



Photo by Debble Gibson

## BOARD REPORT: November 3, 2011

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4

P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011

[www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca)



# Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

### **OBWB Directors**

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Regional District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

**Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,**  
Regional District of North Okana-  
gan

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District of Central Okanagan

**Bernie Bauer,** Okanagan  
Water Stewardship Council

**Buffy Baumbrough,** Regional  
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**Gwen Bridge,** Okanagan  
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Similkameen

**Gordon Clark,** Regional  
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North Okanagan

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

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

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

The next regular meeting of the OBWB is tentatively set for **Feb. 7, 2012** to allow time for board appointments following upcoming local government elections.

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

**Board forwards recommendation protecting Okanagan water interests:** The Water Board will be forwarding a report to the International Joint Commission, resolving concerns regarding the proposed renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake. The report, commissioned by the board, addresses concerns on both sides of the border regarding flooding, drought and water for fish flows, while also protecting Canada's right to manage flows in the Canadian portion of the Okanagan Basin. The report and a cover letter will also be sent to Okanagan MPs and Foreign Affairs Canada, ensuring they are aware of the issues.

**Water Board opposes endangered listing of mussel:** Board of Directors will be recommending to Fisheries and Oceans Canada against listing of the native Rocky Mountain ridged mussel as "endangered" under the Species at Risk Act. The board's decision is based on concerns about the potential economic impact to local governments, potential restrictions on OBWB milfoil control, and potential restrictions on lake level management. The board recommends that the federal government take immediate action against the expected spread of non-native and invasive zebra mussels into Okanagan lakes, a known threat to the local mussel, and adopt a more collaborative approach to this subject.

**Slow it. Spread it. Sink it!:** The Board received the OBWB's latest public outreach tool – *Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! An Okanagan Homeowner's Guide to Using Rain as a Resource*. The easy-to-use, beautifully-illustrated handbook provides local residents with practical and eco-friendly ways to protect their property and the environment from the effects of rainwater runoff. The guide includes a variety of tips for Okanagan residents, examples of local projects, a list of suitable plants for the Okanagan, and more. The guide is available online at [www.okwaterwise.ca](http://www.okwaterwise.ca) or by calling 250-469-6271.

**OBWB hosts climate change adaptation tools workshop:** In response to requests from local governments in the Okanagan, the Water Board is pleased to be presenting "Keeping up with the climate. Keeping up with Technology: Hands-on training with climate change adaptation tools." The workshop begins with an information session on Nov. 22 in Kelowna and then hands-on training, Nov. 23, in Kelowna and Penticton. The workshop is geared to engineers, planners, and local government consultants. Topics include foreshore protection, stormwater planning, green bylaws and more. For more information visit [www.obwb.ca/toolsworkshop](http://www.obwb.ca/toolsworkshop) or e-mail [melissa.tesche@obwb.ca](mailto:melissa.tesche@obwb.ca).

**Directors reflect on their term serving on the Water Board:** The November board meeting was the last before the Nov. 19 local government elections. With nearly all of the board members up for re-election, directors took a moment to look at past successes and suggestions for future Water Board work.

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