



BOARD REPORT: February 4, 2021



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4
P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011
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

Doug Holmes, 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. **Tues. March 2, 2021.** Location to be determined.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Board of Directors re-elect chair and vice-chair for third term: Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) representative Sue McKortoff was re-elected this week as Chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board for 2021 and Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO)'s Cindy Fortin was re-elected as Vice-chair. This will be the third year for both in these roles. Additional directors re-appointed to the board include RDNO directors Victor Cumming, Rick Fairbairn and Bob Fleming; James Baker and Colin Basran, returning for RDCO; and returning RDOS directors Doug Holmes and Rick Knodel. Water Management Appointments include returning Okanagan Nation Alliance representative Chief Chris Derickson, Water Supply Association of BC's Bob Hrasko and Okanagan Water Stewardship Council Chair Denise Neilsen.

City of Vernon presents on award-winning drainage plan: The City of Vernon's Infrastructure Management Technician Geoff Mulligan and Water Resource Engineer Mathew Keast provided OBWB directors with an overview of the city's new Drainage Infrastructure Prioritization Plan. The plan, recently awarded a 2020 Sustainable Communities Award by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, was developed using LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data, acquired in partnership with the OBWB and its valley-wide flood mapping project. LiDAR imaging was used to help calculate the path falling water would travel through the city, determine overland flow routes and community vulnerabilities. This information is now being used by the city to plan mitigation efforts to address potential issues, to review development applications and identify possible flood risks, and more.

Directors approve Okanagan Water Stewardship Council membership: The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) is the technical advisory body to the board and is made up of representatives from a variety of water-related organizations. The OWSC's current term ends in March 2021. The board approved a list of organizations to be invited to participate in the upcoming 24-month term. Organizations include Okanagan Indigenous communities, senior government ministries (e.g. agriculture, forestry, environment), agricultural associations (e.g. B.C. Fruit Growers, B.C. Cattlemen), conservation groups (e.g. BC Wildlife Federation, Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program). New invitees this year include the newly formed Association of Interior Realtors, and the three Okanagan chambers of commerce.

Board reviews sr. gov't invasive mussel response, considers next steps: The board was updated on federal initiatives to address zebra and quagga mussels. This includes initiation of a national response framework for aquatic invasive species (AIS), establishment of regional AIS-dedicated federal staff, support for education and outreach to water recreationists, research on the use of Environmental DNA for early detection of the mussels, and more. Directors were also updated on provincial efforts, including plans to review mussel risk assessments for water bodies in B.C. and update the province's economic damage assessment for the mussels. Considering the number of mussel-infested watercraft that are still Okanagan-bound each summer, the board agreed to discuss recommendations for next steps at the March board meeting.

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