



BOARD REPORT: November 5, 2015



Okanagan Basin WATER BOARD

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OBWB Directors

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Doug Dirk, Regional District of North Okanagan

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Andre Martin, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Sue McKortoff, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Peter Waterman, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Peter Waardenberg, Okanagan Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply Association of B.C.

Rob Birtles, Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

The next meeting of the OBWB will be 10 a.m. December 1, 2015 at Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Okanagan Drought Plan moving forward: Directors heard a presentation from Kellie Garcia of Summit Environmental, contracted by the OBWB to work with water utilities and local governments in the Okanagan to find what gaps exist in drought response planning and preparedness. Among the findings is the need to update and improve drought planning by individual jurisdictions, the need for consistent messaging on staged water restrictions by the various water providers, and year-round conservation messaging. Working with a focus group representing Okanagan utilities, Garcia is also looking at how communications and connections on drought response can be improved between the province and local communities and license holders. Garcia hopes to have a final report with recommendations ready in the new year.

Showcase celebrates 10 years of water funding: The Okanagan Basin Water Board, in partnership with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program and the South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program, are hosting "Celebrating Collective Impact," marking the 10th anniversary of the OBWB's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program. This free event will showcase the nearly 200 projects that have been funded in the valley and which have helped conserve and protect water in Canada's most water-stressed region. In addition to shining a light on past and ongoing projects, the OBWB will announce the call for applications to its 2016 WCQI grant program. Other funders will also be on hand to discuss possible partnerships to extend water protection efforts in our valley. And, of course, there will be a 10th anniversary cake-cutting. This event will be of interest to educators, non-profits, local governments, First Nations, irrigation districts, and other grassroots organizations focussed on water-related projects and protecting the natural environment in the region. Registration is now open at <http://CelebratingCollectiveImpact.eventbrite.ca>.

OBWB awarded grant to update tools & help B.C. conserve: The board has accepted a \$10,000 grant from B.C. Ministry of Community, Sports and Cultural Development to review the OBWB's Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit and Topsoil Bylaws Toolkit, as well as other water-related planning tools developed in B.C. (e.g. the Green Bylaws Toolkit), and develop a plan to streamline them to assist with greater uptake of water bylaws by local governments in the province. The tools are intended to help local governments develop bylaws and policies to increase water-protection in their communities.

Board adopts 2016-17 budget: Directors adopted the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, April 1, 2016 - March 31, 2017, with a net zero increase over 2015-16. The overall budget of \$3.4 million covers the [Watermilfoil Control Program](#), [Sewerage Facilities Grants Program](#), and the [Water Management Program](#) (which includes water science research, Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program, and communications and outreach including the [Don't Move a Mussel](#) and [Make Water Work](#) initiatives).

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