



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: February 7, 2019

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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, March 5, 2019, at Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen in Penticton.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Suzuki headlines film screening at OBWB-OkWaterWise event: Directors were told about a special screening of the film 'Beyond Climate' by Okanagan Basin Water Board -Okanagan WaterWise, kicking off Canada Water Week festivities. The film will be shown at UBC Okanagan March 7 and is co-presented with UBCO's Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services (BRAES). The film will be followed by a Q&A with filmmaker Ian Mauro, narrator David Suzuki and the OBWB's Anna Warwick Sears, who provides an Okanagan lens in the film. The documentary looks at how climate change is affecting the Okanagan and the rest of B.C., and how we can turn things around. Find the trailer at <https://youtu.be/HQ3huLxj4Qo>. Registration details available soon at www.OkWaterWise.ca.

OBWB sewage grant program goes under review: The Board voted to undertake a thorough review of its Sewerage Facilities Assistance Grant Program. The program provides funding to local governments to help upgrade wastewater treatment systems. The grants began in 1977 and have been a major contributor to improved water quality in Okanagan lakes. Since the program began, some \$65 mill. has been awarded. The review would include recommendations to improve the 42-year-old program, and ultimately, help ensure a healthy water supply for our valley.

Make Water Work & Don't Move a Mussel final numbers in: Staff provided final reports for the [Make Water Work](#) (MWW - valley-wide, outdoor residential water conservation) campaign, and the [Don't Move A Mussel](#) (DMM) campaign. Thanks to more than \$30,000 of in-kind support from media and community partners, the OBWB's OkWaterWise program delivered a campaign worth almost \$83,000. Web traffic to the MWW website increased 63% over the previous year. As part of MWW, Okanagan residents are invited to pledge to conserve and enter to win WaterWise yard prizes. This year saw a 43% increase in pledges. And, with almost \$36,000 of in-kind support for DMM, it delivered a campaign worth more than \$95,000. As part of DMM, local governments were provided additional boat launch signs and, between OkWaterWise and its partners, there were about 5,300 interactions with people. Web traffic to the DMM website also increased 25% in 2018 with almost all being first-time visitors.

Board reviews provincial inspection numbers: Directors discussed the B.C. government's Invasive Mussel Defence Program 2018 Interim Report. In all 38,000 watercraft were inspected, 293 decontamination orders were issued, 238 30-day quarantine periods were issued (the mussels can live up to 30 days out of water), and 25 watercraft were found to be carrying invasive mussels. Of these 25, three were Okanagan-bound. The board also received a letter from the province, stating it would consider the OBWB's request for legislative changes to require all incoming watercraft to be inspected before launching in B.C. waters. The OBWB will continue to work with the province and its many partners to protect provincial waterways.

Water Board grant deadline fast approaching: Applications to the OBWB's Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program are due Feb. 28, 2019, 4 p.m. Details at www.OBWB.ca/wcqi.

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