



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: June 7, 2018

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OBWB Directors

Tracy Gray - Chair,
Regional District of Central
Okanagan

**Juliette Cunningham - Vice-
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Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Rick Fairbairn, Regional
District of North Okanagan

Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Cindy Fortin, Regional District
of Central Okanagan

Ron Hovanes, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Sue McKortoff, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Peter Waterman, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Lisa Wilson, Okanagan Nation
Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Denise Neilsen, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB will be an abbreviated
meeting on August 10, 2018,
following the Annual Public
Meeting. Exact time and location
to be confirmed.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Lake water monitoring expands thanks to new partnerships: The board heard a presentation from Mike Sokal, with B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. The province has entered into a three-year agreement with City of Kelowna, Regional District of Central Okanagan and District of Summerland to expand monthly water sampling on Okanagan Lake at Summerland, Kelowna, Okanagan Centre and Armstrong Arm. Current lake data dates back to around 1970 with the Okanagan Basin Study, which led to the formation of the Water Board and the start of its Sewage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grants Program, helping local utilities upgrade their systems. According to Sokal, data indicates phosphorus levels have declined significantly since the start of the grant program, despite population increase. That said, he pointed to the need to continue to address emerging water pollution issues, including Endocrine Disrupting Compounds, Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products, and the potential infestation of invasive zebra and quagga mussels.

Water Board adopts 2017-18 financials, preps for Annual Meeting: Directors approved the OBWB's Audited Financial Statements for 2017-18. OBWB's programs include Aquatic Weed (milfoil) Control, SFA Grants and the Water Management Program (WMP). The statements will be included in the Water Board's Annual Report and delivered at its Annual Public Meeting, August 10, 2018 at The Innovation Centre, 460 Doyle Ave., Kelowna. More details to come.

Water Management Program renewal goes to regional districts: The Water Board approved the WMP Review. Staff will now present the report to the three Okanagan regional district boards over the next few weeks. The WMP began in 2006 and includes: the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (technical advisory body to the board), Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program, Water Science and Policy Research (e.g. Water Supply and Demand Study and Environmental Flow Needs research), and Communications and Outreach (including the Okanagan WaterWise program and its Make Water Work and Don't Move A Mussel initiatives). Regional districts are being asked to renew the program for another four year term.

OBWB wants municipalities considered before mine permits approved: The OBWB will be sending a letter to B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, asking that municipalities be consulted before mining permits are approved in community watersheds. The letter is in response to concerns raised by the Districts of Peachland and Summerland about potential impacts to drinking water after the province approved mining exploration in the Peachland Creek and Trout Creek Community Watersheds.

Okanagan mayors launch Make Water Work 2018: The board was updated on the launch of OBWB's Make Water Work campaign on May 17. Mayors and councillors from throughout the Okanagan attended the launch of the valley-wide outdoor water conservation campaign, taking the pledge to conserve and Make Water Work this summer. Residents are encouraged to do the same for a chance to win WaterWise yard prizes. Take the Challenge and pledge at www.MakeWaterWork.ca.

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