



Photo by Shawn Fennell



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: March 4, 2011**

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4  
P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011  
[www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca)

### **OBWB Directors**

**Stu Wells - Chair,**  
Regional District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

**Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,**  
Regional District of North  
Okanagan

**James Baker,** Regional  
District 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  
District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

**Doug Findlater,** Regional  
District of Central Okanagan

**Graeme James,** Regional  
District of Central Okanagan

**Doug Dirk,** Regional District of  
North Okanagan

**Toby Pike,** Water Supply  
Association of BC

**Gwen Bridge,** Okanagan  
Nation Alliance

The next regular meeting of the OBWB is 10 a.m. April 5, 2011 at the Okanagan Indian Band's Head of the Lake Hall, 118 Head of the Lake Rd., Vernon.

### **Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights**

**Great interest in water conservation and improvement grants:** Interest was high once again in the Water Board's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants Program. With \$300,000 available, the agency received 35 applications worth a total of \$703,331. Past awards have been given for projects ranging from wetland restoration to water metering to public education initiatives for water conservation. Successful applicants will be announced in mid-April.

**Water Week events aim to engage public in local water issues:** The OBWB will be raising the profile of water issues in the Okanagan during World Water Week, March 20-26. Well-known water expert Oliver Brandes, of the POLIS project (University of Victoria), will be joining an OBWB - UBC-Okanagan public forum March 22. The discussion, "Water for Cities - Responding to the Urban Challenge," is from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the Bohemian Café, 524 Bernard Ave., Kelowna. Admission is free. The OBWB and AM1150 will also be presenting a radio series on The Early Edition, March 21 to 25. More events can be found at: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/worldwaterday/>.

**Osoyoos Lake Board of Control encourages people to speak up:** Brian Symonds, a Canadian representative on the Canada-U.S. Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (OLBC), spoke to Water Board Directors about the renewal of operating orders for Osoyoos Lake. Washington State is expected to apply for a renewal of the order which expires February 2013. Symonds explained the OLBC is mandated to control lake levels. However a recent U.S. study, suggesting flow levels also be negotiated, concerns the OBWB since it could affect Okanagan water management for fish and other uses. Symonds encouraged the board and public to speak up if they have concerns or comments. A public forum is set for Sept. 18 to 20 in Osoyoos, but comment is invited at any time, he said.

**Local government use of Water Supply & Demand Study growing:** A review of local governments in the Okanagan accessing the OBWB's Water Supply and Demand Study (WSD) indicates significant use. Projects using the study include: RDOS and RDNO's Regional Growth Strategies, a Twin Lakes aquifer viability analysis, the Kelowna Joint Water Committee planning process, and the Master Water Plan in Lake Country. A report on how local governments can use the WSD to help plan communities is being prepared.

**Popular Waterscape posters to be re-printed:** The OBWB has been granted \$11,000 to reprint the Okanagan Waterscape poster. Once printed, the OBWB will make the posters available to Okanagan schools and other agencies, as well as related teaching materials.

**For more information, please visit: [www.OBWB.ca](http://www.OBWB.ca)**