



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: October 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.,
Nov. 6, 2012 at the Regional
District of Central Okanagan,
Kelowna.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Province seeks local government input on docks: A Senior Land Officer and Senior Enforcement Officer from B.C.'s Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) addressed the OBWB on the issue of unlicensed and unregulated docks in Okanagan lakes. Many lakefront owners have been building structures and altering the foreshore without understanding or following permitting requirements. Now the Province of B.C. is seeking input on the best way to ensure compliance with laws. MFLNRO will be making presentations and consulting with local governments in the coming months. Contact Liz Williamson for more information: Elizabeth.Williamson@gov.bc.ca.

Drought Tournament set for November: Agriculture Canada and the OBWB will host an Invitational Drought Tournament for local governments and stakeholders in Kelowna on November 16th. The Drought Tournament will give teams a scenario of a multi-year drought in a specific Okanagan area. Using data from the Okanagan Water Supply and Demand study, teams will make policy decisions to manage water during the supposed drought. Computer modeling will help to identify the outcome of decisions over three consecutive dry years. The exercise will help local governments in the development of their own drought plans, evaluate trade-offs, and establish contacts for basin-wide collaboration for potential future droughts.

Water Board urges federal response on Zebra Mussels: "Thank God for Idaho!" That was the word from OBWB Chair Stu Wells as directors discussed an Idaho program of inspecting boats and trailers for invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels. Once introduced, these mussels create huge costs, clogging water intakes and other lake infrastructure. They also harm the ecosystem and affect the tourist economy. OBWB is urging federal and provincial governments to institute an inspection program for boats entering B.C. to stop or delay introduction of these species. For more on the mussels visit: www.okwaterwise.ca/waterwise-in-the-community.html

Tap by Tap Program in the South and Central Okanagan: Tap by Tap is a partnership between City Green Solutions, FortisBC, Environment Canada, the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, Oliver, Osoyoos, Penticton and Summerland – distributing free water and energy-savings kits. Residents who pledged to "Make Water Work" were entered to win WaterWise landscaping. Thanks to donations from local businesses a total of \$4,000 in yard improvements was awarded. The Tap by Tap program is now moving to the Central Okanagan. OBWB is looking forward to extending our partnership with the program in the coming year.

Irrigation Efficiency Endorsed: The OBWB officially endorsed a position statement on the importance of irrigation efficiency, developed by the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council in consultation with the local agricultural community. Irrigation for agriculture, parks, golf courses and residential landscaping accounts for 85% of Okanagan water use.

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