



**BOARD REPORT: March 10, 2017**



**Okanagan Basin**

WATER BOARD

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

### **OBWB Directors**

**Tracy Gray - Chair,**  
Regional District of Central  
Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-  
Chair,** Regional District of  
North Okanagan

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

**Rick Fairbairn,** Regional  
District of North Okanagan

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

**Cindy Fortin,** Regional District  
of Central Okanagan

**Ron Hovanes,** Regional  
District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

**Sue McKortoff,** Regional  
District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen

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

**Lisa Wilson,** Okanagan Nation  
Alliance

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

**Brian Guy,** Okanagan Water  
Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of  
the OBWB will be at 10 a.m.  
April 4, 2017 at the Regional  
District of North Okanagan in  
Coldstream.**

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

**Board hears from conservation groups on possible partnerships:** Directors heard a presentation from Bryn White of the South Okanagan and Similkameen Conservation Partnership and Scott Boswell with the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program. The two presented on the “Biodiversity Conservation Strategy for the Okanagan Region” and how it aligns with OBWB initiatives, such as protection of ecosystems, including wetlands, and water quality. There was also discussion around the recently adopted South Okanagan Conservation Fund and how it may be a possible match with the OBWB’s Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program for future conservation projects.

**OBWB continues to push for mussel action on federal front:** The board was updated on a recent meeting with Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr regarding an OBWB request for funding and increased support to provinces on the invasive mussel issue. There was also discussion about the need to ensure a consistent approach to watercraft inspections at Canada-U.S. border crossings. Staff have also been working with the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce to assist their efforts on this file at the federal chamber and government levels. Directors also discussed plans to address the issue at the upcoming Federation of Canadian Municipalities Annual Convention in Ottawa this June.

**Water grant applications being reviewed:** It has been another strong year for applications to the OBWB’s Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program. The office received 25 eligible applications from throughout the Okanagan. Requests for funding came in at just over \$467,000, with \$300,000 available. Submissions are being reviewed and recommendations will go to the board in April.

**Canada Water Week makes splash in Okanagan:** The Water Board’s Okanagan WaterWise program has several events lined up to celebrate UN World Water Day (March 22) and Canada Water Week (March 19-25). Events include a special screening of the award-winning film *RiverBlue*, followed by a Q&A with director and Kelowna resident David McIlvrde. This visually stunning documentary follows B.C.-based Mark Angelo, an internationally-celebrated rivers conservationist, as he explores the textile industry and the resulting pollution in waterways around the world. Also, the ever-popular – and free – **public forum** and mixer makes a return with this year’s topic “Why WASTE Water?” The panel will be MC’ed by Kelowna broadcaster Phil Johnson, host of AM1150’s The Early Edition. Johnson will keep the conversation flowing as he leads audience members on a story-telling water journey. The **Okanagan WaterWise Challenge** for youth invites young people to participate in up to three challenges that help conserve and protect our water with great prizes to be won. Plus, there are water plant tours and more. For full details, visit [www.OkWaterWise.ca](http://www.OkWaterWise.ca).

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