



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: December 13, 2018**

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### **OBWB Directors**

**Sue McKortoff - Chair,**  
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

**Cindy Fortin - Vice-Chair,**  
Regional District of Central Okanagan

**Victor Cumming,** Regional District of North Okanagan

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

**Bob Fleming,** Regional District of North Okanagan

**James Baker,** Regional District of Central Okanagan

**Colin Basran,** Regional District of Central Okanagan

**Toni Boot,** Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

**Rick Knodel,** Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

**Lisa Wilson,** Okanagan Nation Alliance

**Bob Hrasko,** Water Supply Association of B.C.

**Denise Neilsen,** Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

The next regular meeting of the OBWB will be 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 5, 2019, at Regional District of Central Okanagan in Kelowna.

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

**Board of Directors elect new chair and vice-chair:** The Okanagan Basin Water Board welcomed new and returning directors at this week's inaugural meeting, the first since recent local government elections. Returning Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) representative Sue McKortoff was elected chair, and returning Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) rep Cindy Fortin was elected vice-chair. Other directors include: Victor Cumming, Rick Fairbairn and Bob Fleming from RDNO; James Baker and Colin Basran for RDCO; and Toni Boot and Rick Knodel for RDOS. Water Management Appointments are Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA)'s Lisa Wilson, Water Supply Association of BC's Bob Hrasko, and Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Chair Denise Neilsen.

**Water grant program accepting applications:** The Water Board is now accepting applications to its Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program. Local governments, irrigation districts and non-profits are eligible for grants up to \$30,000 with \$300,000 available in total. Funding this year will be awarded on a valley-wide basis, rather than distributed by regional district, acknowledging that the water of the valley is all connected. We are all part of 'One valley. One water.' Also, applications can now include a letter of support from a local government rather than a formal resolution of support. In addition to several categories already eligible for funding, the board also approved its annual theme, 'climate change adaptation.' Proposals that address the theme will be awarded bonus points when reviewed. The application deadline is Feb. 28, 2019. More details at [www.OBWB.ca/wcqi](http://www.OBWB.ca/wcqi).

**OBWB puts pen to paper on several water issues:** The OBWB has sent a number of letters in recent weeks to federal and provincial officials to address pressing water concerns. A letter was submitted to B.C.'s Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development and Minister of Environment and Climate Change (MoECC) recommending an extension to the groundwater licensing deadline. A more detailed letter was sent to senior ministry staff. The OBWB is concerned the deadline is March 1, 2019, but applications are backlogged and only a fraction of groundwater users have applied. A letter was also sent to B.C. MoECC renewing OBWB's 2016 call for legislation that would require all watercraft entering B.C. to report to an inspection station before launching in provincial waters. Finally, a letter was sent to the federal Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans, supporting a study to examine funding and support for aquatic invasive species programs in Canada.

**Flood mapping work continues:** The board has approved a contract for a bathymetric study, mapping the shape and depth of the Okanagan River channel between Penticton and Osoyoos. ONA will work with surveyors to prevent disturbance of salmon habitat. A contract has also been approved to begin flood mapping of Okanagan mainstem (valley-bottom) lakes. This will include study of the inflows from snow, rain and climate change, as well as dam operations and control structures. These two projects will incorporate the LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) laser mapping of the valley, and ortho-imagery (aerial photos), already under way, to provide maps to local governments for flood planning.

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