



Photo by Shaun Talbot



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: May 9, 2013

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OBWB Directors

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Bernie Bauer, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Michael Brydon, Regional
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Juliette Cunningham,
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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 meeting of the OBWB will be a joint board/council meeting at 10 a.m., June 4, 2013 at Penticton Lakeside Resort, Penticton.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Hot spring could bring flooding and drought to Okanagan: Directors were provided an update on a recent webinar looking at the current state of the Okanagan's water supply and expectations for the summer. Odd as it may seem, the hot spring and fast melting snowpack could mean that the Okanagan will face flooding as well as drought this year. The late snowfall and spring rains were variable in the valley, but overall the last three months have been wetter than usual. The outlook is suggesting it will be drier than average for the next month and that June rains will be critical to meet the Okanagan's water needs, especially for crops and fish.

Water Board strengthens partnership to combat zebra mussels: OBWB staff have been meeting with the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC) and their regional partner the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) to coordinate outreach efforts this summer to prevent zebra and quagga mussels from being brought into the Okanagan. ISCBC will have staff at various locations in B.C. for boater outreach. The Water Board provided a grant to OASISS to conduct additional boater outreach specifically in the Okanagan – considered at high risk for the mussels. In addition, the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program is continuing work on the Don't Move a Mussel campaign to educate the larger public to the issue of the mussels.

OBWB and Province settling on long-term plan for milfoil control: Water board staff have been working closely with the province to finalize details on a long-term permitting process to ensure milfoil control operations will continue without interruption, while at the same time addressing concerns around the native and endangered Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel.

OBWB water research helps Peachland plan water future: The board was provided an update on research being done for the District of Peachland using the OBWB's Water Supply and Demand Research and climate change modeling. The work is helping inform the development of a Water Master Plan to help meet the community's future water needs. Results indicate a need to focus on residential outdoor water conservation and leaks, in part, to ensure a sustainable supply.

Okanagan youth share their love of water: The 3rd annual Okanagan WaterWise Challenge invited youth throughout the valley to share their stories about what they love about their favorite water body. Young people from the North, Central and South Okanagan submitted videos, songs, poetry, and drawings. Winners will be announced May 21 as part of B.C. Drinking Water Week celebrations.

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