

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Technical advisory committee to the OBWB



April 2023

Council Members (Term 11, April 2023-March 2025)

Appointed representatives | alternates

- **AAFC, Research Branch**
Kirsten Hannam | 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**
Research: Sheena Spencer | Kristen King
RM: Kelly Chiatto | Ray Crampton
- **BC Ground Water Association**
Marta Green
- **BC Water Supply Association**
Patti Meger | Bob Hrasco | Shawn Grundy
- **BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8**
Lorne Davies | Bill Bosch
- **Canadian Water Resources Association**
Brian Guy (past chair) |
- **City of Kelowna**
Rod MacLean | Ed Hoppe
- **City of Penticton**
Alistair Wardlaw | Jonathan Chu
- **City of Vernon**
TBD
- **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**
Lynda Ritchie | Sue Lemke | Teri Ridley
- **Environment and Climate Change Canada**
Jeremy Fyke (Chair) | Dave Hutchinson | Alyssa Charbonneau
- **Emerita**
Denise Neilsen (past chair)
- **Engineers & Geoscientists BC**
TBD
- **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 | Lindsay King
- **Ministry of Environment and CC Strategy**
Kym Keogh | Dennis Einarson
- **Ministry of Land, Water & Resource Stewardship**
TBD
- **Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program**
Scott Boswell (past Chair)
- **Okanagan College**
Allison O'Neill | Rob St Onge
- **Okanagan Indian Band**
Patrick Riley | Dan Wilson | Tim Isaac
- **RD Central Okanagan**
Jing Niu | Brittany Nichols
- **RD North Okanagan**
Zee Marcolin | Tricia Brett
- **RD Okanagan –Similkameen**
Shelley Fiorito
- **Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association**
Matt Scott | Bryan Darroch
- **Thompson - Okanagan Tourism Association**
Ellen Walker – Matthews |
- **University of British Columbia - Okanagan**
TBD
- **Chamber of Commerce – Kelowna**
Derek Gratz

Council Meeting Highlights

Presentation on “Ethical Space: Science and Indigenous Knowledge, Authority and Reconciliation”

Gwen Bridge delivered a presentation on Ethical Space and Reconciliation, emphasizing the groundswell of interest in Indigenous rights following B.C.'s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) and its impact on the province's landscape. She highlighted the importance of fostering collaboration between scientific and Indigenous knowledge practitioners, understanding key aspects such as UNDRIP and reconciliation worldviews, and recognizing the implications of this knowledge.

Gwen outlined the three phases of establishing ethical space-based relationships: 1) building core knowledge and understanding history and philosophical concepts, 2) planning engagement by knowing the partners and their preferences, and 3) considering the concept of ethical space. She referenced the 2015 Canada Truth and Reconciliation Commission, stressing that reconciliation requires healing the relationship between Indigenous people and their land. True reconciliation entails sharing a common vision with indigenous and non-indigenous parties fully engaged.

Ethical Space fosters cultural safety, bridging the gap between Western and Indigenous cultures. To effectively pursue reconciliation, it's crucial to comprehend the key elements of Indigenous culture (e.g., traditional ecological knowledge, stories, protocols, chiefs, values, governance, spirituality, community) and identify their differences from Western culture (e.g., politicians, science, religion, patriarchy, democratic governance). During the reconciliation process, it's essential to pinpoint the aspects that require harmonization.

Other news

- Jeremy Fyke (ECCC) was elected as the new Chair for the OWSC for Term 11 (April 2023 – March 2025).
- OBWB circulated a draft response to the B.C. Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Intentions Paper among council members for their feedback and sent the letter by the April 17th deadline.
- B.C. Wildlife Federation's 67th Annual AGM & Convention will be held on April 20 - 22, 2023, in Nanaimo, B.C. (<https://bcwf.bc.ca/2023agm/>)
- The OBWB will host the 2023 Okanagan Water Supply Webinar on May 9th from 11:00 am – 12:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83746136359>)

For more information contact:

Nelson Jatel, Water Stewardship Director
Okanagan Basin Water board

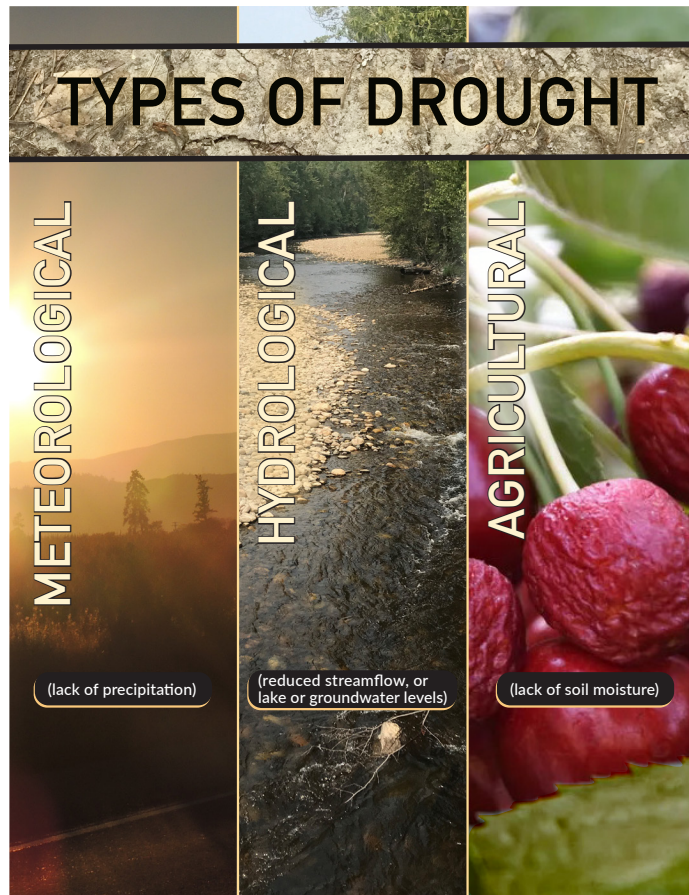
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The Council provides technical advice to the Board & connects the broader Okanagan community.

TYPES OF DROUGHT

Local water suppliers, and provincial and federal agencies determine drought levels, stages and ratings based on indicators that measure three types of drought: meteorological (lack of precipitation), hydrological (reduced streamflows, or lake or groundwater levels), and agricultural (lack of soil moisture). Please see graphic to the right for a visual representation of types of drought.



For more information about this primer, please contact:

Government of B.C.

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Okanagan Basin Water Board

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