



## BOARD REPORT: July 6, 2022



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD

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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

**To be determined,** 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 an abbreviated session on **Sept. 9, 2022** following the Annual Public Meeting. Exact time and location to be confirmed.

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

**Province gives invasive mussel inspection update:** The board welcomed Martina Beck, with B.C. Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship (LWRS), and B.C. Conservation Officer Service's Dave Webster for an update on the province's Invasive Mussel Defence Program. Inspection stations opened in April and will be running until October. As of July 3, five watercraft fouled with invasive mussels were intercepted coming into B.C. All five were coming from Ontario. Two were destined for the Okanagan, two for the Lower Mainland, and one for Vancouver Island. This year, the province is operating eight stations with 36 staff, a decrease that began with the COVID pandemic. OBWB's recent submission to the B.C. government's Budget 2023 consultation recommended restoring core inspection program funding to 2017 levels of \$3.8 mill./year and adjusting for inflation going forward. Provincial and OBWB staff will be attending the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Summit in Calgary this month where regional invasive mussel response will be discussed. The board agreed to consider next steps at its next meeting in September.

**"Don't Move A Mussel" campaign targets visitors with watercraft:** Directors were briefed on the launch of the 2022 "Don't Move A Mussel" campaign, aimed at raising public awareness of invasive zebra and quagga mussels, and how to keep them out of Okanagan and B.C. waters. This year's campaign, led by OBWB's Okanagan WaterWise program, includes targeting those planning trips to the Okanagan with their watercraft. The campaign is using digital ads, social media, billboards, radio ads and a contest. It is also working with water recreation-related businesses, providing posters, rack cards, and more, to help 'Spread the message, not the mussel.' Find information on the mussels, risks to the Okanagan, and prevention tips at [www.DontMoveAMussel.ca](http://www.DontMoveAMussel.ca).

**Boating workshop identifies concerns, next steps:** An update was given on the OBWB's "Boating Benefits, Impacts and Solutions Workshop" held June 22. The workshop opened with a welcome from Syilx Knowledge Keepers Pamela and Grouse Barnes and a message from Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association. Attendance included boating and associated industry representatives, local and senior government staff (including Fisheries and Oceans Canada and B.C. Ministry of LWRS), aquatic biology consultants, and conservation groups. In addition to recreation and tourism benefits, issues discussed included boat speed and density, and its impacts on drinking water quality, shoreline erosion, and aquatic plants and wildlife. Participants agreed to continue the conversation to develop and implement solutions.

**Registration opens on Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum:** The Osoyoos Lake Water Science Forum is planned for Oct. 27-29, in Osoyoos. The forum is co-hosted by OBWB, the Osoyoos Indian Band and Okanagan Nation Alliance, and the theme is "Bridging Indigenous and Western approaches to Knowledge, Science and Management." To register and for more details, visit [www.OBWB.ca/olwsf](http://www.OBWB.ca/olwsf).

**In-person Annual Meeting planned:** The Water Board will hold its Annual Public Meeting on Sept. 9 in person. Both 2020 and 2021 meetings were held online. Additional details will be provided in the coming weeks at [www.OBWB.ca](http://www.OBWB.ca).

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