



March 2023

## Council Members (Term 10, April 2021-March 2023)

### Appointed representatives | alternates.

- **AAFC, Research Branch**  
Kirsten Hannam | Thomas Forge | Jesse MacDonald
- **BC Agriculture Council**  
Hans Buchler
- **BC Cattlemen's Association**  
Lee Hesketh | Keith Manders
- **BC Fruit Growers Association**  
Katie Sardinha | Glen Lucas
- **Ministry of Forests**  
Sheena Spencer (Research Hydrologist)  
Kelly Chiatto | Ray Crampton
- **BC Ground Water Association**  
Marta Green | Doug Geller
- **BC Water Supply Association**  
Patti Meger | Bob Hrasko | Shawn Grundy
- **BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8**  
Lorne Davies | Jackson MacPherson | Nick Kozub
- **Canadian Water Resources Association**  
Brian Guy (past chair) | Dwayne Meredith
- **City of Kelowna**  
Rod MacLean | Ed Hoppe
- **City of Penticton**  
Mike Firlotte (TBD)
- **City of Vernon**  
Ed Stranks
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**  
Lynda Ritchie | Sue Lemke | Teri Ridley
- **Environment and Climate Change Canada**  
Jeremy Fyke (vice-chair) | Dave Hutchinson | Alyssa Charbonneau
- **Emerita**  
Denise Neilsen (past chair)
- **Engineers & Geoscientists BC**
- **Interior Health**  
Rob Birtles | Judi Ekkert
- **Irrigation Industry Association of BC (IIABC)**  
Bruce Naka | Ted van der Gulik (past vice-chair)
- **Ministry of Agriculture**  
Stephanie Tam
- **Ministry of Environment and CC Strategy**  
Kym Keogh | Dennis Einarson
- **Ministry of Land, Water & Resource Stewardship**  
TBD
- **Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program**  
Scott Boswell (chair)
- **Okanagan College**  
Allison O'Neill | Rob St Onge
- **Okanagan Indian Band**  
Patrick Riley | Dan Wilson | Tim Isaac
- **RD Central Okanagan**  
Jing Niu | Todd Cashin
- **RD North Okanagan**  
Tricia Brett | Zee Marcolin
- **RD Okanagan –Similkameen**  
Shelley Fiorito
- **Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association**  
Randy Hardy | Matt Scott
- **Thompson - Okanagan Tourism Association**  
Ellen Walker – Matthews | Mike Overend
- **University of British Columbia - Okanagan**  
Bernie Bauer (past chair) | Craig Nichol | Derek Gratz

## Council Meeting Highlights

### Responsibilities of Provincial Ministries

Ray Crampton, District Manager – Ministry of Forests, presented on three B.C. ministries that have unique and overlapping responsibilities: the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (formerly known as MoE), the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (a newly formed ministry), and the Ministry of Forests (formerly known as FLNRORD). The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is tasked with preparing a strategy to adapt to climate change and meet greenhouse gas reduction targets. They are also responsible for safeguarding and managing B.C.'s natural resources, including water, land, air, and living resources. The Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship was created to develop water allocation policies and implement new tools for water governance and watershed planning. Their focus is on creating a secure watershed strategy and funding it. Finally, the Ministry of Forests handles making statutory decisions related to the Water Sustainability Act (WSA). They are also responsible for managing provincial Crown land and ensuring the sustainable management of forests, wildlife, water, and other land-based resources. In addition, the regional and district operations of the Ministry of Forests include activities such as water licensing, responding to fire, flood, and drought, as well as mitigation and recovery efforts.

### Discussion on “Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Intentions Paper”

The B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship recently released its "Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Intentions Paper" which is an important step towards developing and implementing its strategy and fund. They have invited people and organizations to provide feedback by 4 p.m., April 17, 2023. Council members discussed the paper and named certain sections to focus on in detail (including 1.1, 1.3, 2.1, 2.3, 3.2, 4.2, 5.1, 5.3). WSC members were asked to discuss the paper with their respective organizations and forward feedback to the council to be considered as part of a submission to the OBWB's Board of Directors. The board would then review and forward the submission to the province. Council members were asked to provide input by March 24<sup>th</sup>.

### Other news

- Water Supply Association of BC's 2023 spring workshop series 'More Better Water' will be held at the Okanagan Golf Club in Kelowna, March 30-31. For more information, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2023-wsabc-spring-workshop-more-better-water-march-30-and-31-2023-registration-543151389427>
- OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise will hold a special online screening of the film "DamNation" followed by a panel discussion on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. PDT for UN Water Day (celebrated on March 22). Register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/damnation-screening-and-panel-discussion-tickets-558140201367>

For more information contact:

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28