

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



DATE: Tuesday, November 5, 2019

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

PLACE: Regional District of Central Okanagan,
1450 KLO Road, 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 October 1, 2019 at the Regional District of North Okanagan ([page 1](#))

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Executive Director Report ([page 7](#))

6.1.1 Proposed 2020 Meeting Schedule

6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report ([page 10](#))

6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report ([page 12](#)) (*resolution requested*)

6.3.1 Maps of new milfoil restriction areas

6.4 Communications Director Report ([page 17](#))

6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report ([page 21](#))

6.5.1 Source Protection Toolkit grant award letter

7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7.1 Budget Features Memo - Proposed OBWB 2020-21 Budget ([page 25](#)) (*resolution requested*)

7.1.1 Draft Budget

7.1.2 Draft Requisitions

7.2 B.C. AquaHacking Challenge 2020 Update Memo ([page 29](#))

7.2.1 AquaHacking Timeline Graphic

7.2.2 AquaHacking Kick-Off coverage, *Kelowna Capital News*

7.2.3 Short film vignettes of the five water issues (to be shown at meeting)

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8.1 Letter from B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development to OBWB re: milfoil control & Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels ([page 35](#))

9. NEXT MEETING

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be 10 am – 2 pm on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at the Regional District of Central Okanagan, in Kelowna, B.C.

10. ADJOURNMENT



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD OCTOBER 1, 2019, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN
9848 ABERDEEN RD., COLDSTREAM, 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
Alt. Director Christine Fraser	Regional District North Okanagan
Director James Baker	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Colin Basran	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Toni Boot	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Alt. Director Sabrina Monteith	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Alt. Director Scott Boswell	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

ABSENT

Okanagan Nation Alliance representative	
Corinne Jackson	Communications Director
James Littlely	Operations and Grants Manager

STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Kellie Garcia	Policy and Planning Specialist
Karen Christensen	Communications and Outreach Coordinator

GUESTS

Laura Frank	Regional District of North Okanagan
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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McKortoff called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Chair McKortoff respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation and Splotsin First Nation.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

8.4.1 2019 verbal outreach wrap-up report from Communications and Outreach Coordinator

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 1, 2019 be approved as amended.”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 9, 2019 at Rotary Centre for the Arts.

“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on Sept. 9, 2019 at Rotary Centre for the Arts be approved.”

CARRIED

5. DELEGATIONS

- 5.1 Christine Fraser, Mayor of Spallumcheen - North Okanagan Wastewater Recovery Project

Ms. Fraser provided a summary of the North Okanagan Wastewater Recovery Project, including aspects of how it will improve the environment, supply treated wastewater to agriculture, service industrial areas and business interests in the corridor. Okanagan Indian Band is also hoping to have access to the plant when they receive funding from the federal government.

The plant will take septic from the service areas. The initial first phase is to hook in businesses, then residential. The Township of Spallumcheen is in the process of consulting with farming community for the organics diversion. Construction of the project is estimated to take approximately two years following design and tender.

The project is estimated to cost \$36.9 mill. OBWB will provide about \$5.9 mill. (or 16% of eligible costs) in grant funding. The Township of Spallumcheen will place \$1.5 mill. aside for this project. Application to the *Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program* for a \$24.3 mill. grant has been submitted.

- 5.2 Laura Frank, Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO) Regional Planning Projects Manager - OBWB grant-funded Climate Projections Project

Ms. Frank provided a high level overview of RDNO's Okanagan Climate Projections project, funded with a \$25,000 grant from OBWB. Work was done in partnership with the Regional Districts of Central Okanagan and Okanagan Similkameen, and the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC). They have held workshops, providing high level projections with regard to impacts on transportation, buildings, storm water, sewage, water supply, health, agriculture, tourism, recreation, ecosystems, and the local economy. The work provides technical data as a basis for moving forward. The future climate impacts include wildfire, heat waves flooding and drought. Decisions we make today will result in the climate change impacts we face tomorrow, she noted.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair McKortoff noted that she attended a meeting with the B.C. Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, Doug Donaldson, at UBCM. Chair McKortoff provided him with information and briefing notes about the milfoil and Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel issue from Dr. Anna Warwick Sears. Chair McKortoff spoke with him about the need to work together towards a solution and the importance of the milfoil control program. Minister Donaldson said he has learned a great deal about the problems of milfoil rototilling.

7. DIRECTORS REPORT ON UBCM

Alt. Dir. Christine Fraser reported on a meeting regarding fish habitat studies. They are required to do studies wherever they are working on culverts, even in areas that are not fish bearing. This has potential to impact budgets, with costs of \$10,000 per study. They are working to develop a five-year drainage plan so that each project doesn't need a separate study.

Dir. Toni Boot said she met with Deputy Min. Don Wright, and also spoke to the milfoil issue. She was also interviewed on Global TV regarding climate change and how it has affected Summerland (floods and fires). Dir. Boot noted new provincial legislation coming out on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adding that it is expected soon.

Dir. Fairbairn reported on meetings with BC Hydro about Wilsey Dam and discussed building a fish ladder and environmental impacts. The indications are they are going to decommission the dam, he said.

Dir. Colin Basran provided Min. Donaldson with a Kelowna perspective, emphasizing how milfoil and water quality issues impact tourism. He urged the minister to let OBWB continue with its milfoil control.

Alt. Dir. Sabrina Monteith appreciated the opportunity to network with other local government electeds and brought forth water concerns in her discussions with delegates.

Vice-Chair Cindy Fortin had three meetings. One with the B.C. Minister of Environment about zebra and quagga mussels. OBWB has become a recognized and respected group, she added. She found it very encouraging that they recognized the importance of preventing invasive mussels. She asked for another mussel-sniffing dog and that the ministry make sure people clean, dry, and drain their boats and ensure it is mandatory.

Dir. Victor Cumming said the City of Vernon had seven meetings, including discussions about forest harvesting in watersheds, including harvesting wood that is closer to the mills and support for silviculture practices. There were also meetings about managing biosolids, the environmental standards which are getting tougher, along with management costs. The City of Vernon has a climate change task force and will be releasing a report around May 2020.

Dir. Bob Hrasko attended a meeting in September where there were water workshops and a range of speakers from water utilities. Presentations included water rate setting for agriculture, water needs for agriculture and more.

Alt. Director Scott Boswell provided an update on the Okanagan Lake Management Plan, including a visioning workshop later this fall.

Dr. Sears noted that she and Ms. Garcia were at UBCM to promote the planning guide database developed in partnership with CivicInfo BC. Dr. Sears also spoke with government staff who administer Gas Tax funds and the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. She also spent time with B.C. Ministry of Environment staff, the Infrastructure Finance group from B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs, and the Director of Disaster Mitigation. Dr. Sears also met with the Executive Director of the Invasive Species Council of B.C.

Ms. Garcia added that a dozen people came to discuss the database. The next steps are to add more resources and information to the database. This is an ongoing project that Ms. Garcia will be working on.

8. STAFF REPORTS

8.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears noted she has begun working on the budget for the next fiscal year, and felt that there would not be significant changes. Intentions are to continue to build the milfoil equipment reserve following the asset replacement schedule, and to continue the Water Management

Program at about the same level. The Sewage Facilities Grants Program budget is based on ongoing commitments. The updated budget will be presented at the November meeting and finalized by December. Dr. Sears noted that she didn't believe the North Okanagan Treatment Plant would be in this year's budget, but will probably be in the following year's budget.

On September 17, 2019, Dr. Sears attended International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (IOLBC) meetings. Historically, the mandate has been about managing Osoyoos lake levels and the ability to hold extra water in the lake during drought. This all connects with OBWB's work on flood mapping, including the LiDAR data. Similkameen can back up into Osoyoos Lake, she added, noting that OBWB's models should align with what is happening on the Similkameen. The OBWB will be working with the IOLBC to assist with hydrologic modeling on the Similkameen.

Dr. Sears gave an overview of the Aquahacking Challenge Finale in Montreal. This event was also attended by Mr. Littley and Ms. Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo in preparation for OBWB hosting the 2020 challenge. Staff are working with partner Aqua Forum to recruit additional sponsors.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Sept. 25, 2019, be received."
CARRIED

RECESS for lunch at 11:47 am
RESUME meeting at 12:18 pm

8.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported that the September Water Stewardship Council meeting included presentations from Drs. Bernie Bauer and Keith Duhaime with research on water quality stressors in multi-use Okanagan watersheds. The new data and findings noted the downstream impact from ATV's and cattle on road-stream crossings in two north Okanagan sub-basins. Potential solutions to mediate damage and upstream sedimentation affects were identified. Future water quality improvements may be informed by this research.

On October 10th, the council will meet and hear from a panel who will discuss implementation of an agricultural water reserve. An agricultural water reserve can be used as a licensing tool to conserve water.

The council is completing its 8th term. A proposed membership list for the next term was submitted to the board which includes 32 organizations for consideration. The board was asked to consider approving another 18 month term, and then extending the regular term length to 24 months.

"THAT the Okanagan Basin Water Board approve the attached Water Stewardship Council membership list (Appendix 1. Water Stewardship Council Proposed Membership List) for a term of 18 months (November 2019 – March 2021) and, thereafter, Council membership be appointed for a term of 24 months."

CARRIED

A flood planning workshop is planned for Oct. 2. Attendees will include planners, engineers, GIS staff. The OBWB is learning more about flood mapping standards and is looking to develop a web tool that the Water Board and other local governments can adopt to increase communication, using a similar strategy as one developed for the City of Calgary. The mapping being developing will populate the website and complement work local governments are doing.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Sept. 24, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

8.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Dr. Sears presented for Mr. James Littlely.

Dr. Sears provided a summary of the funding forecast for the North Okanagan Sewage Treatment Plant. The project has received \$24.3 million in funding so far through federal grants and will be eligible to receive up to 16%, estimated now at \$5.904 mill. from the OBWB Sewerage Facilities Grants. The grants are paid on a 20-year schedule, based on Municipal Finance Authority terms and rates. Based on the current MFA interest rate, the OBWB SFA grant for this project will pay approximately \$409,000 per year for the first 10 years, and then will be re-set with the current interest rate for the remaining 10 years. It is likely the grant will not begin until the project is complete and long term borrowing is in place. Once project costs are finalized, the grantee will submit a notification to OBWB for approval of the grant in principle, one year ahead of the formal start of the 20-year term in order to ensure that OBWB can include the \$409,000 grant in its annual budget.

Dr. Sears noted that the Aquahacking Challenge advisory committee has selected the five final water issues to be addressed. The issues will be announced at the kick-off this fall. In broad terms, the five themes include storm water contamination, waste water, flood damage, polluted water in indigenous communities, and aquatic invasive species.

In mid-October, the BC Water Funders Collaborative will be meeting for a workshop in Merritt. Mr. Littlely is a member of the steering committee and will be attending. During this workshop, attendees will be taking a field trip to observe the new Nicola Watershed Pilot.

“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated Sept. 25, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

8.4 Communications Director Report

Dr. Sears presented for Ms. Jackson who is attending WaterSmart Innovations, the world’s largest water conservation convention.

The Make Water Work and Don’t Move A Mussel campaign’s ended in late September as residents began to turn off their outdoor irrigation and water recreation wound down. Wrap-up reports will be compiled in the weeks ahead and brought to the board. The reports will help inform the 2020 campaigns.

‘A River Film,’ as well as several film shorts that focus on various issues covered in the film (e.g. agriculture, the fishery, dams and other infrastructure) are now posted on our Okanagan WaterWise YouTube channel. A link to the film will also be posted on the OkWaterWise website.

There is an extensive list of news clippings included in this month’s report, including stories on the milfoil/RMRM issue, this summer’s drought and the OBWB response, the board’s response to the provincial invasive mussel inspection numbers and push for stronger action, Make Water Work results, and more. A few examples are hyperlinked, but all of them are posted on the OBWB website and where applicable, on OkWaterWise, Make Water Work or Don’t Move A Mussel websites as well.

8.4.1 Ms. Christensen gave a verbal outreach wrap-up report. Ms. Christensen summarized the last 3 events and interaction totals for 2019 outreach. Karen will be staying on another two months to work on web content and updating/redesigning outreach materials.

“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Sept. 25, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

8.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia reported on her participation at the UBCM convention this past September, promoting the OBWB/CivicInfo BC Planning Guides database, including valuable conversations with representatives from more than 25 agencies. The online database holds more than 100 bylaw toolkits, guides and other resources focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainable land and water use.

Ms. Garcia also reported on the Local Government Flood Policy Review. OBWB staff are working on hydrology modeling studies, LiDAR data collection, and bathymetric survey to inform the preparation of floodplain maps for the Okanagan. With this compiled data, local governments will be in a better position to plan flood management and policies. New flood maps will give a better idea where changes need to be made. The Sustainable Water Strategy draft was forwarded to the WSC yesterday for review and adoption next week.

“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist Report, dated Sept. 24, 2019, be received.”
CARRIED

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

“THAT the letter from Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada to OBWB re: Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel, the Species at Risk Act listing decision, and milfoil control be received.”

CARRIED

10. **NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on Tues. Nov. 5, 2019 at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 1, 2019 be adjourned at 1:45 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Nov. 5, 2019
Agenda No: 8.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears
Date: October 30, 2019
Subject: **Executive Director Report**

This month I've primarily been working on the budget (see agenda item 7.1), and AquaHacking (see agenda item 7.2), and supporting other ongoing projects and grant reporting. As a result, my own report is quite brief this month.

LiDAR Update

We have received a new batch of high-density LiDAR for some flood-prone areas in the valley. This increases the level of definition provided in the digital elevation models and will help local governments with engineering design for stormwater projects, etc. The remaining batch of LiDAR, from high-elevation areas that were missed in 2018, will be available in late December or January. They must be reviewed by GeoBC before we receive them. I've been writing many data sharing agreements with researchers and agencies who are working on water-related projects. This allows us to provide the data at no cost, although it restricts the use to each specific project. We must continue to work through data sharing agreements until GeoBC opens its Open Data platform, but we have no timeline for when this will take place.

Water Quality Database and Climate Data Webpages

We have two significant additions coming to our website in November. The first is a new Water Quality Database, presented in partnership with Larratt Aquatic Consulting (LAC) and with Okanagan municipalities and water suppliers. With the permission of their clients, LAC has provided long-term water quality monitoring information at a wide range of locations throughout the valley. By clicking on a monitoring location on a map, and selecting the water quality parameter of interest (for example, alkalinity, fecal coliforms, nitrates, and many others), users can observe trends in water quality and download data or do statistics. LAC developed the portal for their clients, but has shared it on the OBWB website so that the public can also use the information. The website is still in beta testing, but will be formally launched in coming weeks, and I will arrange for LAC to give the board a tour of the site in an upcoming board meeting.

The Okanagan Climate Data Guide is a resource for researchers interested in climate data and climate modeling for the Okanagan valley. It was developed initially so that contractors working on flood mapping and hydrology projects could better understand which data sets were used for historical modeling projects, and the advantages of different approaches. The webpage is unique in

Canada. Rather than providing data, it provides information about the different climate data and where to access them. This will make Okanagan water projects more consistent.

ONA rep changes

We have not yet had the announcement about the new OBWB director from the Okanagan Nation Alliance. I will share the news with the board as soon as we receive the new appointment.

Weather Report

There have not been any significant changes to the seasonal forecasts for this winter. The long-term forecasts by Environment Canada and NOAA (USA) continue to predict a warmer than average winter. El Nino conditions are neutral (B.C. tends to get less precipitation during El Nino and more during La Nina), meaning that there is no strong trend for above or below normal precipitation (although either could still occur). Snow is just beginning to accumulate on valley snow stations.

Board Meeting Schedule for 2020

Month	Date	Location	Notes
January	Tuesday, Jan 7	Cancelled	
February	Tuesday, Feb 4	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	
March	Tuesday, March 3	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton	
April	Tuesday, April 7	Regional District North Okanagan, Coldstream	WCQI grant approvals
May	Tuesday, May 5	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Joint OBWB/Stewardship Council meeting and Strategic Planning Session
June	Tuesday, June 2	Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, Penticton	Adopt audited financial statements
July	Tuesday, July 7	Regional District North Okanagan, Coldstream	
August	Tuesday, August 4	Cancelled	Day after BC Day STAT
September	Friday , September 4	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Annual Public Meeting/OBWB regular meeting , location TBD
October	Tuesday, October 6	Regional District North Okanagan, Coldstream	
November	Tuesday, November 3	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	Present draft 2021-22 OBWB budget (can adopt)
December	Tuesday, December 1	Regional District Central Okanagan, Kelowna	2021-22 OBWB budget must be adopted by this meeting

MEMORANDUM

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

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel
Date: October 30, 2019
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

Water Stewardship Council

The October Water Stewardship Council meeting marked the last meeting of the Council's 8th term and more than 13 years of providing technical support to the Okanagan Basin Water Board. The Council supports collaborative approaches, mindful of the basin's water budget, the importance of using good science, best management practices, the need for appropriate legislation, and clear communication.

At October's meeting the council unanimously endorsed the new Sustainable Water Strategy 2.0 for presentation to the Board in December. As part of the regular meeting agenda, the Council received new information on the potential development of an Okanagan Agriculture Water Reserve from a panel presentation: **Ted Van der Gulik, Denise Neilsen, Marta Green, Bob Hrasko, and Hans Buchler**. The discussion explored how an Agriculture Water Reserve may be developed under the BC Water Sustainability Act (2016) within a Water Sustainability Plan. The discussion covered both technical and policy considerations required for the development of an Okanagan Agriculture Water Reserve. Further dialogue and work to enhance our understanding and define the Agriculture Water Reserve concept, economic feasibility of solutions, responsibility, necessary legislation issues, and required action will be forthcoming from the Council.

The upcoming November 14 Council meeting will be hosted at Kelowna's Coast Capri Hotel from 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. where we will welcome the new Term 9 council members as well as hold our Council election for Chair and Vice-chair. As part of our agenda, we will be hearing a presentation from **Fraser Basin Council** staff on water governance, management, and project activities taking place in the Fraser Basin. This presentation will provide the Council with an opportunity to hear about some of the success stories and challenges facing B.C.'s largest (roughly a quarter of the province), and Canada's fifth largest, watershed. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Project update: Okanagan flood-mapping project

The OBWB in partnership with the Regional District of Central Okanagan and the Okanagan Conservation Collaborative Project hosted a day-long workshop on Wednesday, October 2nd to explore two important aspects of flood mapping: (1) Okanagan flood mapping standards, and (2) the creation of an online Flood Story Map. The workshop was well-attended and attracted Okanagan planners, engineers, and other professional staff involved in planning, policy development, mitigating and adapting to future flood events. Workshop facilitators provided a review of mapping standards applied in other jurisdictions and will propose a flood mapping standard for adoption by the OBWB and other project partners, including local governments, to enhance current and future collaboration on Okanagan flood mapping projects. Resulting from the workshop is a commitment to develop a new web-based communication tool similar to the one developed by Calgary staff (<https://maps.calgary.ca/riverflooding>). The new Okanagan flood story website is expected to launch in spring of 2020 and will provide information to the public on a range of important flood topics including: flood maps, land use regulations, our flood history, reducing flood risk, how to prepare, and our changing climate. A report based on the workshop proceedings is under development and will be made available on the OBWB website.



Figure 1. Example of Okanagan flood map inundation boundaries including ortho-photo data and property boundaries: flood extent with and without freeboard.

A presentation slide titled "Okanagan Valley Flood Mapping Standards" with the subtitle "Why do we need standards?". The slide features a legend on the left with various symbols for flow direction, cross sections, river stations, flood control structures, and other features. It also includes three maps: a color-coded flood extent map, a map showing flood extent with and without freeboard, and a map showing flood extent with and without freeboard for an isolated area. The logo for nhc (Northwest Hydrological Consulting) is visible in the top right corner of the slide.

Legend:

- FLOW DIRECTION
- CROSS SECTION
- RIVER STATION
- FLOOD CONTROL STRUCTURE
- OTHER FEATURE
- DAM
- BRIDGE
- RAILWAY
- MAJOR ROAD
- LOCAL ROAD
- CITY
- TOWN
- SUMMER VILLAGE
- COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT
- FIRST NATION RESERVE
- STUDY LIMIT
- 100-YEAR FLOOD INUNDATION EXTENT
- 100-YEAR FLOOD INUNDATION EXTENT (ISOLATED AREA)
- 100-YEAR FLOOD INUNDATION EXTENT

Okanagan Valley Flood Mapping Standards

Why do we need standards?

MEMORANDUM

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

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: James Littley
Date: Oct. 23, 2019
Subject: **Operations and Grants Manager Report**

Milfoil Control Program

In early September, OBWB staff met with provincial staff to discuss the Terms and Conditions for our milfoil control permit. Following the meeting, the province reviewed several areas that had previously been excluded from rototilling due to concerns about Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel (RMRM) habitat. In late September, OBWB received revised Terms and Conditions clarifying the mussel areas and giving specific direction on areas permitted for rototilling.

The new restrictions for the rototilling program are based on water depths where the RMRM have been found through provincial surveys. Although rototilling is still prohibited in some historic treatment areas, the overall prohibited areas have been reduced compared to the initial permit issued in April 2019. In other areas, such as the north end of Osoyoos Lake, and some parts of Kin Beach, areas that were restricted in 2013 have now been re-opened to rototilling control. The new provincial permit is in place for five years.

As part of the provincial permitting process, OBWB also submitted a notification for project review to Fisheries and Oceans Canada. We are still awaiting that review to see if there are any further new restrictions.

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants

The WCQI grant program provides between \$3,000 and \$30,000 in seed funding to projects by local governments, improvement districts and non-profits for projects in the Okanagan basin which conserve water or improve water quality. The program has been running since 2006. This year, the call for applications will go out in late November, with the application deadline set for Friday, Feb. 28 at 4 p.m. As part of the approval process for these grants, the board is asked to approve an annual theme for 2020, review the process and scoring criteria, and make a resolution of approval, as laid out below.

Process

The process for awarding grants as adopted by the Board during the December 2013 meeting is:

1. Board approves scoring criteria and annual theme;

2. Applicants receive support from local government based on that government's water- related objectives, community values and other normal considerations;
3. Staff review the applications independently based on Board-approved scoring criteria;
4. Staff meet to determine recommendations based on individual assessments; and
5. Recommendations are forwarded to the Board for approval. Board discussion and voting on grant awards should occur as any other regular business, with input from all Directors. Board may award, not award, or alter funding within project and program limitations.

Scoring Criteria

The basic, weighted criteria of the grant program are included in the program guide for all applicants: 20	Basin-wide benefit
20	Complements current OBWB initiatives
15	Focus on action
15	Promotion of best practices
10	Collaboration
10	Innovativeness of project
10	Quality of proposal
100*	
*Up to 10 bonus points can be awarded based on board approved annual themes	

Annual Theme

Each year, as part of the approved scoring criteria, the Board approves an annual theme or themes, for staff to prioritize during the application review process. This allows the Board to pre-determine which type of projects should receive bonus points, while also meeting the regular criteria of the grant program. Last year's theme gave bonus points to projects that were intended to address climate change adaptation related to water conservation or water quality improvement.

This year we recommend the theme of **Collaboration**, with up to 5 bonus points awarded to projects which have multiple partnering organizations (not just multiple funders) and up to a further 5 bonus points for projects that have partnering organizations from multiple Regional Districts.

Recommendation: *THAT for the 2020-2021 WCQI grant competition annual theme, the OBWB seeks projects in any category that have multiple partnering organizations, especially organizations from multiple Okanagan Regional Districts AND THAT applications in these categories are prioritized for funding during staff review with the awarding of up to 10 extra points toward the total score; and THAT the process and scoring criteria for the grant competition be approved as outlined.*

These images show the historically permitted milfoil treatment polygons (grey shaded areas) and the new mussel restrictions (Red and yellow lines along the shore). Each image has a legend showing symbols and what they mean for that area. In polygons that overlap with mussel zones and no symbol is present, rototilling remains prohibited.



Casa Loma Resort West Kelowna

- Rototilling now permitted
- Rototilling prohibited on North side of dock



North end Osoyoos Lake

● Rototilling now permitted



MEMORANDUM

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

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Corinne Jackson
Date: Oct. 30, 2019
Subject: Communications Director Report

WaterSmart Innovations (WSI) 2019

I attended the Southern Nevada Water Authorities' 12th annual WSI conference on Oct. 8-10, recognized as "the world's preeminent urban water efficiency conference." The conference draws speakers and participants from throughout the U.S., Canada and around the globe. The conference offers workshops that cover various topics including: Marketing and Outreach, Education, Conservation and Incentive Programs, Sustainable Construction and Development, Water Loss Management, Landscaping, Code, Policy and Rates, Utility Infrastructure, and various special topics.

It's an excellent opportunity to share and brainstorm ideas, as well as challenges and victories, with others in the water communications world.

A few of the sessions I attended include:

- Water you doing to conserve? Partnerships and Engagement
- Where do we "Grow" from here? Building on a successful waterwise landscape tour
- Landscape Trends: Reducing water while growing food for people and pollinators
- The value of landscapes in climate plans: Climate resiliency
- Know your audience: How understanding population demographics can direct your water messaging effort

Presentations are now available online here: www.watersmartinnovations.com/sessions.php.



191105_CD Report_Memo



Don't Move A Mussel

On Oct. 16, OBWB-OkWaterWise and the Don't Move A Mussel initiative sponsored a workshop put on by the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society and the B.C. Invasive Mussel Inspection Program, aimed at those in the watercraft industry (marinas, yacht clubs, retailers and storage facilities).

Those in attendance learned about the threats posed by the mussels, how they're spread, and ways they can help prevent an infestation. They were also provided with a demonstration by Sgt. Josh Lockwood and his K9 partner Kilo, as well as an inspection and decontamination demo. (Photos below.)

Last week, the province released mussel inspection numbers as of Sept. 15. The program ended in October and final numbers are expected soon.

- As of September 15, 2019, more than 50,000 inspections were performed of which 1,240 watercraft were identified as high risk, and 19 were confirmed to have adult invasive mussels.
- The provincial program received advanced notice on 14 of the 19 mussel-fouled watercraft, either from another jurisdiction (e.g., Alta., Mont., Idaho, or Wash.) or by Canada Border Services Agents (CBSA).
- Mussel-fouled watercraft came from: Ont. (14), Michigan (2), Utah (2), and North Carolina (1). These were destined for the Lower Mainland (8), Vancouver Island (4), Okanagan (3), Kootenays (2), Skeena (1) and Alaska (1).



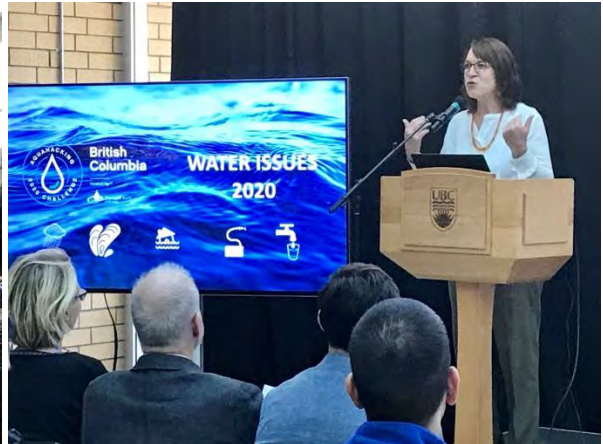


To see a video of Kilo in action, visit: www.facebook.com/OkWaterWise/videos/805686339847972/.

Other communication initiatives

As noted by other staff, we had the successful launch of the B.C. AquaHacking Challenge on Oct. 29. From the communications side, the last few weeks have been busy coordinating with communications staff at partner organizations, providing media communications (e.g. Media Advisory, News Release, media outreach), providing updates to the OBWB and OkWaterWise websites, promoting the challenge on our various social media channels including organizing a Facebook Live event, and reviewing communications materials.

A video link to the kick-off can be found here: http://bit.ly/AH_kick-off.





Left photo: Some of the partners toasting to the launch of the B.C. AquaHacking Challenge. (l to r) OBWB’s Anna Warwick Sears, AquaHacking’s Kariann Aarup, Leanne Sexsmith of the Real Estate Foundation of B.C., Lauren Andrews of RBC, Aidan Mattrick of De Gaspe Beaubien Foundation, and Duncan Phillips of Mitacs. Right photo: UBCO students speak with Castanet media about their excitement and interest in participating in the challenge.

Additional communications projects in the last month include review of the OBWB’s Sustainable Water Strategy, provision of water-conservation messaging and editing of the Regional District of Central Okanagan’s Living Green calendar, support to the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association’s business water-audit project (funded in part through an OBWB Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant), and collection of data from Make Water Work and Don’t Move A Mussel partners for wrap-up reports.

Summary of Recent OBWB-Related Media

- Sept. 23 “A River Film’ Showing in Leavenworth Saturday,” *560 KPQ Radio*
- Sept. 25 “Warming forecast for years to come in Okanagan,” *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Sept. 26 “Spread of lake weed slowed by cool rainy summer,” *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Sept. 30 “City’s tree canopy goal achieved 11 years early,” *Kelowna Daily Courier*
- Oct. 8 “RDNO politicians want more harvesting of lake milfoil,” *Castanet*
- Oct. 29 [“B.C. AquaHacking Challenge.”](#) *CBC Radio West (clip starts at 31:29)*
- Oct. 29 “Okanagan Basin Water Board to launch first AquaHacking Challenge in BC,” *Kelowna Capital News, Lake Country Calendar*
- Oct. 29 [“B.C. AquaHacking Challenge launched in Kelowna to help province address freshwater issues.”](#) *Global Okanagan*

Upcoming Presentations

- Nov. 8 “Okanagan Source Protection Toolkit Project,” to Water Supply Association of B.C. – Kellie Garcia
- Nov. 30 “Weeding fact from fiction – A look at water in the Okanagan, Canada’s most water-stressed region” to Okanagan Master Gardeners – Corinne Jackson
- Dec. 2 “Okanagan Agricultural Water Supply Communications Project,” to agricultural producers at Climate Adaptation Research Workshop

MEMORANDUM

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

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Kellie Garcia
Date: October 30, 2019
Subject: Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Lower Mainland Flood Forum

The Lower Mainland Flood Management Strategy is a collaborative initiative with more than 50 governmental and non-governmental agencies working together to reduce risk from, and strengthen resilience to, river and coastal flooding in the Lower Mainland region. The Fraser Basin Council manages and facilitates the initiative. Phase 1, undertaken from 2014-2016, focused on improving understanding about flood scenarios, vulnerabilities and management actions. Phase 2, initiated in 2016 and currently underway, includes additional technical analysis and more substantive engagement and dialogue. Phase 3 will focus on implementation of the Flood Strategy.

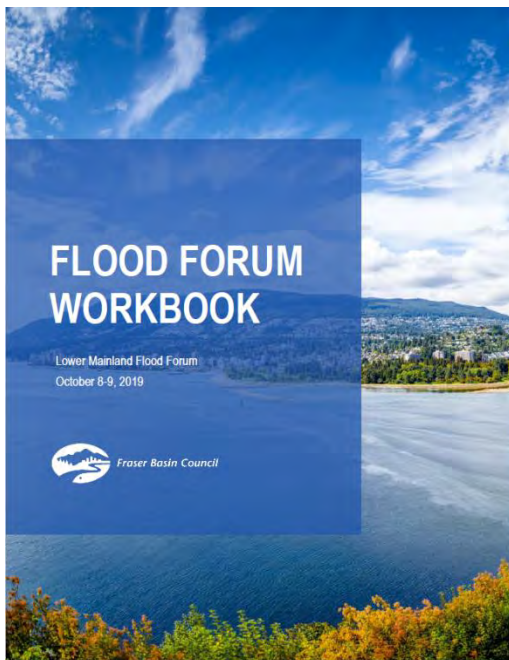
On October 8 and 9, I attended the Lower Mainland Flood Forum in Vancouver. About 140 participants from First Nations, municipalities, regional districts, provincial and federal government, non-governmental organizations, and industry were at the event. The purpose of the forum was to give a progress update on the Flood Strategy, including the latest on Fraser River and coastal flood hazards based on new modelling and mapping, and an opportunity for input on key aspects of the strategy, including regional priorities for investment and action, flood risk reduction options, and flood governance and funding.

While the flood hazards and risks are different in the Lower Mainland, I was struck by the similarities between what I heard at the forum and the conversations we are having in the Okanagan. Flood events are transcending local administrative and political boundaries and there are varying capacities and approaches among the different urban, rural and Indigenous communities (such as financial resources, staff expertise and risk tolerance). Decision-making is uncoordinated and distributed across numerous agencies. The need for a collaborative approach to facilitate consistent policies, practices and standards across the region, while acknowledging local circumstances, came up again and again. The point was made that unless flood mitigation planning, policies and investments are coordinated at a regional scale, risk may be transferred to neighbouring jurisdictions or to future generations, rather than being reduced. A common understanding of flood hazards and risks and current and future flood management activities was highlighted as being essential to a regional approach.

The need to acknowledge and reconcile First Nations title and rights in a just and fair manner was also a common thread of the forum discussions. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples (UNDRIP) was referenced several times. It was clear from the discussions that no one has a clear understanding of what this means in practice, but that the Indigenous communities attending the forum want to work side-by-side with the local governments to move it forward.

The forum itself was a very valuable learning experience and the Flood Forum Workbook also contains information relevant to the Okanagan, including ideas about governance and funding models. I am now working with Dr. Sears to better define the OBWB's overall role in flood management and to consider the feasibility and scope of an "Okanagan Flood Management Strategy," beginning with a policy gap analysis.



The Lower Mainland Flood Forum was held at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue, Simon Fraser University, on October 8 and 9, 2019.

Funding for Source Water Protection Toolkit

Source water protection, or watershed management to minimize or prevent contamination of water bodies and aquifers, is critical to the provision of safe drinking water and healthy ecosystems. Our application for an infrastructure planning grant in the amount of \$10,000 was approved for the Source Water Protection Toolkit project (see attached letter). The project will create a toolkit of best practices and source protection policy and bylaws that are within local government jurisdiction. It will include case studies that highlight collaborative processes, public education campaigns, funding programs and governance frameworks that have led to improved source protection. A technical advisory group of local governments, First Nations, Interior health, provincial ministries, land tenure holders and legal experts will guide the project and help develop the toolkit.

Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy

The Water Stewardship Council adopted the Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy at their October meeting. I am now working with a graphic designer to finalize the document so it is ready to include in the

OBWB's December agenda package. I will give a brief presentation at the December meeting and then the Directors will be asked to receive the Strategy.

Upcoming Presentations

I have two speaking events coming up in November and December. The first is at the Water Supply Association of BC's annual conference in Penticton on November 8. I will be holding a short workshop there to introduce the Source Protection Toolkit project, gather input on the scope and content of the toolkit, and recruit members for the technical advisory group. The second presentation is at a B.C. Agricultural Climate Adaptation Research Network workshop in Kelowna on December 2, where I will be talking about the Okanagan Agricultural Water Supply Communications project.



Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Nov. 5, 2019
Agenda No: 6.5.1

September 23, 2019

Ref: 249330

Ms. Sue McKortoff
and Members of the Board
Okanagan Basin Water Board
1450 KLO Road
Kelowna BC V1W 3Z4

Dear Chair McKortoff and Board Members:

On behalf of the Province of British Columbia, I am pleased to advise you that your application under the *Local Government Grants Act* for an infrastructure planning grant has been approved for the following project:

Grant Description	Amount
Source Water Protection Tool Kit	\$10,000

Details of the terms and conditions attached to this grant will be dealt with in an agreement that will be forwarded to you by Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing staff as soon as possible. This agreement must be signed and returned to the Ministry, indicating your acceptance of the terms and conditions.

The Province welcomes the opportunity to support planning in the Okanagan Basin Water Board. We believe that early and ongoing planning is the best way to ensure that the environmental, social, and economic needs of your community will continue to be met in the years ahead.

Through your planning efforts, the Province encourages you to find ways to use new technology to promote environmental excellence and sustainable service delivery.

Congratulations on your successful application and my best wishes with your infrastructure study.

Sincerely,

Selina Robinson
Minister

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
November 5, 2019
Agenda No: 7.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Date: October 30, 2019
Subject: **Budget Features 2020-2021 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 2020-2021 budget must be adopted on or before the OBWB meeting of December 3, 2019, and the board may adopt the budget as proposed at this November 5 meeting.

Attachments

- The OBWB Budget for the year ending March 31, 2021 is attached, showing the breakdown between the Sewage Assistance Grants, Watermilfoil, and Water Management programs. The dark blue column "2021 Consolidated Budget" is the proposed budget for the coming year. The light blue "2020 Consolidated Budget" is for the current fiscal year, and the lavender "2019 Consolidated Audited Year End" reflects actual expenditures for our programs in the audited year-end for March 31, 2019.
- The Requisitions attachment shows the total requisitions from each regional district.

Budget Overview

The 2020-21 budget focuses on priority programs and services. Our most recent audited financial statements (2018-19) were presented at this year's Annual Public Meeting in Kelowna, and are provided on the OBWB website.

The draft 2020-21 budget for Board consideration has the following features:

- The overall OBWB requisition is \$3,451,930, a small increase (less than a 10th of one percent) over the 2019-20 requisition (\$3, 449,170).
- As a percentage of assessments, the requisition decreased to 3.8 cents/\$1,000, from 4.1 cents in 2019-20 because of higher assessment values.
- We have not had a significant requisition increase since Fiscal Year 2011-12.

Sewage Facilities Grant Program

The requisition for sewage facilities grants is 1.4 cents/\$1,000 assessment; down by 0.2 cents from 2019-20. In our most recent audited financial statements, the reserve fund for sewage facilities grants was \$1,264,966. 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 \$30,000 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 0.9 cents/\$1,000 assessment, down 0.1 cents from 2018-19, as a percentage of assessments. This year's budget covers anticipated costs for milfoil mapping and permitting. We are continuing to make scheduled transfers to the equipment reserve for replacing aging equipment per our Asset Replacement Schedule – approved by the board in 2016. 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, similar to last year 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, and will continue to apply for external funding to enhance project budgets. Projects include continuation of the outreach programs for water conservation and invasive mussel prevention; 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 – including a guidebook or “Toolkit” for local government source protection planning. We will have completed the Okanagan Lakeshore Flood Mapping Project by the end of the current fiscal year, and we are beginning to work on a Flood Policy gap analysis to assist local governments to update their bylaws in response to the outcome of the flood maps. We will be assisting local governments with grant applications to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) for flood mitigation projects.

After reviewing the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant's program, which has had a budget of \$300,000 per year since 2006, we have increased the proposed grants budget to \$350,000 to account for inflation. The funds will be granted to local governments and community partners according to the program terms of reference approved by the board in 2018.

Recommended Resolution: That the OBWB adopts the 2020-2021 budget as presented.



Okanagan Basin Water Board
 Regular meeting
 Nov. 5, 2019
 Agenda No: 7.1.1

Budget for the year ending March 31, 2021

	Water Management	Water Milfoil	Sewerage Assistance	2021 Consolidated Budget	2020 Consolidated Budget	2019 Consolidated Audited Year End
Revenues						
Requisitions	\$ 1,363,850	\$ 811,500	\$ 1,276,580	\$ 3,451,930	\$ 3,449,170	\$ 3,450,733
Grant income	0	0	0	0	0	2,068,075
Interest income	8,300	9,000	23,500	40,800	29,000	81,962
Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	800
Transfer from reserve	0	0	30,000	30,000	100,000	0
	1,372,150	820,500	1,330,080	3,522,730	3,578,170	5,601,570
Expenses						
Assistance grants	350,000	0	1,290,080	1,640,080	1,741,320	1,855,340
Amortization	8,000	73,000	0	81,000	50,000	79,909
Transfer amortization to tangible capital assets	(8,000)	(73,000)	0	(81,000)	(50,000)	(79,909)
Contract services	325,000	5,000	0	330,000	277,000	1,351,519
Director's remuneration and expenses	12,000	12,000	0	24,000	23,800	22,210
Stewardship council expenses	15,000	0	0	15,000	20,000	8,194
Equipment costs	3,100	128,000	0	131,100	154,100	89,497
Insurance	2,000	30,000	0	32,000	34,500	31,234
Interest charges	250	200	0	450	450	74
Office	26,600	13,300	0	39,900	37,100	44,991
Outreach and publicity	58,000	3,000	0	61,000	79,500	143,678
Administrative allocation	(20,000)	(20,000)	40,000	0	0	0
Professional fees	40,900	40,600	0	81,500	81,500	76,122
Rental costs	10,400	26,500	0	36,900	39,000	47,363
Safety	2,000	6,500	0	8,500	8,500	8,570
Travel, conferences and meetings	60,700	3,200	0	63,900	57,200	86,819
Utilities, yard supplies and maintenance	0	18,200	0	18,200	16,200	16,208
Wages and benefits	486,200	404,000	0	890,200	858,000	881,226
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
	1,372,150	820,500	1,330,080	3,522,730	3,578,170	4,663,045
Net revenues (deficiency) over expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 938,525



Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting Nov. 5, 2019 Agenda No: 7.1.2

**Regional District Provisional Assessment
Budget For The Year Ending March 31, 2021**

	Central Okanagan	Okanagan Similkameen	North Okanagan	Total
2019 Revised Roll-Updated Oct 2, 2019	\$ 57,452,083,303	18,460,455,323	15,985,281,315	91,897,819,941
Percentage Share	62.52%	20.09%	17.39%	100.00%
REQUISITION				
Water Management	852,679	273,997	237,173	1,363,850
Water Milfoil	507,350	163,030	141,120	811,500
Sewerage Assistance	798,118	256,465	221,997	1,276,580
Total	\$ 2,158,147	693,492	600,290	3,451,930
<i>Total Prior Year Requisition (Done)</i>	<i>\$ 2,153,662</i>	<i>692,938</i>	<i>602,570</i>	<i>3,449,170</i>

MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Nov. 5, 2019
Agenda No: 7.2

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors
From: James Littlely and Anna Warwick Sears
Date: Oct. 30, 2019
Subject: **AquaHacking Update Memo**

On October 29th, OBWB and Aqua Forum hosted the official kickoff event for the AquaHacking Challenge B.C., 2020. The event was held at UBC Okanagan and was live-streamed on Facebook for other campuses in the province, and beyond. Fifty people attended the event, including representatives from the de Gaspe Beaubien Foundation (who began the initiative), RBC Foundation, and the Real Estate Foundation of BC. Also present were members of the Advisory Committee, as well as UBCO faculty and students – including six students who have already signed up for the Challenge. As of this afternoon, more than 350 people have now watched the event on Facebook Live (either during the real time broadcast, or the recording), but views continue to grow.

The kick-off featured the official release of the five water issues that teams are asked to address. These are:

- 1) Contaminants in stormwater (Answering the questions: How can we improve water quality in our lakes and streams by reducing stormwater contamination? Can you think of a more cost-effective solution? Can we create an Okanagan toolkit to manage storm water; can we use rain beneficially, treat it locally and as a last-resort, treat it at outfalls; and can we do all of this safely?)
- 2) Residential/commercial outdoor water use (How can we reduce the amount of water used outdoors by B.C. homes and businesses? How do we get people to change their habits? We need people to be aware how important water use is, accept that it is worth personal action, and putting it into place)
- 3) Flood damage in communities and the need to communicate flood risk (How can we reduce damage to homes, businesses and infrastructure and better communicate the risk of flooding to communities? Is there a way to better communicate flood risk to homeowners, communities and governments; anybody who may have to understand flood risks and make decisions for their employment or for their home and their families as well?)
- 4) Preventing and mitigating the effects of invasive zebra and quagga mussels (How can we prevent an infestation and potential damage from invasive mussels? Come up with a technological solution to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive mussels, to mitigate the damage that they do to our infrastructure, or to control their population in infested areas.)
- 5) Potable water in Indigenous communities (How can we improve access to clean drinking water for Indigenous communities in B.C.? Help us find solutions to safe drinking water for our communities.)

Many of the Water Issue Leaders also were present. These volunteer water experts will be mentoring teams on specific aspects of the five issues, providing data, access to resources and guidance.

The kick-off was also an opportunity to announce a significant boost to the levels of prize monies by Mitacs, a federal funding source that links university research to industry. If teams meet the eligibility for Mitacs funding, the awards in some cases will be doubled. Both Mitacs and AquaHacking provide mentorship on developing the innovations into tech start-ups. There was significant media coverage of the event, including video coverage by Global News and Castanet News, and radio coverage by AM1150 and CBC's Radio West.

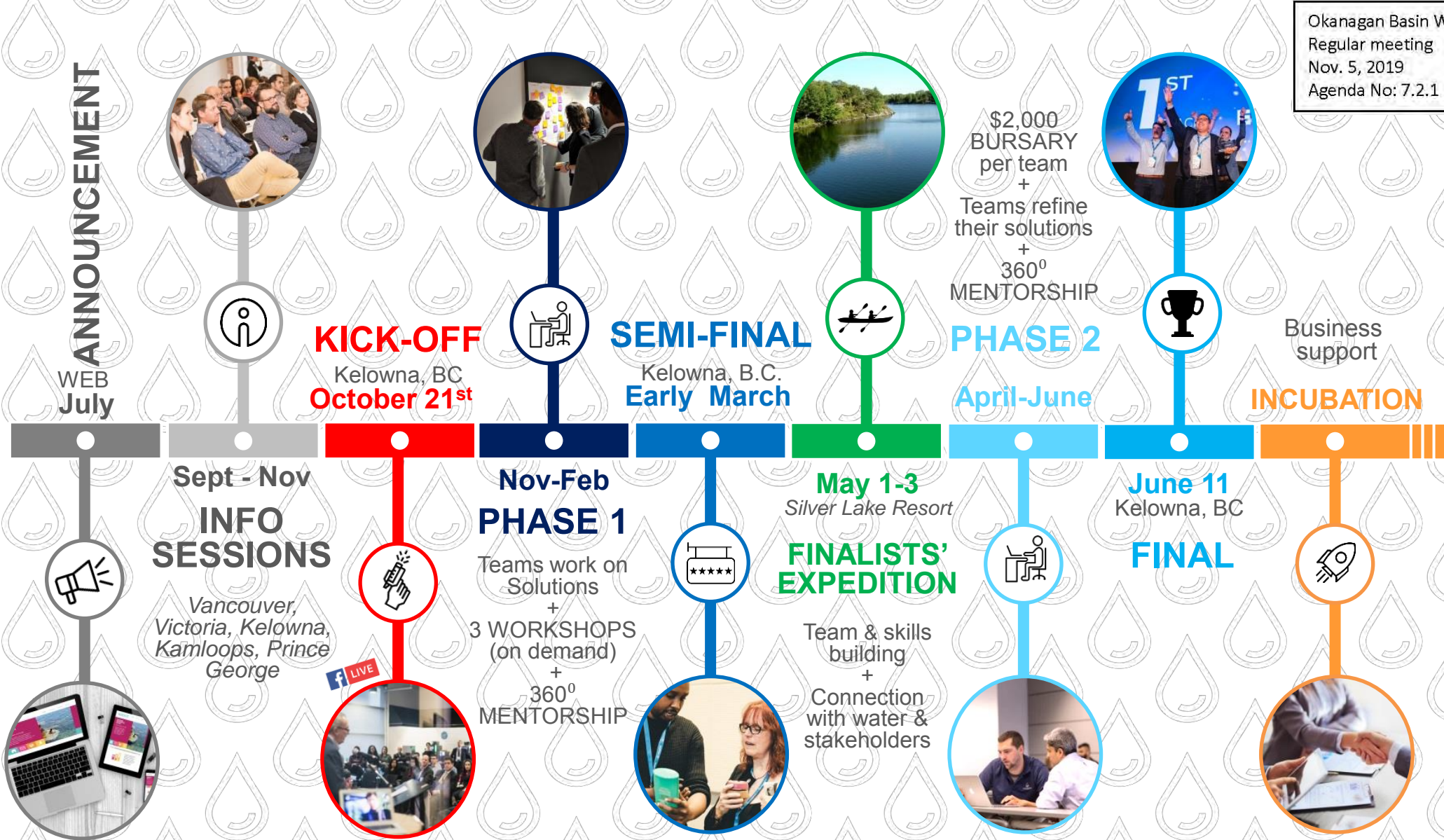
Thirteen people have already registered for the Challenge. There are three formed teams, and six individuals who have registered and are looking for team partners.

OBWB's AquaHacking Coordinator, Carolina Restrepo, James Littlely, the AquaHacking Project Manager, and Kariann Aarup from Aqua Forum will continue outreach to universities, technical institutes and colleges throughout the province to recruit AquaHacking teams. We are hosting weekly webinars, and will also do tabling at university events. The deadline for teams to register is in January 2020.

The AquaHacking semi-final will take place in the first week of March 2020 at UBC Okanagan and the Final will be held at the Laurel Packinghouse in the late afternoon and evening of June 11th in Kelowna. We are still doing outreach to potential sponsors, especially to cover the costs for teams to travel to the Semi-Final and Final events. Teck Resources recently signed on as a formal sponsor (officially the "Regional Partner") with a \$50,000 contribution towards hosting the events.

THE 2019- 2020 CHALLENGE TIMELINE – BRITISH COLUMBIA

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Nov. 5, 2019
Agenda No: 7.2.1





Okanagan Basin Water Board to launch first AquaHacking Challenge in B.C.

The Aquachallenge is where students and young-professionals test ideas to improve water issues

[DANIEL TAYLOR](#) / Oct. 29, 2019 2:30 p.m. / [NEWS](#)

Students, tech leaders and those with an interest in freshwater issues gathered for the first-ever B.C. AquaHacking challenge, hosted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and Aqua Forum, held at UBC Okanagan on Tuesday.

AquaHacking was founded by the De Gaspe Beaubien Foundation five years ago with the goal of connecting youth and young professionals with an interest in freshwater issues, clean-tech innovation, and entrepreneurship with mentors who could help them launch real-world solutions.

READ MORE: Westbank-based financial broker raises \$170 million bond for 22 First Nations

After five years and with funding from RBC Foundation to bring the program coast-coast, and further funding from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, organizers were ready to expand westward.

“As a member of the De Gaspe Beaubien family who is from B.C., it is really exciting to see a program like this come here, to harness the skills and talents of young British Columbians in having a positive impact on freshwater in the province,” noted Aidan Matric, founder of Swerve Labs.

“We knew to expand we needed a great local partner like OBWB, a community leader with water management expertise and a partner that would be enthusiastic and receptive to work on these issues. I can’t wait to see what develops over the next few months and beyond.”

OBWB executive director Anna Warwick Sears is just as keen about the challenge.

“I’m excited about the challenge because of the opportunity to work with new partners, and to raise awareness for water issues among tech professionals and build stronger ties to the university and college community,” she said.

READ MORE: Kelowna fire crews knock down fire at former school board

The challenge is open to teams across Canada and it’s anticipated that the tech solutions coming out of this could deliver national, and international benefits.

The five water issues to be addressed as part of this year's B.C. Aquachallenge include contaminants in stormwater, residential/commercial outdoor water use, flood damage in communities, mitigating the effects of invasive water species and access to potable water in Indigenous communities.

This challenge will be one of three events held across Canada in 2020. In each challenge, contestants will receive mentorship and skills-building workshops, while they compete for more than \$50,000 in prizes and a secured spot in a start-up incubator.

[@Niftymittens14](#) 

daniel.taylor@kelownacapnews.com

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Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Nov. 5, 2019
Agenda No: 8.1

Reference: 250630

October 22, 2019

VIA EMAIL: anna.warwick.sears@obwb.ca

Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Okanagan Basin Water Board
1450 KLO Road
Kelowna, British Columbia
V1W 3Z4

Dear Anna Warwick Sears:

Thank you for your letter of August 26, 2019, to Minister Donaldson, requesting amendments to legislative tools which would allow the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) to rototill Eurasian watermilfoil in high public-use areas regardless of future recordings of Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussel (RMRM). I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

I am aware that ministry staff met with the OBWB on September 4, 2019, to discuss concerns with rototilling at three locations on Okanagan Lake and one location on Osoyoos Lake where RMRM are known to occur. I understand there was agreement at the meeting to adjust the *Water Sustainability Act* terms and conditions which will reduce impacts to the milfoil management program while still managing effectively for RMRM populations. Currently, the ministry will not be looking at implementing additional legislative tools to address this management concern. I have however, directed staff to reach out to the OBWB and continue dialogue on improving how milfoil and RMRM are managed.

The ministry recognizes the importance of milfoil control to recreation and tourism within the Okanagan, as well as the need to manage for native species and their habitats. We appreciate the leadership the OBWB takes in water management, and we look forward to continued collaboration.

Again, thank you for sharing your concerns on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line.

Paul Rasmussen
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource
Operations and Rural Development