



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: June 5, 2015**

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[www.obwb.ca](http://www.obwb.ca)

### **OBWB Directors**

**Doug Findlater - Chair,**  
Regional District of Central  
Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-  
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North Okanagan

**Doug Dirk,** Regional District of  
North Okanagan

**Bob Fleming,** Regional District  
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**Tracy Gray,** Regional District  
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**Andre Martin,** Regional  
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**Sue McKortoff,** Regional  
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Similkameen

**Peter Waterman,** Regional  
District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

**Peter Waardenberg,**  
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. July 7, 2015  
at Regional District of North  
Okanagan in Coldstream.**

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

**Water Board looks for solutions to mudboggers in watersheds:** There was universal agreement at this week's meeting on the need to prevent damage to community watersheds by ATVs, dirt bikes and other motorized vehicles that are ripping up these sensitive areas. The most recent and shocking example was during the May long weekend at Grizzly Lake in Greater Vernon when about 500 people descended on the area. Watersheds like the one at Grizzly Lake are a drinking water source to local residents and local utilities are legally responsible to ensure safe drinking water quality standards, but have little enforcement powers. Provincial fines of up to \$100,000 are possible for disturbing a drinking water source, but more provincial enforcement is needed. The board will be writing to the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations urging increased enforcement and fines to deter damage to the water, dams and levies. The OBWB will also strengthen its own 2009 policy on Multiple Use of Crown Land in Watersheds, expand the water quality protection information on its website, and investigate what else can be done to protect these areas.

**Joint Board-Council meeting hears Okanagan wetland project update:** As part of its annual joint Water Board and Water Stewardship Council meeting, board and council were given an update on efforts to protect and restore existing wetlands in the valley by the OBWB's Okanagan Wetlands Strategy and the Okanagan Nation Alliance—including a number of fencing and re-planting projects. The Wetland Strategy project is mapping existing wetlands and will be launching a new interactive website to highlight Okanagan wetlands through story and photos. The website will allow the public to upload pictures of these special places.

**Board approves Annual Financial Statements:** Directors approved the 2014-15 audited financial statements. Programs include milfoil control, Sewage Facility Assistance Grants to Okanagan local governments, and the Water Management Program including the Water Conservation & Quality Improvement grant program, water education and outreach, the Water Stewardship Council, and an array of water science initiatives.

**Plans underway for Annual Meeting & 45<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations:** Work is already underway to prepare the OBWB's annual report and annual meeting, this year celebrating 45 years of collaborative water management in the Okanagan. The annual meeting is set for Friday, Sept. 4 at Rotary Centre for the Arts. The theme this year: "It starts with water." Stay tuned for more.

**Event marks 10 years of Water Improvement Grants in Okanagan:** The OBWB is hosting a 10-year anniversary celebration of its Water Conservation and Quality Improvement grant program Sept. 3 at the Laurel Packinghouse in Kelowna. The event will showcase over 200 projects that have received funding since 2006, and several grantees will present details on their own projects. More details to come.

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