



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: March 5, 2020

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Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

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

Chris Derickson, 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, April 7, 2020 at the Regional District of North Okanagan in Coldstream.

Board receives update on 2019 mussel outreach partnership: Lisa Scott, of Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS), reported on last year's invasive mussel prevention efforts. The OBWB provides funds to OASISS to extend the efforts of the board's "[Don't Move A Mussel](#)" campaign to water recreationists, retailers, yacht clubs and others. Outreach material was delivered to 389 locations and staff connected with about 7,000 people. They also collected water samples from 20 locations on five Okanagan lakes, and partnered with Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society for additional sampling. The group also deployed substrate monitors at 16 locations in five lakes with marinas, yacht clubs and local governments, and another 13 off private docks. So far, testing has found no invasive zebra or quagga mussels in Okanagan lakes.

Source Water Protection Toolkit in the works: In response to a request from Okanagan water utilities, the OBWB will be developing a toolkit to help suppliers prevent contamination of their water sources, ensuring safe drinking water and healthy ecosystems. The toolkit will include sample bylaws and policies to regulate activities that impact water and source protection plan templates. The project is being funded by the Water Board, B.C. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Interior Health, and the Cities of Kelowna and West Kelowna.

Grant applications pour into Water Board: The OBWB received 21 applications to its Water Conservation & Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program with a total ask of \$450,000. There is a total of \$350,000 in funding available. Applications are being reviewed and funding recommendations will be provided to the board at the April 7 board meeting.

Canada Water Week festivities announced: OBWB-OkWaterWise is presenting a special screening of "**Brave Blue World**" and a water panel discussion on March 19 with UBC's Okanagan Institute for Biodiversity, Resilience, and Ecosystem Services. The film, narrated by Liam Neeson and featuring Matt Damon, tells the story of people and projects around the world, tackling various water challenges. The film aligns with the Water Board's hosting of the B.C. AquaHacking Challenge, which engages young professionals to develop new tech solutions to address local water issues. More info. and tickets are available at <http://braveblueworld-okanagan.eventbrite.ca/>. Also, on March 21, is the **AquaHacking Challenge BC 2020 Semi-final**. Some 26 teams from across Canada will present their tech solutions to Okanagan water issues in a science fair-style expo and five finalists will be announced. This is a free event. Tickets are at <https://aquahacking-bc-2020-semifinal.eventbrite.ca>

Rain Barrels make a splash: The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise is selling rain barrels, partnering with Regional District of Central Okanagan's Waste Reduction Office and its composter sale. The online sale, at www.regionaldistrict.com/compostersale, is for Central Okanagan residents only. Those more DIY-inclined are invited to check out a popular build-your-own rain barrel video, created by Regional District of North Okanagan and funded with a WCQI grant, at <http://youtu.be/K2qoLtvTYNO>.

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