



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: March 9, 2023

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Alliance

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**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB will be held April 4,
2023, at Regional District of
North Okanagan.**

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Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board receives invasive mussel outreach update: Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS)'s Lisa Scott updated the board on 2022 outreach efforts. The OBWB provides OASISS funds to extend outreach of its '[Don't Move A Mussel](#)' (DMM) campaign to water recreationists, retailers, yacht clubs and others. OASISS provided a digital package of DMM materials to 150 businesses, interacted with about 3,500 people at boat launches, community events and youth camps, and surveyed 1,100 watercraft. They also collected 148 water samples from five lakes, deployed 12 substrate monitors, and partnered with Osoyoos Lake Water Quality Society to conduct invasive clam surveys at 16 sites along Osoyoos Lake. All tests and surveys came back negative for invasive mussels and clams.

OBWB prepares response to B.C. Watershed Security Fund announcement: The board was briefed on the B.C. Government's recent \$100 mill. budget announcement for the new Watershed Security Fund, building on the \$27 mill. invested in the Healthy Watersheds Initiative in 2021. The OBWB received \$50,000 at that time for its [Source Water Protection Toolkit](#) and an additional \$50,000 to support Penticton Indian Band and En'owkin Centre's [k'əmçnitkw Floodplain Re-engagement Project](#). The province has now released a Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Intentions Paper co-developed with the First Nations Water Table and based on public feedback in 2022. It includes examples of actions to improve watershed health. The OBWB will be providing input to the intentions paper. To see the paper and give input, visit <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watershedsecurity/>.

New and improved flood risk maps near completion: Directors were told updated flood risk maps of Okanagan mainstem (valley-bottom) lakeshore and river floodplains should be completed by spring and will indicate what's expected with the climate around 2050. The maps are intended to help OBWB, regional partners and the public make better-informed decisions around flood risk and develop site-specific mitigation strategies. The maps will be uploaded to the [Okanagan Flood Story](#) website.

Water grant applications being reviewed: The Water Board received 22 applications to its Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program this year with a total ask of \$587,637. There is \$350,000 available. Applications are now being reviewed and recommendations will be brought forward to the April board meeting.

Popular World Water Day film & panel event returns: OBWB-Okanagan WaterWise is presenting a special screening of the widely-acclaimed *DamNation*, followed by a panel discussion on March 21, 6:30-9 p.m., online. The film's themes are especially moving and current as the OBWB and partners begin the work of modernizing the Okanagan Lake Regulation System, including a review of how lake levels are managed to address climate change impacts (e.g. flooding and drought), fish management, agriculture needs, and more. Panelists include Syilx Traditional Ecological Knowledge Keeper caylx (Richard Armstrong), Black Mountain Irrigation District's Bob Hrasko, Okanagan Nation Alliance fisheries biologist Dawn Machin, and OBWB's Anna Warwick Sears. This is a FREE event, but registration required at https://DamNation_WWD2023.eventbrite.ca/

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