



*Okanagan Basin*

WATER BOARD

**Drought Workshop for Water Suppliers**  
*Sharing and learning how to prepare your  
communities for drought*  
**June 3, 2016**

# Workshop

- Brainchild of water suppliers who are currently preparing drought plans (RDOS, Penticton, West Kelowna, Oliver)
- Bring water suppliers together to share knowledge and experiences
- Learn what steps and info are needed to prepare for and respond to drought

# Outcomes

- Find opportunities to collaborate and create efficiencies
- Distribute templates and other info to promote more consistent approaches
- Learn what strategies and programs have proven to be most effective and apply those elsewhere
- Identify what support is most needed and where OBWB should focus its efforts

# Morning Session

- Preparedness: Pre-drought activities designed to increase the level of readiness or improve operational capabilities for responding to a drought emergency.

# Afternoon Session

- Response: Actions taken immediately before, during, or directly after a drought to reduce impacts and improve recovery. Response measures are an important part of drought preparedness but should only be one part of a more comprehensive mitigation strategy.

# A Drought-Ready Community has taken steps to:

- Involve a representative cross-section of the community;
- Learn how drought has affected them in the past and it how will likely affect them in future;
- Set up system to monitor and communicate about drought conditions in the community;
- Prepare and document actions to take before and in response to drought; and
- Educate the public about water and drought

# Building Drought Resilience

- PLANNING: drought plans and agreements that are reviewed and updated
  - Jennifer, GVW
- INFORMATION: good understanding of water supply and demand (current and future) and the impact of response measures; robust monitoring, record-keeping and reporting
  - Anna, OBWB

# Building Drought Resilience

- CONSERVATION – heightened awareness of the value of water and how to use it wisely
  - Kevin and Shauna, Kelowna
- PRE-DETERMINED RESPONSES – bylaws, education, incentives, demand management measures
  - Toby, SEKID



# Building Drought Resilience

- COMMUNICATION – identify messages, measures, roles and responsibilities, and timing
  - Jeff, CVRD
- COORDINATION – identify opportunities to work together and aggregate and share information
  - Kellie, OBWB

# Planning

- Reduce the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of drought
- Standardized drought plans that are specific to the community

# Information

- Good data and robust monitoring and evaluation are critical to drought response
- Define what to monitor and at what intervals
- Define how information will be accessed and distributed

# Conservation

- If people are used to using water wisely it's not as difficult to meet conservation targets during water limited years
- Greatest potential for water savings in Okanagan is during irrigation season

# Response

- Triggers for drought related actions
- Watering restrictions and other measures
- Ability to determine effectiveness of response measures (e.g. moving between stages)

# Communication

- Clear, credible communication maximizes transparency of decision making and encourages citizens and politicians to become more involved and support drought response strategies

# Coordination

- Coordination beats confusion
- Strong partnerships, knowledge sharing, and coordination between organizations are fundamental to drought response

# Okanagan Drought Response Strategy

- Coordinate and integrate information so utilities receive early warning of emerging drought conditions
- Keep people well informed as drought intensifies
- Focus on communication and coordination



# Okanagan Drought Response Strategy

- Roles and responsibilities during drought – OBWB, local suppliers and other water licensees, province
- Okanagan Drought Team
- Distribution list
- Communication measures and timing

# Next Steps

- What can OBWB do to help your community prepare for drought?
  - Workshop series?
  - Drought planning handbook?
  - Meetings with smaller groups?