



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: April 8, 2010

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www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

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Similkameen

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Regional District of North
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James Baker, Regional Dis-
trict of Central Okanagan

Bernie Bauer, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Buffy Baumbrough, Regional
District of North Okanagan

Michael Brydon, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Gordon Clark, Regional
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Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Graeme James, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Gyula Kiss, Regional District
of North Okanagan

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of BC

George Saddleman,
Okanagan Nation Alliance

The next regular meeting of
the OBWB is scheduled for
10am on May 4, 2010 at
Regional District of Central
Okanagan.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board approves Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants:

The Water Board approved funding for 18 projects under its Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants Program. Successful applicants include the Greater Vernon Water for a Water Quality Study on Kalamalka Lake, City of Kelowna for a Grey Water Recycling Study, and a Commercial Water Audit in Penticton. With \$300,000 available, there were 37 submissions. Requests totaled almost \$754,000.

BC Water Act Modernization submission ready for Victoria: The board gave final approval to its BC Water Act Modernization submission to the Province of BC. The 28-page document provides recommendations on Protection of Stream Health and Aquatic Environments, Improving Water Governance, Flexible and Efficient Water Allocation, and Groundwater Regulation. The submission includes the input of OBWB directors from all three Okanagan regional districts, and more than 18 member groups of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council.

Water Source Protection Study highlighted at meeting: Heather Larratt presented findings from her OBWB-funded work identifying protection zones for municipal water intakes. The study, done on Okanagan Lake and Kalamalka Lake, shows the areas where special care is needed to prevent pollution from land use and water recreation.

Date set for next Drought-Proofing Webinar: The OBWB will be holding a drought preparedness webinar April 14, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Representatives of Environment Canada, Agriculture Canada, and BC Ministry of Environment will share up-to-date information on snow pack, lake levels and weather projections. Presentation notes will be available after the meeting at www.obwb.ca by clicking on the link "Drought-proofing the Okanagan – 2010."

Water Supply and Demand Study creates great interest: The launch of the long-awaited Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Study on March 26 garnered great interest with strong turnout from the public and media. The study's authors noted that the findings point to the need for water conservation and drought planning as the Okanagan valley accommodates population growth and climate change. Key Findings from the study can be found on the OBWB website at www.obwb.ca.

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