



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: December 8, 2010

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www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

Stu Wells - Chair,
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Similkameen

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Regional District of North
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James Baker, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Bernie Bauer, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Buffy Baumbrough, Regional
District of North Okanagan

Michael Brydon, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Gordon Clark, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Graeme James, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Gyula Kiss, Regional District
of North Okanagan

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of BC

George Saddleman,
Okanagan Nation Alliance

The next regular meeting of the OBWB is set for 10 a.m. on February 1, 2010. Location to be determined. Watch OBWB website for details.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board approves 2010-11 provisional budget: Board of Directors approved a \$3.7 million budget for the coming year, funding its Sewage Facility Grants, Watermilfoil Control, Water Management, and the new UBCO Water Research Chair programs. The budget will now be forwarded to the three Okanagan regional districts for final approval.

Drilling for groundwater monitoring wells set to go: The board approved a partnership with Okanagan local governments, BC Ministry of Environment, and Agriculture Canada to drill and monitor wells in 15 sensitive Okanagan aquifers. The OBWB places priority on groundwater monitoring, noting it could be impacted by increased population and climate change.

OBWB to create rainwater guide for homeowners: The OBWB will be producing a rainwater management guide for Okanagan homeowners following its recent "From Rain to Resource" workshop. The guide will show residents how to "green" stormwater runoff, protecting their property and the environment. The guide will be digitally published and distributed through the OBWB's public outreach program, Okanagan WaterWise.

Meadowlark Festival gets Water Board support: The board approved sponsorship of the Okanagan-Similkameen Conservation Alliance's Meadowlark Festival, May 19-23, 2011 in Penticton. This year's event will focus on water and provide an opportunity to raise community awareness of Okanagan water issues.

Webcast to focus on Canada's water issues: The board was invited to tune in to a webcast by University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs. The Office of the Auditor General's Scott Vaughan will speak on his audit of the Canadian government's record in monitoring fresh water resources. Water specialists will also speak on Canada's water challenges. The webcast begins at 9:30 PST at: <http://hosting.epresence.tv/MUNK>.

Xeriscape video catches attention: A unique communication tool has caught the attention of the OBWB. UBC-O student Graham Campbell has created a rap video on xeriscaping. Initially inspired by a talk from the OBWB on water conservation, Campbell entered the video in BC Hydro's Invent the Future contest where it sits at #1 in the song category. You can view, and vote, for the entry at: www.inventthefuture.ca/songs.php?sort=popular&.

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