



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: February 5 , 2015

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4
P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011
www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

Doug Findlater - Chair,
Regional District of Central
Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-
Chair,** Regional District of
North Okanagan

Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Bob Fleming, Regional District
of North Okanagan

James Baker, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Tracy Gray, Regional District
of Central Okanagan

Andre Martin, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Sue McKortoff, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Peter Waterman, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

TBA, Okanagan 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. March 3,
2015 at Regional District of
Okanagan Similkameen in
Penticton.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

OBWB welcomes new board members: Following November's local government elections, the OBWB has had a number of new directors appointed and others reappointed. Directors re-elected Doug Findlater (appointed by Regional District of Central Okanagan) as chair and Juliette Cunningham (Regional District of North Okanagan) as vice-chair. Returning from RDNO are directors Doug Dirk and Bob Fleming. New from RDCO are James Baker and Tracy Gray. New from RDOS are Andre Martin, Sue McKortoff, and Peter Waterman. Additional directors include Toby Pike from the Water Supply Association of BC, and Don Dobson as Chair of the Water Stewardship Council (technical advisory body to the board). A representative from Okanagan Nation Alliance should be named soon. For more on the board, visit: <http://www.obwb.ca/board-of-directors/>.

Water Board to support SILGA resolution on invasive mussels: Following discussion on where the province is at in addressing zebra and quagga mussels, Dir. Baker suggested that Lake Country council could prepare a resolution to the Southern Interior Local Government Association. OBWB is recommending that the resolution urge the province to step up efforts to prevent an infestation and match Alberta funding, increasing B.C.'s \$20,000/year to match Alberta's \$530,000/year. Directors noted they would support the resolution through their local governments.

Board presented Make Water Work & Don't Move a Mussel results: Directors were given final reports on the 2014 Make Water Work outdoor water conservation initiative and the invasive mussel awareness campaign. A phone survey conducted of Okanagan residents in October found 74% of respondents (83% of boat owners) have heard about zebra and quagga mussels. The survey also found that while 91% say they conserve water, the #1 unprompted answer on how they save water was "water yard less" (at 54%), an indication of the effectiveness of the outdoor watering campaign. There was also high recognition (58-65%) for the three key MWW messages, such as "Don't mow. Let it grow."

Plans underway for 3rd Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum: The OBWB will again be joining with the International Joint Commission to present a forum on shared water issues, a follow-up on the successful forum held in Osoyoos in 2011. This year's event will be held October 7-9 in Osoyoos. More details to follow. For more information on the 2011 event, visit: <http://www.obwb.ca/olwsf/>.

Water Board to assist Province with Water Licence tool: Staff will be working with B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to help develop a tool that will assist the province with water licence allocation decisions. Many streams in the Okanagan are already believed to be fully allocated. With climate change and a growing population, the risk of water shortages and increasing demand for water makes such a tool all the more important.

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