



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: October 8, 2021

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

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District of North Okanagan

Rick Fairbairn, Regional
District of North Okanagan

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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.

Scott Boswell, Okanagan Wa-
ter Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the
OBWB will be held November
2, 2021 at 10 a.m. online.**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Water Board presents water issues to B.C. finance committee: The board was provided an update on a presentation made to B.C.'s Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services as part of its consultation on the 2022 provincial budget. The OBWB was invited to present and submitted three priorities: funds to support the Okanagan Lake Regulation System review; funding to prevent invasive zebra and quagga mussels from entering B.C.; and, establishment of a permanent Watershed Security Fund. A copy of the written submission can be found at <https://bit.ly/2YI7yFi>.

Source Water Protection Toolkit presented to board: Directors were briefed on the OBWB's new [Source Water Protection Toolkit](#). The toolkit was developed in consultation with, and for, water utilities, local, provincial and First Nations government staff, conservation groups and water professionals. It is designed to simplify source protection planning and inspire a more holistic and collaborative approach to drinking water management. A webinar series to introduce the toolkit will be held each Wednesday, 11 a.m. to noon, from Oct. 20 to Dec. 15. The series is geared to those involved in water protection and management, as well as elected officials. Details & registration at <https://bit.ly/OBWB-SPwebinars>.

OBWB reviewing summer drought & prepping for next summer: The board was updated on the continuing drought. The province downgraded the Okanagan to drought [Level 3](#) on Sept. 22. In the South Okanagan however, Shuttleworth and Inkaneep creeks remain at Level 4 and Vaseux Creek at Level 5. Staff are talking with provincial, federal, local government and utility partners to review how the summer went, and how water data collection and drought communications can be improved. It was noted there was a lot of media attention, including national, on the Okanagan this summer, with the temperatures, fires and ongoing drought, including from CBC Radio's The Current. Their team visited Kelowna and talked with a cherry farmer and the OBWB. The radio clip is available at <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-63/clip/15867290>.

Hydrometric stations installed in Okanagan: The board was provided a progress report on its new Hydrometric Information Network Program and the installation of stations with Okanagan Nation Alliance at several creeks, including Mill (in Kelowna), Powers (West Kelowna), and Naramata. Additional stations are in progress at McLean (Penticton), Shuttleworth Creek (at Okanagan Falls), and Deep Creek (Vernon). Environment and Climate Change Canada had earlier re-installed a station at Pearson Creek (a tributary of Mission Creek), and an additional station is being installed at Trout Creek (Summerland). The stations are important to understanding water supplies and climate change.

UBC Okanagan AquaHacking champ presents winning water solution: Yosamin Esanulla, one of four UBCO members of Team SIP – winners of the 2021 Western Canada AquaHacking Challenge – spoke about this year's challenge and the team's development of a backpack with a mobile filtration system. The challenge was co-hosted by the OBWB and AquaAction. Other finalists include Eledigm from UBCO with a solution for drinking water contamination in cisterns, and Eco-Water from University of Saskatchewan which developed a solution to optimize wastewater treatment. Learn more in our news release at <https://bit.ly/2XyqG06> and watch the finals at <https://youtu.be/JljCAoEzCXs>.

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