

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

DATE: Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PLACE: Online

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1.1 Acknowledgement of First Nations Traditional Territory

We acknowledge that we work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tm̓x̓wúlaʔx̓w (land) of the syilx (Okanagan) people who have resided here since time immemorial. We honour and respect this land and the siwl̓k (water) which flows through the valley and connects us all

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation:

THAT the agenda of the meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 4, 2025 be approved.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 7, 2025 held at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen at 101 Martin St., Penticton, B.C.

P. 3

Recommendation:

THAT the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 7, 2025 held at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen be approved.

5. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

6. DELEGATION/PRESENTATIONS

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 Executive Director Report

P. 8

7.1.1 BC Watershed Security Coalition Executive Summary, Modernizing Industrial Water Rates in BC: Ending the Great Water Giveaway

P. 9

Recommendation:

THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Oct. 30, 2025, be received.

7.2 Water Stewardship Director Report

P. 17

Recommendation:

THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated Oct. 28, 2025, be received.

7.3 Communications Manager Report

P. 19

Recommendation:

THAT the Communications Manager's Report, dated Oct. 27, 2025, be received.

- 7.4 Water Science Specialist Report P. 24
- Recommendation:
THAT the Water Science Specialist's report dated Oct. 27, 2025, be received.
- 7.5 Office and Grants Manager Report P. 30
- Recommendation:
THAT the process and scoring criteria for the grant competition be approved as outlined; and
- THAT for the 2026-2027 WCQI grant competition, up to 10 bonus points will be awarded for projects in any category related to Innovation in Water Supply, Quality, and Quantity; and*
- THAT the Office and Grants Manager's report dated Oct. 28, 2025, be received.*
8. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- 8.1 Draft Budget for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2027 P. 32
- 8.1.1 DRAFT Regional District Provisional Assessments P. 35
- 8.1.2 DRAFT OBWB Segmented Budget for the
Year Ending March 31, 2027 P. 36
- Recommendation:
THAT the OBWB adopt the 2026-27 budget as presented.
- 8.2 DRAFT 2026 Meeting Schedule P. 37
- Recommendation:
THAT the OBWB adopt the 2026-27 Meeting Schedule as presented.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE**
No correspondence attached.
10. **IN CAMERA**
No in-camera session planned.
11. **NEXT MEETING**
- 11.1 The regular December meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board has been cancelled in lieu of the Strategic Planning workshop to be held on Dec. 2, 2025, at the Kelowna Yacht Club, 1370 Water St., Kelowna, B.C.
- 11.2 The next regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, and will be held online.
12. **ADJOURNMENT**
- Recommendation:
THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Nov. 4, 2025 be adjourned at ____.

* **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. From time-to-time, the board will be holding its meeting online. If you are interested in attending an online meeting, please contact communications@obwb.ca for further details.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD TUESDAY OCT. 7, 2025 AT 10 A.M. AT THE OFFICES OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF
OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN, 101 MARTIN ST., PENTICTON, B.C.**

PRESENT

Chair Blair Ireland	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice Chair Doug Holmes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Victor Cumming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Bob Fleming	Regional District North Okanagan
Alternate Director Kevin Kraft	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Wayne Carson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Subrina Monteith	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Tim Lezard	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of B.C

REGRETS

Director Sheena Spencer	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)
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STAFF

Melissa Tesche	Executive Director
James Littley	Chief Operating Officer
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo	Office and Grants Manager
Carmen Weld	Communications Manager
Christina White	Water Quality Project Manager
Sandra Schira	Water Science Specialist
Amanda Burnett	Communications Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ireland called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

He respectfully acknowledged that we work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tm̓x̌w̌úlaʔx̌w̌ (land) of the syilx (Okanagan) people who have resided here since time immemorial. We honour and respect this land and the siw̌l̓k (water) which flows through the valley and connects us all.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

No late items.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

"THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 7, 2025 be approved."

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held Sept. 5, 2025 at the Rotary Centre for the Arts, 421 Cawston Ave, Kelowna, B.C.

"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 5, 2025 held at the Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna, be approved."

CARRIED

5. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS – OBWB CHAIR BLAIR IRELAND

Chair Ireland acknowledged the Directors recent participation in the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention, noting their advocacy efforts for Okanagan water priorities and described the meetings as productive. The chair also extended appreciation to Director Bob Hrasko for hosting the OBWB on a recent tour of the Black Mountain Irrigation District.

6. DELEGATION/PRESENTATIONS

Danielle Paydli, Executive Director of the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB), presented remotely about the Cowichan Watershed Board. Paydli explained the CWB, its mission, its origin story from the 2003 drought crisis, and key elements of their work. When describing the governance model, Paydli highlighted the decision to move away from the stakeholder model that was initially proposed. Instead, the CWB went with a co-governance model that is widely credited for the organization's success.

The Board asked follow-up questions about the Cowichan Watershed Board's structure, work, and technical advisory group. Paydli was thanked for the presentation and disconnected from the meeting.

7. STAFF REPORTS**7.1 Executive Director Report – Melissa Tesche**

Ms. Tesche thanked the Board for their support during the recent UBCM convention and expressed appreciation for the introductions provided by Dr. Anna Warwick Sears at the meeting.

She noted that budget preparations for 2026–27 are underway and that there have been staffing changes at RDCO. Cody Troutman is replacing Lori White as the Manager of Financial Services and will be the main financial point of contact for the OBWB going forward. The Board discussed budget priorities and organizational capacity.

Ms. Tesche reminded the Board that Allan Neilson of Neilson Strategies Inc. will be conducting interviews with Directors throughout October ahead of the strategic planning workshop scheduled for December.

The Board then discussed the looming water infrastructure challenges ahead for our communities and how OBWB could provide support. Staff will consider the best path for a project that would be driven by community needs.

"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated Oct. 1, 2025, be received."

CARRIED

7.2 UBCM Strategic Priorities Grant Application Memo

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is applying for \$390,000 from the Strategic Priorities Fund to modernize its Hydrology Model across all 18 sub-basins, enhancing water and climate data for long-term planning and resilience. The project builds on prior work and includes a Mission Creek

technical demonstration pilot. This work will support the development of a new Water Use Plan for Mission Creek, a project that will be led by the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

“THAT OBWB Board of Directors support the OBWB application to the Strategic Priorities Fund Capacity Building Stream for the project ‘Updating the necessary science required to modernize Okanagan Water Use Plans to promote resilience and reduce conflicts.’

AND THAT OBWB commit to adjusting future financial plans as necessary to reflect grant funding and ensure successful project completion.

AND FURTHER THAT the OBWB authorize the Executive Director to execute any necessary contribution agreements in the case of a successful application.”

CARRIED

7.3 Chief Operating Officer Report - James Littlely

Mr. Littlely provided an update on the proposed Rapid eDNA Detection Tool for invasive mussel biosecurity, led by Dr. Michael Russello of UBC Okanagan. The project budget has been refined, with a remaining funding gap of \$400,000. OBWB staff recommended a partial contribution of \$200,000 over two years and emphasized the need to support fundraising efforts to fund the remaining funding gap.

“THAT OBWB provide \$200,000 (\$100,000 per year, starting April 2026) to UBCO for the Rapid eDNA Detection Tool for Invasive Mussel Biosecurity Project pending full project funding commitments from other sources.

AND THAT OBWB support and seek fundraising efforts to secure the remaining project funding.”

CARRIED

Mr. Littlely also reported on a recent trip to Victoria, where he and Ms. Tesche met with provincial representatives from the Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) on the invasive mussel file.

“THAT OBWB send letters to appropriate federal and provincial ministers calling for the actions outlined in the Chief Operating Officer’s Sept. 29, 2025 report.”

CARRIED

Mr. Littlely informed the Board that OBWB and the Okanagan Nation Alliance are preparing to co-host the second meeting of the Okanagan-Interior Invasive Mussel Working Group in Kelowna this fall. The session will focus on developing consensus-based recommendations for provincial inspection regulations, rapid response strategies, and long-term mussel management.

The Board also received an update on the Milfoil Control Program, including recent enhancements to the Occupational Health and Safety Policy.

“THAT the board endorses the OBWB milfoil control program Health and Safety Policy Statement.”

CARRIED

“THAT the Chief Operating Officer’s Report, dated Sept. 29, 2025, be received.”

CARRIED

7.4 Water Stewardship Director Report – Dr. Nelson Jatel

Dr. Jatel provided a brief update on the September meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC), where members reviewed the 2023 provincial drought response and began work on a discussion paper examining the professional reliance model in wastewater. The upcoming October OWSC meeting will feature a presentation on remote sensing applications for water stewardship, including potential blue-green algae detection and evapotranspiration analysis. He noted ongoing OWSC priorities include hydrologic modelling, climate adaptation, Indigenous knowledge integration, and policy development related to drought and watershed protection.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated Sept. 29, 2025, be received.”
CARRIED.

7.5 Communications Manager Report – Carmen Weld

Ms. Weld provided a brief update to the Board on the conclusion of the Make Water Work campaign, noting strong engagement and media coverage. She also reported increased interaction with the Don’t Move a Mussel campaign and reported that staff will be reviewing marketing strategies and platforms to optimize future outreach.

“THAT the Communications Manager Report, dated Oct. 1, 2025, be received.”
CARRIED.

7.6 Water Science Specialist Report – Sandra Schira

Ms. Schira briefed the Board on recent weather and water conditions in the Okanagan. September saw an intense heatwave with record-breaking temperatures and minimal rainfall, contributing to persistent drought conditions and low streamflows, particularly in fish-bearing systems. While seasonal forecasts suggest warmer and wetter conditions ahead, water supply remains a concern.

“THAT the Water Science Specialist Report, dated Sept. 29, 2025, be received.”
CARRIED.

8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No new items.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence attached.

10. IN-CAMERA

No in-camera session held.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025, online.

***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. From time-to-time, the board will be holding its meeting online. If you are interested in attending an online meeting, please contact Communications@OBWB.ca for further details.

12. ADJOURNMENT

"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Oct. 7, 2025 be adjourned at 12:32 p.m."

CARRIED

Blair Ireland, OBWB Chairperson

Melissa Tesche, OBWB Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Melissa Tesche, Executive Director
Date: Oct. 30, 2025
Subject: **Executive Director's Report**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting Nov. 4, 2025 Agenda No: 7.1

Director Interviews for Strategic Planning Session Underway

Allan Neilson and I have completed interviews with seven of our 12 directors. Mr. Neilson will share some of the themes in a brief workshop session preceding our regularly scheduled November board meeting. Board Directors are reminded that the regular online December meeting has been cancelled in favour of an in-person strategic planning workshop on Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025, at the Kelowna Yacht Club.

Mussel Working Group

The OBWB and Okanagan Nation Alliance will be co-hosting the second annual meeting of the Okanagan-Interior Invasive Mussel Working Group on Friday, Nov. 14, 2025. Members of the group will meet to discuss desired next steps in keeping the Okanagan-Interior, and ideally all of British Columbia and western Canada, free from invasive mussels.

Draft 2026-27 Budget and Meeting Schedule Prepared

Together with staff and the new RDCO Manager of Financial Services, Cody Troutman, I have prepared a draft budget for the 2026-27 financial year. The detailed budget is included as a separate memo and was prepared based on existing program and project commitments, initial feedback on potential directions in the new strategic plan, and discussion at the previous board meeting.

I have also prepared a draft meeting schedule for 2026 that reflects the upcoming local government election schedule as well as the 20th anniversary of the OBWB's Water Management Program.

BC Watershed Security Coalition Starts Campaign on Modernizing Industrial Water Rates in BC

The BC Watershed Security Coalition has recently released their campaign on modernizing industrial water rates in B.C. I have included the Executive Summary of the campaign report with this memo and the full report can be found online at watershedsecurity.ca.



MODERNIZING INDUSTRIAL WATER RATES IN BC:

Ending the Great Water Giveaway

*A Fair Solution to Protect Our Water Sources,
Safeguard Communities and Secure Long-Term Prosperity*



The health of our watersheds and the strength of our economy are directly linked—they underpin everything from clean power to clean drinking water. But droughts, floods and fires—compounded by poorly planned development—are pushing our watersheds to the brink, putting communities and the province’s economic future at risk.

Since 2023, public funding for watershed security projects has dried up—dropping by over 80%. Meanwhile, BC is charging the largest industrial water users the lowest water rates in Canada, essentially giving our water away.

The good news?

A solution exists. By modernizing BC’s water rentals system and fairly increasing industrial water rates, the province can unlock millions in funding for local watershed solutions—and create thousands of good jobs along the way.



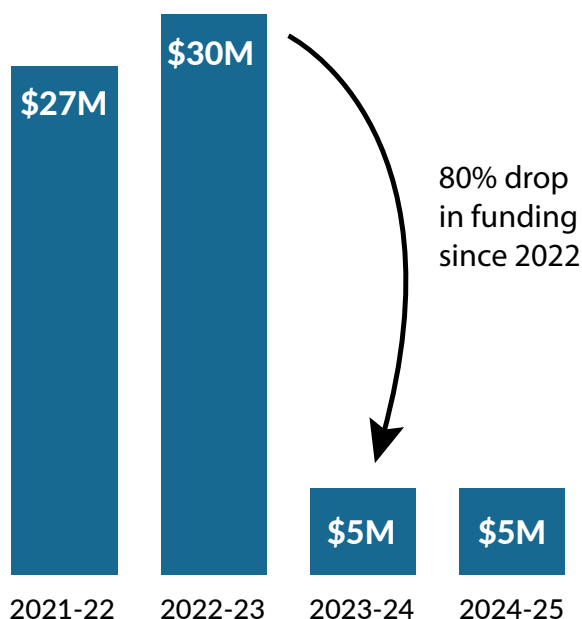
THE PROBLEM

In the face of increasing tariffs and trade pressures, BC cannot build a resilient economy without protecting its watersheds. Clean, reliable water supplies are the backbone of industries like mining, oil and gas, farming, tourism, housing, and manufacturing—and are essential to community health and long-term growth.

As provincial and federal governments fast-track major industrial projects, it is critical that they also invest in building our watershed security: the frontline monitoring, restoration, and governance needed to protect our water sources and ensure lasting prosperity—for both our economy and the ecosystems that sustain it.

The local leadership exists to do this work—led by First Nations, local governments, farmers, stewardship organizations and innovative businesses. But chronic underfunding has become a major barrier.

Drop in Provincial Funding for Watershed Security Projects



Experts say at least \$100 million annually is needed to support the work that's required, but provincial funding for watershed projects has fallen by over 80% in recent years—from a combined \$57 million through the Healthy Watersheds Initiative and Indigenous Watersheds Initiative (\$27 million in 2021 and \$30 million in 2022) to less than \$5 million through the BC Watershed Security Fund in 2024 and 2025.

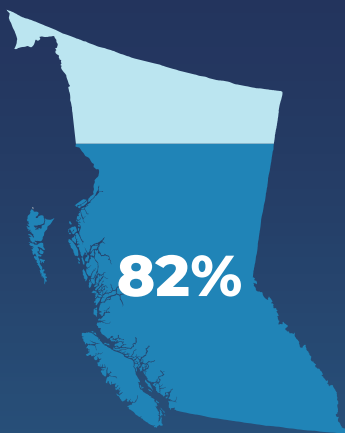
THE OPPORTUNITY

B.C. can unlock more than \$100M in new annual revenue by modernizing outdated industrial water rental rates, among the lowest in Canada, and reinvesting growing revenue from new hydropower generation. This can be done **without increasing costs on farmers, residents and small businesses.**

Aligning industrial rates with other provinces ensures industries like mining, fracking, and water bottling pay their fair share. Directing this revenue into watershed security recognizes watersheds as core infrastructure, essential for climate resilience, clean growth, and long-term prosperity.

This delivers on what the BC government is working to achieve in these uncertain times: balancing the budget, accelerating economic growth, advancing reconciliation, preventing costly disasters, and creating family-supporting jobs.

A POPULAR SOLUTION:



82% of British Columbians support higher industrial fees to restore watersheds.

A majority want these funds reinvested in local watershed initiatives through a scaled-up Watershed Security Fund.

McAllister/Research Co. Poll, 2024.

In the 2026 Budget Consultation Report, the BC Standing Committee on Finance recommended that the province “review water rental rates and the portion of these rates being dedicated to strengthening water management, including drinking water protection and watershed monitoring.”

BC's OUTDATED WATER RENTAL SYSTEM

Water rental rates are paid to the province by industries, farms and others who withdraw untreated water directly from natural sources like rivers or lakes. *(These are distinct from residential water bills issued to homeowners by municipalities to cover the cost of delivering drinking water.)* BC's water rentals system currently has **two profound disconnects**:

DISCONNECT #1

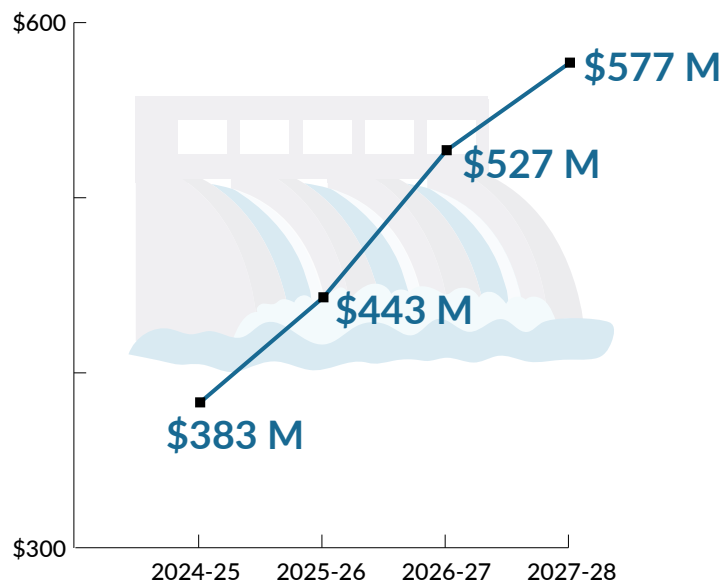
\$400 MILLION IN WATER REVENUE NONE FOR WATERSHEDS

BC collects approximately \$400 million a year in water rental fees—97% of which comes from the water used in hydropower generation. *Only 3% comes from other water users, including large industrial users.*

None of this revenue is reinvested in the very watersheds that power this energy production and provide so many other benefits.

With new hydro generation coming online, the province has forecasted it will collect nearly \$200 million in additional water rental revenue over the next three years.

BC Budget Forecasts for Water Revenue Increases (2024-2028)



DISCONNECT #2

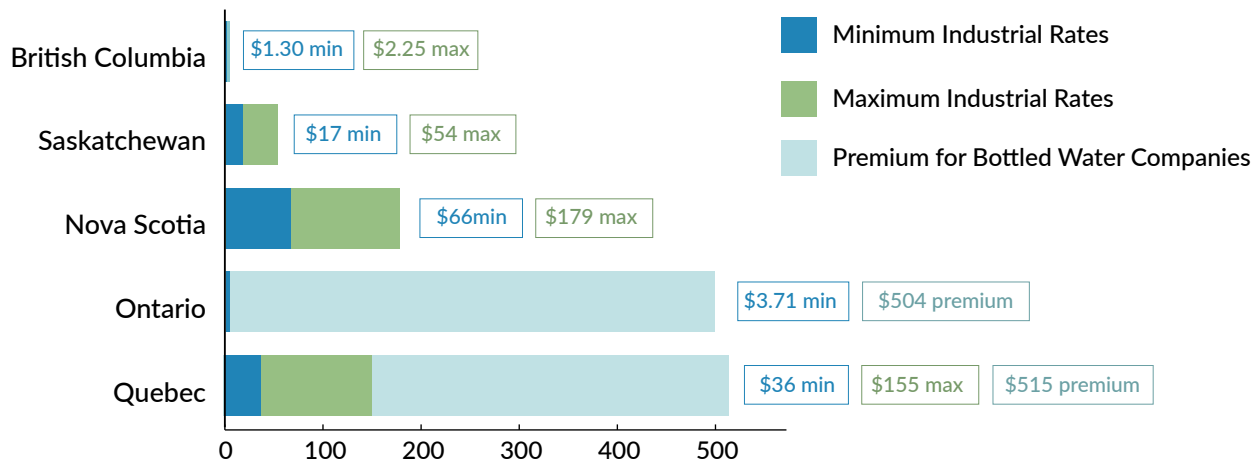
GIVING WATER AWAY TO THE LARGEST INDUSTRIAL USERS

BC's industrial users pay just \$2.25 per million litres of water. These companies pay less than the cost of a pint of beer to access the amount of water in an Olympic-sized pool. BC's rates are the lowest in the country and the province continues to fall further behind.

In 2024, unlike British Columbia, Quebec recognized it was essentially giving away water and raised its minimum industrial rate from \$2.50 to \$35 per million litres, with higher fees for high-impact industries. Quebec dedicates these revenues to its Blue Fund, which invests in water projects across the province.

Industrial users in BC are authorized to use an estimated 2.8 trillion litres a year, which is the same as the annual domestic water use of 27 million people, almost five times the population of BC.

Industrial Water Rates Across Provincial Jurisdictions



BC vs QUEBEC: Comparing Water Fees Paid by One of the World's Largest Companies

Rio Tinto, the global mining and metals corporation, uses very large amounts of water in both its BC and Quebec operations—about 81 billion litres of water each year in BC versus 72.5 billion litres in Quebec. However, based on the difference in water rates, the BC government collects from Rio Tinto only 6% of the water fees received by Quebec—just \$182,000 a year in BC compared to \$3,000,000 in Quebec. With a net profit of \$16 billion in 2024, paying Quebec-level rates in BC would equal just 0.02 percent of Rio Tinto's annual profit.

BENEFITS OF INVESTING WATER REVENUE TO BUILD WATERSHED SECURITY

1

CREATE JOBS:

A World-Class Watershed Workforce

The work of restoring and managing our watersheds currently supports 47,000 jobs and adds \$5 billion to BC's economy, more than agriculture and equal to mining. Economic studies project that an investment of \$100 million annually in the Watershed Security Fund could generate another 13,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

EXAMPLE: Past Watershed Programs Were Major Job Creators. Between 2021 and 2024, provincial investments of \$57 million in the Healthy Watersheds and Indigenous Watershed Initiatives created over 1,800 jobs in more than 110 projects across BC

2

SAVE BILLIONS:

Strong & Resilient Communities

BC has faced billions of dollars in costs from floods, droughts and wildfires in recent years. Healthy watersheds are the first line of defence against these rising costs. Studies show that natural defences such as wetlands, streambanks, and mature forest canopies provide the same protections as hard infrastructure at half the cost.

EXAMPLE: Beaver Dam Analogues are small structures people build to copy what beavers do naturally in streams. They act like natural sponges, holding back water during heavy rains to reduce flooding and slowly releasing it during dry periods.

3

GROW THE ECONOMY:

Increased Certainty & Less Conflict

Business certainty is strengthened by the development of watershed plans that provide clarity for industry investment while protecting the rivers, streams and aquifers that underpin community health. Costly disputes over water use are prevented by local watershed boards that develop and implement collaborative local solutions and relationship-building.

EXAMPLE: The Cowichan Watershed Board is a proven model of collaborative governance, which has successfully prevented conflicts during times of water stress, driven salmon recovery, and secured millions for watershed initiatives in the region.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR THE BC GOVERNMENT



1

GENERATE NEW REVENUE BY MODERNIZING INDUSTRIAL WATER RATES

- a. Modernize BC's industrial water rates by aligning with Quebec's rates as a minimum benchmark and aiming for national leadership in valuing water. (*Rate reform should apply to large industrial water users and have no impact on farmers, households or small businesses.*) This could unlock at least \$75 million annually to build BC's watershed workforce.
- b. Reinvest at least 20% of annual water revenue growth from hydropower back into watersheds, creating a self-sustaining stream of approximately \$40 million per year for watershed security.
- c. Establish an independent expert panel to review industrial water rates every three years based on best practices in water pricing. Apply the Consumer Price Index annually.



2

DEDICATE NEW WATER REVENUE TO WATERSHED SECURITY

- a. Allocate \$75 million annually to the BC Watershed Security Fund to create thousands of jobs in the watershed workforce, strengthen Indigenous and rural economies, and sustain the watersheds that underpin BC's long-term prosperity.
- b. Invest at least \$10 million annually to establish a province-wide system of Local Watershed Boards to coordinate watershed planning, share data, manage water use, and respond rapidly to droughts and floods.
- c. Strengthen on-the-ground provincial capacity by hiring regional water staff to work with First Nations, local governments, and local watershed boards to implement provincial water management tools.



BC WATERSHED SECURITY COALITION

The BC Watershed Security Coalition is a non-partisan, diverse coalition of 57 organizations made up of community water experts and leaders in the field, including farmers, Indigenous champions and local governments, and represents 285,000 British Columbians from all walks of life.

If your organization is interested in joining the Coalition,
please visit our website:

www.watershedsecurity.ca

PHOTO CREDITS

Title page left: Sunset over UBC Farm. By CSFS UBC CC BY-NC 2.0. flickr.com

Title page middle: Tranquil Brushing Crew. By Graeme Owsianski.

Title page right: Sockeye salmon. AdobeStock.com

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Page 3 : Restoration crew. Redd Fish Restoration Society

Page 6: AdobeStock.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Marci Janecek of Marsupial Design





MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Nelson Jatel
Date: Oct. 28, 2025
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
November 4, 2025
Agenda No: 7.2

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) – Technical Advisory Body to the OBWB

Summary: OWSC Meeting – Oct. 8, 2025

At the Oct. 8, 2025 OWSC meeting, members heard from Dr. Cassidy Rankine, Senior Account Executive with Planet Canada and a Remote Sensing Specialist. Dr. Rankine's presentation showcased how satellite technologies are being used to support water stewardship across Canada. Two applications of potential relevance to the Okanagan were highlighted:

1. Blue-Green Algae Detection: Innovative approaches for tracking cyanobacteria blooms that threaten drinking water intakes and public beaches.
2. Evapotranspiration and Temperature Monitoring: Methods for quantifying climate-driven water balance changes that influence drought and watershed management.

The presentation generated much discussion among OWSC members and guests about the potential role for remote sensing data in the Okanagan.

Good News: Grant Money Coming to Okanagan for Collaborative Monitoring and Early-Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms

The City of Kelowna has been awarded funding through Environment and Climate Change Canada's *EcoAction Stream 2* program for a new regional project focused on monitoring and forecasting harmful algal blooms. The successful project was titled: *Collaborative Monitoring and Early-Warning System for Harmful Algal Blooms: Enhancing Drinking Water Safety, Climate Resilience, and Indigenous Stewardship in the Okanagan Basin*.

The award brings more than \$200,000 in new federal investment into the Okanagan Basin to strengthen regional water quality management. The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) is a key project partner, having supported the City's application last year in collaboration with Westbank First Nation and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The project will establish a coordinated monitoring network across Okanagan lakes to track cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) conditions and develop predictive tools for early warning. Using data from sensors, satellites, and lab analyses, the project aims to improve response capacity for local water utilities and health agencies. The OBWB will contribute \$60,000 in cash and \$30,000 in-kind over two years to support regional coordination, data sharing, and development of the new Okanagan Cyanobacteria Data Hub. This initiative aligns with OBWB priorities related to water quality protection, climate resilience, and collaborative watershed management.

The upcoming Nov. 13, 2025 OWSC meeting, held at the Coast Capri in Kelowna, will feature a presentation on the newly funded project by key representatives from the project team. The presentation will provide detail on project scope, methods, and deliverables, which are summarized very briefly below:

- **Project Scope:** Establishing a coordinated algae and cyanobacteria monitoring network across the Okanagan Basin, integrating municipal, Indigenous, and health authority partners.
- **Methods:** Combining real-time pigment sensors, remote sensing (satellite imagery), and laboratory taxonomic verification to develop predictive models for harmful algal blooms.
- **Deliverables:** Development of a shared data hub, interactive dashboards, treatment effectiveness tables, and training modules to build local capacity for water utilities and communities.



MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Carmen Weld
Date: Oct. 27, 2025
Subject: Communications Manager Report

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting Nov. 4, 2025 Agenda No: 7.3

Make Water Work

The 2025 Make Water Work Campaign wrapped up this month with record-setting numbers.

As of Oct. 27, 2025, 686 Make Water Work pledges were submitted, surpassing the contest's previous best year that saw 677 pledges in 2020!

The contest to win one of two \$500 WaterWise gift certificates closed Oct. 20, 2025. We have reached out to the winners and are waiting reply. The randomly drawn winners span the valley with one from Osoyoos and one from Spallumcheen this year. Once we get in contact and secure their gift certificates, we will get a photo and share the news.

Don't Move a Mussel

Our Don't Move a Mussel partner, the Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASSIS) completed their 2025 season of outreach activities. They will present a full report to the OBWB board early next year, and they have shared some end-of-season stats ahead of time:

- **Material Distribution:** 250 businesses contacted, five of which displayed a sandwich board.
- **Events attended:** Participated in 29 community booths and events, and delivered 11 youth talks with more than 1,500 interactions.
- **Citizen science:** OASSIS secured 18 volunteers to supplement their 13 substrate monitor sites up and down the valley. No mussels were found on any monitor.
- **Boat launch interactions:** 1,072 watercrafts were surveyed at 15 boat launches, totalling more than 2,700 interactions.

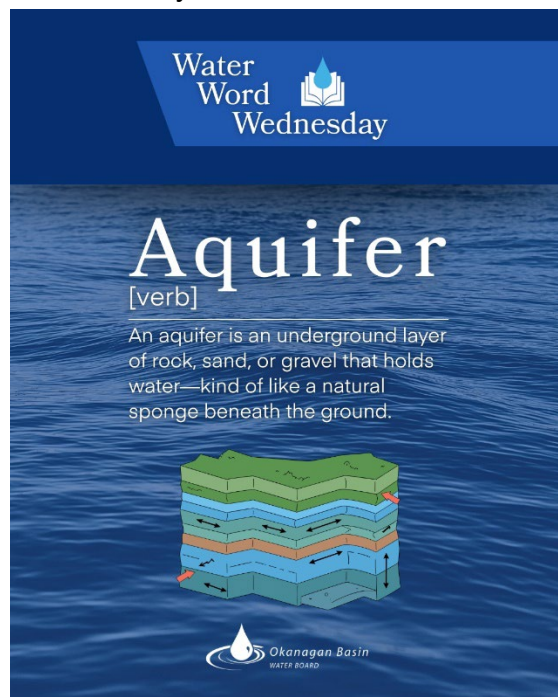
Winter social media campaigns

To maintain social media engagement during our slower social media season, we have designed three educational campaigns focused on highlighting the impact, progress, and scientific foundation of the OBWB's work. Our goal is to deepen public understanding of the OBWB's importance and solidify our reputation as a credible information source

- **Water Phenomenon:** Highlighting the science and definitions behind some of the Okanagan's most interesting hydrology from waterspouts to foam and more!



- **Water Word Wednesdays:** Your top water words, check out our mini OBWB dictionary to find out what they mean.



- **From the Archives:** A play on Throwback Thursday, a series of posts highlighting some of the key achievements and programs of the OBWB.



○

These campaigns will run from now until the Spring with approximately four posts a month.

Key communications since last report

- [Oct. 3, 2025](#): Drought Bulletin 8
- [Oct. 7, 2025](#): Okanagan Water Board Invests in 'Artificial Dog's Nose': UBCO eDNA Tool Promises Revolution in Invasive Mussel Detection
- [Oct. 9, 2025](#): Drought Bulletin 9
- [Oct. 10, 2025](#): October Board Report
- Media of note:
 - OBWB Chief Operating Officer James Littley [was on AM1150 this month](#) to explain the pioneering new project OBWB is helping to fund at UBC Okanagan.
 - James also did an interview about the project, before a funding decision was made, on CBC.
- Key social media posts in the last 30 days include:
 - The Okanagan Basin Water Board [is investing \\$200,000](#) to partially fund a potentially groundbreaking UBCO-led project.
 - [limlæmt | Thank You to ONA](#) for providing OBWB Directors and staff with an Okanagan Lake Dam Passage tour this week.
 - Okanagan hit with [unprecedented Drought Level 4](#).
 - [OBWB's James Littley on AM1150](#) regarding the threat of invasive mussels and the eDNA project.

Media Tracking

Please find monthly media tracking below, listing articles from Sept. 29 to Oct. 27, 2025, in reverse chronological order.

Date	Source	Headline	Link
Oct. 22, 2025	Castanet	Bamboozle Bambi by planting perennials he won't like	https://www.castanet.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/579300/Bamboozle-Bambi-by-planting-perennials-he-won-t-like
Oct. 20, 2025	The Times Chronicle	Water board invests in UBCO's high-tech dog's nose	https://www.timeschronicle.ca/water-board-invests-in-ubcos-high-tech-dogs-nose/
Oct. 18, 2025	Okanagan Weekend (Print Edition)	OBWB urges federal, provincial action to keep invasive mussels out	
Oct. 16, 2025	Summerland Review and 8 other Black Press publications	Similkameen Valley spends over quarter of 2025 in severe drought	https://www.summerlandreview.com/home/similkameen-valley-spends-over-quarter-of-2025-in-severe-drought-8309101
Oct. 16, 2025	Victoria News and 8 other Black Press publications	B.C. raises Okanagan region to 'unprecedented' Drought Level 4	https://www.vicnews.com/news/okanagan-at-drought-level-4-8307537
Oct. 15, 2025	Castanet	Drought conditions worsen in Okanagan, says Agriculture Canada	https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/578124/Drought-conditions-worsen-in-Okanagan-says-Agriculture-Canada
Oct. 15, 2025	Summerland Review and 8 other Black Press publications	Okanagan raised to 'unprecedented' Drought Level 4	https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/okanagan-at-drought-level-4-8306702
Oct. 11, 2025	Okanagan Weekend (Print Edition)	Valley's drought level raised to 4	
Oct. 9, 2025	Castanet	Worsening drought conditions 'unprecedented' for this time of year, says water board	https://www.castanet.net/editon/news-story-577095-3-.htm
Oct. 9, 2025	Castanet	Invasive mussels warnings are being heard in Peachland	https://www.castanet.net/editon/news-story-577078-86-.htm
Oct. 9, 2025	KelownaNow and VernonNow	Okanagan hits 'unprecedented and critical' level 4 drought	https://www.kelownanow.com/watercooler/news/news/Okanagan/Okanagan_hits_unprec

		despite cooler temperatures	edented and critical level 4 drought despite cooler temperatures/
Oct. 8, 2025	Castanet	Make Water Work campaign's effective approach	https://www.castanet.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/576670/Make-Water-Work-campaign-s-effective-approach
Oct. 7, 2025	Castanet	Okanagan Basin Water Board commits \$200K to UBC Okanagan research targeting invasive mussels	https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/576683/Okanagan-Basin-Water-Board-commits-200K-to-UBC-Okanagan-research-targeting-invasive-mussels
Oct. 4, 2025	The Penticton Herald and Kelowna Courier	Genetic testing urged	https://www.pentictonherald.ca/news/article_d28a27d1-2fee-4e97-b808-79598088fb48.html
Oct. 4, 2025	The Penticton Herald and Kelowna Courier (Print editions)	Genetic testing urged	
Oct. 4, 2025	Summerland Review and 8 other Black Press publications	Funding sought for Okanagan water monitoring initiative	https://www.summerlandreview.com/local-news/funding-sought-for-okanagan-water-monitoring-initiative-8287731
Oct. 2, 2025	The Kelowna Courier	Genetic testing could identify invasive mussels on B.C.-bound boats	https://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/news/article_c0d21021-149f-4336-b9ff-ceba3f2b03b6.html
Sept. 29, 2025	Rossland News	Quagga mussels ever-present threat to BC waters	https://www.rosslandnews.com/home/quagga-mussels-ever-present-threat-to-bc-waters-8275754

The Stats: Sept. 29 – Oct. 27, 2025

<i>Total individual articles mentioning OBWB work, projects etc. (includes multiple listings of the same article)</i>	<i>Total Reach*</i>
27	4.2M

***Total Reach** is pulled from our media monitoring service Meltwater. It's important to note that in Meltwater, "reach" is inflated as it represents the potential number of unique visitors who could have seen a specific article or piece of content. It's calculated based on the monthly unique visitors to the source publication, not the number of times the content was displayed. This metric helps organizations understand the potential audience size and reach of their content across various platforms.



MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Sandra Schira, Water Science Specialist
Date: Oct. 27, 2025
Subject: Weather Update

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Nov. 4, 2025
Agenda No: 7.4

Temperature

Temperatures cooled: after the September heatwave, October temperatures were at or below normal compared to the 1991-2020 average (Figure 1). There were no days with a maximum temperature above 30°C. Cooler temperatures for the Okanagan are consistent with the projected La Niña conditions discussed at last month's meeting.

Precipitation

As of Oct. 27, precipitation was lower than the 1991-2020 average but was an increase over the minimal precipitation received in September (Figure 2). Both Kelowna and Penticton are within the lower part of their normal range for the month, while Vernon is slightly below.

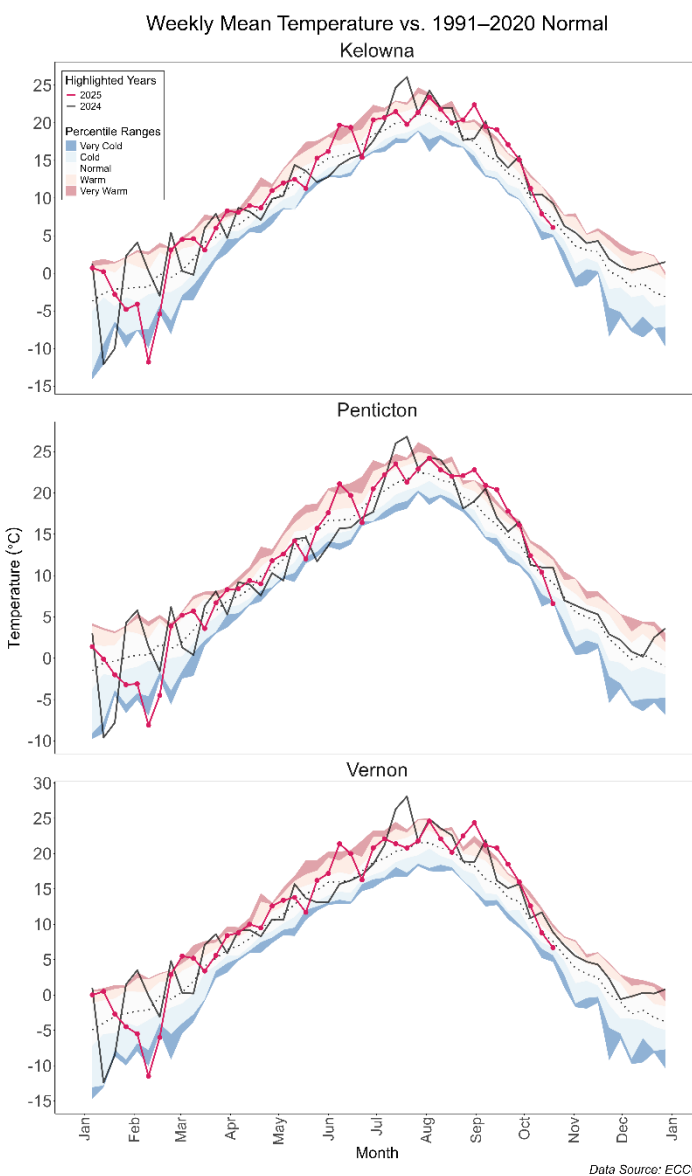


Figure 1: Weekly average temperature across the Okanagan as of Oct. 27, 2025. Compared to 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada

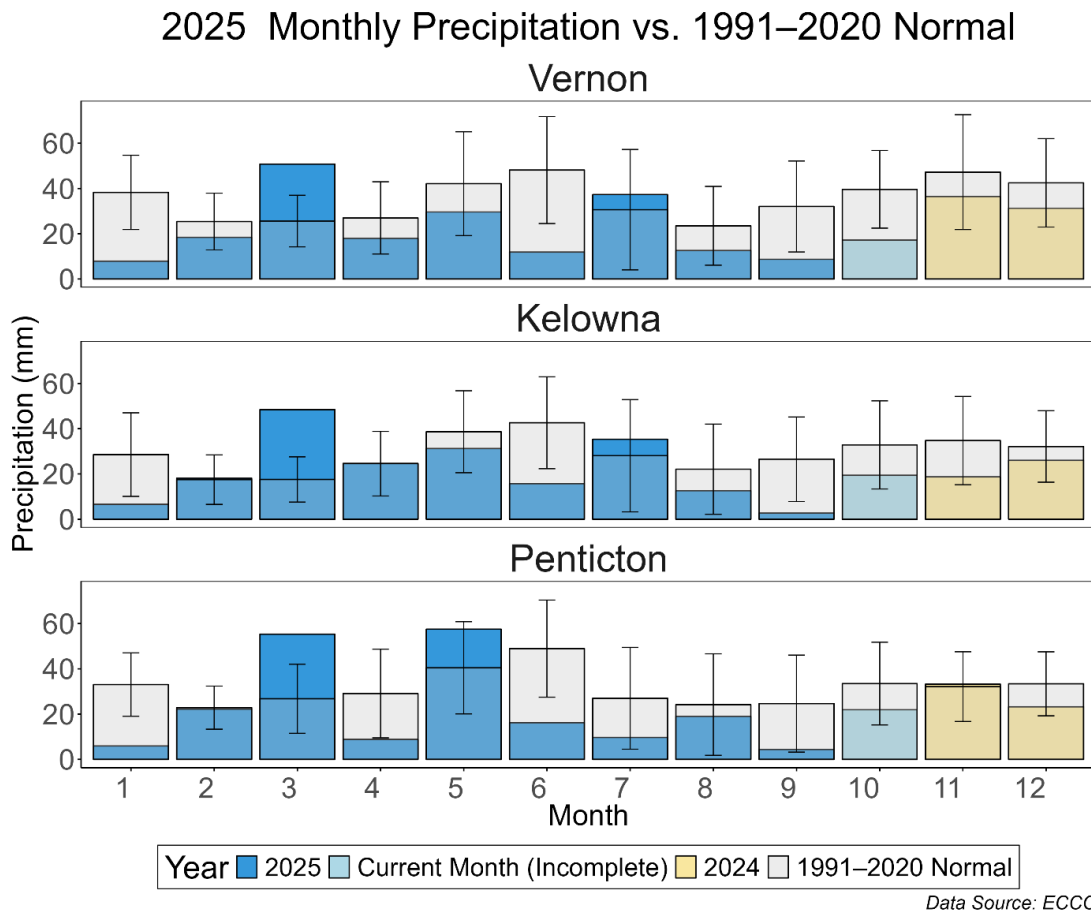


Figure 2: Monthly Precipitation in the Okanagan as of Oct. 27, 2025. Compared to 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada.

The deficit in total accumulated precipitation so far this year is below the lower limit of the 1991-2020 range for both Vernon and Penticton (Figure 3). This graph highlights one of the challenges with the Province’s new drought rating system, which announced the Okanagan region was at drought level 0 on Aug. 21, 2025. The provincial drought level for the Okanagan has remained at level 3 for most of the fall. Reports suggest that the rain this month has not resulted in significant improvements in stream flow. This may be due to the water entering the soil and recharging it rather than flowing into surface water.

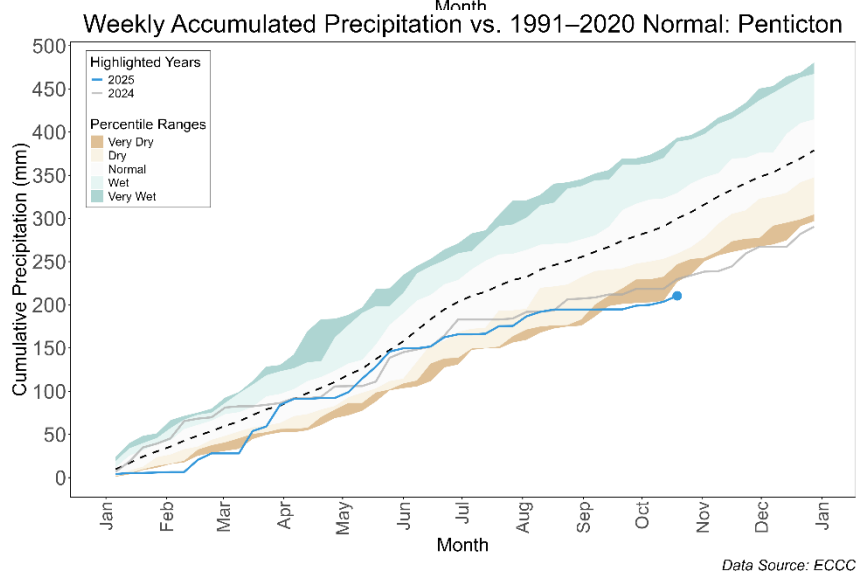
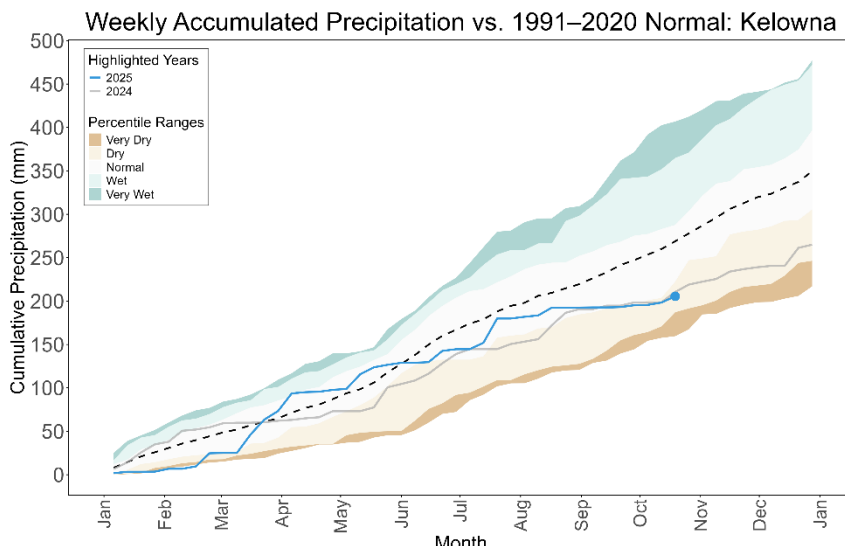
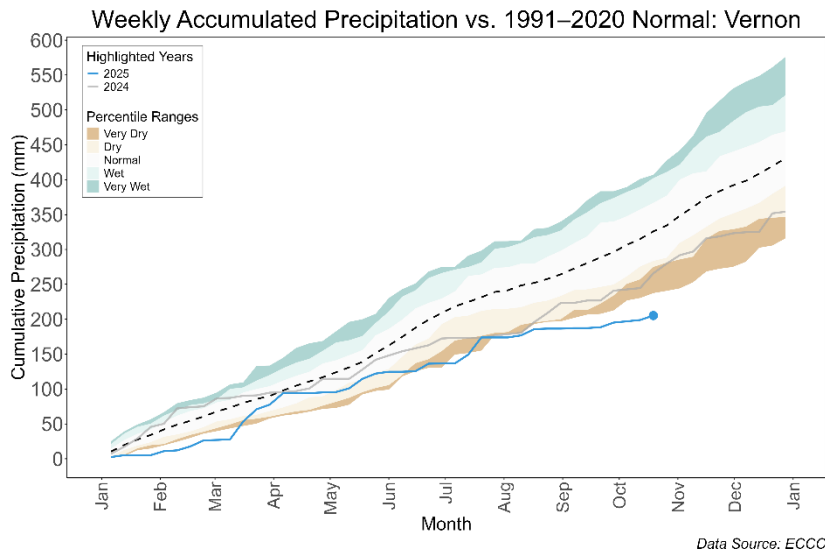


Figure 3: Cumulative weekly precipitation in the Okanagan as of Oct, 27, 2025. Compared to the 1991 to 2020 range. Data retrieved from Environment and Climate Change Canada,

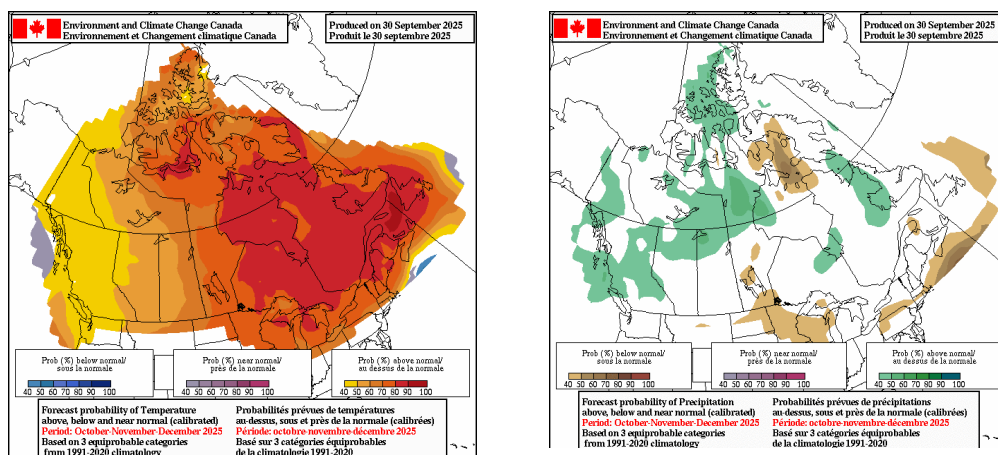


Figure 4: Three-Month Seasonal Forecast from ECCC¹ (Oct-Dec).

Seasonal forecasts indicate that October through December might be warmer than normal, but have no clear trend for precipitation. The Environment and Climate Change Canada¹ long-term seasonal forecast indicates a moderate likelihood of above-normal temperatures in the Okanagan over the next three months. Precipitation forecasts showed no clear trend (Figure 4). These results were also consistent with European models. Seasonal forecasting is highly challenging, so disagreement between models or variations from projections is not uncommon. The forecasts show the likelihood of above or below normal conditions and does not show by how much those conditions vary. Seasonal forecasts can be used to provide a sense of likely future conditions, but they should not be taken as 100 per cent certain.

Hydrology

Streamflow was variable across the valley, but many systems remain lower than normal, with the rain not translating into runoff. Okanagan Lake levels continued the trend of being low for this time of year, in part due to the early freshet seen this spring and likely as a result of the low precipitation over the summer (Figure 5).

Water supplies vary across the valley, with many reservoirs around normal, but many unregulated systems remain low, especially in the south. The province has not been holding drought calls due to the strike action, but it was still issuing drought levels for unregulated streams. The Okanagan was raised to level 4 for one week at the beginning of the month and then lowered to level 3, where it remains. The Similkameen, which has been seeing historical low flows all summer, was also downgraded to level 3.

¹ ECCC Seasonal forecasts. <https://climate-scenarios.canada.ca/?page=cansips-prob>

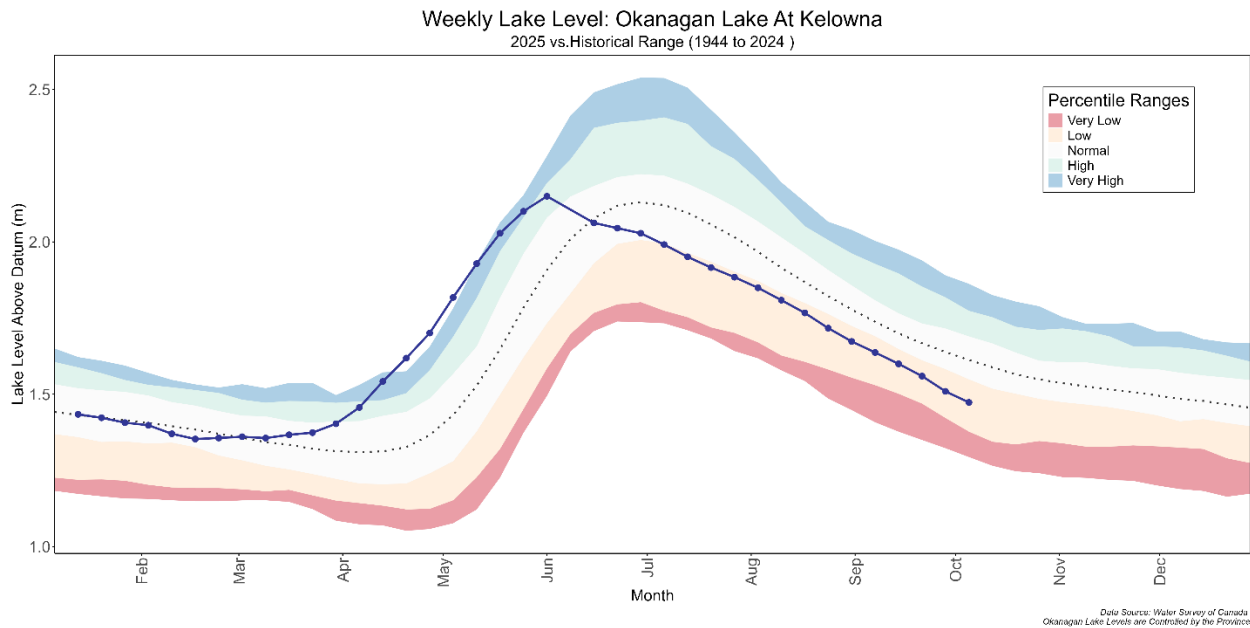
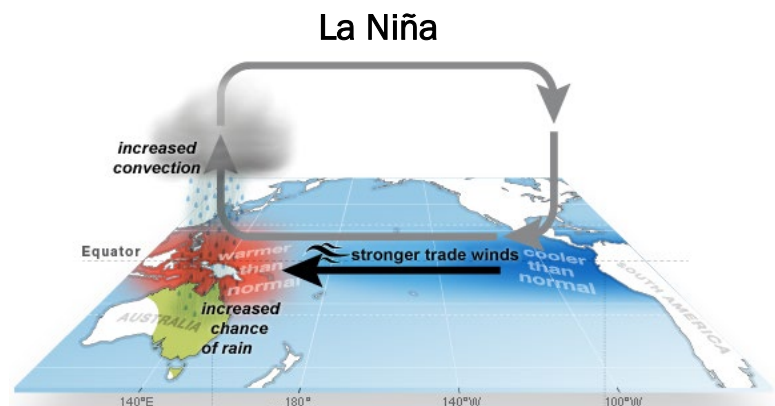


Figure 5: Weekly lake levels for Okanagan Lake at Kelowna compared to the 1944 – 2023 range as of Oct. 27, 2025. Data is retrieved from the Water Survey of Canada.

El Niño-Southern Oscillation Spotlight

Environment and Climate Change Canada is forecasting a La Niña this winter —what does that mean? La Niña and El Niño are extreme phases of a large-scale natural cyclical climate pattern called El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO)². The cycle includes differences in wind and ocean temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. They represent two opposite situations which can have a large influence on the weather across Canada. The cycle length ranges from three to seven years, with each event only lasting a few months.

La Niña conditions result from stronger-than-normal trade winds that push warm ocean water towards Asia, resulting in cooler water rising from the deeper ocean near North America (Figure 6)³. For Canada, La Niña years are typically colder and see more snowfall than normal. The coast of B.C. can have more atmospheric river (i.e., extreme) precipitation events.

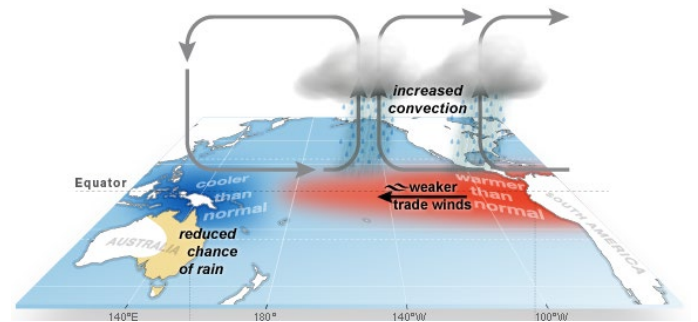


² <https://climatedata.ca/news/get-climate-smart-el-nino/>

³ <https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/about/?bookmark=enso>

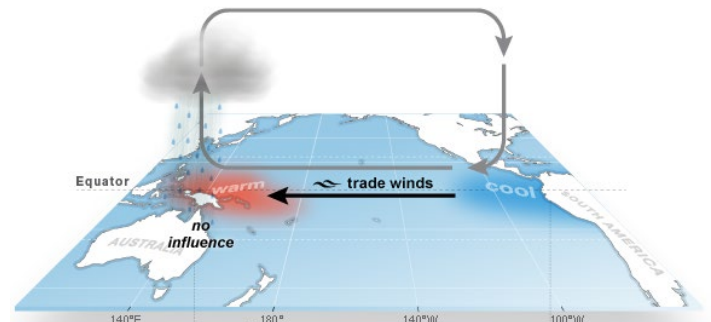
El Niño conditions occur when the trade winds weaken and reverse, pushing warm ocean water towards the west coast of the Americas (Figure 7)³. This hot blob of water has led to hot, dry conditions in Canada and has been one factor contributing to some of the warmest summers on record, such as 2023.

El Niño



Neutral Conditions for most of the time, the ocean and atmospheric circulation are in the neutral phase (Figure 8)³. In this phase, the system is transitioning between the other two. During this time, the trade winds typically blow towards Asia but are not as strong as during a La Niña.

Neutral





MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Carolina Restrepo Tamayo, Office and Grants Manager
Date: Oct. 28, 2025
Subject: **Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants 2026-2027**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting Nov. 4, 2025 Agenda No: 7.5

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grants provide between \$3,000 and \$30,000 in funding to local governments, improvement districts, First Nations and non-profits for projects in the Okanagan Basin that conserve water or improve water quality. The program has been running since 2006. This year, the call for applications will go out on **Nov. 12, 2025**, with the application deadline set for Friday, Feb. 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. The Board is asked to approve the annual theme, grant process and scoring criteria.

Process

The process for awarding grants is:

1. The Board approves scoring criteria and annual theme;
2. Applicants receive letters of 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 a board-approved scoring criteria;
4. Staff meet to determine recommendations based on individual assessments; and
5. Recommendations are forwarded to the Board. Board discussion and voting on grant awards should occur like any other regular business, with input from all Directors. Board may award, not award, or alter funding within project and program limitations.

Scoring Criteria

These weighted criteria are included in the grant program guide:	
20 points	Outcome for water quality or conservation
20 points	Basin-wide benefit
15 points	Method appropriate for objectives
15 points	Budget and timeline
10 points	Use and promotion of best practices
10 points	Collaboration
10 points	Quality of Proposal
100* total points	
*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 selects an annual theme or themes for staff to prioritize during the application review. This allows the Board to identify specific types of projects that should receive bonus points, in addition to meeting the regular criteria of the grant program. Last year's theme was "Source Water Protection and Drinking Water Improvements," which awarded up to 10 bonus points to projects that enhance community water supply health through source water protection, system improvements, and/or studies to promote safer drinking water.

This year, staff recommend the theme of **"Innovation in Water Supply, Quality, and Quantity,"** with up to 10 bonus points awarded to projects that produce creative, science-based, and collaborative solutions to address emerging water challenges across the Okanagan Basin — including the rise of blue-green algae and other pollutants, climate-driven shifts in hydrologic cycles, the growing presence of contaminants such as PFAS and microplastics, and the need for resilient infrastructure planning and financing to secure the region's long-term water sustainability.

Recommendation: THAT the process and scoring criteria for the grant competition be approved as outlined;

AND THAT for the 2026-2027 WCQI grant competition, up to 10 bonus points will be awarded for projects in any category related to Innovation in Water Supply, Quality, and Quantity.

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Melissa Tesche, Executive Director
Date: Oct. 30, 2025
Subject: **Draft Budget for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2027**

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Nov. 4, 2025
Agenda No: 8.1

Recommended Resolution:

THAT the OBWB adopt the 2026-27 budget as presented.

Attachments:

- 8.1.1 The DRAFT Regional District Provisional Assessments page shows the total OBWB requisition apportioned between regional districts, as well as the breakdown of the requisition between the Sewerage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grants, Watermilfoil, and Water Management programs.
- 8.1.2 The DRAFT OBWB Segmented Budget for the Year Ending March 31, 2027, shows the breakdown of the budget between the three programs.
- The grey column “FY27 Consolidated Budget” is the proposed budget for the upcoming financial year (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027).
 - The blue “FY26 Consolidated Budget” is what was budgeted for the current fiscal year (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026).
 - The two lavender columns, “FY25 Consolidated Budget” and “FY25 Audited Year End” reflect the previous financial year (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025).

Background

The OBWB endeavors to run a lean organization, delivering the highest level of service and maximizing value to the communities. Per legislation, the OBWB’s 2026-2027 budget must be adopted no later than Dec. 15, 2025.

Budget Overview

Our goal was to keep the budget as lean as possible while maintaining the strong programs and services that our communities rely on as well as implementing a significant number of water management projects. The proposed 2026-27 budget includes 2% inflationary increase to the overall requisition amount over the current year. This minimal increase will cover rising costs in wages, materials, and contracted services for our standard programming and services.

Retirements of Sewerage Facility Grants this year enabled a shift in some requisition dollars from SFA to the Water Management Program. This shift in funds, combined with a transfer of funds from previous

fiscal years' unspent allocated project funds, will enable an important suite of water management projects. This approach keeps us on steady financial footing by keeping up with inflation, ensuring we can move ahead with previously prioritized work while also including new initiatives like the e-DNA project without requesting large increases from our local governments.

Regional District Requisitions

The draft 2026-27 budget has the following features:

- The overall OBWB requisition is \$4,271,182, up 2.00% from the 2025-26 requisition of \$4,187,434, reflecting an inflationary-level increase.
- The combined assessment amounts that form the tax base for the OBWB remained more-or-less steady, with an increase of less than 1%.
- The overall OBWB requisition is equivalent to 2.85 cents/\$1,000 assessment, up slightly from last year's 2.81 cents/\$1,000 assessment.

Requisition Breakdown by Program

Sewage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grant Program

The requisition for sewage facilities grants is 0.55 cents/\$1,000 assessment, down from 0.66 cents/\$1,000 last year due to several grants retiring. The requisition ceiling for the SFA program is 21.0 cents/\$1,000 assessments, which means we are only using 2.6% of our funding capacity. With large projects approved in principle for the coming fiscal years, we expect increases in the program in upcoming years.

Watermilfoil Control Program

The requisition for watermilfoil is 0.82 cents/\$1,000 assessment, down from 0.88 cents/\$1,000 assessment last year. This year's budget includes a \$200k transfer to the milfoil equipment reserve to replenish the reserve after being drawn down with the purchase of the new harvester last year.

Water Management

The requisition for Water Management is 1.48 cents/\$1,000 assessment, up from 1.27 cents/\$1000 assessment last year. There is a 2.0 cent/\$1,000 ceiling for the program. The funding will support ongoing Water Management annual programs including invasive mussel monitoring and prevention outreach, the hydrometric (streamflow monitoring) program, and the public-facing Make Water Work campaign. This budget also supports a number of discrete water management projects.

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, and our current combined budget for those two programs as proposed is 2.3 cents/\$1,000, which means we are using 64% of our funding capacity room.

OBWB Other Income

This budget includes projected additional revenue of \$442K, which includes revenue from the Environmental Flow Needs Conference scheduled for October, contributions from our community partners towards the Make Water Work program, and the first year of potential revenue from the UBCM Strategic Priority Fund grant application. If the grant application is unsuccessful, the project will not proceed, and the expenses under Water Management Projects would also be reduced.

OBWB Financial 'Reserves'

The OBWB currently maintains two formal reserve funds, with only one being a true statutory reserve. At present, all funds are held in cash accounts earning interest at a rate of prime minus 1.95%. In the coming year, I will be working with RDCO financial staff to review our annual cash flow requirements and explore opportunities to improve our investment strategy. Specifically, we will assess the potential

to move a portion of our reserve balances into guaranteed investment certificates (GICs) for a secure way to achieve higher returns while maintaining the liquidity needed for ongoing operations.

Sewerage Facilities Reserve

The Sewerage Facilities Reserve is specified in the Supplementary Letters Patent and is subject to section 183 of the Community Charter. This reserve is intended to buffer the effects of interest rate changes, and any other unbudgeted changes to grant obligations. Most grants from the Sewerage Facilities Assistance (SFA) program are established as 20-year payments on interest and principal, based on equivalent Municipal Finance Authority (MFA) interest rates. Interest rates for each 20-year grant are generally updated every 5 or 10 years by the MFA, so the amount the OBWB pays out can be subject to significant year-to-year fluctuations when interest rates rise on high value projects.

Since at least 2007, we have kept the reserve level at approximately \$1 million. Excess amounts in this reserve are used to offset annual tax requisitions. At most recent year-end, March 31, 2025, the SFA reserve balance was \$1,114,895. We are not budgeting for any additional transfers to the reserve in the 2026-27 fiscal year.

The grant program terms of reference were reviewed and updated in 2024, increasing the scope of projects eligible for grants. As a result, we expect that there will be greater demand on the program over time, and the board may need to adjust the standard reserve balance to accommodate within-year fluctuations.

Milfoil Equipment Reserve

The OBWB's milfoil control program involves the use of heavy equipment to de-root and harvest invasive milfoil from several large Okanagan lakes. The equipment is stored off season and is repaired in a machine shop leased from the Regional District of North Okanagan. Some of our equipment dates to the 1970s and needs periodic overhauls and updates.

The equipment reserve is used to purchase parts and new equipment, following our asset replacement plan, as well as occasional unbudgeted expenses to the program (e.g. breakdowns, extra mapping or environmental studies). At most recent year-end, March 31, 2025, the SFA reserve balance was \$346,301. After having completed the purchase of the new harvester in our current fiscal year, the projected balance for the upcoming March 31, 2026 year-end is \$217k. We are budgeting to transfer an additional \$200k to the milfoil equipment reserve.

OBWB Allocated Project Funds

Each year, OBWB staff anticipate potential projects and allocates funds to specific projects, always with the goal of leveraging additional grant funding and funding partnerships whenever possible. The ability of the OBWB to roll project funding over between years in response to partner-readiness and additional funding opportunities is a key to the success of the Water Management Program. As of March 31, 2025, there was \$940K in unspent allocated project funds, reflecting that 2024 and 2025 were transition years with relatively few projects proceeding. There is no draw down projected in the current fiscal year, also reflecting that this fiscal year is one of transition.

This budget includes a transfer of \$338K from allocated project funds.

Capital Purchases

The OBWB has a Capital Asset Replacement plan that was approved by each of the Regional Districts in 2023. There are two capital assets scheduled for replacement in the 2026-27 fiscal year: the OBWB staff car (\$51,639) and the aluminum boat and trailer (\$76,310). This budget includes amounts to replace these assets.



**Regional District Provisional Assessment
Budget For The Year Ending March 31, 2027**

	Central Okanagan	Okanagan Similkameen	North Okanagan	Total
	\$ 94,642,514,013	28,847,371,064	26,763,845,897	150,253,730,974
Percentage Share	62.99%	19.20%	17.81%	100.00%
REQUISITION				
Water Management	1,397,537	425,984	395,144	2,218,665
Water Milfoil	773,738	235,843	218,769	1,228,350
Sewerage Assistance	519,143	158,240	146,784	824,167
Total	\$ 2,690,418	820,067	760,697	4,271,181
<i>Total Prior Year Requisition</i>	<i>\$ 2,628,033</i>	<i>811,106</i>	<i>748,295</i>	<i>4,187,433</i>

Budget for the year ending March 31, 2027

	Water Management	Water Milfoil	Sewerage Assistance	2027 Consolidated Budget	2026 Consolidated Budget	2025 Consolidated Budget	2025 Audited Year End
Revenues							
Requisitions	2,218,665	1,228,350	824,167	4,271,182	4,187,434	3,910,386	3,910,386
Grant income	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000
Interest income	20,947	9,338	16,722	47,007	38,500	33,845	189,663
Other income	442,000	-	-	442,000	-	-	-
Transfer from reserve	338,304	-	-	338,304	-	50,000.00	78,054.00
	3,019,916	1,237,688	840,889	5,098,493	4,225,934	3,994,231	4,182,103
Expenses							
Assistance grants	350,000	-	725,889	1,075,889	1,255,223	1,197,624	1,221,845
Amortization	35,690	80,000	-	115,690	86,000	104,000	101,450
Transfer amortization to tangible capital assets	(35,690)	(80,000)	-	(115,690)	(86,000)	(104,000)	(101,450)
Water Management Projects (prev. 'contract services')	916,000	20,000	15,000	951,000	657,045	740,000	781,254
Water Management Programs	638,797	-	-	638,797	-	-	-
Director's remuneration and expenses	30,377	14,377	-	44,754	29,120	26,500	20,578
Stewardship council expenses	42,010	-	-	42,010	42,010	34,010	0
Equipment costs	3,500	157,500	-	161,000	152,500	154,000	145,187
Insurance	5,000	50,000	-	55,000	53,551	53,551	45,401
Interest + bank charges	400	-	-	400	800	800	364
Office	41,183	17,393	-	58,576	61,438	56,700	75,281
Outreach and publicity	135,000	10,000	-	145,000	40,500	40,500	30,074
Administrative allocation	(50,000)	(50,000)	100,000	-	-	-	-
Professional fees	44,900	39,900	-	84,800	88,462	85,750	83,370
Rental costs	9,909	36,608	-	46,517	45,340	44,897	44,496
Safety	-	11,500	-	11,500	19,000	14,000	18,324
Travel, conferences and meetings	70,000	2,000	-	72,000	63,200	53,200	70,259
Utilities, yard supplies and maintenance	-	26,500	-	26,500	21,700	21,700	28,443
Wages and benefits	731,200	625,600	-	1,356,800	1,402,000	1,196,000	1,173,747
Capital Purchase (as per Asset Replacement Plan)	51,640	76,310	-	127,950	-	-	-
Transfer to equipment reserve	-	200,000	-	200,000	294,045	275,000	443,480
	3,019,916	1,237,688	840,889	5,098,494	4,225,934	3,994,231	4,182,103
Net revenues (deficiency) over expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -



MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Melissa Tesche, Executive Director
Date: Oct. 29, 2025
Subject: **DRAFT 2026 Meeting Schedule**

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
Nov. 4, 2025
Agenda No: 8.2

Proposed 2026 Meeting Schedule

Date	Location	Notes
Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026	No Meeting	Winter Break - avoiding conflicts with holiday schedules
Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026	Online	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2026	Online	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 7, 2026	RDOS	WCQI grant approvals
Tuesday, May 5, 2026	RDNO	Joint OBWB/Water Stewardship Council Meeting
Friday, June 5, 2026	TBD, Kelowna	Water Management Program 20 th Anniversary Celebration (replaces fall annual public meeting)
Tuesday, July 7, 2026	RDOS	Regular Meeting
Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2026	No Meeting	Summer break – avoiding day after BC Day Stat
Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2026	RDNO	First opportunity to adopt 2027-28 Budget
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026	RDCO	Adopt 2027-28 Budget, approve 2027 meeting schedule
Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026	Cancelled	Pending regional district appointments following municipal elections
Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026	Cancelled	Pending regional board appointments following initial regional district meetings

Recommended Motion:

“THAT the OBWB adopt the 2026 Meeting Schedule as presented.”