



## BOARD REPORT: February 4, 2016

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# Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

## Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

**OBWB sees minor change at board table:** Regional districts in the North and Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen have appointed their representatives to the Water Board. Returning from RDNO are directors Juliette Cunningham, Doug Dirk and Bob Fleming. From RDCO, Doug Findlater and Tracy Gray return while Cindy Fortin is a new appointment. Returning from RDOS are Andre Martin, Sue McKortoff, and Peter Waterman. Additional directors include Peter Waardenburg of Okanagan Nation Alliance, Toby Pike from the Water Supply Association of BC, and Rob Birtles of the Water Stewardship Council (technical advisory body to the board). The board re-elected Dir. Findlater as chair and Dir. Cunningham as vice-chair.

**Board sends letter requesting Hulcar drinking water protection:** Directors voted to send a letter to the Ministry of Environment and Interior Health requesting action be taken to investigate and control pollution affecting the drinking water quality in the Hulcar aquifer. The letter notes that the request is in keeping with the board's policy of prioritizing drinking water protection when making regulatory decisions.

**Provincial proposal to control invasive mussels in 2016 supported:** The board was updated on a provincial staff proposal to have eight full-time inspection stations set up at key crossings for the 2016 boating season – five along the B.C.-Alberta border and three along the B.C.-Washington border. This proposal is consistent with what the Water Board has been requesting since 2012. Directors agreed to send a letter to B.C. Environment Min. Mary Polak, Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Min. Steve Thomson and Finance Min. Mike de Jong, supporting the proposal and urging that it be effectively funded and staffed.

**Central Okanagan floodplain mapping project presented:** The Water Board heard a presentation from Margaret Bakelaar, RDCO's Environmental/Land Use Planner on a regional floodplain management plan currently underway, funded in part through an OBWB grant. It was noted that the project will include mapping of flood-risk areas, helping the district address liability issues, environmental concerns, make the region more resilient to climate change and assist with planning decisions. Directors showed great interest in seeing the project replicated in the North and South Okanagan.

**Okanagan Drought Plan Report received:** A final report on a valley-wide drought plan for the Okanagan was presented to the board. *Building Drought Resilience in the Okanagan – Phase 1: Gap Analysis and Recommendations* includes a comprehensive look at the 2015 drought and suggestions to help address local water supply challenges and improve public communication. A report with next steps will be provided to the board in March.

**Make Water Work 2015 report tabled:** Staff delivered a final report on the [Make Water Work](#) outdoor residential water conservation initiative for 2015. With local governments in the Okanagan providing \$2-3,000, matched by the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, and then leveraged with additional support from local businesses, the Okanagan benefited from a program worth more than \$188K. Highlights this year included the launch of the Make Water Work Plant Collection. Special thanks was given to media partners, garden centres and local landscaping and irrigation businesses.

### 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

**Cindy Fortin,** 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

**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. March 1, 2016  
at Regional District Okanagan-  
Similkameen in Penticton.**

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