

# Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



Okanagan Basin  
WATER BOARD

**DATE:** Tuesday, April 7, 2020

**TIME:** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**PLACE:** \*Online (see notation below)

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

1.1 Acknowledgement of First Nations Traditional Territory

*We acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on the unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.*

**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 March 3, 2020 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (page 1)

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

5.1 Executive Director Report (page 7)

5.2 Water Stewardship Director Report (page 10)

5.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report (page 12)

5.4 Communications Director Report (page 14)

5.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report (page 18)

**6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

6.1 OBWB Draft Strategic Plan and Tracking Measures 2020-2024 (provided at meeting)

**7. IN-CAMERA**

7.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(1)(m) of the Community Charter)

**8. RISE & REPORT FROM IN-CAMERA**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, May 5, 2020 at 10 a.m. at location TBD.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**\* NOTE:** Meetings of the Okanagan Basin Water Board are open to the public, and only closed for in-camera sessions as set out in the B.C. Community Charter. Given the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the board will be holding its meeting online to ensure physical distancing and follow senior governments' request to stay home. If you are interested in attending this online meeting, please contact our Communications Director Corinne Jackson at [corinne.jackson@obwb.ca](mailto:corinne.jackson@obwb.ca) for further details. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD MARCH 3, 2020, AT REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN  
101 MARTIN ST., PENTICTON, B.C.**

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**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 Amanda Shatzko	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
Director Rick Knodel	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of BC
Director Denise Neilsen	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

**ABSENT**

Director Christopher Derickson	Okanagan Nation Alliance
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**STAFF**

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

**TECHNICAL OBSERVER**

Tessa Terbasket	Okanagan Nation Alliance
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**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair McKortoff called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

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

**2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS**

- 8.3 Letter from OBWB to B.C. Minister of Environment and Climate Change (MoE) re: draft Source Drinking Water Quality Guidelines
- 6.5.1 Memo re: contract source protection toolkit
- 7.2.1 Draft letter from OBWB to B.C. MoE re: legislative changes to prevent invasive mussels

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

***“THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 3, 2020 be approved as amended.”***

**CARRIED**

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Feb. 4, 2020 at Regional District of Central Okanagan.

Changes were suggested regarding the discussion with provincial staff around milfoil control and Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels.

***“THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on Feb. 4, 2020 at Regional District of Central Okanagan be approved as amended.”***

**CARRIED**

**5. DELEGATION**

- 5.1 Presentation by Lisa Scott, Executive Director of Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS), on 2019 invasive mussel monitoring and outreach

Ms. Scott provided an overview of last summer’s mussel outreach, funded in part through the OBWB with its Don’t Move A Mussel program.

A video, created by OASISS staff as an outreach tool regarding the threat of invasive mussels, was shown and the board provided feedback.

Ms. Scott noted the importance of partnerships in OASISS’s outreach and education efforts, with OBWB staff, as well as regional districts, the province, the federal Summer Jobs program, and RCMP volunteers who have further extended outreach efforts at boat launches in Vernon and West Kelowna, marinas and other businesses.

Funding for OASISS’s mussel efforts in 2019 came from OBWB, HCTF, Canada Summer Jobs and Canada Green Corps.

Last year, substrate monitors were deployed in 16 locations in Okanagan lakes, checking for adult mussels, and the plan is to put out more in 2020. Also, 123 water samples were taken by OASISS and the Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society to test for the mussels at the microscopic veliger stage. These were among 900 samples taken province-wide and funded by B.C. MoE and administered through Habitat Conservation Trust Fund. This year, the grant will only fund water sampling, not substrates.

OASISS also started a citizen science project in early August and recruited 13 private dock owners, from Osoyoos to Kalamalka Lake, to drop substrate monitors off their docks. Staff are hoping to expand this effort in 2020.

A training session was held with marina and boat companies with staff from the province’s Conservation Office and mussel inspection program. Staff also attended an international aquatic invasive species conference in Montreal.

Don’t Move A Mussel and other invasive mussel outreach materials were distributed to 400 locations in the valley. Staff interacted with about 6,700 people (almost 4,000 at boat launches and at 25 events, including various youth events and campgrounds).

Some of the ongoing concerns include: limited funding for invasive mussel efforts, the provincial priority on mussels means there is less attention to other aquatic invasive species (e.g. Asian clams have been found in Shuswap Lake and on the U.S. side of Osoyoos Lake), and the need to still reach non-motorized watercraft owners to stop for inspection. OASISS staff are looking to expand their financial partners.

There was some discussion about funding for prevention efforts. Dr. Sears noted the OBWB has set aside funding in this year's budget for OASISS and can review this again in October in the next budget cycle. Ms. Zoe Kirk, OASISS chair and RDOS staff, noted that her regional district, like others in the province, is updating its noxious weed bylaw to an invasive species bylaw to help address funding concerns.

The question of a sticker registration program for watercraft owners to help fund prevention efforts was raised. It was noted that some jurisdictions use this as an income source but there has been little discussion in recent years about expanding this to B.C.

Ms. Jackson added that the OBWB reviews its DMM program each year with a view to improving it and strengthening efforts with partners, including OASISS. A meeting is planned in the coming days and will include ways to assist with the citizen science effort and other outreach.

## 6. STAFF REPORTS

### 6.1 Executive Director Report

Dr. Sears noted that staff have been discussing Coronavirus and how to respond. Chair McKortoff and Vice-Chair Fortin responded that they appreciated the seriousness being taken.

The company contracted to do the LiDAR data has been working with a company in China. The final data was being processed when the factory shut down. The material is still expected by the end of this month.

OBWB staff are working with UBCO on a gap analysis on flood planning and a grant application is being prepared. A meeting is planned for April 1 with local government staff to review a new flood mapping website, one of the deliverables of the flood mapping project. Dir. Cumming noted that City of Vernon has hired a drainage engineer and is already using the data and heard a presentation on the updated flood maps.

The board was told that some OBWB staff attended the recent Adaptation 2020 conference, presenting on local solutions to address climate change impacts on water, and learning about what other parts of Canada are doing to respond to flooding.

B.C.'s Climate Adaptation Strategy will include public consultation and a final strategy is expected to be released in Fall 2020. The director of the BC Climate Adaptation Team has been invited to present at the joint OBWB Board-Council meeting in May.

Dr. Sears added that the U.S. Okanogan has determined that it is currently in moderate drought, but on the Canadian side of the border, we are dealing with expected high water levels.

***"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Feb. 26, 2020, be received."***

**CARRIED**

### 6.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

Mr. Jatel reported on the February council meeting and a presentation by Gillian Aubie Vines on the Okanagan Climate Projections Report, funded in part with an OBWB grant. Next month's meeting will include an update on the Okanagan wetlands project. Plans are underway for the joint board-council meeting in May, with updates from each of the council committee chairs.

There was some discussion about the climate report and concern that some might think that a longer Okanagan growing season is positive. There are negative consequences, Dir. Neilsen said, adding that plants need dormancy to grow strong. The loss of cold temperatures could affect tree fruits that require chilling, and higher temperatures can also affect quality, she added. Ms. Jackson noted she is aware of the narrative being presented in local media and that OBWB messaging on the report has been more tempered.

The board was updated on a Water Quality Database, still in a beta version, on the OBWB site that can show trends in Okanagan water quality, including chloride levels from road salts and water softeners.

Mr. Jatel gave an update on the state of hydrometric monitoring in the basin, providing various options to improve the network. It was noted that a report was done in 2011 with recommendations which was never acted on. It was agreed that staff should continue to work on this file.

Work is continuing on the flood mapping website. The site is being developed with input from local government staff and electeds. Dr. Sears added that the site will include climate projections, with 2017 flood levels being the “design flood” water levels local governments should be developing bylaws around.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Feb. 25, 2020, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

### 6.3 Operations and Grants Manager Report

Mr. Littley updated the board on the milfoil control program, noting a meeting with the province about upcoming research on milfoil and native Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels and discussion by provincial staff about possibly moving mussels to allow OBWB to rototill. Mr. Littley added that he feels the researcher is well-qualified to do the study.

There was discussion regarding concerns about milfoil at Kin Beach this summer. The board agreed that Dir. Cumming and the Vernon city council should ask the province to address these concerns. Dir. Knodel added that it may be helpful for other boards and councils to write letters of support.

The AquaHacking semi-final is being held on March 21. There are 158 participants and 26 teams that have signed up.

The Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program received 21 applications for \$450,000 this year. Recommendations for funding will be brought to an in-camera meeting next month.

***“THAT the Operations and Grants Manager Report, dated Feb. 25, 2020, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

### 6.4 Communications Director Report

Ms. Jackson reported on the relaunch of the Make Water Work (MWW) and Don’t Move A Mussel (DMM) campaigns. It was noted that a request for proposals went out three years ago for marketing services to help with the campaigns. At that time, OBWB entered into a contract with Hiilite with the option to renew for two additional years on condition that the Water Board was

pleased with the work. A resolution to extend the contract for a third year was provided to the board.

***“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**

Plans are underway to screen “Brave Blue World” and have a follow-up panel discussion on March 19 as part of Canada Water Work festivities. The film was chosen since it aligns nicely with OBWB’s hosting of the B.C. AquaHacking Challenge semi-final two days later, on March 21. Both the film and the challenge look at technological solutions to some of our most pressing water issues. Tickets for the film are now available on EventBrite.

Staff have also been working with RDCO’s Waste Reduction Office, partnering on a composter-rain barrel sale. There has also been communications support to the Okanagan flood map website, reviewing content and working with local government communication partners. Additional support has been provided to the Aqua-Hacking Challenge, with articles and communications for the semi-final event, and for the “Building Community Resilience in a Changing Climate” event with Sheila Watt-Cloutier and the public launch of the *Okanagan Climate Projections Report*.

***“THAT the Communications Director’s Report, dated Feb. 25, 2020, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

#### 6.5 Policy and Planning Specialist Report

Ms. Garcia reported on an Okanagan Lake source protection planning meeting held Feb. 7 with a number of utilities and Interior Health. There was discussion around the barriers to protecting the water and collaborative opportunities. Solutions discussed include a public outreach campaign to raise awareness and help protect water quality, and a source protection workshop at the BC Water and Wastewater Association’s fall conference using the Source Water Protection Toolkit that is being developed.

Staff also attended a B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development – range and water meeting regarding source protection with representatives from forestry and ranching. It was noted that mining and recreation was missing from the meeting, but that they may have been invited and were unable to attend. Some board directors suggested that if there is an opportunity to provide feedback to the province, that it be stated that these sectors are an important part of this conversation.

Ms. Garcia noted that an RFP went out for the development of a Source Water Protection Toolkit for water suppliers. The proposals were reviewed by a committee, including staff, IHA and the WSC’s source protection committee chair. The board was asked to approve a contract.

***“THAT the OBWB approves a contract with Larratt Aquatic Consulting Ltd. to prepare the Source Water Protection Toolkit for Water Suppliers with a budget not to exceed \$35,000.”***

**CARRIED**

***“THAT the Policy and Planning Specialist Report, dated Feb. 25, 2020, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**7. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

7.1 OBWB Draft Strategic Planning Tracking Measures Memo

Dr. Sears introduced the draft Strategic Plan and tracking measures. There was some discussion about the tracking measures. Some additional changes will be made and the board will be provided an updated version for the next board meeting.

***“THAT the Draft Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Planning Tracking Measures Memo, dated Feb. 26, be received.”***

**CARRIED**

7.2 Invasive Mussel Update Memo

Mr. Littley provided an update to the memo with a draft letter to the province. There was discussion and a number of suggestions were made, in particular to improve B.C.’s inspection system and CBSA’s front-line support at the Canada-U.S. border.

Staff will work on an updated letter based on feedback.

***“THAT the Invasive Zebra & Quagga Mussel Update Memo be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 Township of Spallumcheen letter to Federal Fisheries Minister Jordan regarding Prevention of Invasive Mussels

8.2 Letter from Earle Anthony and Glenn Sinclair re: strategic OBWB initiatives

8.3 Letter from OBWB to B.C. Min. of Environment and Climate Change Strategy regarding source drinking water quality guidelines

***“THAT the correspondence to the Okanagan Basin Water Board be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**9. NEXT MEETING**

9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held on Tues. April 7, 2020 at Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

***“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of March 3, 2020 be adjourned at 1:43 p.m.”***

**CARRIED**

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
April 7, 2020  
Agenda No: 5.1

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Anna Warwick Sears  
Date: April 1, 2020  
Subject: **Executive Director Report**

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### **Coronavirus Considerations:** So much has changed in the past month!

OBWB staff have made a relatively smooth transition to physically distant work. All of our regular projects and programs continue.

- The office staff are primarily working from home, coming into the office only when necessary.
- We have allowed flexible schedules to accommodate childcare needs.
- Milfoil operators mostly work alone under normal conditions, and have adjusted their processes to maintain physical distance when they must work together for moving equipment, etc.
- RDCO finance staff are in isolation, but are set up for our payroll and accounts payable, as normal.
- All meetings are being held by phone or online platform. We've subscribed to a corporate Zoom account, and are trying different other platforms to find which is best (and most stable) for different types of meetings.
- As expected, we've had to cancel some of our large public events and/or move them online.

It's been somewhat time-consuming adjusting our administrative systems, but we are pretty much set up now – provided that RDCO's IT and accounting departments do not have significant interruptions. Our partners have been very patient, because everyone is going through a similar shift.

### **May OBWB/OWSC meeting**

Our May OBWB board meeting is scheduled to be held jointly with the Water Stewardship Council. Given the current situation, we will be holding this meeting online, potentially with a brief OBWB meeting beforehand. It will likely be no more than 3 hours total.

### **Flood Resilience Planning Projects**

As we wrap up the Okanagan Lakeshore Flood Mapping Project, we are looking ahead to the next phase of the effort. There will be a pre-release workshop for local and Indigenous government staff on April 17, a pre-release webinar of the mapping website for elected officials on May 1, a public launch on May 6, and we are planning to potentially do some additional public outreach later in May. We have been expecting to hear about the success of the next round of Community Emergency Preparedness Fund grant proposals to Okanagan local governments in April. As these next steps move forward we will be able to create workplans for OBWB staff involvement in the flood resilience initiatives.

### **Strategic Plan Revision**



Director Victor Cumming provided a detailed review of the draft OBWB strategic plan this month. I will provide the final version for board adoption at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

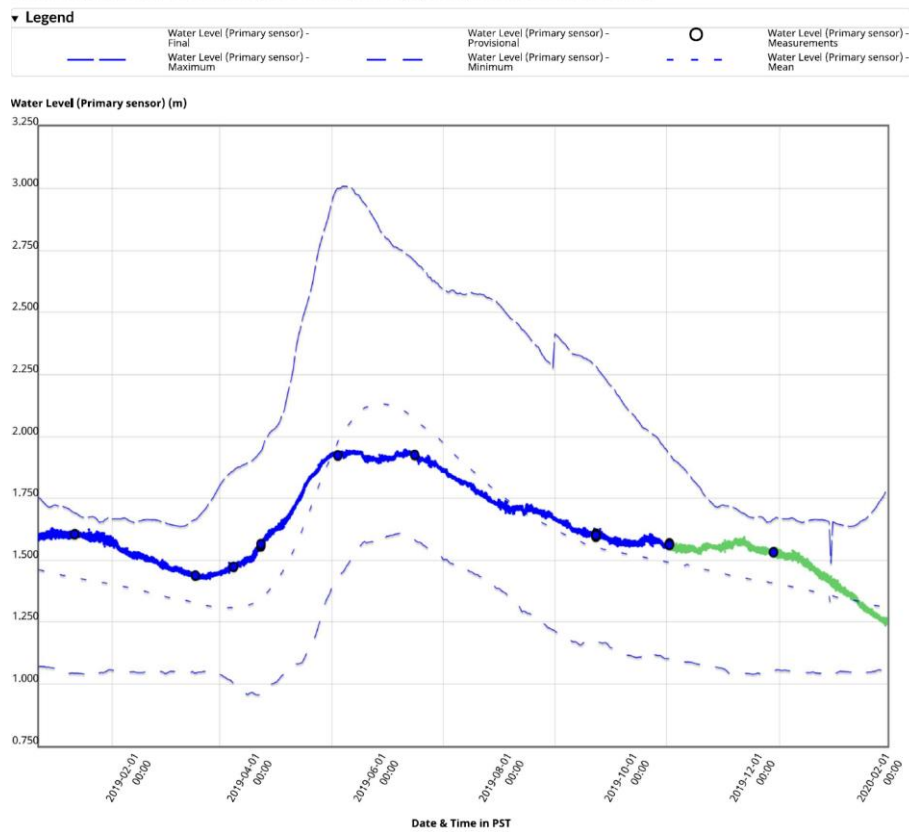
**Weather Report**

As of March 23, the Okanagan’s average snow pillow levels was 129% of normal for the watershed. According to the Province of B.C.’s snow conditions commentary: *“By Late-March approximately 90% of the annual snow pack has accumulated. With another 3-6 weeks of accumulation still to come, changes to the snow pack are possible. Historically, April is an unpredictable month regarding snow pack. If the weather becomes very warm, the snow pack begins melting and lowers the risk of flooding later in May and June. If the weather remains relatively cold and stormy, the snow pack can still increase considerably.”*

The province continues to draw down Okanagan Lake levels through releases into the Okanagan River channel, in anticipation of a larger than normal freshet.

**Realtime hydrometric data for Okanagan Lake at Kelowna – March 30, 2020**

All times are specified in Local Standard Time (LST). Add 1 hour to adjust for Daylight Saving Time where and when it is observed.



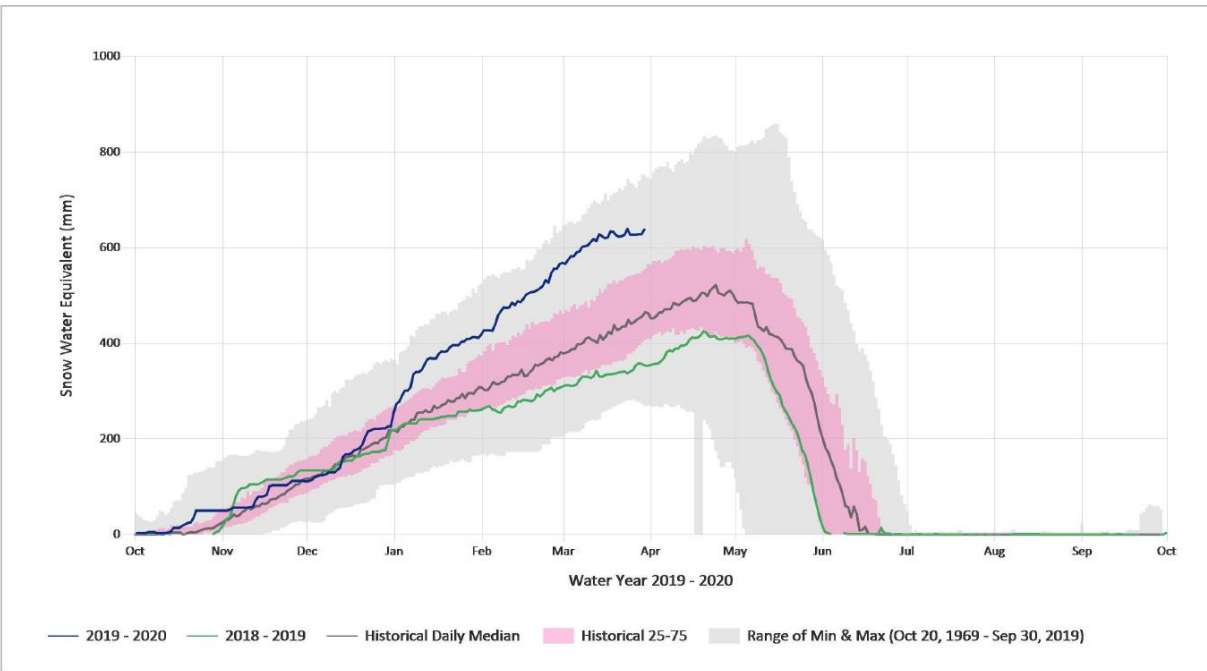
## Mission Creek snow pillow – March 30, 2020 (143% of normal on March 23)

Automated Snow Weather Station Graph

Plot created: March 30, 2020 04:01

SW.Daily@2F05P - Mission Creek

Latitude: 49.94889 Longitude: -118.94889 Elevation: 1780 (m)



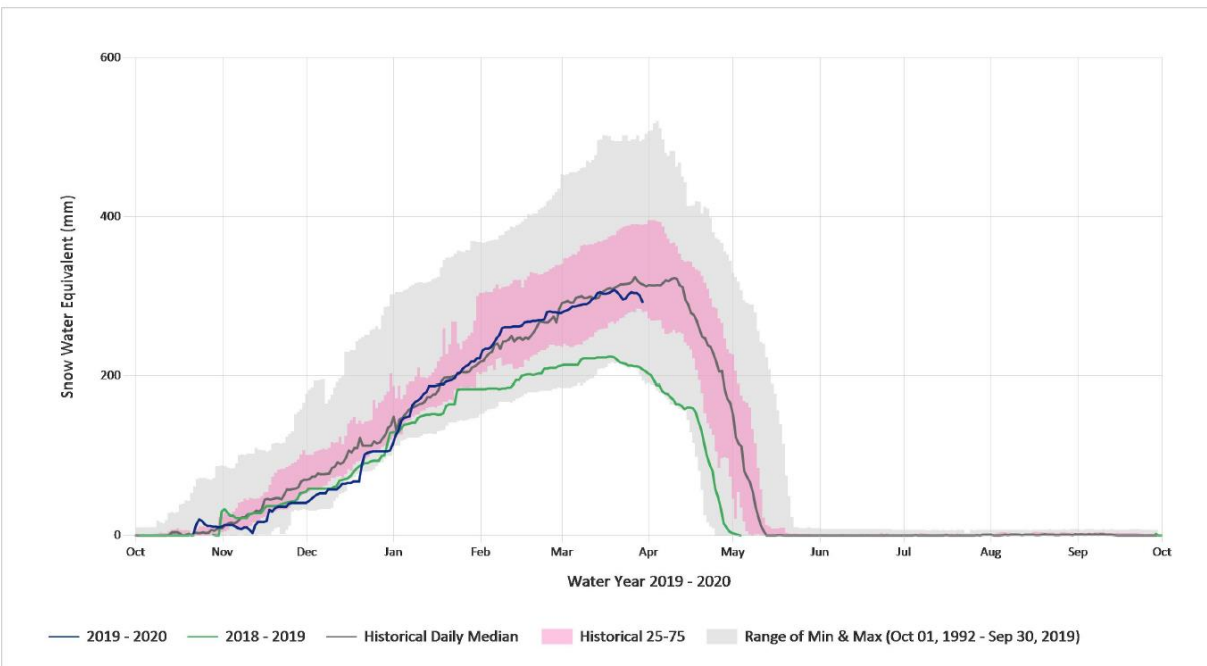
Statistics are based on the period of record prior to the current Water Year

Data last appended: March 30, 2020 09:00 UTC

## Brenda Mine snow pillow – March 30, 2020 (95% of normal on March 23)

SW.Daily@2F18P - Brenda Mine

Latitude: 49.862361 Longitude: -119.982111 Elevation: 1460 (m)



## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
April 7, 2020  
Agenda No: 5.2

File No. 0550.04

To: Board of Directors  
From: Nelson R. Jatel  
Date: April 1, 2020  
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

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### Water Stewardship Council

The March 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting was well attended. The focus topic of discussion was the Okanagan Wetland Strategy and we had four guest speakers: **Ms. Carrie Nadeau** and **Dr. Hugh Hamilton** from Associated Environmental, **Dr. Mathieu Bourbonnais** – Assistant Professor UBCO and **Tina Deenik** – UBCO Master's Student. The panel discussion explored new wetland mapping research underway at UBCO and reviewed two recent reports on Okanagan wetlands – both are available online ([www.obwb.ca/wetlands](http://www.obwb.ca/wetlands)):

- Okanagan Wetlands Action Plan – A Resource for Local Government and Communities
- Constructed Wetlands for Stormwater Management: An Okanagan Guidebook

The Okanagan Wetlands Action Plan is a new resource for local governments and identifies:

- Wetlands are vital to the health of our ecosystems
- Wetlands have been and continue to be under pressure from land development, non-point source pollution, invasive species and most recently climate change.
- Guiding principles and a coordinated framework to guide wetland conservation and restoration initiatives across the Okanagan Basin.



Figure 1. Okanagan wetlands are critical ecosystem habitats throughout the Okanagan and continue to be under threat.

The COVID-19 global pandemic has influenced how we engage with our partners including the Council. The upcoming April 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting will be hosted virtually from 1 – 3 p.m. Our discussion will include presentations on the state of 2020 Okanagan water supply. Board members are invited and encouraged to attend.

### **Project updates**

#### **Okanagan Basin Flood Portal**

Work continues on developing an Okanagan Basin flood portal website with an anticipated launch in early May of 2020. With our newly completed Okanagan inundation flood mapping project, this site complements community flood websites and provides a regional perspective including photos and stories about flood history in the Okanagan.



Figure 2. Draft Okanagan Basin Flood Portal under development to explore flood hazards anticipated along Okanagan Mainstem lakes.

#### **Okanagan Water Supply Webinar**

The 2020 Okanagan Water Supply Webinar provides a one hour presentation from water experts on the annual outlook for flood and drought. This will be the seventh year we host this webinar and will take place on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Details on how to connect to the webinar will be circulated shortly.

#### **Okanagan Hydrometric Monitoring**

Work is underway with our partners to develop a comprehensive Hydrometric Monitoring report to the Board that provides a Gantt chart of Hydrometric monitoring stations, who operates them, and what data needs and gaps exist. A report is anticipated to be completed for the May Board meeting.

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
April 7, 2020  
Agenda No: 5.3

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: James Littley  
Date: April 1, 2020  
**Subject: Operations and Grants Manager Report**

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### Milfoil Control Program

The milfoil rototilling season will be largely wrapped up this year by April 1<sup>st</sup>, with some remaining treatment happening in Osoyoos Lake for several weeks. The milfoil control program is deemed an essential service by the Province of B.C. during the COVID-19 pandemic under the following areas:

1. "Vegetation management crews and traffic workers who support environmental remediation/monitoring and who respond to environmental emergencies;"
2. "All government (local, regional, provincial) functions or services."

Continued milfoil control will be essential for the economic recovery after the pandemic, and is also essential for maintaining source water quality in our lakes, and public safety at our beaches. While our operations continue, the operators have been taking extra precautions for physical distancing when they are required to work together, and they will continue to observe distancing measures and increased hygiene practices when they return to the shop for maintenance season.

During the winter control season, the operators work in isolation in their individual machines on the lake, well away from other people. Their only regular workplace-related exposure to others is at refuelling stations. When launching and retrieving machines from the lakes, the operators have not been sharing vehicles as they normally would, and have been maintaining at least a 2-meter distance from each other at all times. During our weekly safety meetings we have also discussed workplace procedures related to physical distancing, and will be updating these procedures for the return to maintenance season in the shop.

Since our March board meeting, we have also received mapping data from the province showing areas that were previously surveyed for Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels where none were found. These areas are very limited and do not cover most of our existing milfoil treatment polygons.

### **AquaHacking Update**

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, we held a virtual AquaHacking Semi-Final event with partners in Toronto and Montreal. The event involved teams pitching their water solutions to teams of expert water, business and technology judges. Five finalist teams were chosen and announced that evening. The teams are based in Kelowna (2), Vancouver (1), Victoria and Toronto (1), and Montreal (1). Three of the teams came up with solutions for storm water contamination, one for invasive mussels and one for flood damage.

The AquaHacking final that was originally scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> has been postponed, and will likely happen in late June or early July online, rather than in person.

### **Environment Funders Canada 2020 Conference**

The Environment Funders Canada (EFC) conference, scheduled for May 25-28 in Kelowna has been postponed to 2021 with the final date TBD. After a year-long planning process, EFC's conference planning committee decided to simply postpone the Kelowna conference, rather than trying to find another location for 2021. I will remain as the Conference Chair as the OBWB representative on the EFC Board of Directors.

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
April 7, 2020  
Agenda No: 5.4

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Corinne Jackson  
Date: April 1, 2020  
Subject: **Communications Director Report**

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### **Make Water Work & Don't Move a Mussel 2020**

Plans for the spring launch of our *Make Water Work (MWW)* outdoor water conservation campaign and *Don't Move a Mussel (DMM)* are continuing, but with much thought to how we are going to reach and connect with people given the current situation. Our greatest chance at changing people's behaviours is with face-to-face outreach. We are now planning for the possibility that there will be little, to none, of this possible.

Much of the planning seems to be fluid, changing as circumstances change. Still, I have been collecting feedback from our partners, and have been working with Hiilite to create a plan for billboards, buses, bus shelters and more.

### **Canada Water Week 2020 – AquaHacking Challenge**

As you're likely aware, we were planning to screen "Brave Blue World" for Canada Water Week (CWW) and hold an engaging panel discussion. The film aligned nicely with the AquaHacking Challenge which was also planned to take place during CWW. We had considered a virtual/online screening and panel, but on March 12 we decided to postpone the event and refund those who bought tickets. We will contact ticket buyers, and others who have attended our popular film screenings in the past, once we have a new date.

Our other CWW event, the AquaHacking semi-final did go ahead as a virtual event. This is the first time our partner Aqua Forum has held an event, purely online, in its five year AquaHacking history. To pull this off, we required technical teams in Kelowna, Toronto and Montreal. There were some technical hiccups, but all-in-all it was a great event, with very good feedback.

You can watch the one-hour live event on our Facebook page, including real-time commentary, at [https://bit.ly/BC-AH\\_semi-final\\_FBLive](https://bit.ly/BC-AH_semi-final_FBLive). Below, I have attached some of the metrics from the Facebook Live event, including number of people reached, shares, average viewing time, etc., as well as some behind-the-scene photos of the event. (The video is also on our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=h\\_FSNPj6br4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_FSNPj6br4).)

A news release was issued about the top five teams, including two teams from UBC Okanagan, one from Université de Sherbrooke, another with participants from UBC Vancouver, University of Victoria and Simon Fraser University, and one more with participants from UVic and Queen's University. The news release can be found at <https://bit.ly/2WVqyr8>.

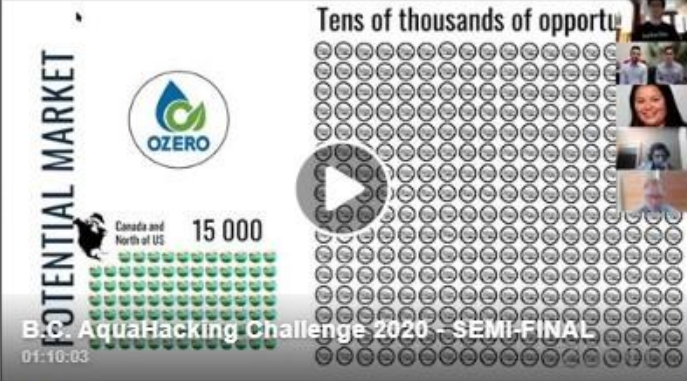
Video **Post** Shares [See Metrics for All Videos](#)

**Okanagan WaterWise** was live.  
Published by Corinne Jackson [?] · March 21 at 4:48 PM · 🌐

Welcome to the B.C. AquaHacking Challenge 2020 - SEMI-FINAL & Happy Canada Water Week!

VIEWING TIPS: On March 21, 2020, the Okanagan Basin Water Board and Aqua Forum hosted the B.C. AquaHacking Challenge 2020 Semi-Final as a virtual event in response to growing concerns regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

The semi-final was supposed to be an in-person event with a science fair-style expo, judging and celebration, in Kelowna. However, we switched gears one week before the event... [See More](#)



**POTENTIAL MARKET**  
Canada and North of US  
**15 000**

**B.C. AquaHacking Challenge 2020 - SEMI-FINAL**  
01:10:03

Watch this video with your friends Start Watch Party

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When you boost this post, you'll show it to more people.

1,497 People Reached      561 Engagements      [Boost Post](#)

👍❤️👎 39      121 Comments 4 Shares

**Performance for Your Post**

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**1,497** People Reached

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**688** 3-Second Video Views

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**317** Reactions, Comments & Shares 📊

112 👍 Like	106 On Post	6 On Shares
50 ❤️ Love	50 On Post	0 On Shares
2 😂 Haha	2 On Post	0 On Shares
7 😮 Wow	7 On Post	0 On Shares
1 😞 Sad	1 On Post	0 On Shares
146 Comments	135 On Post	11 On Shares
4 Shares	4 On Post	0 On Shares

**244** Post Clicks

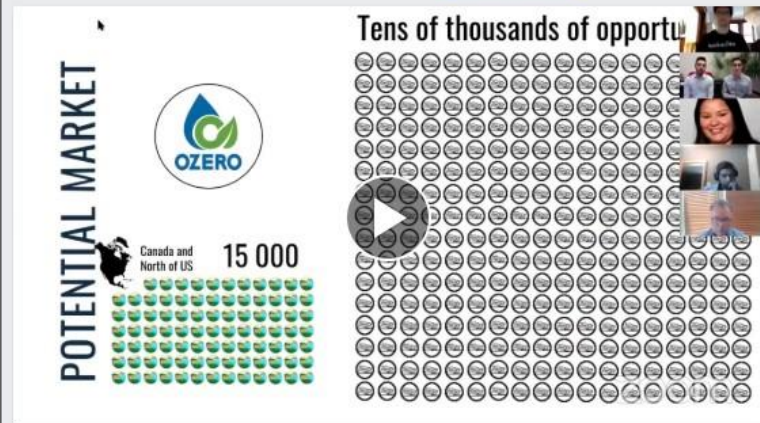
165 Clicks to Play 📊	1 Link Clicks	78 Other Clicks 📊
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**NEGATIVE FEEDBACK**

1 Hide Post	0 Hide All Posts
0 Report as Spam	0 Unlike Page

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on posts

Video **Post** Shares [See Metrics for All Videos](#)



**POTENTIAL MARKET**  
Canada and North of US  
**15 000**

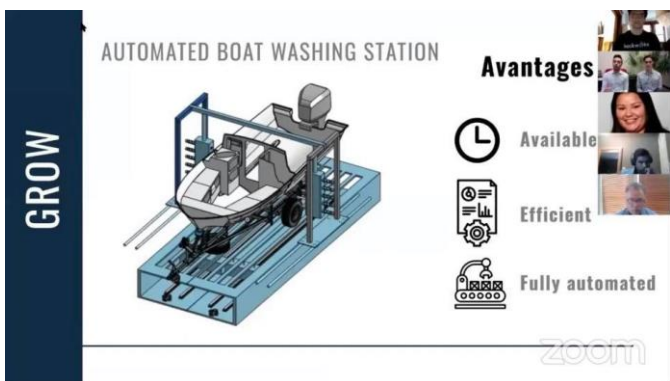
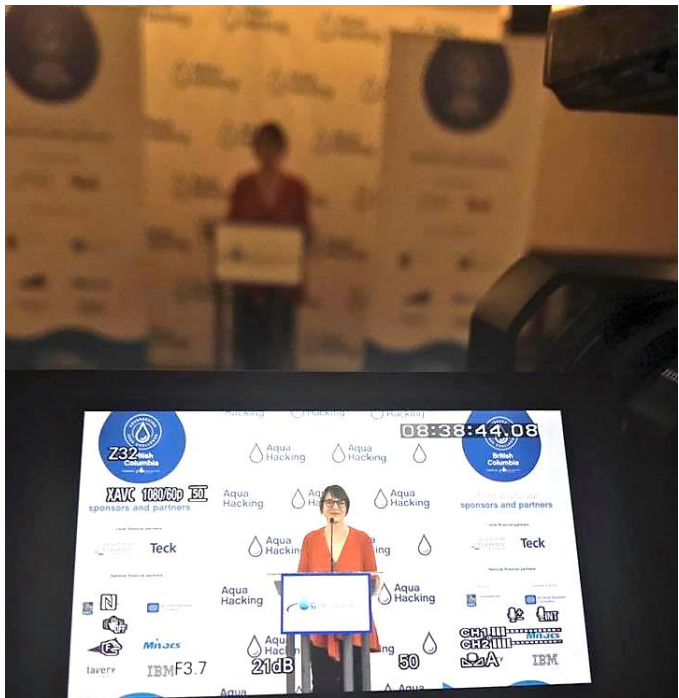
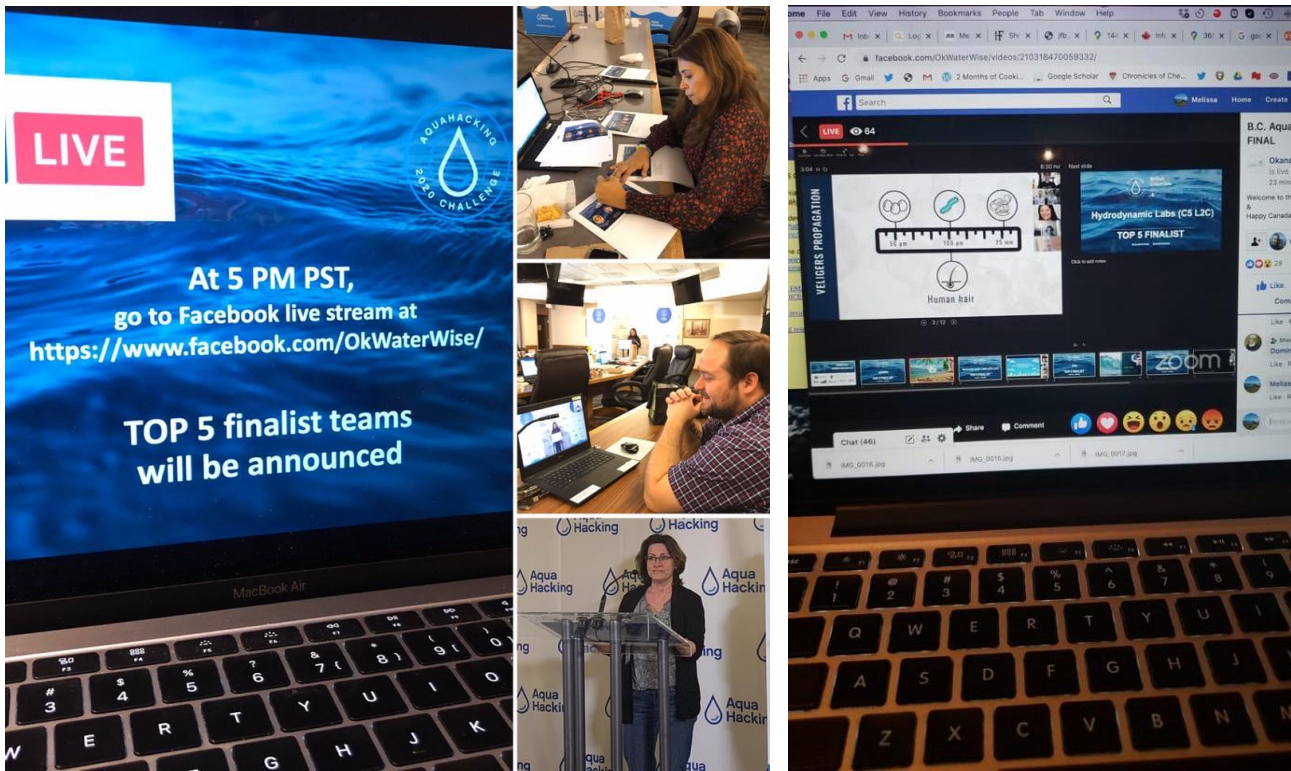
**B.C. AquaHacking Challenge 2020 - SEMI-FINAL**

Okanagan WaterWise: B.C. AquaHacking Challenge 2020 - SEMI-FINAL...

**Performance for Your Post**      Showing All

↕ Distribution	<b>+19.8x</b>
👁 Peak Live Viewers	71
🕒 Minutes Viewed	4,178
👤 1-Minute Video Views	193
👤 10-Second Video Views	357
👤 3-Second Video Views	687
🕒 Average Video Watch Time	2:40





Images, bottom right: A sample slide from Team Elite, pitching a stormwater contamination solution, and from Team Ozero with their solution to address invasive mussels.

Last month, AquaHacking and OBWB submitted a joint article about the B.C. challenge to the BC Water and Waste Association’s Watermark magazine. Like most organizations, BCWWA is dealing with the COVID-19

pandemic and the latest issue was postponed. Today, my AquaHacking counterpart and I submitted an update to the story in light of recent events.

#### **Other communication initiatives**

I participated in a well-attended **Environmental Communications Workshop**, put on by the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program on March 6. Attendees included representatives from various conservation/stewardship-focused non-profits, local government planners, and communications and outreach staff from various local governments and First Nations.

Staff started conducting some outreach in early March, attending **Kelowna's Seedy Saturday** on March 8. This was a very popular event with about 400 attendees. We have since cancelled attendance at other events due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

I have been assisting with the **Okanagan Flood Story Map**, providing input on look and content. In addition, we held a meeting with communications staff, representing Okanagan First Nations and local governments, on March 13 to review a draft of the website. This feedback is now being included in the next version of the site.

The **rain barrel-composter sale**, offered in partnership with the Regional District of Central Okanagan's Waste Reduction Office ended on March 31. All available items were sold. Pick-up events have been postponed and dates, locations and times are being worked out. Once we have details, we will be contacting those who have placed orders.

## MEMORANDUM

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
April 7, 2020  
Agenda No: 5.5

File No. 0550.04

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Kellie Garcia  
Date: March 30, 2020  
Subject: Policy and Planning Specialist Report

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### **Source Water Protection Toolkit Project**

*The purpose of this project is to create a Source Water Protection Toolkit for Water Suppliers that includes case studies to highlight collaborative processes, and information about public education campaigns and funding programs that lead to improved source protection. It will also include sample bylaws and policies on activities that may impact source water, and templates to help communities develop source protection plans.*

The project is moving along well. On March 11, I held a kick off meeting with the consultants to confirm the project goals, scope, approach, timeline and budget and discuss a plan for collaboration and engagement. The following day, I met with the Water Stewardship Council Source Protection Committee to get their input on the project charter and the terms of reference and membership list for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

The TAC, which will include federal and provincial regulators and local government and First Nations water suppliers and planners, will play a very important role in the project. Their scope of work is to:

1. Provide local case studies, sample bylaws/policies, and other information to use in the Toolkit
2. Provide advice on priorities, issues and solutions related to source protection
3. Identify other key information sources and appropriate external contributors/reviewers
4. Review and contribute to several drafts of the Toolkit

Over the next month, the consultants will collate and review background information, conduct interviews with water suppliers, and prepare an outline for the Toolkit, while I assemble the TAC and organize our first meeting (likely online) for May.

### **Agricultural Water Supply Communications Project**

*The purpose of this project is to enhance communication between water suppliers and their agricultural customers, particularly during times of drought (although it can also be used for any messages about the water system). 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.*

I am currently helping the participating water suppliers build membership in their e-alerts groups and update their key messages for the 2020 season. Several of the water suppliers are getting ready to send their first message this year. The message will include notification of irrigation turn-on date and information about snow pack conditions, spring precipitation forecasts, and water supply levels.

### **Stormwater Management Guide for Homeowners**

In 2011, I worked with an advisory committee on a guidebook for local residents that explains how to capture and re-use water that falls on their property. The guide includes information on understanding and evaluating runoff characteristics of a property, practical techniques for capturing rainfall and controlling runoff, local projects that highlight those techniques, an extensive resources guide, and plant lists that include recommended plants for both dryland and rain gardens in the Okanagan.



The guide has been a valuable and sought-after resource for the last nine years, but some of the information and case studies are now out-of-date. Over the last few months, I have been working with a contractor to update the guide and a new version will be available in May or June.