



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: November 8, 2017**

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### **OBWB Directors**

**Tracy Gray - Chair,**  
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Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-  
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North Okanagan

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North Okanagan

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

**Doug Findlater,** Regional  
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**Cindy Fortin,** Regional District  
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**Ron Hovanes,** Regional  
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Similkameen

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Similkameen

**Peter Waterman,** Regional  
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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 10 a.m.  
December 5, 2017 at the  
Regional District of Okanagan-  
Similkameen in Penticton.**

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

**Water Board works with utilities on drought triggers:** The board was updated on an OBWB workshop held this week with large utilities that draw water for customers from the Okanagan's mainstem (valley-bottom) lakes. The partners are looking to develop consistent drought triggers based on lake levels that will help set water restrictions in times of shortages. These drought triggers would form part of each utility's drought response plans.

**Board sets priorities for 2018 water project grants:** Directors approved priorities for its Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) 2018 Grant Program. Priorities include Drought and Flood Preparedness, Mapping, Water Quality, and Source Protection. Categories that will also be considered include Education, Irrigation, Groundwater Studies, Metering, System Improvement, Water Treatment Studies, Water Management Planning, Xeriscape, Water Flow Monitoring and Restoration. Those eligible to apply for up to \$30,000 include local governments, improvement districts and non-profits. Details will be available next week on the OBWB website at [www.OBWB.ca/wcqi](http://www.OBWB.ca/wcqi).

**Directors approve 2017-18 OBWB budget:** The board adopted the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, April 1, 2018 - March 31, 2019, at 4.8 cents/\$1,000 assessed value, down from 5.3 cents in the current year due to higher assessment values. The \$3.45 million budget includes 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 through the [Okanagan WaterWise](#) Program).

**Strong interest in Okanagan river documentary:** The two initial screenings of "[The River Film](#)" were very successful with several requests for more screenings. Additional events are being organized and DVD copies will be made available to community groups and schools in December. For more information, contact the OBWB's Communications Director at [corinne.jackson@obwb.ca](mailto:corinne.jackson@obwb.ca).

**Don't Move A Mussel campaign recognized by Kelowna Chamber:** The Water Board and its Okanagan WaterWise program were recently recognized at the Kelowna Chamber's Business Excellence Awards as a finalist for "Marketing Campaign of the Year" for its *Don't Move A Mussel* campaign. A short video was produced that profiles the campaign and the work of the OBWB. The video is available here: <http://bit.ly/2gP5D3h>.

**Building Sustainable Communities (BSC) returns to Okanagan:** The Water Board is pleased to sponsor the seventh BSC conference, Nov. 21-24, at Kelowna's Delta Grand Hotel & Conference Centre. The theme is "Innovation through Collaboration," with sub-themes that include climate action, water stewardship, food security, and community capital. Details at <https://freshoutlookfoundation.org/sessions/>.

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