



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

**BOARD REPORT: June 9, 2022**

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[www.obwb.ca](http://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.

**Scott Boswell, Okanagan**  
Water Stewardship Council

**The next regular meeting of the  
OBWB will be held July 5, 2022  
at 10 a.m. online.**

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## **Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights**

**Directors support continued hydrometric data collection:** The board voted to extend a partnership with Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) to provide operational support and data management to the OBWB's hydrometric information network service for 2022. Directors approved the service in 2020 to increase the number of hydrometric monitoring stations in the valley and improve data access. The service is run in partnership with ONA, senior governments and Okanagan water suppliers. In 2021, the service increased the number of stations from 15 to 19. Two more stations are planned to be added this year.

**Annual "Make Water Work" campaign launches:** Directors were briefed on the launch of the valley-wide residential outdoor water conservation campaign, "Make Water Work." The campaign, led by OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, is delivered in partnership with Okanagan local governments and utilities. Okanagan mayors and a Westbank First Nations councillor have posted pledge videos online, encouraging residents to conserve water this summer. Garden centres are promoting the *Make Water Work Plant Collection*, with special attention this year to native plants. More information can be found at [www.MakeWaterWork.ca](http://www.MakeWaterWork.ca).

**Talks begin on Invasive Mussel Vulnerability Kit:** Initial work is proceeding to develop an invasive zebra and quagga mussel vulnerability assessment kit for local governments. The kit was among several recommendations the OBWB sent B.C.'s Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in March to address the threat of invasive mussels being introduced to B.C. waters. An initial meeting has been held with provincial staff and a project charter will now be developed. For information on the mussels, risks to the Okanagan, and prevention tips, visit [www.DontMoveAMussel.ca](http://www.DontMoveAMussel.ca).

**Milfoil control on Vaseux Lake a step closer:** OBWB Directors were updated on a proposal to remove invasive Eurasian watermilfoil plants in Vaseux Lake this summer. Milfoil has been a long-standing issue in the lake but has been difficult to address as the area is a migratory bird sanctuary and home to protected native Rocky Mountain ridged mussels. Although rototilling to de-root the plant is more effective, this cannot be done on Vaseux. However, the OBWB has received support from the Osoyoos Indian Band and the federal Canadian Wildlife Service to use its harvester to mow the weed and is now awaiting provincial approval.

**National philanthropy conference brings attention to Okanagan:** The board was provided an overview of the Environmental Funders Canada conference held in the valley in May. It was noted that the event offered the opportunity to showcase the Okanagan and the collaborative work being done to address water and other environmental issues.

**Directors adopt financial statements:** The board approved the OBWB's Audited Financial Statements for 2021-22. OBWB's programs include Aquatic Weed (milfoil) Control, Sewage Facilities Assistance Grants and the Water Management Program. The statements will be included in the Water Board's Annual Report to be released in early September.

**For more information, please visit: [www.OBWB.ca](http://www.OBWB.ca)**