



Photo by Shaun Talbot



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

BOARD REPORT: March 8, 2012

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4

P 250.469.6271 F 250.762.7011

www.obwb.ca

OBWB Directors

Stu Wells - Chair,
Regional District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Rick Fairbairn - Vice Chair,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

Bernie Bauer, Okanagan
Water Stewardship Council

Michael Brydon, Regional
District of Okanagan-
Similkameen

Juliette Cunningham,
Regional District of North
Okanagan

Doug Dirk, Regional District of
North Okanagan

Keith Fielding, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

Doug Findlater, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

James Pepper, Okanagan
Nation Alliance

Toby Pike, Water Supply
Association of B.C.

Tom Siddon, Regional District
of Okanagan-Similkameen

Gerry Zimmermann, Regional
District of Central Okanagan

The next regular meeting of
the OBWB is 10 a.m.,
April 3, 2012 at the Regional
District of North Okanagan,
Coldstream.

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Highlights

State of Okanagan water supply is focus of webinar: The Water Board is hosting a free webinar Friday, March 9, from 10 - 11 a.m., to review current Okanagan water supplies and provide weather forecasting. Farmers, water utility managers and others will be provided up-to-date information to help plan and prepare for the upcoming growing and irrigation season. Speakers include representatives from Environment Canada, B.C. Ministry of Environment, B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, and the OBWB. Space is limited. Register at: <http://tiny.cc/oOzf2b>.

Water Board hosts public forum on water for food: In celebration of UN World Water Day and Canada Water Week, the OBWB is hosting a free public forum March 20 at Summerhill Pyramid Winery, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Following on the UN theme, the topic is water and food security. Panelists include Anna Warwick Sears (with OBWB), Ted van der Gulik (B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and OBWB's Water Stewardship Council), John Wagner (UBC Okanagan anthropology professor who has done much research on Okanagan water issues,) permaculturalists Javan Bernakevitch and Michael Nickels, and Yehalem Metiku (Partners in the Horn of Africa). Seating is limited. Light refreshments will be served. Register for this free event at <http://tinyurl.com/854vde7>.

OBWB launches classroom water contest: Okanagan classes are invited to take the Okanagan WaterWise challenge and tell us how they save water. The contest starts March 19, as part of Canada Water Week, and ends May 4. Winners will be announced May 16, during Drinking Water Week. Kindergarten to Grade 12 classes are invited to submit a multi-media entry and enter to win a pizza party and pool passes for their classroom. Winning entries will also be featured on the Okanagan WaterWise website. Details coming soon on www.okwaterwise.ca.

Environment Canada partners on groundwater monitoring wells: The board was told Environment Canada will contribute \$20,000 to the OBWB's Groundwater Monitoring Project. Some 15 wells are being drilled in Okanagan aquifers identified as vulnerable and in need of monitoring. The funds will help with drilling costs for a well in West Kelowna. Wells have now been drilled on Anarchist Mountain (near Osoyoos), in Oliver, in Twin Lakes (near Keremeos), in Spallumcheen, and in Joe Rich. Others are proposed in Ellison, Summerland, Penticton, and in a UBC Okanagan aquifer.

OBWB to assist with Similkameen water management plan: In response to a request from Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, the OBWB agreed to provide technical advice to the Similkameen Valley Planning Society as they develop a water management plan.

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