



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: February 9, 2023

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OBWB Directors

Sue McKortoff - Chair,
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Similkameen

Blair Ireland - Vice-Chair,
Regional District of Central
Okanagan

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District of North Okanagan

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District of North Okanagan

Christine Fraser, Regional Dis-
trict of North Okanagan

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District of Central Okanagan

Charlie Hodge, Regional Dis-
trict of Central Okanagan

Doug Holmes, Regional
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Rick Knodel, Regional District
of Okanagan-Similkameen

Tim Lezard, Okanagan Nation
Alliance

Bob Hrasko, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Scott Boswell, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

The next regular meeting of the
OBWB will be held **March 7,**
2023, online.

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Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

OBWB begins climate indicators project to help future-proof valley: Directors were briefed on a pilot project to develop Okanagan climate indicators, helping track and understand the effects climate change is having on the region. Indicators that will be studied include how weather is changing in the valley, changes in snowpack and rainfall patterns, the timing of inflows into local lakes, and changes to the growing season. The project will help local governments and residents prepare for continued climate change.

Groundwater monitoring well expansion to provide greater water data: The board was updated on a project OBWB is undertaking with the Province of B.C. to bring two groundwater monitoring wells online, one in Deep Creek near Vernon and another west of Osoyoos. The wells are part of a larger network that was created as part of the Okanagan Groundwater Monitoring Project which developed 15 observation wells between 2010 and 2013. These new wells will provide data in areas where it is currently lacking, helping local government planners, water utility staff, and others understand water supply better and improve decision-making.

New topobathymetric LiDAR proves useful beyond original purpose: The Water Board was updated on the use of topobathymetric LiDAR data in the Okanagan. In 2021, the OBWB completed the mapping of underwater elevations along seven lakes in the Okanagan to provide data for flood modeling. Since then, the data has also been requested by First Nations, local governments, academic institutions and consultants for various projects including, structural flood mitigation planning, updating Foreshore Inventory Mapping, investigating interactions between native Rocky Mountain Ridged Mussels and invasive milfoil, identifying illegal buoys, aquatic plant and habitat mapping, and more. Agencies interested in accessing the data can contact james.little@obwb.ca.

Board approves invitee list for 2023-24 Water Stewardship Council: The current term of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (technical advisory body to the board) ends on March 31. OBWB directors approved a list of 30 organizations to be invited to join the council for its next 18-month term. Organizations include: Agriculture & Ag-Food Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada, Okanagan Nation Alliance, B.C.'s Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, Ministry of Forests, Interior Health, water-related programs at UBC Okanagan and Okanagan College, BC Agriculture Council, BC Wildlife Federation, BC Groundwater Association, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program, and several others. Learn more about the council at www.OBWB.ca/council.

Film released from Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum: Directors were provided with a pre-release viewing of a short film with highlights from the recent "Nk'mip (Osoyoos Lake) Heart of the Watershed" water science forum, held Oct. 27-29. The film is now available on our YouTube channel at <https://youtu.be/WuFslBfnhrE>. It is a follow-up to the award-winning 2017 A River Film, also available here. Those interested in DVD copies of the 2017 film can email okwaterwise@obwb.ca.

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