



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: July 6, 2010

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OBWB Directors

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District of Central Okanagan

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Water Stewardship Council

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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 **September 7, 2010**
at Regional District
Okanagan Similkameen

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Okanagan Irrigation Management: Ted van der Gulik from the Ministry of Agriculture demonstrated a web-based tool for farmers to improve their irrigation efficiency and track water use. Greater Vernon Water, Glenmore Ellison Improvement District and the District of Summerland are using the tool and other utilities have expressed interest in signing on.

Groundwater Monitoring: The OBWB is partnering with the Ministry of Environment, Agriculture Canada and Environment Canada to expand monitoring of the 15 most at-risk aquifers in the valley. The program's goal is to establish 5 monitoring wells a year over 3 years to track water levels in 15 aquifers. Participating communities will have monitoring wells installed for a fraction of their cost. A letter will be sent to local governments eligible for this program.

UBC-O Water Resources Chair: The Board received a request from UBC-O to contribute to an endowment for a Water Resources research chair. Funds would help match a \$1.25 million grant from the Province. The request is being forwarded to the regional boards for approval.

Water Board receives grant: The OBWB received a \$40,000 grant from Environment Canada for further Water Supply and Demand studies to help local communities improve water planning.

Reservoir Lakes: A letter will be sent to the Minister of Forests and Range, to share Water Supply and Demand results showing the need to protect and expand reservoirs for environmental, agricultural and domestic water use.

Water Database: All the data and models from the recently completed Water Supply and Demand Project are being moved to RDCO, where they will be made accessible to local governments.

Financial Statements: The Board adopted its audited financial statements for the prior fiscal year. These will be published in the OBWB annual report, which will be released at the Okanagan Basin Water Board's upcoming AGM, on Friday September 10.

Watermilfoil: The summer harvesting season for watermilfoil begins on July 12, in Osoyoos and Okanagan lakes. Weed growth is particularly heavy this year in Osoyoos, because weather conditions restricted winter rototilling.

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