



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: April 6, 2018

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www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

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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.
May 1, 2018 at the Ramada
Kelowna Hotel and Conference
Centre.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

BC Flood and Wildfire Review Committee meets with Water Board: At the request of the BC Flood and Wildfire Review Committee, the Water Board convened a roundtable discussion with its Water Stewardship Council, local government staff and elected officials on March 29. The committee, commissioned by the B.C. government and co-chaired by Chief Maureen Chapman and Mr. George Abbott, is collecting feedback on last year's flooding, management efforts, and recommendations to address flood planning and mitigation. The committee is expected to deliver its final report with recommendations by April 30.

OBWB helping Okanagan communities prepare for spring freshet: The board was updated on the valley's above-average snowpack and efforts by the province and local water managers to prepare for spring freshet and potential flooding. The OBWB is hosting free Water Supply Webinars April 16 and May 8, 11 a.m., looking at the current and forecasted water supply for 2018 in the Okanagan. The webinars will include updates from Environment and Climate Change Canada, the BC River Forecast Centre, B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and others. Topics include precipitation/weather, water flow and storage, groundwater levels, international Osoyoos Lake levels, and fire preparedness. The webinars will be of interest to local government staff and consultants, agriculturalists, elected officials, tourism operators, and the public. Register at <https://bit.ly/2JqWgUm>.

Toolkit database for planning sustainable communities open for business: The Water Board has teamed up with CivicInfo BC to offer a new online resource with almost 60 planning guides and toolkits to help build climate resilient communities. The resources provide legal mechanisms, innovative policies, and best practices to help communities address climate change, protect green infrastructure, and carry out sustainable land and water use practices. The toolkits are intended for local government and consulting planners, engineers, biologists, environmental consultants, conservationists and elected officials. Coming soon: a *Constructed Wetland Guidebook*. Find the database at <https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/planning-guides>.

Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grants awarded: Directors approved \$300,000 in funding to 18 projects in the Okanagan through its WCQI grant program. Twenty-three applications were received this year with a total request of over \$467,000. Those receiving funds include the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program to build-out an Okanagan-based school curriculum on water and include traditional Syilx knowledge, the Mission Creek Restoration Initiative to ensure flood protection and wildlife habitat restoration objectives are met, and the En'owkin Centre for a floodplain re-engagement project. More details available soon at www.OBWB.ca.

Rain barrels make splash in Central Okanagan: The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program has teamed up with Regional District of Central Okanagan's Waste Reduction Office to host a one-day-only rain barrel and composter sale for Central Okanagan residents on Earth Day, April 22. Limited product available. More details at www.OkWaterWise.ca. For those interested in a Do-It-Yourself rain barrel project check out this video, created with Regional District North Okanagan: <https://bit.ly/2HgvoC2>.

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