



BOARD REPORT: March 5, 2021



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

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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. April 6, 2021.
Location to be determined.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

Water Board urges B.C. to step up invasive mussel protection efforts: The board received a presentation from Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS)'s Lisa Scott whose group receives funding to extend the reach of OBWB-OkWaterWise's [Don't Move a Mussel](#) campaign to water recreationists. According to Scott, OASISS surveyed 361 people with watercraft at 11 Okanagan boat launches last summer. Only 67% of out-of-province people reported stopping at an inspection station. The board was previously made aware that the province intercepted 16 mussel-infested watercraft entering B.C. last summer, and seven were headed to the Okanagan. In reviewing last year's inspection efforts, the board resolved to send a letter to the province with six calls to action, urging that steps be taken in time for this summer's water recreation season. Find a news release and the letter at <https://bit.ly/3qfu6O9>.

Province asked to update Okanagan lake level management plan: Directors were updated on efforts to encourage the B.C. Government to review the Okanagan Lake Regulation System (OLRS). The current lake management plan was developed in the 1970s and current flood mapping indicates it is insufficient to meet the challenges with climate change. The board was told OBWB is working with provincial staff on a gap analysis to evaluate completed studies from recent years and determine what additional studies are needed. A recommended plan of studies will be released in April. The board agreed to send a letter to provincial ministers, urging a review of the OLRS. A news release, along with the letter, is available at <https://bit.ly/2PibOMr>.

Made-in-the-Okanagan water education guides make splash: The OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise outreach and education program has launched *Our Relationship with Water in the Okanagan – Explorations in Outdoor Education*, a locally-developed series of teachers guides. The guides were developed with input from Vernon and Central Okanagan School District staff, local Indigenous Knowledge Keepers, and staff at UBC Okanagan's School of Education. The guides include an "Introduction" with tips for successful outdoor education, an intro. to local Indigenous perspectives and culture, lesson plans and worksheets. The "Okanagan Watershed and Climate" module, includes background on the valley's water, up-to-date research on the impacts of climate change, Syilx perspectives, and more activities. "Building Outdoor Learning Spaces," includes information on types of outdoor spaces and how to take a project from vision and design to construction and maintenance. The guides are free and downloadable at <http://bit.ly/OkWWeduc-guides>. News release: <https://bit.ly/3rOgGIQ>.

Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! - 2nd edition now available: The OBWB-OkWaterWise has launched an updated edition of its popular homeowner's guide, helping residents control runoff and use rain as a resource. The guide is available at <http://bit.ly/OkWW-SSSI>.

Strong response to Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grant Program: The OBWB's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Program received 24 applications with a total request worth \$575,000. There is \$350,000 available. The board will receive funding recommendations at its April 6 board meeting.

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