



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: September 11, 2014

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OBWB Directors

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Regional District of Central
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Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Don Dobson, Okanagan Water
Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB is 10 a.m. October 7,
2014 at Regional District of
North Okanagan in Coldstream.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Water expert Bob Sandford in Okanagan for free public event: The Water Board is pleased to bring Dr. Bob Sandford back to the Okanagan as part of the upcoming Okanagan Water & Biodiversity Forum, Sept. 16, 7 p.m. at Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna. Sandford, EPCOR Chair of the Canadian Partnership Initiative in support of the UN's "Water for Life" Decade, will be speaking on "Canada's energized water cycle: climate change and its consequences." Doors open at 6 p.m. with a wine and cheese reception. The event is free, but registration is required. More details at: <http://braes.ok.ubc.ca/forum/>. The forum itself runs Sept. 16-17 and includes discussion with more than 40 experts on ecology, conservation, management, and governance of biodiversity and water resources. Daytime sessions are \$10 for the full day. On the 17th, another free evening event is being held, featuring Dr. Daniel Pauly, speaking on "The impact of fisheries and global warming." Full information at the web address above.

Project manager will move Okanagan Wetland Strategy forward: Directors were provided an update on the Okanagan wetland strategy including the issuing of a contract for a part-time project manager for the next two years who will manage hands-on projects to help increase these important eco-systems. Funding for the position comes from an Environment Canada grant. Wetlands are important for protecting water quality, preventing flooding and recharging groundwater. However, more than 85% of the Okanagan's wetlands & natural riparian areas are gone, and remaining areas are at risk of loss. There are several partners in this project including Regional District of Central Okanagan, and BC Wildlife Federation.

Made-in-Okanagan water use tracking tool extended to farmers: A web-based tool that allows water utilities to track and record water use, is being further developed for agricultural use. The tool, launched as a pilot for utilities in the Okanagan in 2011, is now used by the Regional District of Nanaimo and is expected to expand to other parts of the province. The project will not only allow users to track and record use to the province, it will allow for improved water management.

Summer 'Make Water Work' program produces wins for valley: With only a few weeks left in this year's "Make Water Work" outdoor water conservation campaign the board was given a brief update. As part of the program, residents were invited to pledge to conserve water outside for a chance to win \$5,000 in WaterWise yard upgrades. This year's winner is Sarah Moorhouse of Vernon. Also, new this year, mayors and councillors challenged each other and their communities to pledge for a chance to win the title of "Make Water Work Champion" community" and, of course, save water. Based on per capita pledges, this year's winner is the Town of Oliver. The valley-wide program began as a pilot in the North Okanagan in 2011 and has grown each year. This year, pledges increased more than 60% over last year. For more information visit www.MakeWaterWork.ca.

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