



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: November 8, 2012

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www.obwb.ca

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.,
Dec. 4, 2012 at the Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen, Penticton.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Obstacles to milfoil removal discussed: Staff reported on the various obstacles affecting the ability of the OBWB's milfoil crew to remove the invasive weed from Okanagan lakes. Problems include the way various boat launches have been built, and the growing number of water intakes. The Board asked staff to contact local governments in the valley with the concerns to help raise awareness and ensure continued effectiveness of the program.

OkWaterWise brings the learning's of Vegas to Okanagan: The Water Board's public outreach program Okanagan WaterWise has partnered with the Irrigation Industry Association of BC (IIABC) to present "Water Conservation in the Okanagan: What can we learn from Las Vegas?" on Dec. 5 at Kelowna's Delta Grand Hotel & Conference Centre. The event will feature a number of water experts, including Doug Bennett from the Southern Nevada Water Authority speaking on the lessons they've learned. The workshop is intended for regional and municipal governments, water-related businesses (e.g. irrigation companies), and interested members of the public. The early bird rate (\$100 including lunch) is available until November 20th. Register at www.irrigationbc.com.

Water Board to develop Zebra Mussel outreach program: Directors approved a plan to develop and launch a public awareness initiative this spring on invasive zebra and quagga mussels and how to prevent them from being introduced into Okanagan waters. The mussels are spreading west through North America and are easily introduced through infested water vessels (e.g. recreational boats). The resulting damage to infrastructure has cost millions to local governments in Eastern Canada and the U.S. More information on these mussels can be found at: www.okwaterwise.ca/waterwise-in-the-community.html.

Topsoil Bylaws Toolkit going provincial: Staff will be pursuing a provincial launch of its latest tool to help local governments save water – the Topsoil Bylaws Toolkit. The OBWB unveiled the toolkit earlier this fall which was developed in cooperation with the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC (WSP). The board has asked staff to write a joint letter with WSP to the Union of BC Municipalities requesting that UBCM share information about the toolkit with its members.

2013-14 budget approved: Board of Directors approved the Water Board's budget for 2013-2014 with no increase for the coming year. The budget was developed recognizing the need for fiscal restraint. The overall tax requisition is \$3.4 million, down slightly from last year. The requisition works out to approximately \$20 for a \$350,000 home. The budget focuses on priority water programs and services for the Okanagan including milfoil control, sewage facility grants to local governments, and the water management program. More information can be found in the OBWB Annual Report at www.obwb.ca.

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