



BOARD REPORT: February 8, 2018

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www.obwb.ca



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

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 10 a.m.
March 6, 2018 at the Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen in Penticton.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Water Board re-elects chair and vice-chair: Directors re-elected RDCO Dir. (and Kelowna City Councillor) Tracy Gray as chair, and RDNO Dir. (Vernon City Coun.) Juliette Cunningham as vice-chair for 2018. Both were elected by acclamation. Additional board members include, representing RDNO: Doug Dirk (Coldstream Coun.) and Rick Fairbairn (Electoral Area D. Dir.); for RDCO: Doug Findlater (West Kelowna Mayor), Cindy Fortin (Peachland Mayor); and for RDOS: Sue McKortoff (Osoyoos Mayor), Ron Hovanes (Oliver Mayor), and Peter Waterman (Summerland Mayor). Also, Water Management Appointments include: Lisa Wilson (Okanagan Nation Alliance), Toby Pike (Water Supply Association of BC), and Brian Guy (Okanagan Water Stewardship Council).

New Okanagan-built rototiller to join milfoil control fleet: The board was updated on the building of a new rototiller which should be completed by April. The machine, built by a Kelowna company, will complement three older machines (between 14 and 34 years old). The Water Board uses the rototillers in winter to de-root the invasive weed from Okanagan lakes when it won't re-root. In summer, the weed is mowed and removed with special harvesters. Learn more here: www.OBWB.ca/milfoil.

"A River Film" wins Award of Excellence: Jiri and Lucie Bakala of Kelowna-based Ascent Films Inc., won an Impact DOCS Award of Excellence for "A River Film" last week. The film was produced for the International Joint Commission in collaboration with the Washington State Dept. of Ecology & the OBWB-Okanagan WaterWise. The 38-minute documentary puts a spotlight on the Okanagan River and Osoyoos Lake, and how competing needs for water in this complex transboundary watershed are balanced. Copies of the film are now available at Okanagan Regional Library branches and can be put on hold at <https://orl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/377619111>. Copies are also available for screenings. E-mail Corinne.Jackson@OBWB.ca.

Pressure for stronger invasive mussel action building: Directors discussed a number of letters sent by the board, but also others, pushing for increased efforts to address the threat of invasive zebra and quagga mussels. While the OBWB sent a letter to the federal government last week, letters have been also sent to the Province of B.C. from the Southern Interior Local Government Association, District of Coldstream and the Shuswap Watershed Council. There is concern that another boating season is around the corner and while the province has responded that they are reviewing their invasive mussel program, there has been no apparent movement on the federal side. Find a news release and copy of the OBWB's letter to the feds here: <http://bit.ly/2nJBzd2>.

Directors receive results of public outreach campaigns: The board was provided with final reports on the [Make Water Work](#) (MWW) 2017 residential outdoor water conservation program and the [Don't Move A Mussel](#) (DMM) 2017 campaign. MWW 2017 highlights included the launch of "Make Water Work Week" events at garden centres throughout the valley. DMM highlights included expanded outreach thanks, in part, to support through the UN Assoc. of Canada – Green Corp Program. Staff noted significant in-kind support from media and community partners, almost doubling the value of last year's MWW program to be worth about \$83,000 and more than doubling the value of DMM to \$113,000.

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