



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

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# Board Report

## August 12, 2008

### Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

#### OBWB Board Members

**John Slater** - Chair, Mayor of Osoyoos

**Graham Reid** - Vice Chair, Mayor of Peachland

**Dan Ashton** - City Councilor, Penticton

**Lorraine Bennest** - Councilor, District of Summerland

**Patty Hanson** - Director, Regional District Central Okanagan

**Robert Hobson** - City Councilor, Kelowna

**Rick Fairbairn** - Director, Regional District North Okanagan

**Buffy Baumbrough** - City Councilor, Vernon

**Glen Taylor** - Councilor, District of Coldstream

**Toby Pike** - Vice Chair, Water Supply Association of BC

**Tom Siddon** - Chair, Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**Timothy Manuel** - Chiefs Executive Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance

**OBWB Water Management Program Review:** As part of the process for renewing the 3-year mandate of the OBWB's Water Management Program, staff presented a comprehensive review of the Program to the Board. The Board unanimously supported the continuation of the program that includes the Water Stewardship Council and the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants Program. Dr. Anna Warwick Sears, OBWB Executive Director, and John Slater, OBWB Chair, will be presenting the Water Management Review to local governments to answer questions and provide information. The three Okanagan regional districts will be asked for their support to maintain the program. Recommendations include continuation of the Program under its existing terms, and that an Annual Report be prepared and presented to local governments to increase communication and accountability. The proposed draft budget shows a reduction for the 2009/10 year with continued support from Senior Government—leveraging local resources to support Okanagan water management.

**Communication:** In response to OBWB concerns regarding the status of the *Turbidity and Microbial Risk in Drinking Water* report, the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport, who has newly-assumed responsibility for this file, writes that the Drinking Water Leadership Council has agreed to work collectively on a process for issuing water quality advisories, from which a common provincial policy will follow. The OBWB will be updated on the status of this policy as work is undertaken over the summer and fall.

The Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment, responding to a request from the OBWB, confirmed the Ministry's interest in exploring a pilot groundwater licensing project in the Okanagan. The groundwater pilot will be supported by the Water Supply and Demand Project, which assesses the Basin's current and future water supply. The Government of B.C. recently committed that "By 2012, government will regulate groundwater use in priority areas and large groundwater withdrawals."

Staff reported that online registration is now available for the One Watershed – One Water conference to be held in Kelowna on October 21<sup>st</sup>. The conference will provide the most current updates on Okanagan water science and policy.

**Policy Development:** The OBWB has begun development, approved by the Wetland Partnership Board, of a Groundwater Bylaw Toolkit as an appendix to the Green Bylaws toolkit. The draft will be released at the One Watershed—One Water conference.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the OBWB is for **10 am, September 9, 2008** at the office of **Regional District Central Okanagan**