

## Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Technical advisory committee to the OBWB



June 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 (Vice Chair)   Kristen King RM: Kelly Chiatto   Ray Crampton
• BC Ground Water Association Marta Green
• BC Water Supply Association Patti Meger   Bob Hrascko   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 Raymond Marchand   Patrick Riley
• 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 Eve Layman   Ellen Walker - Matthews
• University of British Columbia - Okanagan Craig Nichol   Marnie Turek
• Chamber of Commerce – Kelowna Derek Gratz
• British Columbia Institute of Agrologists Scott Smith   Theresa Loewen

### Council Meeting Highlights

#### Dr. Peter Millard shares insights on New Zealand's environmental policies

Dr. Millard, General Manager of Science at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research in New Zealand, presented to the council on the country's approach to environmental issues, with a focus on water quality.

He spotlighted five pivotal areas driving their policies: enhancement of soil, water, and land; restoration of biodiversity; combating invasive species; addressing climate change; and balancing human interaction with the environment. Dr. Millard emphasized New Zealand's commitment to major environmental milestones, such as establishing a policy for freshwater management, striving for carbon neutrality by 2050, and aiming for an invasive species-free environment in the same timeframe. He brought the country's current environmental status to life by sharing land-use maps and the distribution of water quality parameters.

A notable point of discussion was the peaceful land treaty between the government and Māori people. Also significant was the dairy-supply corporation's mandate requiring milk producers to fence cattle, illustrating the private sector's important role in safeguarding the environment. These insights offered the council valuable lessons from New Zealand's proactive environmental strategies.

#### Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)'s work plan for Term 11 outlined

As we embark on Term 11 (April 2023 – March 2025), the OWSC has presented a draft work plan encompassing four dedicated committees:

1. **Water Quality Monitoring and Improvement** will focus on the urban impact on water quality, monitoring, communication, by-law, and assessment of emerging contaminants.
2. **Agricultural Water, Irrigation, and Food Security** will emphasize economic analysis of irrigated lands, irrigation training, water reserves for food security, and traditional food protection.
3. **Responsible Water Management** aims to develop core knowledge, understanding, and awareness to support an ethical space with regional Indigenous partners on various challenges.
4. **Policy Committee** will develop water policies relevant to Okanagan and respond to board policy development as needed.

#### Dr. Sheena Spencer elected new Vice-Chair of OWSC

We are delighted to announce that Dr. Sheena Spencer, nominated by Allison O'Neill of Okanagan College, has been elected as the Vice-Chair of the WSC Council for Term 11. She will be working alongside Council Chair Dr. Jeremy Fyke. Anticipating her valuable contributions, we look forward to a productive tenure in this role.

For more information contact:

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