



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: April 5, 2012

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OBWB Directors

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Water Stewardship Council

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Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Tom Siddon, Regional District
of Okanagan-Similkameen

Gerry Zimmermann, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

**The next regular meeting of
the OBWB is 10 a.m.,
May 1, 2012 at the Regional
District of Central Okanagan,
Kelowna.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board approves grants to conserve, protect Okanagan water: Board of Directors approved Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) grants this week. The WCQI program provides funds each year to local governments and non-profits for projects that conserve water or improve its quality, and provide valley-wide benefit. Some \$339,154 was awarded this year. Six grants, worth \$57,900 in total, were awarded in the North Okanagan. Projects include a Make-Your-Own Rainbarrel Workshop and restoration on Coldstream Creek led by Greater Vernon Water. In the Central Okanagan, 13 grants were awarded worth \$197,214. Projects include a low-water/ xeriscape garden contest by the Okanagan Xeriscape Association. In the South Okanagan, six grants were awarded worth \$84,040. Recipients include Friends of Summerland Ornamental Gardens to expand its xeriscape demonstration garden and convert sod to drought-tolerant turf. Since the program began in 2006, \$2.1 million has been awarded. For a full list of grant recipients, visit <http://tinyurl.com/73rqauj>.

Water use reporting tool gaining momentum: One year after the launch of the OBWB's web-based water reporting tool (formerly known as the Streamlined Water Use Reporting Tool - SWURT), the program is gaining provincial attention. The program, renamed the BC Water Use Reporting Centre, has 20 Okanagan utilities using the tool and another 20 getting set up on the program. The Centre was profiled at the recent BC Water Supply Association conference and received positive feedback. The Regional District of Nanaimo will be launching its own pilot of the program in spring 2012. For more, visit www.obwb.ca/bcwaterusereporting.

Canada Water Week makes a splash in the Okanagan: The OBWB held its annual World Water Day public forum March 20 at Summerhill Pyramid Winery. The event was a great success with more than 70 people attending. The OBWB also partnered with AM1150's The Early Edition to hold interviews on water for food each morning during Canada Water Week. And, the Okanagan WaterWise Challenge was launched, inviting students to submit multi-media entries with the theme "Save water for what matters." Deadline for entries is May 4. News clippings and radio interviews from the week can be found at <http://ow.ly/9OV4G>.

Tap by Tap - Water conservation program comes to South Okanagan: The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, together with City Green, FortisBC and Environment Canada is launching a water conservation initiative in the South Okanagan. Residents in Summerland, Penticton, Oliver and Osoyoos will be invited to pick up a free indoor water savings kit and receive OkWaterWise tips to Make Water Work outside. In addition, residents will also be invited to take the Make Water Work pledge and be entered to win an outdoor water assessment and \$500 in WaterWise yard improvements. The Okanagan WaterWise contest is being held in partnership with WaterKind Consulting, Waterwise Landscape Design, Andrew Sheret, Grasslands Nursery and Sagebrush Nursery.

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