



**Okanagan Basin**

WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: October 2, 2013**

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ter Stewardship Council

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trict of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

**Gerry Zimmermann, Regional**  
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The next regular meeting of  
the OBWB is 10 a.m.,  
**November 5th, 2013** at  
Regional District of Central  
Okanagan

## **Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights**

**Make Water Work Campaign Enjoys Success Through Partnerships** This year, Okanagan WaterWise partnered with local governments valley-wide to deliver the message: Make Water Work. This multi-year campaign helps Okanagan residents to reduce their water use by encouraging actions to reduce water use and increase efficiency. Okanagan water conservation efforts benefitted through the major support of Okanagan media who provided almost \$84,000 in combined in-kind advertising and other support. More information can be found at: [okwaterwise.ca](http://okwaterwise.ca)

**Board Initiates Project to Collect Stream Flow Information** The Okanagan Basin Water Board awarded a contract to build an integrated Hydrometric Data System for the Okanagan. This system will bring together locally-collected stream flow and other water data from a number of sources into a single database, allowing local governments, water districts, senior governments and scientists to better track water levels and availability. This project represents a major step forward for managing the Okanagan water system as a whole, and is the first of its kind in B.C.

**Report Provides Options to Assist Local Stormwater Management** The Board received a report providing recommendations to assist local governments in managing stormwater. As part of the study, funded by the Ministry of Community, Sport, and Cultural Development, interviews were conducted with eight Okanagan municipal engineering departments to determine what assistance is needed to help manage stormwater. Stormwater is now the largest source of pollution in the Okanagan, as advances in wastewater treatment have reduced sewage pollution. Stormwater also contributes to urban flooding.

**OBWB Strategic Plan Approved in Principle** In June, the Board held a joint session with the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council to contribute to an OBWB five-year strategic plan. This plan, presented to the Board in draft form, articulates strategic priorities and actions to work toward the OBWB vision "*For the valley to have clean and healthy water in perpetuity, meeting the needs of natural ecosystems, residents and agriculture—now and in the future.*" The final plan will be presented to the Board for approval at the November Board meeting.

**Winter Milfoil Control to Begin this month on Okanagan Lakes** OBWB's Milfoil control rototilling program will begin early this month in Kalamalka, Osoyoos and Okanagan Lakes. The program, which began in the 1970s, harvests the aquatic weeds during summer, and rototills the roots during the winter after plants die back to reduce regrowth. Lakefront residents in treatment areas are reminded to mark underwater hazards such as water intakes and boat anchors, and remove buoys and lines from the water to ensure more thorough treatment. For more information on the milfoil control program go to: [obwb.ca/tag/milfoil/#](http://obwb.ca/tag/milfoil/#)

**For more information, please visit: [www.OBWB.ca](http://www.OBWB.ca)**