



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: July 3, 2012**

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

**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 annual general meeting of  
the OBWB is 10 a.m.,  
September 7, 2012 at a loca-  
tion TBC in Kelowna.**

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

**International Water Board agrees with OBWB recommendations:** The International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control has issued a report to the International Joint Commission, for renewal of the Osoyoos Lake Orders under the Boundary Waters Treaty. The recommendations regard Osoyoos Lake levels and operation of the Zosel Dam in Washington state. The report is consistent with recommendations put forward by OBWB in November 2011 – and do not promise guaranteed flows to the USA. The OBWB's Water Supply & Demand Project provided the primary science underlying the Board of Control's recommendations. *Public consultation on the new orders will be held on July 25th at 7pm at the Osoyoos Best Western.* [www.ijc.org/](http://www.ijc.org/)

**Climate Change Adaptation workshop a success:** A workshop held in Kelowna in June received great reviews from local government officials. The workshop included a presentation from Robert Tremblay of the Insurance Bureau of Canada. Tremblay described the dramatic increase in the number of water-related insurance claims related to climate change, and the potential liability of local governments for failing infrastructure. Other presenters discussed infrastructure finance, new information on population and climate effects, and legal considerations for local government.

**Make Water Work! Campaign Launched:** Okanagan Waterwise has launched a new water conservation advertising campaign, in partnership with local governments and media outlets throughout the valley. Along with print ads, radio spots, and billboards, the campaign includes a contest for \$2,000 in Waterwise yard improvements, sponsored by Astral Media and West Wind Irrigation and Landscaping: [www.makewaterwork.ca](http://www.makewaterwork.ca).

**More Waterwise News:** This year's winners of the Okanagan Waterwise Challenge were the students at Cherryville Kindergarten, and the Grade 6 class at KVR middle school. Winning entries can be viewed at: [www.okwaterwise.ca/news-current-challenge.html](http://www.okwaterwise.ca/news-current-challenge.html). Okanagan Waterwise also hosted a contest for adults, "Tap by Tap", in partnership with Fortis BC, City Green Solutions, and Environment Canada. The winners received new xeriscaping.

**Good science supports good management:** After one year of collecting evaporation data with their bright yellow buoys, Environment Canada's numbers support the estimate used in the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project—close to one metre of water was lost to evaporation this year on Okanagan Lake. This information will help water utilities to predict the outcomes of multi-year droughts, and increased water demand from climate change and development. The evaporation project will continue for another 2 years.

**Zebra mussel outreach:** OBWB has contracted with the South Okanagan-Similkameen Invasive plant society for outreach and education for boaters. More than 6 BC-bound boats carrying invasive mussels have been stopped this year in Idaho.

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