



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: September 9, 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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Gordon Clark, Regional
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Doug Findlater, Regional
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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 10a.m. on October 5, 2010 at Regional District of North Okanagan.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Water Board follows regional districts and supports water chair: The OBWB's Board of Directors voted to support a BC Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources at UBC-Okanagan, following a recommendation from all three Okanagan regional boards. As such, the OBWB approved a contribution of \$500,000 over five years towards the research position. The OBWB contribution will leverage another \$1.25 million from the province's Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF) and several other major donations. It is expected that the research chair will bring additional funding and research to the region, and support the work of the OBWB on water management issues.

"From Rain to Resource" workshop planned for October: The OBWB is co-hosting a workshop with the B.C. Water and Wastewater Association on managing stormwater in a changing climate. The workshop, set for October 28 and 29 in Kelowna, is intended for planners, engineers, landscape architects from government and private industry, as well as those who develop rainwater management policy, including elected officials and senior municipal staff. For more information or to register online visit: <http://www.bcwwa.org/seminars/RtoR.htm>.

Okanagan WaterWise website goes live: The OBWB has launched its Okanagan WaterWise website at www.okwaterwise.ca. The site is part of an outreach and education initiative of the Water Board. Its purpose is to provide a valley-wide message, encouraging households, the business community, educators and students to learn more about where our water comes from and Okanagan water supply challenges, and how to practice water conservation and protection. Okanagan WaterWise also has a Facebook page and is on Twitter, providing regular updates with interesting water facts, tips for conservation, and links.

Water pricing survey underway: The Water Board is conducting a survey with Okanagan water suppliers, looking at the prices charged for residential, agricultural and institutional water use. The need for such a survey was identified in the OBWB's Sustainable Water Strategy. The survey is intended to support water managers in making decisions about water pricing policies.

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