

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



DATE: Friday, Sept. 7, 2018

TIME: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

PLACE: Regional District of Central Okanagan
1450 KLO Rd., Kelowna, B.C.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1.1 Acknowledgement of First Nations Traditional Territory

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of August 10, 2018 at Okanagan Regional Library, Downtown Kelowna branch [\(page 1\)](#)

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report [\(page 5\)](#)

6.1.1 2019 Meeting Schedule

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report [\(page 8\)](#)

6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report [\(page 13\)](#)

6.4 Communications Director Report [\(page 15\)](#)

6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report [\(page 18\)](#)

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Proposed OBWB budget for 2019-20 - Budget Features Memo [\(page 23\)](#)

7.1.1 Draft Budget

7.1.2 Draft Requisitions

8. IN-CAMERA

8.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter)

9. RISE & REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA

10. CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 Letter from B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to OBWB re: mining activities in Okanagan watersheds [\(page 27\)](#)

11. NEXT MEETING

11.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

12. ADJOURNMENT



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD AUGUST 10, 2018, AT OKANAGAN REGIONAL LIBRARY
1380 Ellis St., Kelowna, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Tracy Gray	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice-Chair Juliette Cunningham	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Dirk	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Doug Findlater	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Tessa Terbasket	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Alt. Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Alt. Director Scott Boswell	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director Ron Hovanes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Peter Waterman	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen

OBWB STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littley	Operations and Grants Manager
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Jocelyn Whalen	OkWaterWise Communications and Outreach Coordinator
Stephanie Graf	Water Demand Model Specialist

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Gray called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of August 10, 2018 be approved.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 5, 2018 at Summerland Ornamental Gardens.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of June 5, 2018 at Summerland Ornamental Gardens in Summerland be approved.”

CARRIED**5. CHAIR'S REPORT****7.1 Board Chair Report**

Chair Gray – no report

6. STAFF REPORTS**6.1 Executive Director Report**

Dr. Sears noted that the next board meeting will be held Friday, Sept 7 and will include the first review of the fiscal budget for the coming year, adding that directors are encouraged to attend. With the upcoming municipal elections, time is tight and the budget must be passed before the municipal elections.

Work on LiDAR floodplain mapping is continuing, Dr. Sears added.

The board was also provided an update on the recent federal mussel funding announcement and the appointment of a new Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard. The board noted that the new appointment was a good opportunity to acquaint the new minister with the issue, thank them for the funding and make further recommendations. It was noted that the BC Liberal Pacific caucus, including MPs and Ministers, would be meeting in the Okanagan soon and may be another opportunity to discuss the issue. Dir. Findlater offered to follow up.

The board asked staff to draft a letter to the minister and follow up with a news release.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board draft a letter to the new Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard re: federal mussel funding and, once approved, also send out a news release.

CARRIED

Dr. Sears provided a draft of a letter, requested by the board, regarding provincial approval of mineral exploration permits. The board approved the letter.

“THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board send the letter to B.C. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources regarding mining activities in Okanagan watersheds, as presented.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated July 30, 2018, be received.”

CARRIED

6.2 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated the board on the provincial permit process for milfoil control, adding that new mapping will make the process easier.

The board was updated on a recent meeting of the Pacific Northwest Economic Region’s Invasive Species Working Group and discussion of an updated Mussel Prevention Framework for Western Canada. Once released, it was recommended that the framework be endorsed and promoted by the Water Board for further support. The framework lists a number of action items to prevent the further spread of the mussels. Another item of note, Littley added, is that the

U.S. approved \$16 mill. to western states in 2018 to match state spending on the mussels and another \$12 mill. for 2019 is pending congressional approval.

Mr. Littley brought forward a resolution regarding an application from the Town of Osoyoos to the OBWB's Sewage Facilities Grants program.

"THAT the SFA notification as detailed above be approved in principle pending project completion and an approved SFA application with final costs."

CARRIED

"THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated July 30, 2018, be received."

CARRIED

6.3 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Make Water Work, valley-wide outdoor water conservation campaign and the new direction with the use of videos and greater social media presence. It was noted that the announcement of the Make Water Work Community Champion has traditionally been made at the board's September Annual Meeting, however, with the meeting held in August this year, communities had one month less to collect pledges. Even so, participation was strong and while some communities doubled their pledges over last year, some tripled their pledges.

The board was also updated on the Don't Move a Mussel campaign and new materials developed this year, including a postcard that residents can send to family and friends, and others, they feel need to hear the mussel message. An online version will also be available.

Ms. Jackson also provided a brief update on various other communication projects, including the upcoming siwłk^w (WATER) FOR ALL - OUR RESPONSIBILITY *Environmental Flow Needs Conference* in October, a Drought Bulletin, outreach at numerous events, and more.

"THAT the Communications Director's Report, dated July 26, 2018, be received."

CARRIED

6.4 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia provided an update on the new Sustainable Water Strategy, including work on the supply and demand section, drought, water conservation and efficiency, and storage.

The board was briefed on the current drought situation in the Okanagan and elsewhere in B.C. A second Drought Bulletin is planned for next week with an update to local water suppliers.

"THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist's Report, dated July 30, 2018, be received."

CARRIED

7. NEXT MEETING

7.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Friday, Sept. 7, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Regional District of Central Okanagan.

8. ADJOURNMENT

"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of August 10, 2018 be adjourned at 1:30 p.m."

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
September 7, 2018
Agenda No: 6.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears
Date: August 29, 2018
Subject: Executive Director Report

Upcoming OBWB Meetings

Our October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 2nd, at the Regional District of North Okanagan. The final 2019-2020 budget must be passed at this meeting, prior to local government elections.

As we will not have all the board appointments by our scheduled December meeting, and as board directors did not wish us to go for 3 months without a meeting (Nov, Dec, Jan), the best alternative date, based on the Doodle Poll results and a scan of all posted December board and council meetings, is Wednesday, December 12. This meeting would be held in Kelowna. There is an RDNO board meeting at 4p.m. that day, so we will try to keep the meeting well within the schedule to allow for travel time. The best alternative date is Friday, December 14th, but this is more likely to conflict with holiday schedules. The December meeting will include the election of our chair and vice-chair.

Recommended motion: *That the December 2018 regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board be rescheduled to Wednesday, December 12, 2018.*

LiDAR Capture and Flood Mapping

I am expecting an update on the LiDAR capture on Thursday, August 30th, and will give the board the latest news at the meeting. The progress was delayed by wildfires and smoke, which disrupts the flights. Also, tragically, the pilot and mapping technician who were collecting LiDAR data both died on August 1, when the plane they were using for the project crashed on its way home to Calgary.

<https://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/were-like-family-calgary-company-mourning-pilot-killed-in-kananaskis-plane-crash>. Our plan going forward is to focus efforts on the valley floor, and capture the rest of the higher elevation watershed later, to ensure the data is available for local government flood mapping.

I am meeting with staff from RDNO, RDCO, and RDOS on September 17, to move forward on an RFP to do the hydrology modeling of the valley-bottom lakes and river channel. The hydrology models and LiDAR are both important parts of flood mapping. For an excellent primer on what goes into flood mapping, I highly recommend the following 3-minute YouTube video, produced by the Government of Alberta. (<https://youtu.be/bNasdKVeivk>).

Weather Report

Long-range forecasts are consistent with an ongoing El Nino period, which typically leads to a warmer and drier than normal winter.

Board Meeting Schedule for 2019

Month	Date	Location	Notes
January	Tuesday, Jan 1	Cancelled	New Year's STAT
February	Tuesday, Feb 5	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	
March	Tuesday, March 5	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton	
April	Tuesday, April 2	Regional District North Okanagan, Coldstream	WCQI grant approvals
May	Tuesday, May 7	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Joint OBWB/Stewardship Council meeting and Strategic Planning Session
June	Tuesday, June 4	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton	Adopt audited financial statements
July	Tuesday, July 2	Cancelled	Day after Canada Day STAT
August	Tuesday, August 6	Cancelled	Day after BC Day STAT
September	Friday , September 6	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Annual Public Meeting/OBWB regular meeting
October	Tuesday, October 1	Regional District North Okanagan, Coldstream	
November	Tuesday, November 5	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Present draft 2020-21 OBWB budget (can adopt)
December	Tuesday, December 3	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	2020-21 OBWB budget must be adopted by this meeting

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
September 7, 2018
Agenda No: 6.2

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel
Date: August 28, 2018
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

September Water Stewardship Council meeting

Over the summer staff and Council members have been working on the Council work plan for 2018-19. As we looked back at the past 18-month term we reviewed recommendations from the survey from our previous term. Key take-home messages from members included:

- The Council provides an opportunity for important and timely monthly cross-sector networking and communications on important Okanagan water issues.
- The Council is a critical component of local water governance and is “central to maintaining and supporting a regional approach to water management.”
- The Council supports and enables capacity building and proactively responds to emerging issues, such as climate change and water allocation and use.
- Council meetings enable an inclusive and collaborative approach to policy development and implementation.
- Important Council undertakings include: strategic support for legislative/regulatory development and implementation; and enhanced activities related to source water and wetlands protection, drought and flood preparedness.
- Greater engagement with Indigenous partners on the Council, and increased support for inclusion of First Nations in general is needed.
- Greater engagement in consultation processes as new WSA regulations are released, and advocate for policies that enable stewardship are needed.
- Some respondents suggested that for the next term, Council should include a focus on water quality and source water protection, region-wide planning support, protection from invasive species, and integration of EFNs into allocation and licensing decision-making.

Our next Council meeting is scheduled on September 13th at the Kelowna's Coast Capri Hotel from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. Our guest speakers include: **Christine Mettler**, Canadian Freshwater Alliance, presenting on the Water Sustainability and the City Project, and **Anna Warwick Sears** providing an update on the Okanagan LiDAR mapping project. Copies of Council presentations are available online:

- <http://www.obwb.ca/about-the-council/presentations-videos/>

Project management: project updates

In addition to supporting the communication, organization and project management of the WSC and its committees, the project activities and highlights for the month of August included:

Okanagan Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) project

The project team including the Okanagan Nation Alliance Fishery Department, B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) staff and the OBWB staff are collecting final water flow data information and developing Environmental Flow estimates for priority Okanagan streams using two techniques: Modified Okanagan Tenant and the Weight Usable Width. An important component to developing these calculations is the development of naturalized flow estimates (what the stream flow would be without diversions, or other management like reservoir storage), being developed with a team of hydrologists under the direction of Drew Lejbak of Associated Environmental Consultants Inc.



Okanagan Hydrology Modeling updating project

This important project will develop a suite of sub-basin hydrological models for priority (16-19) of the Okanagan tributaries that enter mainstem Okanagan lakes. The models will be spatially distributed, linking surface and groundwater flow models (where groundwater data is available) with the Okanagan Water Demand Model – to enable water balances to be determined at multiple points along each tributary (see Figure 1).

A full technical report will be written detailing the model development process, the results, lessons learned, gaps and next steps. A workshop and extension document will also be created with the purpose of communicating the project results and how they may be applied to: local consulting firms, government staff, and technical users.

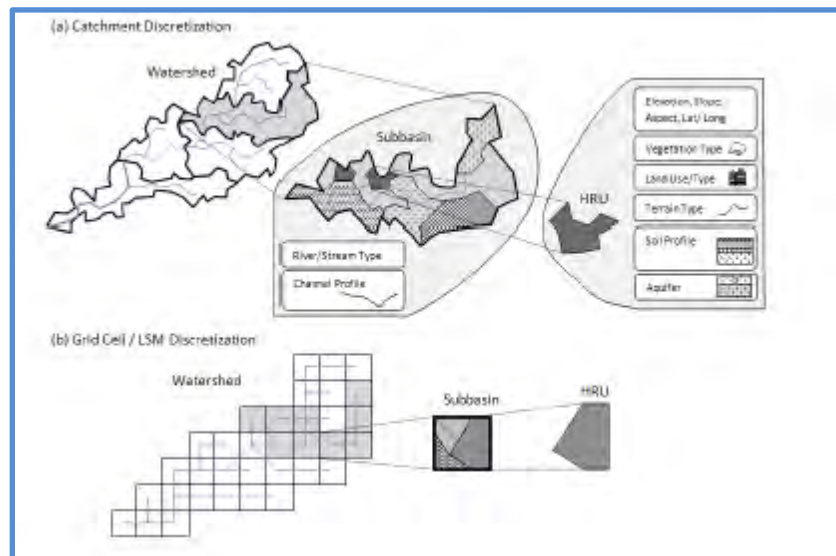


Figure. 1. Example of sub-basin hydrology model.

Improving water management in the tributary streams, which support aquatic, riparian, and wetland habitats and the needs of fish and other aquatic life is an important outcome from this

project. Part of the challenge in the Okanagan is to manage storage in the upper watershed reservoirs so that sufficient flow is maintained in the streams during the hot summer months when there are high irrigation demands. A second challenge relates to local governments developing hydraulic models for their municipal footprint, without detailed hydrology models of the entire watershed to support their efforts. Both these challenges benefit from a detailed sub-basin hydrology model.

A Request for Proposal was issued in early summer with a deadline for submission set for September 4th, 2018. Several companies have expressed interest in submitting proposals. An independent committee, consisting of water professionals and hydrology experts, has been organized to assess proposals and provide a recommendation on which proposal selection. This project is partially funded through a Gas Tax Grant. A formal Board motion addressing financial and project management items relating to this hydrology modelling project will be prepared for the October Board meeting.

Organization of Environmental Flow Needs Conference (October 17-18, 2018)

Momentum continues to build for the upcoming Okanagan EFN conference as the committees focus on finalizing our speaker list, sponsorship, and attendance. The project steering, fundraising, communication and programming committees have all met recently and are working hard to support conference organizational milestones. The program is available online at: www.EFN2108.ca. Sponsorship opportunities are still available and participant registration is open. **Early bird registration closes on September 14th** and group rates are also available. The conference will be held at the Coast Capri Hotel in Kelowna and a copy of the program is attached.

All Board members are encouraged to attend this important Okanagan water conference with staff.

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ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW NEEDS CONFERENCE 2018: SCIENCE, POLICY & PRACTICE

KELOWNA | BRITISH COLUMBIA | CANADA

CONFERENCE PROGRAM (PRELIMINARY)

DAY 1 WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7:00 AM TO 9:00 PM

- 7:00-8:00** Continental breakfast & networking
- 7:00-9:00** Registration
- 8:30** Opening ceremony
- 9:00** Introduction: Conference purpose and objectives
- 9:15**
- Four Food Chief story
 - Dialogue process
 - Goals & group agreements
 - Food Chief selection

9:40 SESSION 1: FOCUS ON LOCAL (BALLROOM)

Brian Guy, EFN in the Okanagan context
 Tessa Terbasket, Syilx (Okanagan) Water Declaration
 Lee Hesketh and Lou Cook, Ranching and EFNs
 Rich McCleary, Merritt EFN work and Nicola pilot project
 Rod MacLean, Impacts and pressures within the watershed

- 10:15** Table dialogue
- 10:30** Plenary session
- 10:40** Panel summary

10:45 BIO-BREAK AND NETWORKING

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11:00 SESSION 2: CURRENT EFN STRESSORS

Ballroom, Salon A
 Natasha Neumann, Managing EFN data
 Drew Lejbak, Naturalized flows from EFN
 Joe Enns, Okanagan approach: Tennant & Weighted Usable Width
 Jeff Nitychoruk, Application of EFN in decision-making British Columbia
 Keiko Parker, Development and Application of EFNs by a large water system

- 11:30** Table dialogue
- 11:45** Plenary session
- 12:00** Panel summary
- 12:15** Reflections from Syilx Tradition

SESSION 3: NATURAL RESOURCES & ECOSYSTEMS

Ballroom, Salon B
 Richard Bussanich, History and status of Okanagan fisheries and salmon reintroduction
 Shaun Reimer, Dawn Machin, Fish/Water Management Tool for decision support
 Mark Lorang, E3D modelling & habitat mapping
 Carrie Terbasket, Ecosystem valuation - Okanagan River sockeye
 Kim Hyatt, Fisheries climate adaptation

- Table dialogue
- Plenary session
- Panel summary
- Reflections from Syilx Tradition

12:30 LUNCH BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

1:30 SESSION 3: NATURAL RESOURCES & ECOSYSTEMS

Ballroom, Salon A
 Richard Bussanich, History and status of Okanagan fisheries and salmon reintroduction
 Shaun Reimer, Dawn Machin, Fish/Water Management Tool for decision support
 Mark Lorang, 3D modelling & habitat mapping
 Carrie Terbasket, Ecosystem valuation - Okanagan River sockeye
 Kim Hyatt, Fisheries climate adaptation

- 2:00** Table dialogue
- 2:15** Plenary session
- 2:30** Panel summary
- 2:45** Reflections from Syilx Tradition

SESSION 2: CURRENT EFN STRESSORS

Ballroom, Salon B
 Natasha Neumann, Managing EFN data
 Drew Lejbak, Naturalized flows from EFN
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 Jeff Nitychoruk, Application of EFN in decision-making British Columbia
 Keiko Parker, Development and Application of EFNs by a large water system

- Table dialogue
- Plenary session
- Panel summary
- Reflections from Syilx Tradition

3:00 BIO-BREAK AND NETWORKING

- 4:00** Plenary session with presenters
- 4:55** Closing remarks: co-chairs
- 5:00** Poster session (Vineyard 1-4) and wine/beer reception
- 6:00** Gala Dinner (Ballroom)

DAY 2 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

- 7:00-8:00** Continental breakfast & networking
- 7:00-9:00** Registration
- 8:30** Invocation - Water protector / Elder
- 8:40** Introduction to Day 2 - Review of agenda and activities

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

9:00 SESSION 4: INTERACTION AND COMPLEXITY

Ballroom, Salon A
 Craig Nichol, Groundwater-EFN interface
 Rita Winkler, Forests and water
 David Thomson, Effects of the timing of groundwater use
 Suzan Lapp, Incorporating EFNs in water management
 Matt Kennedy, Managing run-of-river hydroelectric projects

- 9:30** Table dialogue
- 9:45** Plenary session
- 10:00** Panel summary
- 10:15** Reflections from Syilx Tradition

SESSION 5: HUMAN DIMENSIONS

Ballroom, Salon B
 David Tickner, Potential applications of EFN approaches
 Hereditary Chief and Michelle Tung, Carrier-Sekani surface water management case study
 Claudia Pahl-Wostl, EFNs and water governance: managing sustainable water uses

- Table dialogue
- Plenary session
- Panel summary
- Reflections from Syilx Tradition

10:30 BIO-BREAK AND NETWORKING

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10:45 SESSION 5: HUMAN DIMENSIONS

Ballroom, Salon A
 David Tickner, Potential applications of EFN approaches
 Hereditary Chief and Michelle Tung, Carrier-Sekani surface water management case study
 Claudia Pahl-Wostl, EFNs and water governance: managing sustainable water uses

- 11:15** Table dialogue
- 11:30** Plenary session
- 11:45** Panel summary
- 12:00** Reflections from Syilx Tradition

SESSION 4: INTERACTION AND COMPLEXITY

Ballroom, Salon B
 Craig Nichol, Groundwater-EFN interface
 Rita Winkler, Forests and water
 David Thomson, Effects of the timing of groundwater use
 Suzan Lapp, Incorporating EFNs in water management
 Matt Kennedy, Managing run-of-river hydroelectric projects

- Table dialogue
- Plenary session
- Panel summary
- Reflections from Syilx Tradition

12:15 LUNCH BREAK

1:15 SESSION 6: POLICY (BALLROOM)

Genevieve Layton-Cartier and Deana Machin, Implications of Okanagan EFN-setting work for policy in BC
 Ted White, Regulatory opportunities under WSA
 Deborah Curran, Water law and policy in BC

- 1:50** Table dialogue
- 2:10** Plenary session
- 2:30** Panel summary

2:45 BIO-BREAK AND NETWORKING

- 3:00** Closing activity: Reflections from Syilx Tradition – 7 generations
- 3:30** Closing remarks by Bob Sandford
- 3:50** Closing remarks: co-chairs
- 3:55** Closing gratitude by Syilx Elder

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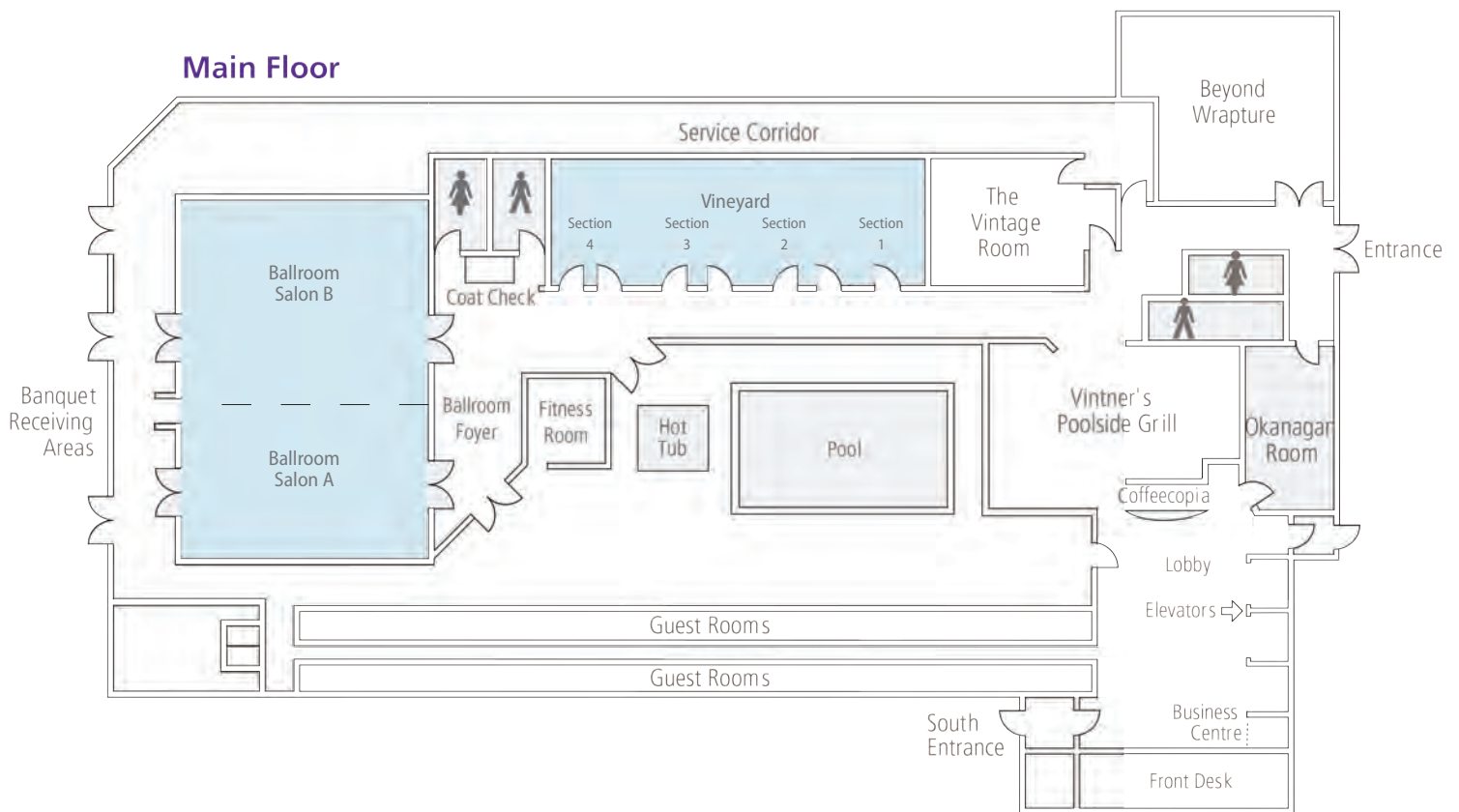
ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW NEEDS CONFERENCE 2018: SCIENCE, POLICY & PRACTICE

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COAST
capri hotel™

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MEMORANDUM

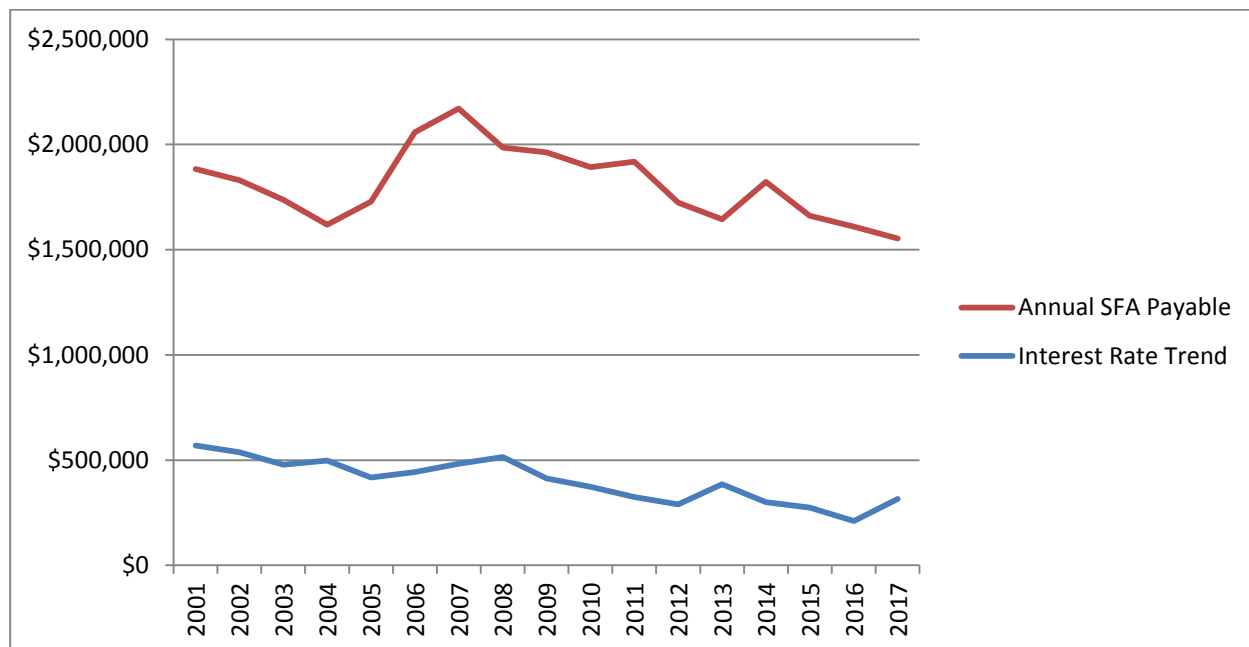
Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
September 7, 2018
Agenda No: 6.3

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: James Littlely
Date: August 28, 2018
Subject: Operations and Grants Manager Report

Sewerage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grants Review

This month I undertook a preliminary review of the SFA grant program, including expenditures over the life of the program, and the distribution of funds by municipality. Between 2007 and 2017, the annual SFA payment has declined from over \$2.17 million to less than \$1.56 million as interest rates have declined and some large grants have expired. We have recently been notified of two potential new projects in the next two years, which could increase SFA program spending to near 2007 levels of \$2 million. Currently, new wastewater infrastructure projects in the Okanagan are eligible for grants up to 99% of total project costs (50% Federal, 33% Provincial, 16% OBWB). This makes it an ideal time for local governments to apply. We expect several new applications, should senior government grants be awarded. As of the current fiscal year, the program will have paid more than \$65 million toward sewer infrastructure in the Okanagan since it began in 1975.



A remaining question for the program is how many outstanding lots are still eligible for OBWB SFA Grants valley-wide. In the next few months, I will develop a project to look at how much developable land remains in the basin without sewer service, and out of that land, how many lots were created prior to 1978. With this information, local governments will be able to prioritize sewerage projects to older neighbourhoods, using the SFA program as an incentive. Unfortunately, this study will not be useful as a tool to determine a sunset schedule for the SFA program, as it cannot predict when sewer projects will be undertaken, or how much they will cost.

Invasive Mussel Prevention

Following the 2018 funding announcements of the provincial and federal governments for invasive mussel prevention, staff will be conducting a comprehensive review of past and current OBWB calls to action. As part of the review, we will engage other partner organizations, look at past progress, and assess where we need to see improvements. Recommendations will be brought to the Board at the October meeting and following board direction, we will engage other partners and local governments to call for improvements before the 2019 boating season.

Milfoil Update

Milfoil operations are now finished for the summer as the staff begins to prepare for the rototilling season. Overall, 2018 was not a heavy summer for milfoil with the exception of a few locations.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
September 7, 2018
Agenda No: 6.4

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Corinne Jackson
Date: August 29, 2018
Subject: **Communications Director Report**

Make Water Work (MWW) and Don't Move A Mussel (DMM)

The last month has been spent tweaking the Make Water Work (MWW) campaign: updating the website, radio ads, social media ads, ensuring partners have what they need to best deliver our joint water conservation messages, and responding to numerous questions from the public about Okanagan water issues.

Similar work has been happening as part of the Don't Move A Mussel campaign. It should be noted that we are receiving a growing number of calls from individuals and groups who are looking to help spread the message (e.g. asking for DMM materials to hand out and post, for speakers), but also looking to do more.

In one instance, we had someone asking for DMM boat launch signs for a lake in the Thompson region. This is their second year asking. Last year, I suggested that they work with the Thompson Nicola Regional District and also offered staff at the TNRD our assistance on the matter. When the call came again this year, the same offer was made. My understanding is that TNRD staff have now referred the request to the province which may help address this one request. However, staff at the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) have told us that TNRD's Thompson Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee has "no interest or mandate for anything other than terrestrial invasive plants." FBC staff add that they have "talked about the risks of aquatic invasive mussels more over the last year at a staff level, and we also discuss it at our Thompson Regional Committee which includes elected officials from TNRD, SLRD, RDNO, CSRD and City of Kamloops." It may be useful for the OBWB to write a letter, representing the interests and concerns of the three Okanagan regional districts, to the TNRD and urge them to take action on the mussel issue and offer any assistance necessary.

I will discuss this more at the board meeting, but this will also be useful in informing our next steps as a board. This is also something we can bring forward to the new board once appointed.

Other communication initiatives

As per the board's request, we sent a letter on Aug. 14 to B.C. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Michelle Mungall, regarding mining activities in Okanagan watersheds. We have now received a response which is included in the Correspondence section of the agenda. We also sent a letter on Aug. 16 to the new federal Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Jonathan Wilkinson, regarding the recent federal funding announcement to help address invasive mussels. We received confirmation of receipt but no other response yet. A media release was also sent out. Some of the coverage is noted below.

Following on our August Annual Meeting, our Annual Report “Preparing for the Future” has been posted to the OBWB website at <http://www.obwb.ca/overview/annual-reports/>. Photos from the day are posted on our Facebook page at <http://bit.ly/2PhLB0c>.

Our contract with the UN Association of Canada’s Green Corps program is coming to an end, which also means that our Okanagan WaterWise Communications and Outreach Coordinator, Jocelyn Whalen, completes her time with us on Sept. 15. Ms. Whalen will provide an update at the upcoming board meeting but has been busy attending numerous events over the summer, sharing the Make Water Work and Don’t Move a Mussel messages, as well as speaking with the public about general Okanagan water issues.

The last month has also been busy assisting with communications for the upcoming *siwtk^w (WATER) FOR ALL - OUR RESPONSIBILITY... Environmental Flow Needs Conference*. This includes development of an event poster, placing ads in various water publications, promotion using e-mail, social media and more.

We also issued our second Okanagan Drought Bulletin on August 24. This was sent to local water managers as well as media. Some of the resulting coverage is noted below.

The OBWB-OkWaterWise has also been busy preparing for a variety of events that we have been asked to provide outreach at over the next few weeks, including the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association’s golf tournament which is focussing on the UN’s sustainable development goals. Several of the goals touch on water (e.g. #6 Clean Water and Sanitation, #14 Life Below Water).

Summary of Recent Media

June 6	“Column: Free presentation at the unH2O Xeriscape Garden,” <i>Kelowna Capital News</i>
June 11	“Editorial: Summerland council values local agriculture,” <i>Summerland Review</i>
June 19	“Fight to keep potentially devastating invasive mussels out of Okanagan gains momentum,” <i>InfoNews</i>
June 26	“Mechanical problem delays start of invasive milfoil weed harvest,” <i>Osoyoos Times</i>
June 26	“ Guide to help Okanagan Lake frontage property owners ,” <i>Lake Country Calendar, Kelowna Capital News</i>
June 26	“Level 1 drought rating remains for Okanagan Valley,” <i>Summerland Review</i>
June 26	“Protection tips coming in mail for lakefront property owners,” <i>Kelowna Daily Courier</i>
June 29	“Columbia River Treaty renegotiation will impact Okanagan,” <i>Salmon Arm Observer, Penticton Western News, Trail Times</i>
July 11	“New construction flood level may be needed all around Okanagan Lake,” <i>InfoNews</i>
July 25	“Grant boosts battle to keep invasive mussels out of Okanagan lakes,” <i>Kelowna Capital News</i>
July 27	“10 years enough for West Kelowna's mayor,” <i>Kelowna Daily Courier</i>
August 6	“Ottawa to invest in mussel research, education,” <i>Kelowna Daily Courier</i>
August 7	“OLWQS now testing Osoyoos Lake for invasive mussels,” <i>Osoyoos Times</i>
August 8	“Preparing for Okanagan Valley's water future,” <i>Kelowna Capital News, Vernon Morning Star, Penticton Western News</i>
August 10	“Facing the Okanagan's future flooding issues,” <i>Penticton Western News, Vernon Morning Star, BC Local News</i>
August 10	“Flood management tackled at AGM of Okanagan Basin Water Board,” <i>Kelowna Daily Courier</i>
August 13	“ Time to rethink approach to floods, speaker says ,” <i>Osoyoos Times</i>
August 13	“Kelowna city councillor 'ready' to run, but not ready to say for what,” <i>Lake Country Calendar, Kelowna Capital News</i>
August 17	“Okanagan water board seeks mussels funding,” <i>Vernon Morning Star, Lake Country Calendar, Eagle Valley News, Salmon Arm Observer</i>
August 17	“ WATCH: Concern over invasive mussels threat in the Okanagan ,” <i>Global News</i>
August 17	“Water Basin wants more help to stop invasive mussels,” <i>AM 1150</i>
August 17	“Water Board Wants More From Feds Against Mussels,” <i>Beach Radio Vernon</i>

- August 20 "Call to action on mussels," *Castanet*
- August 21 "More money needed for fight against mussels," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- August 22 "North Okanagan petition borrowing process approved for wastewater recovery centre," *Vernon Morning Star*
- August 22 "[New app to help B.C.'s wildlife warriors](#)," *Kelowna Capital News, Abbotsford News, Nelson Star, 100 Mile Free Press, Fernie Free Press*
- August 22 "MP Albas Column: More needs to be done on invasive mussels," *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- August 23 "MP Albas Column: Invasion of the mussels," *Castanet*
- August 24 "[WATCH: Okanagan moves into drought level two as hot, dry summer continues](#)," *Global Okanagan*
- August 24 "Okanagan reaches Level 2 drought rating," *Vernon Morning Star, Kelowna Capital News, Summerland Review, Penticton Western News*
- August 24 "Drought level raised in the Okanagan as rain remains scarce," *InfoNews*

Recent Presentations

- May 30 "Planning, Policy & Governance – session chair," to CWRA – Nelson Jatel
- May 30 "Being Okanagan WaterWise," to Gr. 2 at École Belgo Elementary – Jocelyn Whalen
- June 7 "OBWB Water Management Program Review," to RDOS Board – Anna Warwick Sears
- June 9 "A River Film presentation and Q & A," to Vernon Yacht Club community event – Anna Warwick Sears
- June 20 "OBWB Water Management Program Review," to RDNO Board – Anna Warwick Sears
- July 19 "OBWB Water Management Program Review," to RDCO Board – Anna Warwick Sears
- August 10 "OBWB Annual Meeting Preparing for the Future," to OBWB and public – Anna Warwick Sears

Upcoming Presentations

- Sept. 11 "River Film," screening and Q&A to Central Okanagan Naturalists – Anna Warwick Sears

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
September 7, 2018
Agenda No: 6.5

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Kellie Garcia
Date: August 28, 2018
Subject: Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Sustainable Water Strategy

We continue to make great progress on writing the Sustainable Water Strategy. The modernized strategy will be the Water Stewardship Council's go-to document on water issues and priorities for the Okanagan valley. It will recommend actions designed to protect water at its source, share water in times of shortages, protect ourselves against flooding, manage water demand, collect and share data, and collaborate and build partnerships.

The strategy chapters are organized under the themes (1) introduction/background, (2) water quality, (3) water quantity, and (4) delivery (implementation). At the June board meeting, I gave a summary of the water quality chapter and at the August meeting I focused on the water quantity chapter. This month, my report provides an overview of the introductory chapter and the final chapter entitled Delivering the Strategy.

The introductory chapter first provides a definition of sustainability and describes what a sustainability framework means for water management. It then sets the stage for the strategy by taking a comprehensive look at what shapes water in the Okanagan. Topics include hydrology and climate, Syilx perspectives on water, history of water management, water demand, water quality, droughts, floods and fires, climate change, population and land use, economy, and regulatory framework. The chapter also discusses how the strategy was developed, including a reference to the 2008 strategy and an introduction to the OBWB and the Council.

Ten guiding principles are also presented in Chapter 1, and include (DRAFT):

1. **Respect water.** Water connects and sustains all life, and we have a responsibility to protect it.
2. **Control pollution at its source.** The most effective way to eliminate pollution is to prevent it from happening. Water quality in lakes, streams, wetlands, and aquifers will be protected for the benefit of healthy ecosystems and to safeguard a clean, safe, and reliable water supply.

3. **Protect nature and restore degraded natural systems.** Natural systems that are rich in biodiversity are needed to maintain instream water quality and quantity and are critical to climate change adaptation.
4. **Consider water in land use planning decisions.** Land and water are interconnected. Land use decisions should work to minimize the impact of urbanization and reduce the human footprint on the environment, which will in turn reduce impacts on water resources and aquatic habitats.
5. **Allocate water in a transparent and responsible manner.** Identifying how and when water will be allocated is critically important to prepare for the possibility of increasing drought conditions in the Okanagan. Sufficient water must be available for the environment, agriculture, basic human needs, and economic development now and in the future.
6. **Ensure water supply systems are flexible and resilient.** Reducing water waste, promoting water use efficiency, and having enough storage is central to sustainable water management.
7. **Think and act like a region.** Local decisions must consider watershed, aquifer, and ecosystem interconnections with the larger valley. Collaboration and partnerships are essential to informed and coordinated decision-making because of the multi-jurisdictional nature of Okanagan water governance and the complexity of the issues we face.
8. **Collect and share knowledge and information on Okanagan water.** Technology, science, and traditional knowledge will be used to inform decisions about water. New data will be collected as needed to support evidence-based decision-making.
9. **Encourage active public engagement and learning.** Transparent decision-making and opportunities for information sharing and open communication are essential to a collective understanding, and acceptance, that we are part of the environment and our activities affect water.
10. **Practice adaptive management and think long-term.** The Okanagan is a dynamic and changing place. Continuous learning, innovation, planning, and improvement are essential to sustainable water management. The Strategy needs to be reviewed and updated periodically.

The final chapter – Chapter 4: Delivering the Strategy – talks about the fundamental things we need to move forward on implementing the actions in the strategy. Themes include data collection and management, coordination and collaboration, community engagement, water governance, and funding and resources. This chapter is still very much under development.

Drought Response

The OBWB is a member of the Province's Thompson Okanagan Regional Drought Response Team, which consists of B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development aquatic ecologists, ecosystem officers, hydrogeologists, hydrologists, and water officers, technical advisors from B.C.'s Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada; First Nation advisors (including the Okanagan Nation Alliance); and local government liaisons. The team meets bi-weekly by conference call to discuss streamflow conditions and recommend drought levels. Being part of this team has been very valuable and has allowed the OBWB to support the Province in its decision-making process by providing information about local water supply conditions and watering restriction stages. We have also been able to coordinate the timing and content of our communications with the Province, so water purveyors are not blindsided by drought declarations and better understand why the Province is moving to a higher level and what response they expect from purveyors.

On that note, the OBWB prepared our second drought bulletin (attached) on August 24, after the province escalated the Okanagan to a Level 2 drought rating. It has been an extremely hot and dry summer throughout B.C., and most of the province is in Level 3 or 4 drought. We had record snow packs in the Okanagan that filled our reservoirs in the spring, which is why most of our streams are faring okay. But a few important fish bearing streams in the valley are experiencing low flows, including Shuttleworth and Vaseux creeks in the South Okanagan. The Province sent letters to licensees on these creeks asking them to voluntarily reduce water use by 30%. Provincial water managers and the Okanagan Nation Alliance continue to monitor stream flows throughout the Okanagan, and it is possible we will be elevated to a Level 3 drought rating before the summer is over. The OBWB will send out another bulletin if that happens.



OKANAGAN DROUGHT BULLETIN #2018-2

AUGUST 24, 2018



OKANAGAN MOVES TO DROUGHT LEVEL 2 AS HOT, DRY SUMMER CONTINUES

The B.C. Government has elevated the Okanagan to a Level 2 drought rating as a precautionary measure.

While Okanagan water purveyors are generally experiencing average supply conditions, regional drought conditions have escalated after weeks of hot, dry conditions. Kokanee and other fish species need sufficient flows in the fall to successfully spawn and fisheries scientists are becoming concerned about flows in several Okanagan streams, especially if the current weather patterns continue. The Province is sending letters to water users on those streams.

Given that water demand has also increased in many communities in August, we ask that water purveyors take a close look at current reservoir levels and downstream flows and consider ramping up communications with customers, increasing watering restrictions, or implementing other conservation measures as needed. Once again, the province is also asking licensees with upstream storage to closely follow their release schedule requirements to avoid low flows downstream and potential impacts to fish.

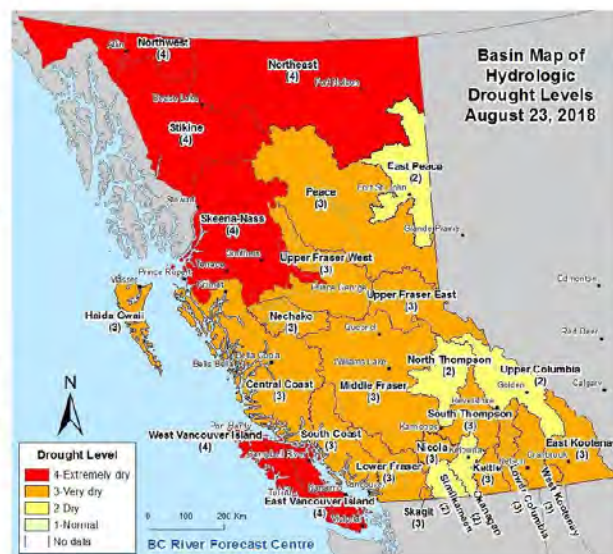
All independent licensees on streams, and all groundwater users who are on aquifers that may be connected to streams, are encouraged to monitor their withdrawals and ensure they are using water efficiently.

Information about drought levels and average streamflows is available on the [Drought Information Portal](#).

KEEP IN TOUCH!

The OBWB would like to hear about your water supply. Please let us know if you change watering restrictions, and any other factors that influence water availability in your communities.

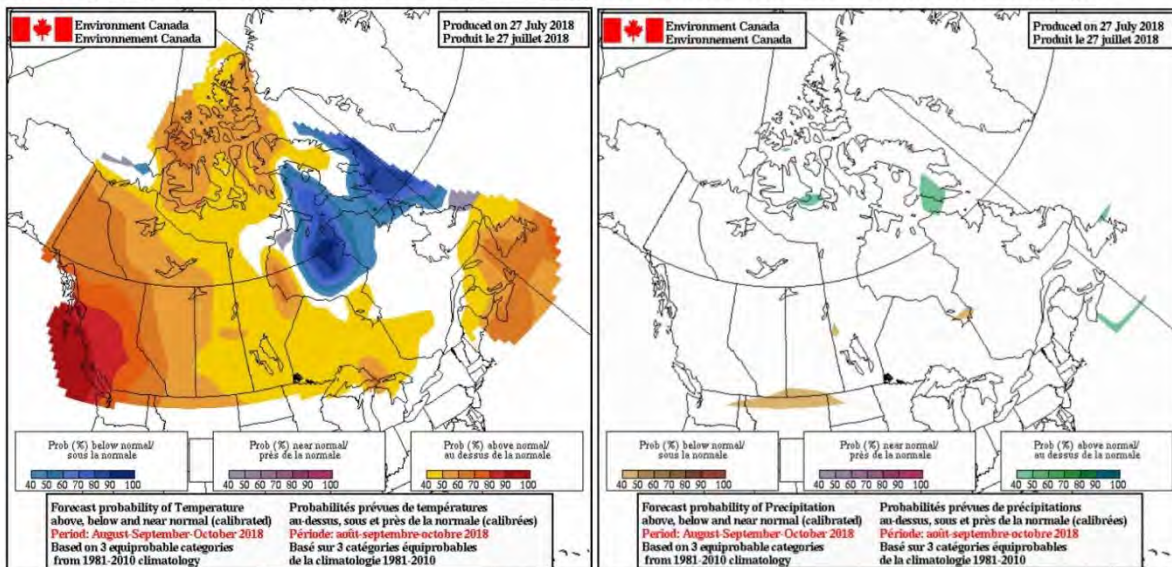
Contact Kellie at
kellie.garcia@obwb.ca or 250-469-6321.





WEATHER FORECAST

According to Environment Canada, there is a 60–70% probability that the Okanagan will experience above normal temperatures for the rest of the summer and into the fall. They are less sure about precipitation. The forecasts show an equal chance we could receive below, near, or above normal precipitation (forecast probabilities for none of the three categories exceed 40%). Rain and cooler temperatures are forecasted for this weekend—cross your fingers!



Temperature and precipitation maps retrieved from https://weather.gc.ca/saisons/prob_e.html on August 23, 2018.

COMMUNICATING WATER CONSERVATION WITH THE PUBLIC



Photo: OBWB Chair Tracy Gray congratulates Armstrong Mayor Chris Pieper on his community's win.

The *Make Water Work (MWW)* campaign, encouraging outdoor residential water conservation during the summer, will continue until late September to help meet the water needs of agriculture and returning salmon. The campaign, an initiative of the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, is delivered in partnership with water utilities throughout the valley.

The campaign encourages residents to visit www.MakeWaterWork.ca to find conservation tips, their community watering restrictions, and pledge to conserve and Make Water Work more effectively and efficiently. In addition to being entered to win WaterWise yard prizes, we award the community with the most pledges per capita with the title of "Make Water Work Community Champions." This is traditionally announced at the OBWB Annual Meeting. This year the meeting was held a month earlier than usual, on Aug. 10. Despite having one less month to collect pledges, some communities doubled their numbers from last year, and some tripled their numbers. This year's *MWW Champion* is Armstrong!

MWW radio, bus, social media ads, and more, have been running since June. Partners have received MWW Frisbees and bookmarks to hand out to residents. We also encourage utilities to use a MWW badge on their websites and hyperlink it to the MWW website to direct people for more information. For more on the MWW program, please contact Corinne Jackson at corinne.jackson@obwb.ca or 250-469-6271.

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
September 7, 2018
Agenda No: 7.1

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Date: August 29, 2018
Subject: **Budget Features 2019-2020 Memo**

OBWB's philosophy is to run a lean organization, delivering the highest level of service at the greatest value to the community. The following recommendations build on current services and operations. The OBWB's budget must be adopted before the municipal election on October 20, 2018.

Attachments

- The OBWB Budget for the year ending March 31, 2020 is attached, showing the breakdown between the Sewage Assistance Grants, Watermilfoil, and Water Management programs. The dark blue column "2020 Consolidated Budget" is the proposed budget for the coming year. The light blue "2019 Consolidated Budget" is for the current fiscal year, and the lavender "2018 Consolidated Audited Year End" reflects actual expenditures for our programs in the audited year-end for March 31, 2018.
- The Requisitions attachment shows the total requisitions from each regional district.

Budget Overview

The 2019-20 budget focuses on priority programs and services. Our most recent audited financial statements (2017-18) were presented at this year's Annual Public Meeting in Kelowna, and are provided on the OBWB website.

The draft 2019-20 budget for Board consideration has the following features:

- The overall OBWB requisition is \$3,449,170, a small decrease over the 2018-19 requisition (\$3,450,733).
- As a percentage of assessments, the requisition decreased to 4.1 cents/\$1,000, from 4.8 cents in 2017-18 because of higher assessment values.
- We have not had a requisition increase since Fiscal Year 2011-12.

Sewage Facilities Grant Program

The requisition for sewage facilities grants is 1.6 cents/\$1,000 assessment; down by 0.3 cents from 2018-19. The reserve fund for sewage facilities grants is expected to be approximately \$1,125,000, as at March 31, 2020. We are required by legislation to hold a reserve to buffer mid-year changes in grant obligations (such as increased interest rates). As the reserve is currently large enough to provide reasonable protection from fluctuations, the budget includes a transfer of \$100,000 to reduce requisitions for this program. The requisition ceiling for sewage grants is 21.0 cents/\$1,000.

Watermilfoil Control Program

The requisition for watermilfoil is 1.0 cents/\$1,000 assessment, down 0.2 cents from 2018-19, as a percentage of assessments. This year's budget covers anticipated costs for milfoil mapping and permitting, including Vaseux Lake. After transfers per our asset management plan, we will have approximately \$400,000 in the equipment reserve, on target for our plan for replacing aging equipment. Our Supplementary Letters Patent gives a ceiling of 3.6 cents/\$1,000 assessment for the combined budgets of the Milfoil and Water Management programs.

Water Management

The requisition for Water Management is 1.5 cents/\$1,000 assessment, down by 0.1 cents as a percentage of assessments. There is a 2 cents/\$1,000 ceiling for the program. As in previous years, we anticipate additional matching grants for our projects from senior government agencies. Our planned work this year closely aligned with OBWB's strategic plan. Projects include continuation of the outreach programs for water conservation and zebra mussels; assessing surface and groundwater supplies; continuing to work with large water users and utilities on drought and flood preparedness; and developing new water quality improvement projects. The OBWB currently has grants from the Gas Tax, for hydrology modeling (\$392,500), and pending from the Climate Action Initiative for drought outreach to farmers (amount TBD).



Budget for the year ending March 31, 2020

	Water Management	Water Milfoil	Sewerage Assistance	2020 Consolidated Budget	Consolidated 2019 Budget	Consolidated 2018 Audited Year End
Revenues						
Requisitions	\$ 1,260,950	\$ 824,900	\$ 1,363,320	\$ 3,449,170	\$ 3,450,733	\$ 3,451,500
Grant income	0	0	0	0	0	509,255
Interest income	6,000	5,000	18,000	29,000	27,000	46,422
Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer from reserve	0	0	100,000	100,000	220,000	0
	1,266,950	829,900	1,481,320	3,578,170	3,697,733	4,007,177
Expenses						
Assistance grants	300,000	0	1,441,320	1,741,320	1,870,727	1,853,733
Amortization	0	50,000	0	50,000	40,000	48,889
Transfer amortization to tangible capital assets	0	(50,000)	0	(50,000)	(40,000)	(48,889)
Contract services	272,000	5,000	0	277,000	303,000	547,930
Director's remuneration and expenses	11,900	11,900	0	23,800	22,900	22,061
Stewardship council expenses	20,000	0	0	20,000	20,000	13,529
Equipment costs	3,100	151,000	0	154,100	142,100	116,164
Insurance	4,500	30,000	0	34,500	31,200	30,610
Interest charges	250	200	0	450	300	576
Office	25,600	11,500	0	37,100	35,906	36,655
Outreach and publicity	73,000	6,500	0	79,500	78,000	131,651
Administrative allocation	(20,000)	(20,000)	40,000	0	0	0
Professional fees	40,900	40,600	0	81,500	78,300	76,144
Rental costs	12,000	27,000	0	39,000	32,500	18,544
Safety	2,000	6,500	0	8,500	8,500	5,798
Travel, conferences and meetings	52,700	4,500	0	57,200		36,314
Utilities, yard supplies and maintenance	0	16,200	0	16,200	15,500	19,213
Wages and benefits	469,000	389,000	0	858,000	848,800	865,613
Capital Purchase (as per Asset Replacement Plan)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfer to equipment reserve	0	150,000	0	150,000	150,000	0
	1,266,950	829,900	1,481,320	3,578,170	3,697,733	3,774,535
Net revenues (deficiency) over expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	232,642



**Regional District Provisional Assessment
 Budget For The Year Ending March 31, 2020**

	Central Okanagan	Okanagan Similkameen	North Okanagan	Total
2018 Revised Roll	\$ 52,386,729,085	16,854,537,056	14,654,633,832	83,895,899,973
Percentage Share	62.44%	20.09%	17.47%	100.00%
REQUISITION				
Water Management	787,337	253,325	220,288	1,260,950
Water Milfoil	515,068	165,722	144,110	824,900
Sewerage Assistance	851,257	273,891	238,172	1,363,320
Total	\$ 2,153,662	692,938	602,570	3,449,170
<i>Total Prior Year Requisition</i>	<i>\$ 2,133,036</i>	<i>695,194</i>	<i>622,503</i>	<i>3,450,733</i>

Ref: 105045

August 28, 2018

Email: Corinne.jackson@obwb.ca

Thank you for taking the time to write to Honourable Michelle Mungall, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources on August 14th, 2018 regarding mining activities in Okanagan watersheds.

Managing British Columbia's vast resources, including both water and minerals, on a widely diverse land base is an all-encompassing job. I applaud the work you do to protect our drinking water resources.

Community watershed areas have special management provisions to protect the quality and quantity of the water that is diverted for human consumption. However, these areas remain open for activities such as mineral exploration and development, as well as forestry, range, recreation, highway, utility corridor, and other activities.

I acknowledge Okanagan Basin Water Board's formal request to obtain local community assent before permitting mining activities in community watersheds. EMPR continues to work to build trust with local communities in our regulatory processes. I understand that the communities of Peachland and Summerland recently were encouraged to submit information for the consideration of the statutory decision maker on recent mineral exploration programs in their respective community watersheds. Statutory decision makers are obligated to weigh and consider information relative to the decision at hand, rely on existing regulatory requirements and mitigate potential risks of activities proposed through establishing conditions on the proposed work program. Mine's Inspectors work with experts from multiple ministries, various stakeholders and Indigenous communities to develop robust decisions on the land base. Assent from all parties is desired, but not always achievable.

We continue to support community engagement in the regulatory process and look forward to working together to protect British Columbia's water resources while encouraging responsible mineral exploration and development.

Sincerely,



Peter Robb
Assistant Deputy Minister
Mines and Mineral Resources Division