



Okanagan Basin

WATER BOARD

Science. Management. Governance.

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www.obwb.ca

Mayor and Council
City of Kelowna
City Hall, 1435 Water Street
Kelowna BC V1Y 1J4

City of Kelowna

MAR - 6 2018

Mayor's Office

26 February 2018

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: 18 Month term membership on the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council

Thank you for your organization's contribution to water leadership in the Okanagan. The Okanagan Basin Water Board's (the Board) technical advisory committee, the Water Stewardship Council (the Council), provides a common venue to network and discuss important Okanagan water issues. The Board is pleased to invite your organization to be a member of the Council for the upcoming 18 month term (May 2018 to October 2019).

Action Request (by April 23rd, 2018). Please advise our office on the following:

1. Decision on your organization acceptance of a position on the Council.
2. And if yes, identify who has been designated from your organization to participate on the Council as: (1) participant, and (2) an alternate.

The Council has been an important venue for collaborative learning, and supporting Okanagan water management and governance. The Okanagan is one of Canada's only semi-arid deserts, continues to experience high population growth, and has significant variation in annual snow and rainfall.

The Council meets 9-10 times during the year on the second Thursday of each month and has agreed on a set of guiding principles for discussing water issues in the Okanagan. Additional information about the council's mandate, guiding principles and terms of reference is available at www.obwb.ca/wsc.

We value your participation on the Council. Your organization's voice at the council table will further support collaborative problem-solving and information sharing on Okanagan water issues – recognizing the need to work together to protect and improve shared waters.

Sincerely,

Nelson R. Jatel, MA, PAg | Water Stewardship Director
Okanagan Basin Water Board | 1450 KLO Rd, Kelowna, BC, V1W 3Z4
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CC Rod Maclean



Background

The OBWB is an inter-regional government agency founded in 1970 to promote the shared water interests of Okanagan communities. Its mandate is to *“provide leadership for sustainable water management to protect and enhance the quality of life and environment in the Okanagan Basin.”* The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council was established in March 2006 to provide independent technical advice, analysis, and policy recommendations to the Board.

The great strength of the Council is its diversity and expertise. Historically, the Council has been comprised of members from First Nations and other senior levels of government, water user groups, non-profit organizations, scientific organizations, local and senior government, academic institutions, organizations representing economic interests, and professional associations. Council meetings are held on unceded Okanagan Syilx territory, usually in the City of Kelowna; but the meetings are not considered as any form of consultation with First Nations. The result is a thoughtful forum on water that respects differences and makes recommendations that benefit the entire Okanagan Basin.

The Council has provided important direction and advice to the Water Board, including the development of the *Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy, Action Plan 1.0* (2008), which is currently being revised and updated. The strategy provides an important context for specific actions to be undertaken by the board and partner governments.

Quotes from past Water Stewardship Council members and guests:

The benefit of the Council is that it brings together a group of people working within water management in some capacity from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and organizations - multiple levels of government, private sector, water utilities and major water users. There is tremendous value in having such a group convene and be able to look at issues, potential projects and overall water management from all perspectives - integration of these perspectives is vital for sound resource management.

Anna Page, previous Sustainability Coordinator, Regional District of North Okanagan

I always enjoy the WSC meetings, as I learn a lot about how people are thinking about water related issues in the valley, and what is going on.

John Janmaat, Professor Resource Economics, UBC Okanagan

The information that I have received through the council has been very beneficial to me and my students. The information provided is both relevant and timely.

Allison MacMillan, Water Quality Technology Professor, Okanagan College

I do find these meeting valuable. The meetings are well run and are a great source of information on what the OBWB is working on, and what is of interest or concern to the numerous stakeholders who participate.

Ken Cunningham, past Regional manager, Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship Division



I have only been a part of the Council for a short time (1yr) but I think it is a very functional, effective, well organized undertaking. It is accomplishing quite a bit, and there is significant buy-in and fidelity from its membership - that says volumes. Having access to the information, issues and stakeholders helps the conservation communities understand the water management elements that are important to our objectives, and outlines how we may be able to assist with water management and conservation objectives.

Bryn White, Program Administrator, South Okanagan Similkameen Conservation Program

The OBWB Stewardship Council has been a very successful venue for allowing representatives of all water stakeholders/groups to express their opinion and for the exchanging of information. Our successes are speaking as one voice for the Okanagan basin for important issues such as governance, groundwater protection and development around reservoir lakes.

Lorne Davies, OCEOLA Fish and Game Club

I think the council has been a great success in the amount of shared information and perspectives from all the stakeholders. I have personally learned a lot from the members and guest speakers. As a die-hard agriculturist / food supply advocate, I have been so impressed with the attitude around the table, for the need of farm land and water. Gone are the days when we can simply take the attitude that we can rely on other parts of the world for our food supply.

Gord Shandler, past Water Commission, BC Fruit Growers Association.



Water Stewardship Council Membership List

18 Month Term: May 2018 – October 2019

Invited term 8 Council members

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Denise Neilsen (emerita)
Engineers and Geoscientists BC
BC Agriculture Council
BC Cattlemen's Association
BC Fruit Growers Association
BC Groundwater Association
BC Water Supply Association
British Columbia Wildlife Federation – Okanagan Region 8
Canadian Water Resources Association
City of Kelowna
City of Vernon
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Interior Health Authority
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Operations and Rural Development
Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
Okanagan College
Regional District of Central Okanagan
Regional District of North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association
University of British Columbia – Okanagan
Irrigation Council of BC
Okanagan Nation Alliance
Osoyoos Indian Band
Penticton Indian Band
Westbank First Nations
Okanagan Indian Band
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association