



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: May 4, 2012

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OBWB Directors

Stu Wells - Chair,
Regional District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

Bernie Bauer, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Michael Brydon, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Juliette Cunningham,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Keith Fielding, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

James Pepper, Okanagan
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.,
June 5, 2012 at the Regional
District of Okanagan
Similkameen, Penticton.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Partnership Wins Award of Excellence:

The BC Water and Waste Association honoured the OBWB and its partner agencies at its 2012 Annual Conference in Penticton last month. The Award of Excellence recognizes organizations for advancing excellence in the water and waste community, and was given to partnership in recognition of the cutting edge work and unique approaches that be used for many years in B.C. and beyond.

OBWB to Host Climate Adaptation Workshop:

Co-chaired by Alberto De Feo (CAO Lake Country) and Elsie Lemke (CAO Peachland), the workshop will bring together local elected officials and senior staff to discuss climate adaptation in the Okanagan. A series of short presentations on current climate science, infrastructure challenges, engineering issues, legal considerations, and insurance implications will set the stage for local government leaders to discuss possible strategic actions.

Make Water Work! Okanagan Waterwise roll out:

The OBWB will be partnering with Okanagan local governments on a valley-wide water conservation campaign focused on “making water work” - encouraging best practices for homeowners. The campaign is rapidly picking up sponsors and industry partners. Along with a radio and print campaign supported by local media and local government partners, look for contests for irrigation audits and home xeriscaping.

Drinking Water Week is May 13-19th:

Staff have been supporting local government programs and projects including the distribution of various DWW materials (buttons, postcards, kids activity sheets). Look for materials to be posted to the website www.okwaterwise.ca.

Okanagan Water Connectivity Model Complete:

The Water Board received a presentation on the Okanagan Hydrologic Connectivity Model, which builds on the award-winning Water Supply and Demand Study. The new model provides local governments with a powerful modeling tool to support a host of current and emerging water policy questions.

Board to Weigh in on Fisheries Act Changes:

OBWB Directors heard a presentation from board director and former federal Fisheries Minister, Dr. Tom Siddon, on the implications of proposed changes to the Fisheries Act. The board intends to provide correspondence to the Government of Canada regarding the need for public consultation and hearings on these changes, and on the importance of protecting Okanagan salmon stocks.

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