



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: November 3, 2016

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Okanagan

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Association of B.C.

Rob Birtles, Okanagan Water
Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB will be at 10 a.m. Dec. 6,
2016 at the Regional District of
Okanagan-Similkameen in
Penticton.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Okanagan Lake mapping aims to help manage shoreline development: The board heard a presentation from Jason Schleppe of Ecoscape Environmental who has been conducting Foreshore Inventory Mapping along the central portion of Okanagan Lake. The Regional District of Central Okanagan project, funded in part through an OBWB Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant, is in response to concerns about the cumulative effects of foreshore development and the impacts on aquatic habitat. Mapping in 2010 found up to two percent of the Central Okanagan shoreline is being changed each year and only 43 per cent (125 km of 289 km total) remained in a natural state. The project will help RDCO develop Shoreline Management Guidelines.

OBWB receives \$50K to continue groundwater research: Environment Canada has awarded the Water Board a \$50,000 grant to extend its research into the groundwater-surface water interactions on Mission Creek, the largest contributor of water to Okanagan Lake. The research will help develop a greater understanding of how this interaction relates to the long-term sustainability of groundwater as a drinking water source for Kelowna residents, habitat conditions for fish, and climate adaptation.

Priorities for water project funding set: Directors voted on this year's annual funding priorities for its 2016-17 Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant intake. Each year the OBWB welcomes applications for water projects from local governments, improvements districts and non-profits, and awards grants up to \$30,000 with a total \$300,000 available. This year's priorities include projects that address: Drought and Flood Preparedness, Water Flow Monitoring, Groundwater Studies, Restoration, or Water Quality. Additional categories that will be considered include: Education, Irrigation, Mapping, Metering, System Improvement, Water Treatment Study, Water Management Planning, Source Water Protection and Xeriscape. More details coming soon. For more information on the grant program visit www.obwb.ca/wcqi.

Water Board welcomes CBC's Bob McDonald to Okanagan: We are pleased to be co-hosting a special workshop, "FLOW 'n GROW - Balancing Economy, Ecology and Settlement in the Okanagan," on Nov. 29 in Kelowna with the Partnership for Water Sustainability BC and the Irrigation Industry Association of BC (IIABC). Keynote speakers include Bob McDonald, host of the award-winning radio program "Quirks and Quarks," Bob Sandford with the UN University Institute for Water, Environment & Health, plus others. Early registration deadline is Nov. 15. Details at www.irrigationbc.com/page/convention-seminars. Special rates are available to students and First Nations community members – contact IIABC directly.

Board of Directors approves annual budget: Directors adopted the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018, with a 0.2 percent net increase over 2016-17. The overall budget of \$3.4 million covers the [Watermilfoil Control Program](#), [Sewerage Facilities Grants Program](#), and the [Water Management Program](#) (which includes water research, the WCQI Grant Program, and communications and outreach including the [Don't Move a Mussel](#) and [Make Water Work](#) initiatives). The small increase will assist with milfoil equipment replacement.

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