



**Okanagan Basin**  
WATER BOARD  
*Science. Management. Governance.*

**CITY OF KELOWNA**

SEP 30 2016

**ADMINISTRATION  
DEPARTMENT**

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City of Kelowna, Mayor and Council  
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**Original to:** ~~Communications~~  
**Copied:** ~~Mayor~~  
~~City Manager~~  
~~Councillors~~

22 September 2016

File 5280.01

Dear Sir or Madam,

**File Number:** 1890-01  
**Initials:** jmm **Date:** Sep. 30/16

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

Thank you for your organization's past participation on the Okanagan Basin Water Board's (OBWB) Water Stewardship Council (the Council). 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 is a unique and important forum for Okanagan water – and recognized nationally by the Council of Federations (2013) with an Excellence in Water Stewardship Award.

The OBWB is pleased to invite your organization to continue participating on the Council, the technical advisory committee to the OBWB, for the upcoming 18 month term (November 2016 to February 2018).

**Action Request (by October 14<sup>th</sup> 2016).** 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 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](http://www.obwb.ca/wsc).

We value your organization's participation on the Council and the important perspective your appointed members' have provided. Your organization's voice at the council table will further support the OBWB's leadership role on Okanagan water issues – recognizing the need to collaborate and work together protecting and improving our shared water.

Sincerely,

Nelson R. Jatel, MA, PAg  
Water Stewardship Director  
Okanagan Basin Water Board  
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## 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 and renewed in December 2008 to provide independent technical advice, analysis, and policy recommendations to the OBWB.

The great strength of the Council is its diversity and expertise. It is comprised of First Nations, water user groups, non-profit organizations, scientists, local and senior government, academics, economic interests, and professional associations. 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). The strategy provides an important context for 45 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**, 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

*I feel that the Council represents all walks of life and their interests in preserving the great assets of the Valley that has attracted people to the Valley. The development industry is always faced with growth issues and the sustainability of water in the Valley. I feel the Council provides the eyes and ears for the Board and through the collaborative efforts of the entire council member we can help the Board make the difficult decisions needed to manage our precious resource, water!*

**Grant Maddock**, Urban Development Institute

*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**, 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**, Water Commission, BC Fruit Growers Association.

# Water Stewardship Council Membership List

18 Month Term: November 2016 – February 2018

## Member Organizations

1	Agriculture Canada
2	APEGBC
3	BC Agriculture Council
4	BC Cattlemen's Association
5	BC Fruit Growers Association
6	BC Groundwater Association
7	Water Supply Association of BC
8	BC Government Public Safety & Emergency Management
9	BCWF - Okanagan Region 8
10	Canadian Water Resources Association
11	City of Kelowna
12	Environment Canada - Pacific and Yukon Region
13	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
14	Interior Health
15	Irrigation Association of British Columbia
16	Ministry of Agriculture
17	Ministry of FLNRO
18	Ministry of Environment, Water Stewardship Division
19	Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program (OCCP)
20	Okanagan College
21	Okanagan Nation Alliance
22	Okanagan Mainline Real Estate Board
23	Regional District of Central Okanagan
24	Regional District of North Okanagan
25	Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
26	Okanagan Forest Sector
27	University of British Columbia - Okanagan