



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: March 8, 2018

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4

P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011

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 10 a.m.
April 3, 2018 at the Regional
District of North Okanagan in
Coldstream.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Preparations underway for Canada Water Week movie night: The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise is hosting a free, fun and engaging movie night to celebrate UN World Water Day and Canada Water Week on Wed. March 21, 6 - 8:30 p.m. at Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna. "Shared waters. Shared conversations. ... Keeping the Okanagan River flowing" features a special Okanagan welcome from Krystal Lezard. There will be a screening of the award-winning *A River Film*. Breathtaking film footage profiles our Okanagan/Okanogan rivershed, a transboundary waterway that straddles the Canada-U.S. border, and explores the complex relationships between people, fish, upland species, the wider Columbia Basin, and how this is managed. The film will be followed by a Q&A with some of those featured in the film. Visit displays from local organizations working to protect our waters, and enjoy light refreshments. This is a free event but registration is required at <https://okwaterwise-cww2018.eventbrite.ca>.

Toolkit for planning sustainable communities to be unveiled: The Water Board and Fraser Basin Council are co-hosting a free webinar to introduce a new online resource with more than 60 planning guides to help build climate resilient communities. The "Getting to Know the Guides and Toolkits for Sustainable Land & Water Use Planning," webinar, on March 13, 11 am – noon, will be of interest to local government and consulting planners, engineers, biologists, environmental consultants, conservationists and electeds. Register at <http://bit.ly/2D9KMA3>.

Feds respond to OBWB call for stronger mussel action: The Board of Directors received a letter from Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans which notes they will be meeting with the B.C. Government and other key stakeholders, including the OBWB, to discuss collaboration on zebra and quagga mussels and other invasive species. The board looks forward to continuing to work with both senior levels of government to move forward on this issue.

Water-related event organizers reminded - Don't Move A Mussel!: The board discussed water-related events in the Okanagan, such as fishing derbies and watercraft races, and the potential to bring in invasive species, including mussels. In several cases, the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program has been contacted through its [Don't Move A Mussel](#) campaign. Staff have helped event organizers coordinate with provincial authorities and provided outreach support at the event. Organizers are urged to contact the OBWB well in advance of such events at okwaterwise@obwb.ca.

State of the basin focus of upcoming webinars: The OBWB is holding a Water Supply Webinar on April 16 and May 8 at 11 a.m. These free hour-long online meetings provide a status update on current and forecasted water supplies in the Okanagan. This is the sixth year the Water Board has hosted the event. The meetings typically include water experts from Environment and Climate Change Canada, BC River Forecast Centre, B.C. Ministry of Environment and others. Additional details to come.

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