



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: October 4, 2019

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www.obwb.ca

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

OBWB Directors

Sue McKortoff - Chair,
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

Cindy Fortin - Vice-Chair,
Regional District of Central Okanagan

Victor Cumming, Regional
District of North Okanagan

Rick Fairbairn, Regional
District of North Okanagan

Bob Fleming, Regional District
of North Okanagan

James Baker, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Colin Basran, Regional District
of Central Okanagan

Toni Boot, Regional District of
Okanagan-Similkameen

Rick Knodel, Regional District
of Okanagan-Similkameen

To be determined, Okanagan
Nation Alliance

Bob Hrasko, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Denise Neilsen, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB will be 10 a.m. Tuesday,
Nov. 5, 2019 at the Regional
District of Central Okanagan in
Kelowna.**

North Okanagan wastewater project moves forward: Spallumcheen Mayor and Alt. OBWB Dir. Christine Fraser provided an update on the North Okanagan's Wastewater Recovery Project. The project is a partnership with Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO), Okanagan Indian Band and Spallumcheen, intended to improve water quality in Swan Lake and local streams. With a cost of \$36.9 mill., funding includes a senior government grant, RDNO long-term borrowing, Spallumcheen reserves and an OBWB Sewerage Facilities Grant.

Climate projections project presented: RDNO's Laura Frank presented on a climate projections project currently underway, in part funded through the OBWB's Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program. The project is a partnership with the Regional Districts of Central Okanagan and Okanagan-Similkameen to determine valley climate projections and support climate resiliency. Looking forward to the 2050s and 2080s, initial results indicate rainier autumns with more intense rainfalls. As temperatures increase, so will our growing season. There will be fewer days of below freezing. These changes will impact water supply, ecosystems, agriculture, health, tourism, the local economy and more. This project will help support climate-informed decision making.

Directors report on UBCM discussions: Directors and staff attended the Union of BC Municipalities conference and met with various B.C. ministers including Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations Doug Donaldson. Issues discussed included milfoil rototilling, fish habitat studies, drainage studies, climate change, tourism impacts on water quality, forest harvesting in watersheds, and prevention of invasive mussels. There was also discussion of reconciliation with First Nations.

OBWB partners on mutually beneficial study of Similkameen River: Staff reported on meetings with the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (IOLBC) regarding leveraging of the Okanagan flood mapping to model the hydrology of the Similkameen River. When the Similkameen runs high it can cause Osoyoos Lake to rise, and when it is low it can result in a drought declaration for the lake.

Make Water Work 2019 wraps up: The OBWB-Okanagan WaterWise 'Make Water Work' residential outdoor water conservation campaign is winding down. Thanks to several contest partners, \$100 gift cards for WaterWise yard product were presented to 12 residents throughout the valley who pledged to conserve this summer. This year's Make Water Work Community Champion is District of Peachland which gathered the most pledges per capita. Staff will be reviewing the campaign with local government/utility partners, garden centres and contest partners and preparing for a re-launch in May 2020. Visit www.makewaterwork.ca/winners/ for more details on our winners.

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