



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: July 9, 2020

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www.obwb.ca

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

Chris Derickson, 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.
Friday, Sept. 4, 2020.
Location to be determined.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Directors take deep dive into invasive mussel issue: OBWB's Board of Directors heard from the top placing B.C. AquaHacking Challenge team, Ozero, which has developed a ballast washing system to fight invasive zebra and quagga mussels. The challenge, hosted by the OBWB, was aimed at recruiting young professionals to help address critical B.C. water issues. The team will be piloting its program this summer in their home province of Quebec where the mussels are established and hope to roll it out in other regions soon after. Although, as far as we know, B.C. does not have the mussels, the project could be one more important tool in preventing and containing the spread of the mussels. Learn more about Ozero's project in this video <https://bit.ly/2ZNng9q> (clip start at 1:09:55). The board also agreed to send a letter to the B.C. government calling for 'pull-the-plug' legislation, and follow up with the federal government regarding efforts to contain and prevent the mussels' spread. Previous calls for action to both governments can be found at dontmoveamussel.ca/in-the-news/.

Don't Move A Mussel campaign goes virtual: In response to COVID-19 and with less in-person outreach, the OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program has been developing online materials as part of its *Don't Move A Mussel* campaign, helping raise awareness and promote protection of B.C. waters. New posters, fact sheets, a 'Proud partner in Don't Move A Mussel' web badge, social media graphics, boat inspection checklist, postcards, and more are available at www.DontMoveAMussel.ca. The campaign is being promoted using online advertising, radio, billboards and buses. Water-recreation related businesses, yacht clubs, marinas and others will also be contacted directly.

Potential water pollution with development prompts Water Board letter: In response to a request for input from the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS), Directors agreed to send RDOS a letter regarding potential water issues arising from a lakefront development. Issues noted include potential nutrients from water and wastewater pollution stimulating aquatic weed and algae growth. They also noted risks from developing in a floodplain, raising issues around vehicle contaminants entering the lake if there is a flood.

OBWB - Okanagan Nation Alliance renew water monitoring partnership: The board approved a contract with Okanagan Nation Alliance to continue to provide hydrometric monitoring on nine streams identified as significant in the valley (Shorts, McDougall, Whiteman, Mission, Upper Vernon, Equisis, Nashwito, Coldstream and Darke Creeks). The work will include determining stream flow over time, providing valley water managers with better data to ensure the needs for domestic, agriculture, fish and other ecosystem needs.

Financial Statements adopted: Directors approved the OBWB's Audited Financial Statements for 2019-20. OBWB's programs include Aquatic Weed (milfoil) Control, Sewage Facilities Assistance Grants and the Water Management Program (WMP). The statements will be included in the Water Board's Annual Report to be released at the end of August.

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