



January 2023

Council Members (Term 10, April 2021-March 2023)

Appointed representatives | alternates

- **AAFC, Research Branch**
Kirsten Hannam | Thomas Forge | Jesse MacDonald
- **BC Agriculture Council**
Hans Buchler
- **BC Cattlemen's Association**
Lee Hesketh | Keith Manders
- **BC Fruit Growers Association**
Katie Sardinha | Glen Lucas
- **Ministry of Forests**
Sheena Spencer (Research Hydrologist)
Kelly Chiatto | Ray Crampton
- **BC Ground Water Association**
Marta Green | Doug Geller
- **BC Water Supply Association**
Patti Meger | Bob Hrasko | Shawn Grundy
- **BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8**
Lorne Davies | Jackson MacPherson | Nick Kozub
- **Canadian Water Resources Association**
Brian Guy (past chair) | Dwayne Meredith
- **City of Kelowna**
Rod MacLean | Ed Hoppe
- **City of Penticton**
Mike Firlotte
- **City of Vernon**
Ed Stranks
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**
Lynda Ritchie | Sue Lemke | Teri Ridley
- **Environment and Climate Change Canada**
Jeremy Fyke (vice-chair) | Dave Hutchinson | Alyssa Charbonneau
- **Emerita**
Denise Neilsen (past chair)
- **Engineers & Geoscientists BC**
Mike Nolan | Stephen Horseman
- **Interior Health**
Rob Birtles | Judi Ekkert
- **Irrigation Industry Association of BC (IIABC)**
Bruce Naka | Ted van der Gulik (past vice-chair)
- **Ministry of Agriculture**
Stephanie Tam
- **Ministry of Environment and CC Strategy**
Kym Keogh | Dennis Einarson
- **Ministry of Land, Water & Resource Stewardship**
TBD
- **Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program**
Scott Boswell (chair)
- **Okanagan College**
Allison O'Neill | Rob St Onge
- **Okanagan Indian Band**
Patrick Riley | Dan Wilson | Tim Isaac
- **RD Central Okanagan**
Jing Niu | Todd Cashin
- **RD North Okanagan**
Tricia Brett | Zee Marcolin
- **RD Okanagan –Similkameen**
Shelley Fiorito
- **Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association**
Randy Hardy | Matt Scott
- **Thompson - Okanagan Tourism Association**
Ellen Walker – Matthews | Mike Overend
- **University of British Columbia - Okanagan**
Bernie Bauer (past chair) | Craig Nichol | Derek Gratz

Council Meeting Highlights

Emerging contaminants (presentation by Mr. Bob Hrasko)

Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals are found in food packaging, consumer products and clothing. Some PFAS have known human toxicity and tend to accumulate in the human body. Several studies show that the migration of PFAS from food packaging into food has raised concerns about human health risks. Exposure to PFAS has been linked to several human health risks. It is important to note that research on the health effects of PFAS exposure is ongoing. The strength of the evidence linking PFAS exposure to specific health risks varies depending on the specific compound and the population studied. There are no commercial sources of PFAS pollution in the Okanagan and the current assessment is that they are a low-risk compound of interest to Okanagan water suppliers. Sampling for PFAS has found no or low concentrations in the Okanagan that are below the Canadian Guidelines. PFAS chemicals have been found to bioaccumulate in fish. Recent studies found that PFAS concentrations were higher in predatory fish, such as tuna and swordfish, compared to non-predatory fish, such as tilapia and catfish. It's important to note that the concentrations of PFAS in fish will vary depending on the location and the species of fish, as well as the specific PFAS compounds present.

Council committee highlights:

- **Climate Change** [Neilsen | Fyke] Climate modelling for Similkameen is underway. New Okanagan climate change indicators being developed.
- **Agriculture and Irrigation** [Hannam | Naka] Exploring funding opportunities for irrigation education videos. Developing a new agricultural irrigation economic analysis project (two-year study).
- **Wetlands** [Boswell] Predictive modelling for the Thompson-Nicola region is underway. Working wetland mapping and connectivity corridors.
- **Alluvial Fans** [Bauer] A new report on Okanagan Alluvial fans and their importance to various ecological services is under development.
- **Water Quality** [Birtles | MacLean]
- **Policy** [Green]

Other news

- The newly appointed OBWB board met for the first time on January third since the October municipal elections. **Sue McKortoff** (RDOS) was elected Board chair, and **Blair Ireland** (RDCO) was elected Board vice-chair.
- OBWB Water Grant Program 2023's deadline is 24 February. Awards are up to \$30,000. <https://www.obwb.ca/overview-grants/wcqi/>
- The federal government is developing a national freshwater science agenda as part of the new Canada Water Agency.

For more information contact:

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