



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: November 7, 2013

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OBWB Directors

Stu Wells - Chair,
Regional District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

Juliette Cunningham,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Don Dobson, Okanagan Water
Stewardship Council

Keith Fielding, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Allan Patton, Regional District
of Okanagan-Similkameen

James Pepper, Okanagan
Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Tom Siddon, Regional District
of Okanagan-Similkameen

Gerry Zimmermann, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB is 10 a.m.,
December 3rd, 2013 at
Regional District of Okanagan-
Similkameen.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

OBWB finalizes submission on B.C.'s new Water Sustainability Act: Directors voted to forward recommendations to the province on the proposed Water Sustainability Act. The recommendations were prepared by members of the OBWB's technical advisory body - the Water Stewardship Council (WSC) - and requests the opportunity to see draft legislation before it is submitted to the legislature for 1st reading. Other recommendations include ensuring adequate funding and resources to implement the act, and ensuring new groundwater regulations are comprehensive. The full report will be available soon on the OBWB website at www.obwb.ca. The board will also be reiterating its strong support of the province's efforts to update its century-old water act and offering the WSC's expertise in helping draft regulations.

Water Board adopts Strategic Plan 2014-2019: Following on last June's joint planning session with the Water Stewardship Council, the board has adopted a Five-Year Strategic Plan. Strategic priorities include: ensuring adequate water supplies for human and environmental uses; protection of water quality; continued work with Okanagan local governments, First Nations, water suppliers and stakeholders to ensure up-to-date plans and policies for water quality, quantity and extreme weather events; and growing communication efforts with stakeholders (government, NGO, the public) to address Okanagan water issues. The Strategic Plan can be found at www.obwb.ca.

Water Board passes budget with 0% increase: The Board approved the OBWB 2014-15 budget with no increase in spending. The overall requisition is \$3.4 million, or 5.8 cents/\$1,000 of assessment. OBWB programs include the Sewage Facilities Grant Program to help local governments upgrade old sewage systems, the Milfoil Control Program, the UBCO Water Research Chair, and the Water Management Program (WMP). The WMP includes several initiatives including public outreach on water conservation, zebra mussels and more, numerous water research and data collection projects, the Water Stewardship Council, and more. For more on the OBWB and its programs please visit www.obwb.ca.

OBWB & OkWaterWise sponsor "Lost Rivers" doc at film fest: The Water Board and its Okanagan WaterWise program are sponsoring the showing of "Lost Rivers" as part of this year's REEL Change Sustainability Film Fest taking place in Kelowna and Vernon. The film is showing Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. at Okanagan College Theatre in Kelowna. View the trailer at <http://vimeo.com/50839044#>, and the event poster at <http://tinyurl.com/m4dr65n>.

Water expert Bob Sandford returns for public engagement: OBWB and Okanagan WaterWise are pleased to support "Understanding water in the 21st Century - Are you ready?" - a presentation put on by Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen featuring world-renowned Bob Sandford on Tues., Nov. 19, 7-9 p.m. at Okanagan College in Penticton. Sandford was invited back after his stunning presentation at the OBWB's annual meeting in September. This public event also features Scott Smith with the Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre in Summerland. Details: <http://tinyurl.com/lv6grm9>.

For more information, please visit: www.OBWB.ca