



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: May 6, 2016**

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

**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

**To be announced,**  
Okanagan Nation Alliance

**Toby Pike,** Water Supply  
Association of B.C.

**Rob Birtles,** Okanagan Water  
Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the  
OBWB will be at 9 a.m. June 7,  
2016 at the Coast Capri Hotel  
in Kelowna.**

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

**Board hears delegation on tool to measure drinking water quality:** Directors heard from Solomon Tesfamariam of UBC Okanagan regarding an asset management tool to help small to medium-sized communities determine, and address, the challenges posed by aging drinking water infrastructure. The board was interested in the presentation, recognizing that prevention is often less costly than dealing with disasters.

**Special Board-Council meeting to include First Nations workshop:** The annual joint Water Board-Okanagan Water Stewardship Council meeting is set for June 7. This year's joint meeting will include a special presentation on the 2014 Tsilhqot'in Supreme Court of Canada decision and the Syilx (Okanagan Nation) context. The workshop is organized in partnership with the Okanagan Nation Alliance.

**Okanagan Wetland Project enters phase 3:** The board received a report on Phase 2 of the Okanagan Wetland Project which included development of an online wetland database, as well as hands-on restoration in several Okanagan locations, including the Osoyoos Oxbows and Lakers Park in Vernon. There has been installation of turtle basking logs at various sites including Kelowna's Munson Pond, and development of a website showcasing a few of the valley's wetlands at [www.OkanaganWetlands.ca](http://www.OkanaganWetlands.ca). Phase 3 will focus on developing a strategy for further wetland protection, enhancement and creation.

**Milfoil crews prepping for summer harvest season:** The winter rototilling (derooting) portion of the milfoil control program is now complete and crews are preparing their machines for their spring/summer season with the harvesters (similar to mowing). Additional hours were spent rototilling this winter in anticipation of a possible repeat of 2015. Last year, the early warm spring created warm waters. This, along with nutrients (e.g. fertilizers) washing into the lakes, created aggressive growing conditions. Staff will be monitoring growth this year and hope that the extra winter work will have paid off.

**Make Water Work Plant Collection expands:** Just in time for spring gardening, the board was updated on an expanded Make Water Work (MWW) Plant Collection. The collection, launched last year, was developed in partnership between the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, the Okanagan Xeriscape Association, and Bylands Nursery in an effort to encourage low-water landscapes. The collection has been expanded to include 54 plants, including grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees, perfect for the dry Okanagan climate. As well, two new garden centres have joined the program, bringing the total to nine, ensuring nearly all Okanagan residents have access to a garden centre in their community carrying the collection. The plant program is part of the the larger "Make Water Work" campaign, a valley-wide outdoor water conservation initiative delivered by OkWaterWise and local governments and utilities. Learn more at [www.MakeWaterWork.ca](http://www.MakeWaterWork.ca).

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