

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

DATE: Tuesday, March 5, 2019

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

PLACE: Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
101 Martin Street,
Penticton, 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 Feb. 5, 2019 at Regional District of Central Okanagan ([page 1](#))

5. **DELEGATION**

5.1 Lisa Scott re: Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society 2018 Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

- 6.1 Executive Director Report ([page 8](#))
- 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report ([page 12](#))
- 6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report ([page 14](#))
- 6.4 Communications Director Report ([page 15](#))
- 6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report ([page 18](#))

7. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 B.C. Water Sustainability Act Groundwater Regulation Update Memo ([page 19](#))
([resolution requested](#))

8. **NEXT MEETING**

8.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 10 a.m. at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD FEBRUARY 5, 2019, AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL OKANAGAN
1450 KLO RD., KELOWNA, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Vice-Chair Cindy Fortin	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Victor Cumming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Colin Basran	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Tony Boot	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Subrina Monteith	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Lisa Wilson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Denise Neilsen	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

REGRETS

Director Bob Fleming	Regional District North Okanagan
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STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
James Littley	Operations and Grants Manager
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Stephanie Wenker	Water Demand Model Specialist

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Fortin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Vice-Chair Fortin respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of Okanagan Nation.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

7.3 Contract award for Okanagan naturalized flow calculations

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Feb. 5, 2019 be approved as amended."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 12, 2018 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Dec. 12, 2018 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan be approved."

CARRIED**5. BOARD ORIENTATION****5.1 Presentations by Communications Director, Policy and Planning Specialist and Water Demand Model Specialist**

Communications Director Corinne Jackson noted her degree in Political Science and interest in social issues led her to a career in journalism. After 10 years as a reporter covering such issues she moved into communications, working with a local non-profit. In 2009, she joined the OBWB.

The board was provided an overview of OBWB communication efforts, internal and external. There was discussion about the Communications Protocol for board and staff, and a separate protocol for the Water Stewardship Council.

In addition to the Board Agenda and Minutes, communication tools include: a monthly Board Report with highlights of the monthly board meeting that has wide-distribution, the Annual Report and Annual Meeting, Drought Bulletins (as necessary), news releases and news conferences, websites (including www.OBWB.ca, www.OkWaterWise.ca). Okanagan WaterWise (OkWW) is the OBWB's outreach and education program, created in response to the board's wish for greater external communication on local water issues. In addition to the OkWW website, OkWW is active on social media, on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). (There is also a [LinkedIn](#) page for OBWB.)

OkWW has created outreach materials for use by residents, businesses, teachers and students. The Communications Director is also asked to review water-related materials by partners. Staff attend outreach events by others and OkWW holds its own events as well. It also conducts presentations in the community.

In addition, there are two campaigns launched through OkWW, one aimed at tackling outdoor residential water use ([Make Water Work](#)) and another aimed at raising awareness and protecting Okanagan waters from invasive mussels ([Don't Move A Mussel](#)).

There was some discussion by some of the directors about communication efforts and how they believe it has helped better inform the public on water issues.

"THAT the Communications Director's presentation be received."

CARRIED

Dir. Boot entered the meeting via webinar/conference call.

Policy and Planning Specialist Kellie Garcia noted that she was first hired as a consultant to the OBWB in 2007 and has been working in the valley for 12 years. She was hired by the OBWB in 2016 to increase the capacity of the organization to work more directly with local and provincial government staff on water supply challenges, including flood and drought response. The position includes researching and writing, facilitating discussions, and connecting technical information and science with those developing and implementing policy.

Some of the projects have included coordinating, promoting and building capacity for the uptake of water and climate-related guides and toolkits. Work is well underway on a rewrite of the 2008 Sustainable Water Strategy. Following the 2015 drought, the need for greater coordination between the province and local utilities prompted the creation of the Okanagan Drought Response Strategy. In response, the OBWB now participates in bi-weekly provincial drought response calls, April to October, to provide an Okanagan voice. Significant progress has been

made to develop drought stage triggers for purveyors drawing off the valley's mainstem lakes that are scientifically defensible and easy to understand and use.

A pilot project, helping water utilities communicate with their agricultural customers about water supply, is being expanded.

And, the board was told about a couple new initiatives that are just getting underway, including , the Okanagan Lake protection strategy, and an Okanagan Source Protection toolkit.

"THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist's presentation be received."

CARRIED

Water Demand Model Specialist Stefanie Wenker noted she has an Earth Sciences degree and GIS diploma, and was hired in May 2018 to update the Water Demand Model.

The model included a look at agricultural water demand (done in 2006 and updated in 2014-15) and residential outdoor water use. Efforts are now underway to update and refine these two areas, for example, identifying irrigation types on site, if it's used and crop type. This may change year-to-year, Ms. Wenker added.

Other data being looked at includes soil type, groundwater recharge, and climate (historic temperatures and precipitation).

For indoor water uses we are looking at water meter data. BC Assessment and Land Use Inventory is also used but there are some anomalies with the data that need to be worked out.

The water model can be used for determining current demand and potential changes in the future, how much water could be reclaimed (e.g. as is done with some Okanagan golf courses), agricultural planning, Regional Growth Strategies, protecting environmental flows.

There is a Local Government User Guide and data sharing agreements available, Ms. Wenker added, inviting local governments to contact her with their data requests.

"THAT the Water Demand Model Specialist's presentation be received."

CARRIED

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears told directors that she is scheduled to present at SILGA on flood threats and solutions. She has also joined ONA's Flood Risk Assessment steering committee, which includes a diverse group of elected officials and senior staff from local government and Syilx communities. The purpose is to incorporate scientific and traditional knowledge in flood mapping and planning processes. The LiDAR project is also ongoing. Some of the data should be available in mid-February, additional data in mid-March. Missing portions of the watershed lost in the plane crash will be acquired in June and ready for use in Fall 2019.

Staff are advising City of Kelowna and RDCO with a Water Management Plan for the watershed above Mission Creek, specifically advising on watershed protection and fish flow management. Watershed planning is a new priority for the city with the adoption of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District.

There was some discussion about the urgency to get ahead of the issues facing the region. Dir. Cumming noted the wildfires and the loss of forest cover and resulting flooding, and the impact on water quality. Dr. Sears noted some of the work being done by Greater Vernon Water, District of Lake Country and ONA regarding forest management and its relation to these other issues.

The board was provided a copy of a sustainable land-use report by the Real Estate Foundation of B.C. which also touches on the importance of water to B.C. residents.

Current weather data suggests that the Okanagan is drier than normal but this could change.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated January 30, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on the January Water Stewardship Council (WSC) meeting and a presentation from Kathy Eichenberger on the Columbia River Treaty. Next meeting will include an update from Ms. Garcia on the new Sustainable Water Strategy and an opportunity to provide input.

The Environmental Flow Needs project team is finalizing water flow data, including provincial data available since 1970s and traditional knowledge through ONA.

Bathymetric surveys are being done on Okanagan River, looking at channel characteristics and capacity, updating data from the 1980s. Modeling is also being done along flooding zones on Okanagan mainstem (valley-bottom) lakes, and 18 significant streams. This work is intended to help local governments adapt and mitigate flooding.

It was noted that Rick Simpson, an avid conservationist who regularly attended council meetings as a BCWF representative, and who attended many other OBWB functions, passed away. The BCWF is looking at creating an award in his honour.

CARRIED

6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley presented a proposal to review the OBWB’s Sewerage Facilities Grant Program, including its 1 ha. bylaw policy required to receive funding, to ensure the program is still meeting its objectives. The review would also look at how many areas of the valley remains eligible for SFA grants (i.e., still require community sewer).

The 1 ha. policy was brought in several years ago to mirror provincial policy and to address septic failures on small lot subdivisions. Several directors noted advances in technology and new science, and agreed that a review would be beneficial.

“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager’s Report, dated January 30, 2019, 2018, be received.”
CARRIED

6.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson presented final reports for the 2018 Make Water Work (MWW) and the 2018 Don’t Move A Mussel (DMM) campaigns. Both campaigns are delivered through the OBWB’s outreach and education program Okanagan WaterWise. MWW, aimed at outdoor residential conservation

in summer, provides matching funds to Okanagan local governments and utilities and leverages this for in-kind dollars. With over \$52,000 in funding and over \$30,000 in in-kind support from contest and media partners, the 2018 campaign is valued at almost \$83,000. There was a 63% increase in web traffic and 43% increase in pledges by residents to conserve. DMM, aimed at raising awareness regarding invasive mussels, spent \$59,000 and received almost \$36,000 in-kind for a campaign worth \$95,000. Web traffic was up 25% with almost all visitors being first-time visitors.

Focus groups were held on Jan. 28 to review the two campaigns to see where some tweaks may be needed. Results should be available by the end of February, in time for the build-out of a spring 2019 re-launch.

Ms. Jackson noted that after completing an RFP process, the OBWB entered into a contract with Hiilite Marketing to assist with the MWW and DMM campaigns in 2018, with an option to extend for an additional two years. Based on results, the board was asked to renew the contract for another year without going to RFP.

“THAT the Board approve an extension of the existing contract at \$50,000 for ‘Make Water Work’ and \$50,000 for ‘Don’t Move A Mussel’ for one year without further competition.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Wilson, Hrasko and Neilsen abstained

The board was provided an update on provincial mussel outreach efforts and inspections. There was some concern raised about non-compliance, especially among those with non-motorized watercraft who don’t know that the mandatory inspections apply to them as well. Ms. Jackson noted that the province is aware of this and is looking at ways to address this as well as other identified gaps. It was noted that provincial inspection program staff have presented to the board in the past and perhaps an invitation to come again would be of benefit.

In advance of Canada Water Week celebrations, OBWB-OkWaterWise is presenting a screening of “Beyond Climate” on March 7. The documentary looks at the effects of climate change in B.C., including the Okanagan, and features a number of local residents/experts, including Dr. Sears, former OBWB Chair Doug Findlater, WSC member Ted van der Gulik, and others. It was directed by Ian Mauro and narrated by David Suzuki. We are also sponsoring and assisting the ONA’s Syilx Water Forum on March 22, UN World Water Day.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated January 30, 2019, 2018, be received.”

CARRIED

6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia updated the board on the Agricultural Water Supply Communication Project, helping utilities communicate with their farm customers on water supplies, helping farmers make appropriate water-use decisions. Ten of 15 utilities have committed to participating in 2019. Additional local government partners have indicated interest in participating in 2020. An early season forecast message will be first one to go out in April.

Work on the Sustainable Water Strategy is continuing with a 10-person editorial board. An additional 28 WSC members provided feedback. A workshop will be held with the council at their February meeting and the draft will then be brought to the board in April. Ms. Garcia then provided a brief overview of the strategy.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist’s Report, dated January 29, 2019, be received.”

CARRIED

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Trout Lake Discussion

Alt. Dir. Monteith provided the board with some background information regarding the degrading of water quality at Trout Lake (Lusk Lake). It was noted that the province moved the highway in the early 60s and put in a culvert to address outflow from the lake. In 2011, the highway was widened and it’s believed that the culvert was blocked. Residents report seeing the lake deteriorate since then. They are on septic and water levels have also been rising, flooding septic fields. A video was shown suggesting deterioration with a significant drop in aquatic life and Interior Health declaring the water undrinkable. Residents are now seeking legal advice but are wondering if there is a role for the Water Board. The board agreed to receive the information for follow up.

“THAT the OBWB receive the report for staff to follow up.”

CARRIED

7.2 Board Remuneration Memo

The board was presented with a report, noting that there has been a change to tax benefits which would mean an overall decrease in remuneration for directors. At the same time, there has been no change in director remuneration since 2007. The report recommended adjusting the remuneration to offset the tax changes and looking at an overall remuneration adjustment in 2021.

“THAT the OBWB adjust board remuneration by 14% to offset federal tax changes to meeting pay.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Wilson, Hrasko and Neilsen abstained

7.3 Contract

Mr. Jatel presented a memo to the board for a sole-source contract to conduct Okanagan natural flow calculations as part of the EFN project, as well the hydrology modeling of 18 streams. The project team has been working on the methodology framework since 2017 and is ready to proceed. This work is within the existing budget, he added.

Dr. Sears added that water in streams is changing due to climate change. This effort will allow for the technical work to be done to conduct better flood planning.

“THAT OBWB award a time and materials contract not to exceed \$108,000CDN to Associated Environmental Consultants of Vernon, B.C. for their proposal to deliver corrected naturalized flow data for 18 Okanagan basins.”

CARRIED

Dirs. Wilson, Hrasko and Neilsen abstained

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from Fisheries & Oceans Canada to OBWB re: invasive mussel funding

8.2 Letter from B.C. Ministry Environment to OBWB re: invasive mussel prevention

- 8.3 Letter from Township of Spallumcheen to OBWB re: aquatic invasives study
- 8.4 Letter from B.C. Ministry Environment to OBWB re: groundwater license deadline
- 8.5 Letter from B.C. Ministry Environment staff to OBWB re: groundwater license deadline

“THAT the correspondence from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, B.C Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and Township of Spallumcheen be received.”
CARRIED

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 10 a.m. at Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen in Coldstream.

10. ADJOURNMENT

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of February 5, 2019 be adjourned at 1:50 p.m.”
CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 5, 2019
Agenda No: 6.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears
Date: February 27, 2019
Subject: **Executive Director Report**

Strategic Planning update

OBWB staff met in February to discuss the OBWB's May 7th strategic planning session. The last strategic plan was for 2014 – 2019, and in many ways is still current and relevant. However, we'd like the new plan to anticipate future changes in the watershed, and how to build on OBWB's unique strengths. Rather than hiring an outside facilitator, staff will lead the process. Our last strategic planning took place in 2013, facilitated by Victor Cumming, now OBWB Director and Mayor of Vernon. He has agreed to provide advice as we prepare for this session. The new strategic plan will have a five-year horizon of 2020 – 2025.

Collaborations on Flood Risk Reduction - update

The Okanagan LiDAR project continues. The first batch of data, from the Okanagan mainstem/Okanagan River channel shorelines will be couriered to our offices this week, with the remainder to follow in March. We are receiving the initial batch on hard drives, while GeoBC is in the process of developing a cloud-based interface to allow more direct access by our communities.

I've negotiated with GeoBC that OBWB will have an umbrella data sharing agreement and will facilitate distribution with Okanagan local governments and First Nation communities. Through our 2018 MOU, GeoBC owns and manages the data on behalf of the province. The missing portions of the watershed data (lost in the August 2018 plane crash) will be acquired in June 2019 and will be ready for use in Fall 2019.

Over the next two months I will be giving talks on the LiDAR project to an event about the uses of LiDAR to the Water Supply Association of BC and to SILGA. We intend to make outreach a priority this year, to raise awareness about likely changes to the maximum lake levels (existing levels are no longer considered to be accurate after 2017's flood and wave damage).

I attended a workshop and a watershed tour with the Okanagan Nation's Flood and Debris Flow Risk and Resilience Assessment this month. The project is bringing to light many of the locations that have high-value infrastructure at risk of flooding or damage, and those where there are problems with land movement at risk of debris flows. I also assisted RDCO staff with a grant application to UBCM's Community Emergency Preparedness Fund, for beginning their flood risk mitigation

planning. On all these projects, we are working closely with Okanagan communities to align our efforts so that there is a consistent approach to flood risk assessment, flood response and flood mitigation (through works or through policy).

Trout Lake Follow-up

Following the presentation at the February meeting, I followed up with Subrina Montieth, the Rural Area Director from Kaleden (and OBWB alternate director). Without more information about the possible buried culvert, it is difficult for OBWB to reach out to the government with a request for action. I also spoke with two local hydrologists familiar with the area. Apparently, the area is within a saturated groundwater zone, like other neighborhoods in RDOS with recent flooding.

Groundwater Study

There is more groundwater research on the way for the Okanagan Basin. Dr. Diana Allen, a professor at SFU, has received funding for two graduate students to study groundwater/surface water interactions, especially as they are affected by drought. She is applying for additional funding to conduct a workshop in the Okanagan to support this project, in partnership with the OBWB and Okanagan Nation Alliance. Dr. Allen is also looking for research sites where she can study groundwater flooding, in a separate project, and I've recommended the South Okanagan.

Goal 1: Develop quantitative drought indicator thresholds for groundwater level

- (Goal 1a) Characterization of groundwater level responses in different aquifers across the mountain regions of B.C. between drought and non-drought years – March 2020
- (Goal 1b) Drought indicator thresholds for aquifer (groundwater) levels that can be used to indicate the level of drought severity – July 2020

Goal 2: Evaluate the performance of indicators and regulatory tools that are used during water scarcity in the Okanagan Basin

- (Goal 2a) Evaluation of the drought indicators in the Okanagan Basin – December 2020
- (Goal 2b) Evaluation of the regulatory tools (analytical models and lag times) for assessing pumping impacts on Environmental Flow Needs (EFNs) for different drought scenarios – March 2021

Goal 3: Identify drought sensitive and drought resilient aquifers in the Okanagan Basin

- (Goal 3a) Numerical modeling to evaluate how different aquifers respond to drought under historic and future projected climate change – March 2022.

Weather Report

Each OBWB meeting I give the board a brief overview of the latest water forecasts from the B.C. River Forecast Centre, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and other agencies. Most agencies are predicting an early, dry spring for B.C., including this recent report from the Weather Network (see this [link](#)). Our snow packs are well below normal for this time of year, but if the spring abruptly turns wet (as in 2017) we could still see some flooding.

North American Drought Monitor

January 31, 2019

Released: Tuesday, February 12, 2019

<https://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/drought/nadm/>

Analysts:

Canada - Trevor Hadwen
Maginda Magendathajan
Mexico - Reynaldo Pascual
Minerva Lopez
U.S.A. - Brian Fuchs
Brad Pugh*

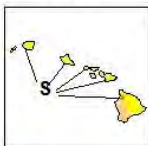
(* Responsible for collecting analysts' input & assembling the NADM map)

Intensity:

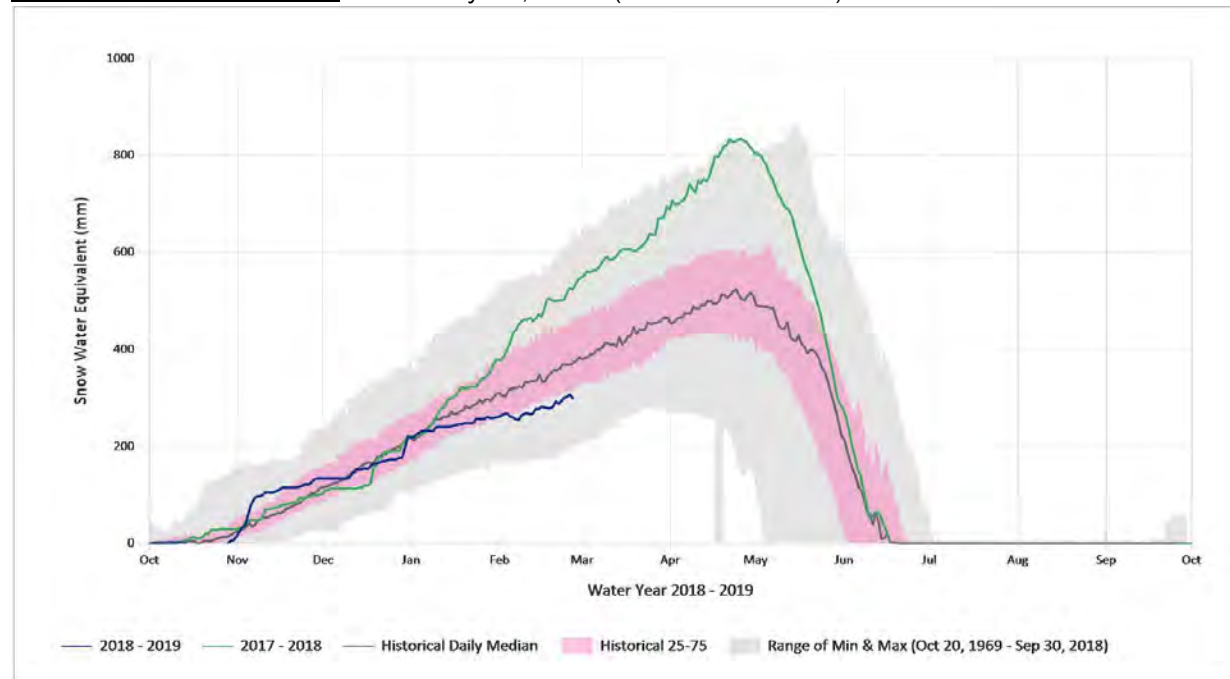
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

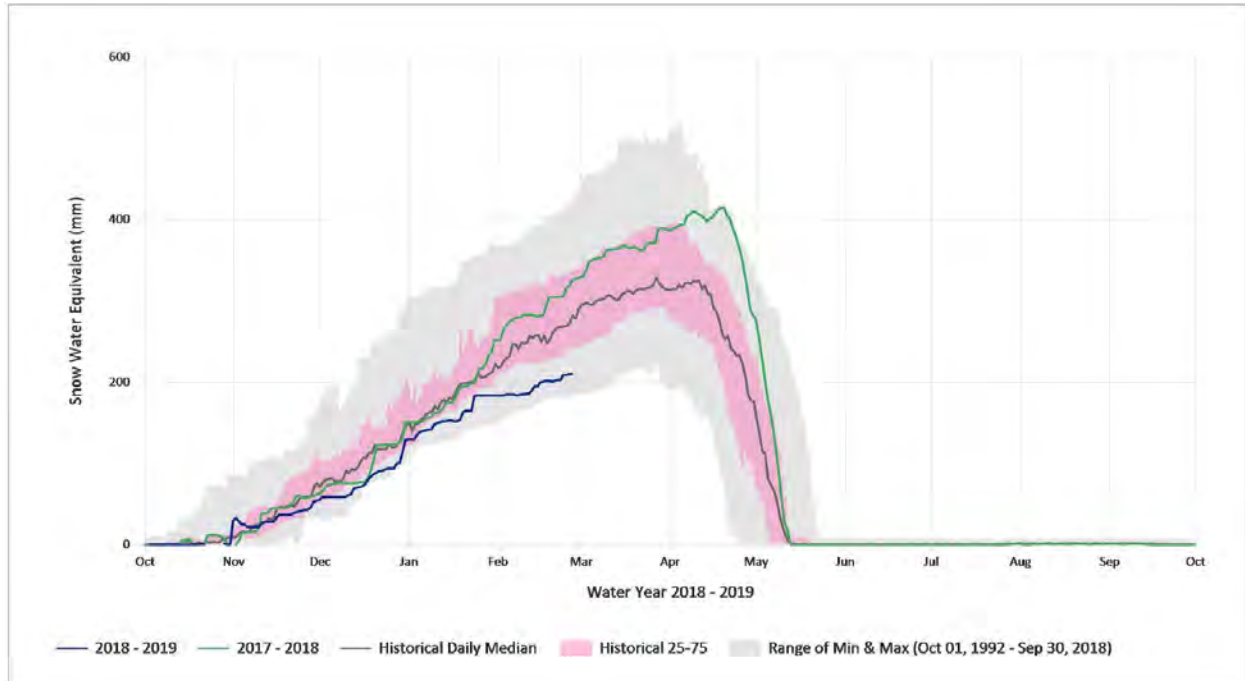
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)



Mission Creek Snow Pillow – February 27, 2019 (Elevation 1794m)



Brenda Mines Snow Pillow - February 27, 2019 (Elevation 1,453 m)



MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
February 5, 2019
Agenda No: 6.2

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel
Date: February 27, 2019
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

February Water Stewardship Council meeting

The Water Stewardship Council, technical advisory committee to the OBWB, had a well-attended meeting on February 14th. The Council focused on the development of the Council's Water Sustainability Strategy 2.0. Kellie Garcia facilitated a working session that was highly productive. Ms. Garcia has refined the strategy based on feedback she received on the December draft, and checked-in with the Council. The strategy will be the Council's guiding document for years to come, and Council feedback is critical to ensuring it can successfully serve that purpose. Ms. Garcia "unveiled" the new draft at the meeting and focused the working session on specific sections and actions. Helpful comments and direction were provided by Council members.

Our next Council meeting is scheduled on March 14th at the Kelowna's Coast Capri Hotel from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. The Council meeting focus will be on source water protection with a presentation by **Heather Larratt**. All board members are encouraged to attend.

Project Management updates

We are working on completing a suite of important initiatives in this fiscal (ending March 31, 2019) including:

- Okanagan EFN project
- Okanagan River Bathymetry project
- Okanagan river flood modeling (preliminary)
- Okanagan sub-basin hydrology modelling (preliminary)

There is a significant amount of on-going effort as projects are being wrapped-up and year-end reporting starts.

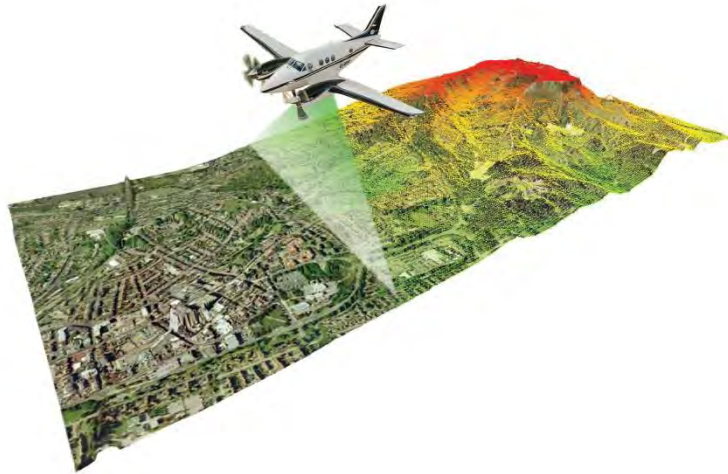
New funding for Okanagan climate data project

The Fraser Basin Council has facilitated a small award to an OBWB project from NRCan (\$7,100) for the organization and development of Okanagan climate datasets that will then be built into an online platform. Data types include in-situ weather and climate station data, gridded climate data based on observations and reanalysis, downscaled global climate model data, raw global climate model data, and others. This important project will support the current flood and hydrology modeling efforts as well as future modeling projects by improving the access and content of important Okanagan climate

data, collecting it all into one convenient location and making it readily available for future consultants, practitioners and researchers.

Okanagan LiDAR use and application workshop: March 4, 2019 (sold out)

In partnership with The Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program and the Regional District of Central Okanagan we will be hosting a workshop titled “Innovations in Okanagan LiDAR, and why is it so important?” on March 4, from 1-4pm at the Coast Capri Hotel. This workshop will spotlight innovative ways LiDAR is improving the way we plan and manage industry and government sectors.



LiDAR is one of the quickest and most accurate methods to produce Digital Elevation Models and nowadays it is used to enhance planning and management in many sectors. LiDAR is providing accurate surface models of rivers and lakes to assist with flood planning, fire departments are using LiDAR to identify high risk fire areas with fuel mapping, and the forest industry is using it to measure the vertical structure and density of forest canopies for enhanced management. OBWB Executive Director Anna Warwick Sears will facilitate the discussions as we explore the innovative uses of LiDAR. The workshop agenda includes:

- Introduction to the Okanagan Watershed LiDAR Project [**Anna Warwick Sears**, ED OBWB]
- Innovative Uses of LiDAR for Local Government and Forestry [**Cam Brown**, Forsite Resource Management]
- Opportunities to Apply New Okanagan LiDAR Data [**Mathieu Bourbonnais**, Assistant Professor, UBCO]
- LiDAR Case Studies: [**Jason Schleppe**, Senior Natural Resources Biologist, Ecoscape Environmental Consulting; **Don Dobson**, regional hydrologist; and others]

This event has turned out to be very popular and has sold out with over 70 registered participants.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 5, 2019
Agenda No: 6.3

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: James Littley
Date: March 1, 2019
Subject: Operations and Grants Manager Report

Milfoil Control Permits

The milfoil control program treats invasive Eurasian water milfoil in five valley lakes throughout the year. The second oldest program of the OBWB, the milfoil control was developed in the 1970's by the Ministry of Environment, recognizing the significant economic, social and environmental impacts the plant would have on our valley if it went uncontrolled.

In 2013, the province of BC, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) issued a five-year permit to continue the program, but required OBWB to delineate specific areas of treatment for the first time in the history of the program. These new polygons restricted our ability to be flexible and responsive to changing demand for milfoil control, since milfoil growth can be dependant on weather conditions, changes in the lake bed, nutrient loading, water temperatures and lakeshore and dock development. The Terms and Conditions of the 2013 - 2018 permit recognized that the milfoil control program targets only invasive milfoil, while accounting for all known habitat concerns, with specific work timing windows and other conditions built into our own best practices.

With the expiry of the previous 5-year permit in the fall of 2018, OBWB applied for a new provincial permit in early August 2018. We have had ongoing discussions with provincial staff and expect to receive a new permit within the next few weeks, moving away from pre-defined polygons and back to a more flexible framework allowing us to target milfoil while being aware of all habitat values and restrictions in an area.

We are also seeking clarity from provincial staff on the issue of avoiding habitat of native Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels (RMRM) which are considered a species of special concern under the Federal Species at Risk Act, and are considered endangered under provincial regulations. Areas with known RMRM occurrences will have specific restrictions on rototilling, likely limiting treatment to deeper water only, which could lead to increased milfoil density on some public beaches. I will update the board once this final clarification from the province is received.

2019 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Applications

This year we received 31 applications for our WCQI grant program with a total ask of \$678,281. Both the number of applications and the total request for funds is above average. Funding recommendations will be provided to the board at the April OBWB meeting.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 5, 2019
Agenda No: 6.4

File No. 0550.04

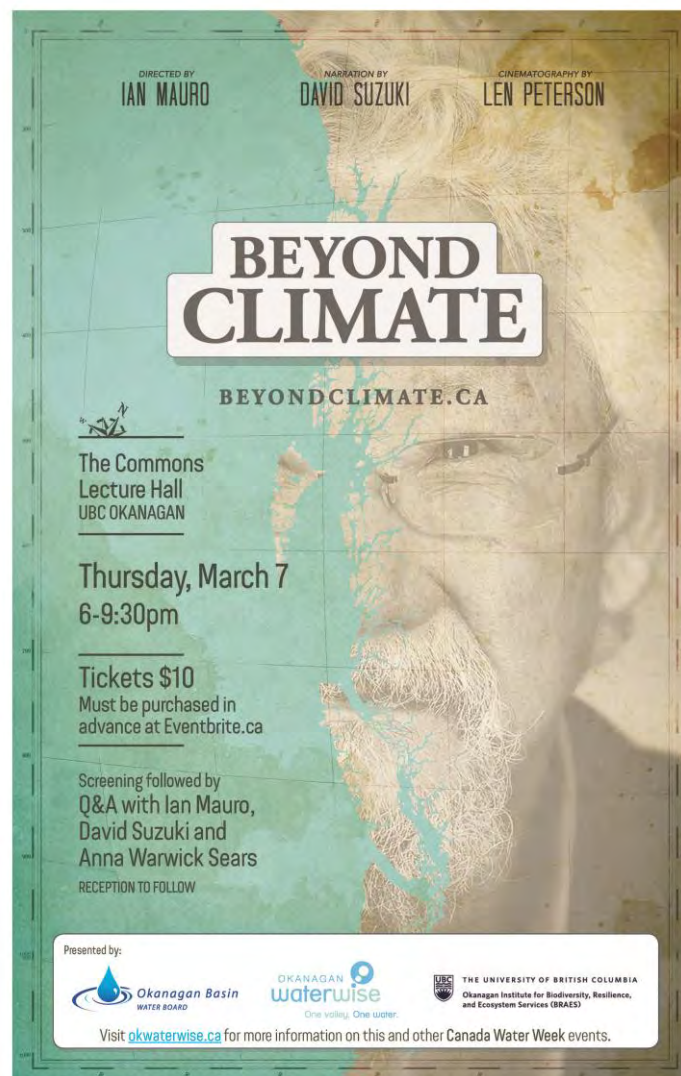
To: OBWB Directors
From: Corinne Jackson
Date: February 27, 2019
Subject: Communications Director Report

UN World Water Day/Canada Water Week

We are now sold out of all 400 tickets for our special screening of “Beyond Climate.” We have confirmed that both the film’s director, Ian Mauro, and narrator David Suzuki, will be joining us for a Q&A session following showing of the film. Dr. Sears, who was interviewed as part of the documentary, will also be part of the Q&A.

Dr. Jeanette Armstrong, Syilx elder and professor of Indigenous Studies at UBCO, will be providing a welcome to the event. UBCO’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Principal Deborah Buszard will also provide a few words.

Following the Q&A there will be a reception with light refreshments. We have invited a few local organizations that will have displays, showcasing the work they are doing to address climate change in the Okanagan and who will be inviting residents to join them and get involved. Organizations include the Okanagan Similkameen Stewardship Society (involved in habitat restoration on private and public lands), Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP - recently released a lakeshore homeowners guide), Okanagan Xeriscape Association (promotes landscaping suitable to the local climate), and Green Okanagan (helping residents transition to a more sustainable, less carbon-intensive lifestyle). There will also be an Okanagan WaterWise table.



In addition to this event, we will be holding an Okanagan WaterWise Challenge for youth, encouraging participants to be climate champions and inspire others to join them. More details will be provided at the board meeting. You can find past OkWW Challenge winners here:

https://okwaterwise.ca/challenge/2017_winners.html.

As noted last month, OBWB-OkWW is sponsoring and assisting with Okanagan Nation Alliance's Syilx Water Forum event on March 22 entitled "Collaborative approach to siwłk^w (water) resiliency: Protecting our headwaters." More details are available [here](#).

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

We have now received draft reports for the MWW and DMM focus groups. We are reviewing these and hope to have final reports completed next week. I will be providing some high level results at the meeting.

I have now met with Hiilite twice in the last couple of weeks, wrapping up and reviewing last year's campaign efforts and beginning to strategize for the coming year. I also have a meeting with our MWW committee on March 4 to review our 2018 outdoor water conservation campaign and plan for 2019.

Other communication initiatives

We have been working with the OCCP on the development of an Okanagan-based water curriculum for educators. We have had a couple meetings this month to review the materials and discuss next steps, including getting materials on the OkWaterWise website, promotion at teacher Professional Days in the Okanagan, and use of some of the materials as part of our Canada Water Week WaterWise Challenge.

Due to popular demand, we are once again joining with the Regional District of Central Okanagan's Waste Reduction Office and selling rain barrels as part of their annual composter sale. We will have 200 barrels available for \$78 each with a limit of two per household. Online pre-sales will run March 1-April 30, until sold out. Residents will be able to pick up their items at special events in Kelowna and Lake Country on April 27, and in West Kelowna and Peachland on May 4. (*Poster attached at end of memo.*)

Summary of Recent OBWB-Related Media

Feb. 4	"AAP open for \$3.5M lift station loan," <i>Osoyoos Times</i>
Feb. 6	"Regional district asking for more from Penticton taxpayers," <i>Penticton Western News</i>
Feb. 11	"38,000 vessels checked," <i>Castanet.net</i>
Feb. 12	"Climate change causes annual temperatures to rise in Kelowna," <i>Kelowna Capital News</i>
Feb. 18	"Nomination date set for Kelowna-Lake Country Conservatives," <i>Kelowna Capital News</i>
Feb. 21	"B.C. invasive mussel defence program inspected 38,000 boats last year," <i>InfoNews.ca</i>

Upcoming Presentations

March 4	"Innovations in Okanagan LiDAR, and Why is it so Important?" workshop to local government and public – Anna Warwick Sears
March 7	"Update on OBWB," to RDOS board – Anna Warwick Sears
March 7	"Beyond Climate," screening and Q&A moderator to public – Corinne Jackson
March 7	"Beyond Climate," screening and Q&A panelist to public – Anna Warwick Sears
March 11	"Okanagan Water Monitoring," to BC Water Funders – Nelson Jatel
March 20	"Update on OBWB," to RDNO board – Anna Warwick Sears
April 10	"Helping Okanagan Residents Save Water in Canada's Most Water-Stressed Region," to public at Okanagan Regional Library, Peachland branch – Corinne Jackson

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MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
March 5, 2019
Agenda No: 6.5

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Kellie Garcia
Date: February 28, 2019
Subject: Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Agricultural Water Supply Communications Project

The purpose of this project is to help enhance communication between water suppliers and their agricultural customers, particularly during times of drought. The project provides water suppliers with customized communications materials and mechanisms, including a key messages document, water supply status graphics, and access to an e-alert system centrally hosted by the OBWB.

Eight water suppliers are participating in the pilot project this year: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, Kaleden Irrigation District, City of Penticton, District of Summerland, City of West Kelowna, City of Kelowna, Glenmore Ellison Irrigation District, and Greater Vernon Water. We are currently meeting with each water supplier to refine their key messages document, provide training in the e-alert platform, and help recruit agricultural customers to register for the e-alerts.

Sustainable Water Strategy Project

I continue to work with the Water Stewardship Council to modernize their Sustainable Water Strategy. The strategy brings together technical information about the valley, showcases current projects and case studies, and recommends actions designed to protect water at its source, share water in times of shortages, manage water demand, and collect and distribute data and information.

This month, I held a workshop with the Council to review and comment on the draft actions in the strategy. I am currently incorporating that feedback into the document. The Council requested time for another look at the strategy in March, with adoption in April.

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting March 5, 2019 Agenda No: 7.1
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File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors

From: Anna Warwick Sears

Date: February 27, 2019

Subject: Water Sustainability Act Groundwater Regulation Update

At our February 2019 OBWB meeting, the Board received correspondence from the B.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and separately from his senior staff, that indicated they were not yet prepared to extend the March 1, 2019 deadline for groundwater licensing for agriculture and other large users. These letters were in response to two letters from the OBWB, urging them that it would be unwise to maintain this deadline because only a small fraction of groundwater users (approximately 12%) had completed the applications, there was a very large back-log of unprocessed applications, and after the deadline anyone who had not applied would be deemed to be extracting groundwater illegally and would lose their senior water rights.

We expressed strong support for licensing groundwater, but urged them to consider the value of an extended deadline paired with a stronger outreach and education program and streamlined application process. The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council provided six detailed, issue-based recommendations to remove additional obstacles to groundwater licensing compliance.

On February 19, 2019 the ministry issued a statement that they had made the decision to extend the licensing deadline ([see link here](#)) to March 1, 2022. The ministry notes that applicants who apply before March 1, 2022 will continue to enjoy the following benefits: exemption from paying application fees, opportunity to receive a date of precedence on their water licence that reflects historic use, and ability to continue using water until a decision on the licence application is made.

The POLIS Water Sustainability Project, a think tank affiliated with the University of Victoria, issued an open letter and set of follow-up recommendations to the Ministry on February 25, 2019. They have echoed our call for greater resourcing of groundwater licensing, including hiring additional staff. They also recommend that ministry staff place special emphasis on licensing users in groundwater stressed areas (like the Okanagan, Vancouver Island and

areas in the Lower Mainland). They call for better consultation with First Nations, who are not able to assess the cumulative impacts of water withdrawals on environmental stream flows when they are given referrals on a case-by-case basis.

The proposed SFU groundwater research described in my Executive Director's Report will be useful for better understanding groundwater patterns in the Okanagan, but I believe it would be appropriate to send our own follow-up letter, thanking the ministry for the extension, and reiterating the need for better resourcing and focused attention on our region. The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council will likely have more specific recommendations to add.

Recommended resolution: That the OBWB send a letter to B.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, George Heyman, and B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, thanking them for the extension of the Water Sustainability Act groundwater licensing deadline and providing recommendations for better resourcing and next steps.