Ms. Garcia for her service.

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