



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: September 11, 2018

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www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

Tracy Gray - Chair,
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Peter Waterman, Regional
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Similkameen

Lisa Wilson, Okanagan Nation
Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Denise Neilsen, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB will be 10 a.m. October
2, 2018, at the Regional
District of North Okanagan in
Coldstream.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Okanagan to host international water conference: The OBWB and Canadian Water Resources Association, B.C. Branch are co-hosting "siwłk^w (WATER) FOR ALL - OUR RESPONSIBILITY *Environmental Flow Needs Conference 2018: Science, Policy & Practice*" October 17-18, 2018 in Kelowna. Speakers include Claudia Pahl-Wostl with the Institute for Environmental Systems Research in Osnabrück, Germany, plus many others. Environmental Flow Needs (EFNs), or the volume and timing of water required to ensure effective functioning of an aquatic ecosystem is an important but still evolving science. In locations where significant demand or competition for water exists, like the Okanagan, scientists, policy-makers, planners, and regulators are focussed on developing methods to determine appropriate EFNs. In B.C., the introduction of the *Water Sustainability Act* in February 2016 requires that EFNs (or in-stream flow needs) be determined for water bodies potentially affected by any new proposed surface or groundwater licences. This requirement creates opportunities and challenges for water management and the need for better EFN science and discussion among water users to reconcile their needs and interests. Conference organizing partners include Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Province of B.C., UBC Okanagan, BC First Nations Fisheries Council, WWF-Canada, and POLIS Water Sustainability Project. Details at www.EFN2018.ca. Early bird registration ends Friday, Sept. 14.

Water Board adopts 2019-20 budget: Directors approved the OBWB's \$3.44 million budget for the coming year with a 0% increase. There has been no increase in requisition since 2011-12. OBWB's programs include: Aquatic Weed (milfoil) Control, Sewage Facilities Assistance Grants, and the Water Management Program (which includes the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program, Water Science and Policy Research, and Communications and Outreach).

Milfoil operations switch gears from harvesting to rototilling: Summer harvesting of Eurasian watermilfoil is now done for the year and the milfoil control crew is preparing for the winter rototilling season. Whereas harvesting involves cutting and removal of the invasive plant two metres below the surface, rototilling (de-rooting) is the most effective way to tackle the weed but cannot be done until temperatures drop to prevent weed fragments from re-rooting.

Water Board looks at next steps in invasive mussel prevention: As of Aug. 17, 20 mussel-fouled watercraft were intercepted coming into B.C. According to the province, the watercraft came from: Ontario (10), Manitoba (2), Arizona (4), Michigan (2), Utah (1), and Nevada (1). They were headed to: the Lower Mainland (8), Thompson-Nicola/Shuswap (4), Vancouver Island (4), Okanagan (3), and Kootenays (1). B.C. law requires those hauling any type of watercraft to stop at inspection stations. As of Aug. 17, 79 tickets were issued for failing to stop and 44 warnings were handed out. B.C.'s inspection team received advance notice on 15 of the 20 watercraft from other state or provincial inspection teams or Canada Border Services Agency officers. In August, the OBWB sent a [letter to the federal government](#) in response to its mussel prevention funding announcement. In light of this latest information, and calls from various agencies for stronger senior government action, the board agreed to review next steps.

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