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## KELOWNA

### Endangered mussels in the Okanagan

by Castanet Staff - Story: 66904  
Nov 4, 2011 / 11:28 am

#### Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights From November 3

##### Board forwards recommendation protecting Okanagan water interests:

The Water Board will be forwarding a report to the International Joint Commission, resolving concerns regarding the proposed renewal of Operating Orders on Osoyoos Lake. The report, commissioned by the board, addresses concerns on both sides of the border regarding flooding, drought and water for fish flows, while also protecting Canada's right to manage flows in the Canadian portion of the Okanagan Basin. The report and a cover letter will also be sent to Okanagan MPs and Foreign Affairs Canada, ensuring they are aware of the issues.

##### Water Board opposes endangered listing of mussel:

Board of Directors will be recommending to Fisheries and Oceans Canada against listing of the native Rocky Mountain ridged mussel as "endangered" under the [Species at Risk Act](#). The board's decision is based on concerns about the potential economic impact to local governments, potential restrictions on OBWB milfoil control, and potential restrictions on lake level management. The board recommends that the federal government take immediate action against the expected spread of non-native and invasive zebra mussels into Okanagan lakes, a known threat to the local mussel, and adopt a more collaborative approach to this subject.



Photo: Contributed

**The OBWB recommends that the federal government take action against the spread of non-native and invasive zebra mussels into Okanagan lakes.**

##### Slow it. Spread it. Sink it!:

The Board received the OBWB's latest public outreach tool – Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! An Okanagan Homeowner's Guide to Using Rain as a Resource. The easy-to-use, beautifully-illustrated handbook provides local residents with practical and eco-friendly ways to protect their property and the environment from the effects of rainwater runoff.



Photo: Contributed - OBWB

The guide includes a variety of tips for Okanagan residents, examples of local projects, a list of suitable plants for the Okanagan, and more. The guide is available online at [www.okwaterwise.ca](http://www.okwaterwise.ca) or by calling 250-469-6271.

##### OBWB hosts climate change adaptation tools workshop:

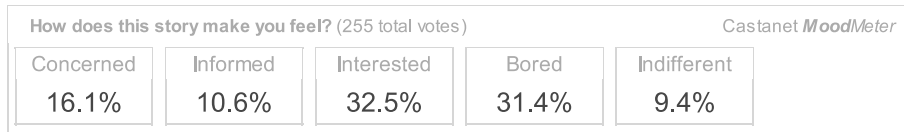
In response to requests from local governments in the Okanagan, the Water Board is pleased to be presenting "Keeping up with the climate. Keeping up with Technology: Hands-on training with climate change adaptation tools." The workshop begins with an information session on Nov. 22 in Kelowna

and then hands-on training, Nov. 23, in Kelowna and Penticton. The workshop is geared to engineers, planners, and local government consultants. Topics include foreshore protection, stormwater planning, green bylaws and more. For more information visit [www.obwb.ca/toolsworkshop](http://www.obwb.ca/toolsworkshop) or e-mail

melissa.tesche@obwb.ca.

### Directors reflect on their term serving on the Water Board:

The November board meeting was the last before the Nov. 19 local government elections. With nearly all of the board members up for re-election, directors took a moment to look at past successes and suggestions for future Water Board work.



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