



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: April 6, 2023

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Charlie Hodge, Regional Dis-
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Tim Lezard, Okanagan Nation
Alliance

Bob Hrasko, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Scott Boswell, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

**The next OBWB meeting will be
an abbreviated session May 2,
2023 at Manteo Resort,
followed by a joint Board-Water
Stewardship Council meeting.**

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Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Water commitments by sr. governments discussed: The board was briefed on the federal government's recent announcement of a Canada Water Agency and its potential to address water challenges. The commitment includes \$85.1 million over five years. The OBWB wrote a letter of support for the agency in February 2021 with recommendations, including federal support for better water-related data; science and modeling to support decision-making; support to rehabilitate and protect aquatic ecosystems; and, support to address agricultural water and food security needs. Legislation to establish the agency is expected by the end of 2023 and the OBWB will be following the process. Directors also discussed the B.C. Government's \$100 mill. commitment to establish a Watershed Security Fund (WSF) and request for feedback on its WSF Intentions Paper. The board and its Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (technical advisory body) is developing a submission for the April 17 deadline. For more information and to provide input visit <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watershedsecurity/>.

Annual Water Supply Webinar scheduled: The Water Board is hosting its 15th Okanagan Water Supply Webinar on May 9, 11 a.m. to 12 noon. As in past years, there will be updates on Okanagan reservoir levels, snowpack, groundwater and an outlook on the local fishery. Wildfire forecasts for spring/summer are also expected. The update is intended to help understand the valley's flood and drought risk in the months ahead and help communities prepare. The webinar link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83746136359>.

Nk'mip (Osoyoos Lake) Water Forum final report released: A summary report is now available with highlights from last October's "Nk'mip (Osoyoos Lake) – The Heart of the Watershed" water science forum. The event was an opportunity for residents of the Okanagan/Okanogan and the wider community to learn about regional water management and the issues impacting the health of the lake and the larger transboundary watershed. It was also an opportunity for residents to share their observations and concerns for the lake. This summary report will be a reference point for future actions aimed at improving the state of the watershed. Find the report at <https://www.obwb.ca/olwsf/>.

"Choose Your Watershed" education poster available: The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise, public outreach and education program, has a limited number of printed "Choose Your Watershed" posters available. The colourful poster illustrates how various actions in different parts of the Okanagan basin can harm or protect water quality. The poster was developed as part of the larger Source Water Protection (SWP) Toolkit project for Okanagan local governments. The 12x18 posters are perfect for educators and outreach efforts. The poster can be seen and downloaded [here](#). For hard copies email okwaterwise@obwb.ca.

Water grants approved: The Board approved \$350,000 in funding for 17 projects through its Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program for 2023. Applicants will be contacted in the coming days. Projects include restoration efforts, education projects, water studies and more which will benefit the valley's water supply. A news release with more details will be posted on the OBWB website next week.

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