

Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



DATE: Tuesday, December 3, 2024

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: ONLINE

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

- 1.1 Acknowledgement of First Nations Traditional Territory

We acknowledge that we work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tm̓x̓wúlaʔx̓w (land) of the syilx (Okanagan) people who have resided here since time immemorial. We honour and respect this land and the siwłk (water) which flows through the valley and connects us all.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 5, 2024 held at online. Page 2

5. DELEGATION

- 5.1 Peter Mortifee – Co-Founder and Chair, Chute Creek Stewardship Society – Lower Chute Creek Restoration and Reconstruction Project (WCQI Funded)

6. STAFF REPORTS

- 6.1 Executive Director Report Page 7
6.2 Deputy Administrator Report Page 8
6.3 Water Stewardship Director Report Page 9
6.4 Water Science Specialist Report Page 11

7. IN-CAMERA

- 7.1 In-camera session (under sec. 90(1)(a) and 90(2)(b) of the Community Charter)

8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 8.1 Budget Features Memo – Proposed Budget 2025-26 (updated) Page 15
8.1.1 2025-2026 Provisional Assessment and Segmented Budget Page 17

9. NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, February 4, at 10:00 a.m., online

10. ADJOURNMENT

** **NOTE:** Meetings of the Okanagan Basin Water Board are open to the public, and only closed for in-camera sessions as set out in the B.C. Community Charter. From time-to-time, the board will be holding its meeting online. If you are interested in attending an online meeting, please contact communications@obwb.ca for further details.*



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD
HELD NOVEMBER 5, 2024, ONLINE**

PRESENT

Chair Blair Ireland	Regional District Central Okanagan
Vice Chair Doug Holmes	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Sue McKortoff	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Charlie Hodge	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Victor Cumming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Wayne Carson	Regional District Central Okanagan
Director Bob Fleming	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Rick Knodel	Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen
Director Rick Fairbairn	Regional District North Okanagan
Director Jeremy Fyke	Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)

REGRETS

Director Tim Lezard	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Director Bob Hrasko	Water Supply Association of B.C.

STAFF

Anna Warwick Sears	Executive Director
James Littlely	Deputy Administrator
Nelson Jatel	Water Stewardship Director
Carolina Restrepo-Tamayo	Office and Grants Manager
Sandra Schira	Water Science Specialist
Amanda Burnett	Communications Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Ireland called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

He respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional and unceded territory of the Syilx Okanagan Nation.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

No late items.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

“ THAT the agenda of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 5, 2024 be approved. ”

CARRIED

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of October 1, 2024, held at the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen in Penticton, B.C.

“ THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on October 1, 2024, held at the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen in Penticton, B.C., be approved. ”

CARRIED

5. STAFF REPORTS

5.1 Executive Director Report – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears

Dr. Sears gave an update to the Board Directors about the ongoing process of hiring a Communications Manager. Directors also heard about the upcoming Okanagan-Similkameen Leadership Table Signing Event, where OBWB staff have been invited to attend as guests. The historic agreement is focused on bringing Syilx and local government leaders together to protect and restore water at the watershed level. Dr. Sears also provided the Board with an update on ongoing drought conditions in the Okanagan as the region heads into late fall and winter – highlighting that although predictions for La Niña conditions call for lower temperatures and increased precipitation, the Okanagan has yet to receive much snow.

“THAT the Executive Director’s Report, dated November 5, 2024, be received.”

CARRIED

5.2 Deputy Administrator - James Littley

Mr. Littley spoke to the Board about his attendance at the International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (IOLBC)’s annual meeting in Osoyoos and Oroville, which included presentations on Osoyoos Lake levels, drought declarations and ice jams. Another top issue discussed at the meeting was about the feasibility of the IOLBC to transform from a Control Board to a Watershed Board, which would expand the mandate of the organization from monitoring Osoyoos Lake levels to also include monitoring water quality and aquatic ecosystem health among other potential things.

Board Directors received three updates on invasive zebra/quagga mussels:

- Quagga mussels have been detected for the second year in a row in the Snake River, Idaho, which is connected to the Okanagan via the Columbia River system. After a 2-week treatment of copper chelate last fall, the State of Idaho repeated the pesticide treatment this fall and will continue to monitor the situation. The area will only be considered free of quagga mussels after 5 consecutive years of negative samples.
- Staff’s recent presentation to the B.C. Health Officer’s Council (HOC) about the potential negative public health impacts of invasive mussels. The HOC passed a resolution to support the OBWB’s calls to action requiring all watercraft entering the province to be inspected prior to launching in B.C. waters, and for the Provincial Government to allocate permanent, stable funding for inspection and decontamination.
- In response to the Department of Fisheries and Ocean’s (DFO) report “National Aquatic Invasive Species Risk Assessment for Zebra and Quagga Mussels”, OBWB Staff are raising concerns about the report’s methods and conclusions. In response, OBWB staff will continue to work with partners to consider a more thorough critique of this DFO Risk Assessment and provide feedback to DFO based on that review.

The Board also heard three updates about the year-round Milfoil Program:

- Following a procurement process the OBWB will be receiving a new milfoil harvester from Aquarius Systems for \$277,000 USD, which is scheduled to be delivered summer 2025. The new harvester has a larger cutting head and larger storage capacity than our existing 1978 harvesters and will also have height-adjustable operating platforms that will accommodate travelling under the Osoyoos Lake bridge.
- The new five-year rototilling permit received by OBWB from the province is now in effect, allowing staff to better respond to milfoil infestations while avoiding sensitive ecological habitats.
- A new high-definition underwater camera is being tested to help differentiate between plant

species and to avoid hazards in the water.

“THAT the Deputy Administrator’s Report, dated November 5, 2024, be received.”
CARRIED

5.3 Water Stewardship Director Report – Dr. Nelson Jatel

Dr. Jatel presented to the Board with updates from the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC)

- The October OWSC meeting featured a presentation on the Flood Hazard Identification and Mitigation Program by Dr. Joel Trubilowicz from the ECCC National Hydrological Service. The Program seeks to balance safety and cost-effectiveness in flood risk management, considering changing flood patterns like rain-on-snow events.
- The Policy Committee reported progress on the Okanagan Water Infrastructure Discussion Paper and completed a drought report. The Supply and Demand Committee is developing a proposal for water demand modelling. The Building Ethical Space for Water Stewardship Committee is advancing on a literature review and guide. And the Water Quality & Health Committee continued its focus on water health issues, with a particular emphasis on the impact of blue-green algae.
- The OWSC discussed foundational questions aimed at improving management practices, water sourcing, and use. Strategies for enhancing water availability through precision irrigation and soil management during heat events were suggested. The importance of exploring diverse water sources beyond Okanagan Lake for long-term security and the need for detailed data collection on actual water use were highlighted.
- The next OWSC meeting is scheduled for November 14th, featuring Stephen Morrison speaking on "Co-management: Engagement Isn't Enough."

Board Directors heard from Dr. Jatel about resources available to help water purveyors to understand and manage the risks associated with blue-green algae (aka. Cyanobacteria). These include guidelines on public beach monitoring by Interior Health and strategies for local governments and health authorities to assess and mitigate risks, highlighted in the "Decision Protocols for Cyanobacterial Toxins in B.C. Drinking Water and Recreational Water." Dr. Jatel noted that with the rise in water temperatures, the Okanagan will likely have to respond to an increase in blue-green algae, and manage its impacts on drinking water.

“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated November 5, 2024, be received.”
CARRIED.

5.4 Water Science Specialist Report – Sandra Schira

Ms. Schira’s report to the Board highlighted continued improvements to drought communications through the summer, specifically through the OBWB’s Drought Bulletin. Ms. Schira sought and received feedback from Directors around communications that would benefit Okanagan governments and water utility providers during drought.

“THAT the Water Science Specialist Report, dated November 5, 2024, be received.”
CARRIED.

5.5 Communications Coordinator Report – Amanda Burnett

Directors heard about OBWB’s third quarter news coverage and reach, noting that news article reach was at a significantly high point in the week of July 22-28th, when the province announced the Okanagan’s increase in drought from level 2 to level 3 and the subsequent Drought Bulletin

was released by the OBWB. This peak in reach is important to note, as it reinforces the importance of our ongoing drought communications efforts.

“THAT the Communications Coordinator Report, dated November 5, 2024, be received.”
CARRIED.

6. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 6.1 Budget Features Memo – Proposed Budget 2025-26 – Dr. Anna Warwick Sears
 - 6.1.1 2025-2026 Provisional Assessment and Segmented Budget
 - 6.1.2 August 2024 Reserves Memo – for Information

The Board reviewed the 2025-26 budget as presented in the November agenda package. The 2025-2026 Budget focuses on priority programs and services. The most recent audited financial statements (2023-24) are provided in the OBWB annual report posted on the OBWB website.

The draft 2025-26 budget has the following features:

- The overall OBWB requisition is \$4,053,176, up 3.65% from the 2024-25 requisition of \$3,910,386, as a result of necessary increases to our milfoil and sewage facilities grants programs.
- In total, this is equivalent to 2.7 cents/\$1,000 assessment, unchanged from last year’s rate.

“THAT the OBWB adopts the 2025-2026 budget as presented in principle and bring it back for discussion in December.”

CARRIED.

6.2 Director Remuneration Policy – James Littlely

Mr. Littlely presented a review of the OBWB Director’s Remuneration policy based on the UBCM 2019 Best Practices Guide. The review found that there had been no net change in director’s remuneration since 2007, and that best practice was to also offer compensation for travel time to attend meetings in geographically large areas. The review compared remuneration policies for five regional districts, including the three Okanagan Regional Districts, and calculated a simple inflation adjustment since the original remuneration rate was set in 2007. The final recommendation was based on an average remuneration found using these review methods. The review also recommended providing compensation for travel time, an annual inflation adjustment, and an automatic 5-year review period for director remuneration policy. Changes were recommended to take effect on April 1, 2025.

Following discussion around the travel-time policy, and the significant role of the Board Chair, Director Cumming made two motions to change the policy as recommended by staff:

- Motion to amend the Director Remuneration Policy so that the proposed Chair pay per meeting is doubled from the recommended amount, from \$262 to \$524.
- Motion to amend so that directors can opt out of being paid for travel time.

“THAT the OBWB adopts the Director Remuneration Policy as follows:

- ***Starting with the 2026 fiscal year (April 1, 2025) OBWB director remuneration be adjusted to \$190 per meeting and Chair remuneration to \$524.***
- ***Director’s travel time over 1-hour be remunerated at \$23.75 per half-hour, calculated to the nearest half-hour, and that directors may opt-out of the travel time remuneration.***

- *Director remuneration rates, including travel time be adjusted annually based on the B.C. CPI to the nearest dollar, taking effect on April 1st.*
- *OBWB Remuneration Policy be reviewed every five years.*

CARRIED.

Director Holmes opposed

6.3 2025 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program Memo – Carolina Restepo-Tamayo

Ms. Restrepo presented on the 2025 WCQI Grant Program, which offers funding between \$3,000 and \$30,000 for projects in the Okanagan Basin. This year, the call for applications will go out on November 7th, with the application deadline set for Friday, Feb. 21st at 4 p.m.

“THAT the process and scoring criteria for the grant competition be approved as outlined; AND THAT for the 2025-2026 WCQI grant competition, up to 10 bonus points will be awarded for projects in any category related to Source Water Protection.”

CARRIED.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The OBWB received a letter from Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Director General, Biodiversity Management regarding invasive mussels.

“THAT correspondence to the OBWB, dated November 5, 2024, be received.”

CARRIED.

8. **IN-CAMERA**

In-camera session (under sec. 90(1)(c) of the Community Charter) at 12:00 p.m.
The board exited the in-camera session at 12:45 p.m.

9. **RISE AND REPORT**

“THAT the OBWB receives the Executive Director’s verbal report of her impending retirement.”

CARRIED

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be held online on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

“THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of November 5, 2024 be adjourned at 12:50 p.m.”

CARRIED

Certified Correct:		
Chair		Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears
Date: November 27, 2024
Subject: **Executive Director Report**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting December 3, 2024 Agenda No: 6.1

Agricultural Tour

Kellie Garcia, former OBWB staffer, is now the director of the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project, a pilot project for tree fruit and wine grape industries to work together on common challenges and opportunities. Kellie and her team led an interesting tour in early November, visiting local farms, and talking about local water issues. Several OBWB staff attended, and beyond the expected discussion about irrigation, a range of other issues came up that relate to water management, including stormwater management, and providing water and sanitation services for farm worker housing.

Mission Creek Water Use Plan

I am in the process of developing a grant application to create a Mission Creek Water Use Plan, updating the plan developed in 2010. Water use plans, originally developed by BC Hydro, are non-binding operations plans for maintaining stream flows for fish during drought conditions. The District of Summerland has been operating under a successful water use plan since 2005. Although they are not regulatory, they are developed collaboratively, and mutually agreed on by water users, and are very useful for reducing conflicts and environmental harm in dry conditions.

There is some urgency to do this update. Since 2010, the City of Kelowna has taken over operations of the former South East Kelowna Irrigation District, with a number of infrastructure changes; Black Mountain Irrigation District (BMID) has made (and plans to make) infrastructure changes; residential and irrigated areas have increased; and extreme low-flows have become more frequent. The other very significant change is that sockeye and chinook salmon, released as fry to Mission Creek, will begin to return in large numbers within the next few years, and they will need higher flows to allow them to spawn. Ideally, this planning process should include representatives from the City of Kelowna utility, BMID, Rutland Water Works, the Water Allocations branch of the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship, Westbank First Nation, and the Okanagan Nation Alliance fisheries department. I hope to apply to the Watershed Security Fund to support this work.

Western Flood Mapping Conference

I have been invited to be the keynote speaker at a flood mapping conference organized by Natural Resources Canada, held in Calgary on February 19-20. Sandra Schira will be joining me to increase her knowledge about the best practices for flood modeling and mapping.

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: James Littley
Date: November 25, 2024
Subject: Deputy Administrator's Report

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting December 3, 2024 Agenda No: 6.2

Invasive Mussel Update

On December 3rd, concurrent with our board meeting, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region will be co-hosting an invasive mussel "Prevention and Readiness Summit." The agenda includes an update from Idaho on their quagga mussel response, and discussions about readiness in Washington, downstream from the infestation in the Snake River. There will also be several panels focussed on cost sharing and responsibility, legislation, tribal government risk perspectives, near-term actions and next steps. I have registered for the summit, and asked if a recording will be available so I can still attend the OBWB meeting. If no summit recording will be available, I will attend the invasive mussel meeting and report back to the board in the new year.

Invasive "Golden Mussel" found in California

On October 31st, California announced the first detection in North America of the invasive Golden Mussel in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This mussel, originally from China, has spread to Korea, Japan and South America over the last several decades. The mussel poses the same risks to infrastructure and habitat as invasive zebra and quagga mussels, although it is slightly more susceptible to cold water, and slightly more tolerant of warmer water. **The biggest concern** is that the Golden Mussel needs much less calcium (1mg/L), compared to the lowest calcium requirements of Quagga Mussels (12mg/L), meaning that a number of water bodies that are not currently at risk from zebra or quagga mussels could be at risk from golden mussels.

Despite the increased risk of another invasive mussel species, the prevention strategy to protect our waters remains the same. Mandatory watercraft inspections and limits on watercraft travelling from high-risk areas remain the best policies to protect our water.

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Nelson R. Jatel
Date: November 25, 2024
Subject: **Water Stewardship Director's Report**

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting December 3, 2024 Agenda No: 6.3

Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) - a technical advisory body to the OBWB

Meeting Summary - November 14, 2024

At the November 14 OWSC meeting, **Stephen Morrison**, a geologist with over 35 years of experience in government and environmental consulting, presented *Co-management: Engagement Isn't Enough*. Drawing on his extensive background, including Yukon mining and wildlife licensing work, Morrison highlighted the evolution of resource management practices in Northern Canada. He emphasized shifting from top-down decision-making to collaborative co-management approaches incorporating Indigenous consent, public engagement, and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Morrison stressed that effective co-management requires building trust, fostering mutual respect, and addressing fears and perceptions through consistent communication. He shared examples of successful co-management models, including Northern Canada's community-based water boards, which integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and prioritize socially, culturally, and environmentally sensitive decisions. His presentation underscored that co-management improves governance outcomes and strengthens long-term relationships critical to managing complex resource challenges, such as climate change, population pressures, and infrastructure demands.

Council updates included committee progress on initiatives like Modernizing the Okanagan Lake Regulation System, water demand modelling proposals, and research on water quality, including impacts from blue-green algae. Discussions also focused on adaptive water management strategies, such as precision irrigation and soil management, and exploring alternative water sources to enhance long-term water security in the Okanagan. The importance of robust data collection and understanding actual water use, including tourism impacts, was reiterated as vital to refining the region's water supply and demand models.

December Council Meeting Preview

The OWSC is pleased to announce that the December 12 meeting will feature guest speakers **Scott Boswell** and **Tessa Terbasket**, who will discuss the Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA)-led water governance initiative known as the Okanagan and Similkameen Leadership Table. This collaboration was formalized during a Memorandum of Agreement signing on November 15 at the Penticton Golf Course, marking a significant milestone in shared watershed stewardship between Indigenous and municipal leaders. Mr. Boswell and Ms. Terbasket's presentation will provide valuable insights into this historic partnership, and how it will support the implementation of the Okanagan Lake Responsibility Plan. OBWB directors are always welcome and encouraged to attend council meetings. A holiday celebration will follow the Council meeting.

Project Updates

Cyanobacteria Threat to Drinking Water – Working Group

On November 13, 2024, the Water Stewardship Council held a virtual meeting with various organizations to address the rising threat of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) in the Okanagan. Co-chaired by Krista Derrickson (Westbank First Nation) and Ed Hoppe (City of Kelowna), the meeting focused on improving monitoring, data collection, and predictive modelling for better management of drinking water sources. Discussions explored innovative solutions like AI-driven models and remote sensing for early warning systems and emphasized the need for stronger data sharing and cross-agency collaboration. The group also considered integrating socio-ecological factors and creating a technical advisory committee. Next steps include drafting terms for a cyanobacteria working group, holding a follow-up meeting in December, and encouraging water utilities to include social science perspectives. For more information, visit www.obwb.ca/bga.

Hydrometric Program Update

On December 12th, the Hydrometric Program Advisory Committee will meet to discuss the program's performance, challenges and plans for the upcoming year. Planning will focus on improvements and additions to enhance network coverage to meet emerging needs and supply essential data for drought monitoring, flood response and environmental flows.

Mission Creek Supply and Demand Activities Update

We are working on several initiatives to better understand the water availability and demand on Mission Creek. We are supporting the development of an updated Water Use Plan for Mission Creek by contributing to several key studies. These include updating the 2018 groundwater-surface water interactions study, revising the Raven flow model to evaluate various management scenarios for informed decision-making, and creating a new Environmental Flow Needs (EFN) assessment tailored for larger-bodied sockeye salmon. Our work aims to provide valuable insights and data to improve water management strategies and promote the ecological and hydrological sustainability of Mission Creek.

Economic Analysis of Irrigation Water in the Okanagan

The economic analysis and cost-benefit assessment (CBA) of irrigation water in Okanagan, led by post-doctoral researcher Dr. Alberto Ceccacci, is progressing in developing a detailed survey. This survey has successfully passed the UBCO Ethics Review Council. It is designed as a bottom-up effort to gather insights from the agricultural community, local governments, and other stakeholders involved in water management. Through interviews and data collection, this initiative aims to enhance our understanding of the economic value and management implications of irrigation water in the region, providing a robust foundation for future decision-making and policy development.

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Sandra Schira
Date: November 26, 2024
Subject: **Water Science Specialist Report**

Okanagan Basin Water Board
Regular meeting
December 3, 2024
Agenda No: 6.4

Weather Report

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that the La Niña could persist into the spring.¹ Which typically means cool, wet conditions in the Okanagan. Environment and Climate Change Canada's long-term forecast for November to January does not show a clear trend to any scenario for B.C.² (Figure 1). On the other hand, NOAA's long-term forecast trends toward slightly cooler and wetter conditions south of the border (Figure 2). Seasonal forecasting is highly challenging, so disagreement between models is not uncommon. Please note that figures 1 and 2 show different periods, Nov-Jan for ECCC and Dec-Feb for NOA.

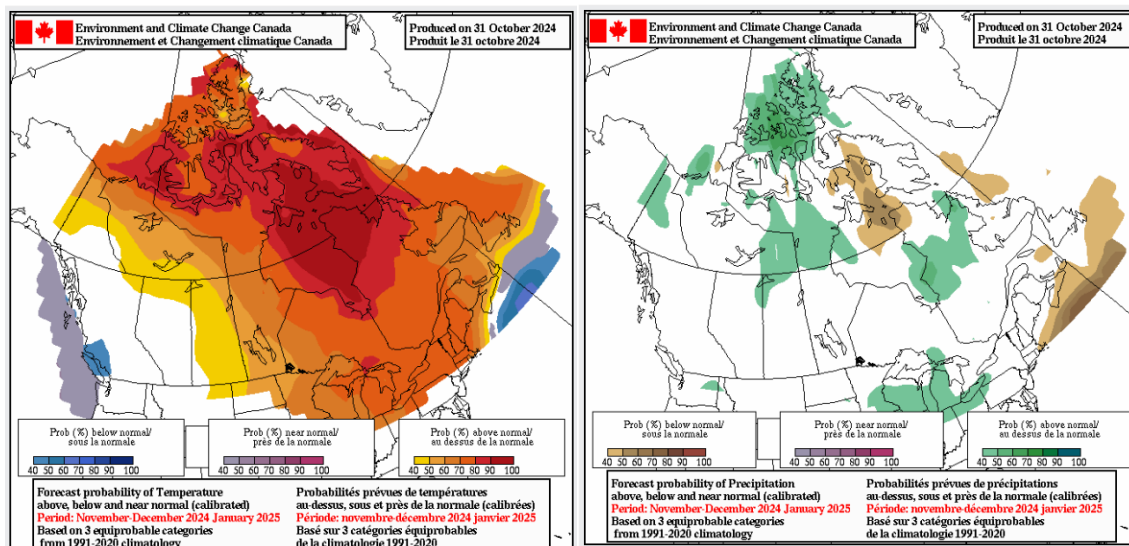


Figure 1 Long-term seasonal (Nov-Dec-Jan) temperature and precipitation forecasts from ECCC as of October 31, 2024. The colours show the probability of below, above, or near-normal scenarios. White areas do not have a clear tendency to a scenario.

¹ https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/ens0_advisory/ensodisc.shtml

² <https://climate-scenarios.canada.ca/?page=cansips-prob>

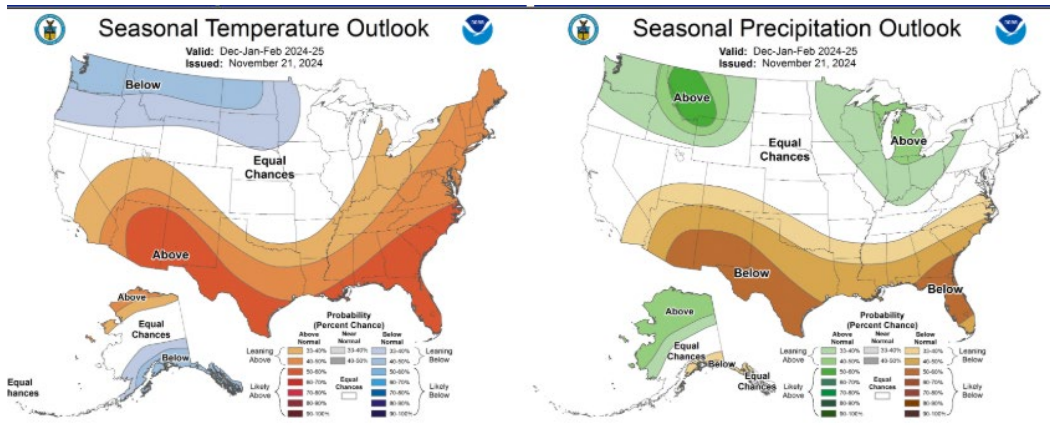


Figure 2 Long-term seasonal (Dec-Jan-Feb) temperature and precipitation forecasts from NOA as of November 21, 2024. The colours show the probability of below, above, or near-normal scenarios. White areas did not have a clear tendency to a scenario.

This month, rainy and snowy conditions continued across the province in line with the predicted La Niña. Rainfall was significant on the coast, and several considerable precipitation and wind events occurred. These included a “bomb cyclone” that followed the atmospheric river event in mid-October, which resulted in four deaths in the Metro Vancouver area, according to CBC_1.³ Although both are significant storms, atmospheric rivers and bomb cyclones are not the same:

An *atmospheric river* is a flowing column of condensed water vapour in the atmosphere, which can lead to significant rain or snow events as they transport moisture north from the tropics. Although some lead to large storms, most are weaker systems that provide significant precipitation to western Canada and the United States (NOAA, 2023)⁴.

A *bomb cyclone* is a storm caused by a rapid drop in pressure, resulting in heavy rain and strong winds. A cyclone is an airmass of spiral winds formed as cold and warm weather systems collide. The “bomb” part of the name refers to the speed at which the cyclone forms (CBC_2, 2024)⁵.

These storms did not significantly impact the Okanagan, but we did see consistent small rain events through November. However, most months in 2024 saw less precipitation than typical over the last 30 years (Figure 3). However, unlike 2023, so far, snow accumulation in the upper watershed is in line with average trends as of November 26nd in Penticton, and Vernon (at Coldstream Ranch); below are the Provincial snow accumulation charts for Brenda Mines, Mission Creek, and Silver Star as of November 21 (Figures 4 to 6).

³ ['Bomb cyclone' set to bring strong winds to B.C.'s coast, forecasters say | CBC News](#)

⁴ [What are atmospheric rivers? | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

⁵ ['Bomb cyclone' sounds scary but it has a specific meteorological meaning | CBC News](#)

2024 Monthly Precipitation vs. 1994–2023 Average

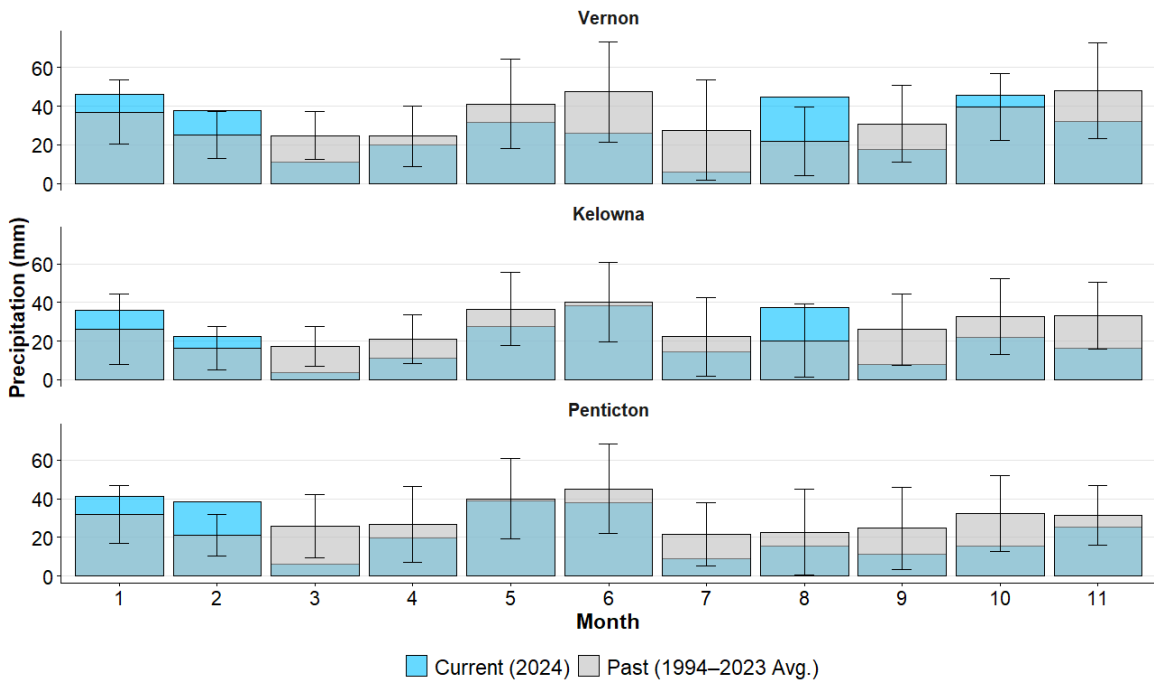
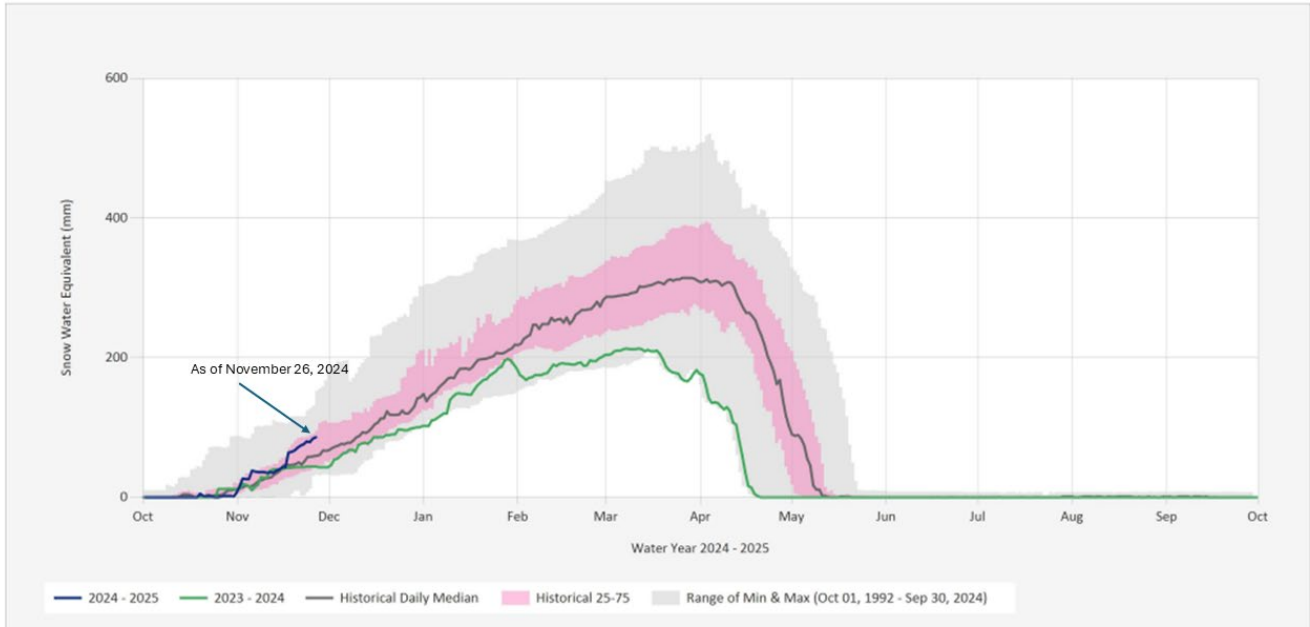


Figure 3 There is a difference between the monthly rain in 2024 (blue) and the average for each month from 1994 to 2023 (grey). December is not shown as it has not yet finished. The number label shows the difference between 2024 and the 30-year average. Values for Vernon are from Coldstream Ranch

Source Data: SW.Daily@2F18P
 Location: Brenda Mine, Latitude: 49.8623611, Longitude: -119.9821111, Elevation: : 1460 m

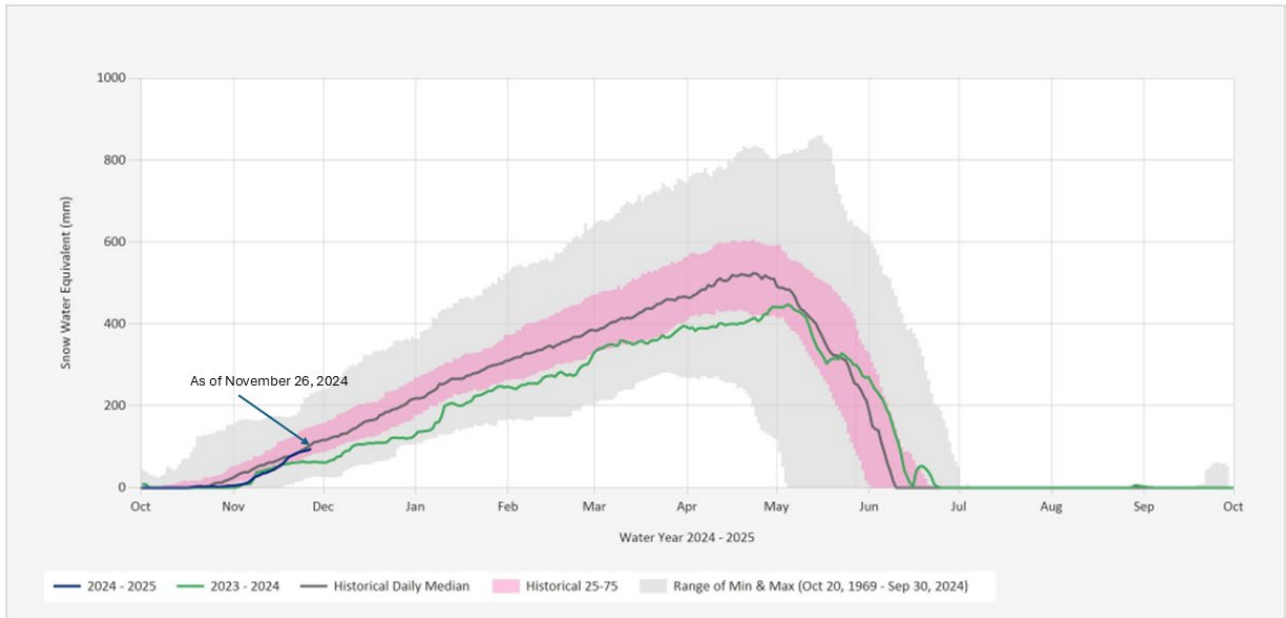


Statistics are based on the period of record prior to the current Water Year

Data last appended: November 26, 2024 16:00 UTC+00:00

Figure 4 Brenda Mines Snow Pillow: 1460 m Elevation. As of 26-11-2024

Source Data: SW.Daily@2F05P
Location: Mission Creek, Latitude: 49.94467, Longitude: -118.9497, Elevation: : 1780 m

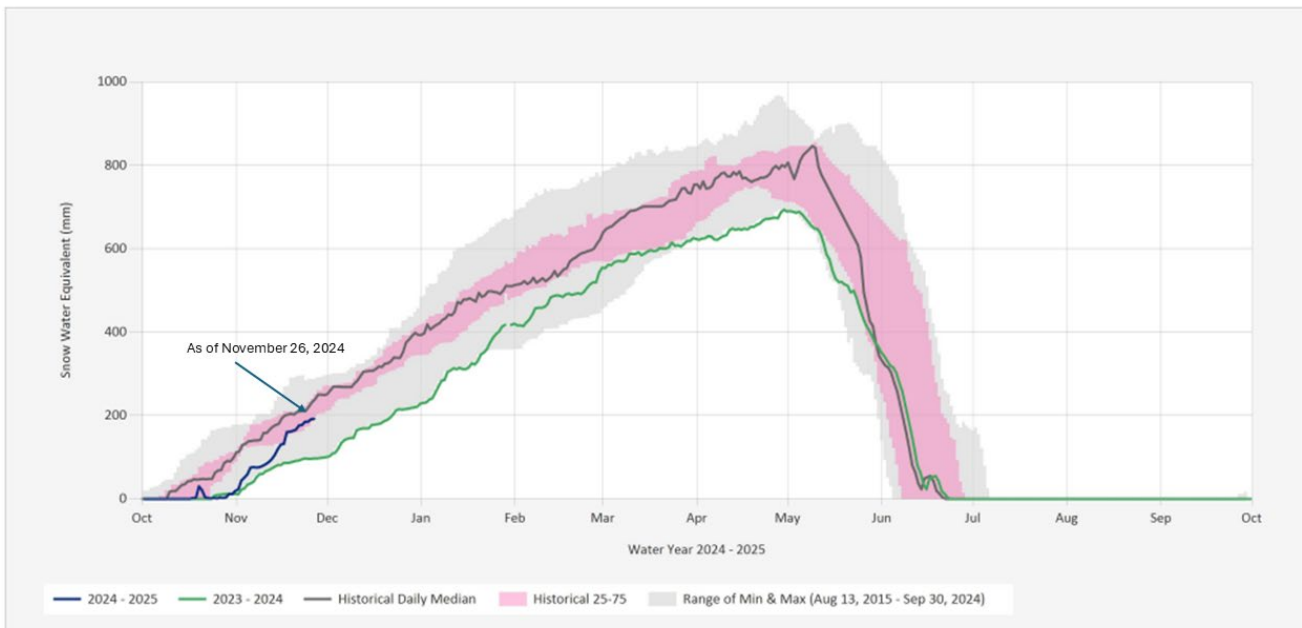


Statistics are based on the period of record prior to the current Water Year

Data last appended: November 26, 2024 16:00 UTC+00:00

Figure 5 Mission Creek Snow Pillow: 1780 m Elevation. As of 26-11-2024

Source Data: SW.Daily@2F10P
Location: Silver Star Mountain, Latitude: 50.37136, Longitude: -119.06211, Elevation: : 1840 m



Statistics are based on the period of record prior to the current Water Year

Data last appended: November 26, 2024 16:00 UTC+00:00

Figure 6 Silver Star Snow Pillow: 1840 m Elevation. As of 26-11-2024

MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors
From: Anna Warwick Sears, Executive Director
Date: November 27, 2024
Subject: Updated Budget Features 2025-2026 Memo

Okanagan Basin Water Board Regular meeting December 3, 2024 Agenda No: 8.1

The OBWB runs a lean organization, delivering the highest level of service at the greatest value to the community. The following recommendations build on current services and operations. According to our Letters Patent, the OBWB's 2025-2026 budget must be adopted on or before the OBWB meeting of December 3, 2024. The OBWB adopted the 2026 budget in principle on November 5th, 2024, but requested several changes.

Attachment 6.1.1

- The Regional District Provisional Assessments page shows the total requisitions for each project from each regional district.
- The OBWB Segmented Budget for the year ending March 31, 2026, shows the breakdown between the Sewerage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grants, Watermilfoil, and Water Management programs. The grey column "2026 Consolidated Budget" is the proposed budget for the coming year. The blue "2025 Consolidated Budget" is for the current fiscal year, and the lavender "2024 Consolidated Audited Year End" reflects actual expenditures for our programs in the audited year-end for March 31, 2024.

Budget Overview

The 2025-26 budget focuses on priority programs and services. Our most recent audited financial statements (2023-24) are provided in the OBWB annual report posted on the OBWB website.

The draft 2025-26 budget has the following features:

- The overall OBWB requisition is \$4,187,433, up 7.08% from the 2024-25 requisition of \$3,910,386, due to necessary increases to our sewerage facilities grants and milfoil programs.
- In total, this is equivalent to 2.8 cents/\$1,000 assessment, up one tenth of one percent from last year's rate.

Sewage Facilities Assistance (SFA) Grant Program

The requisition for sewage facilities grants is 0.66 cents/\$1,000 assessment, up from 0.61 cents/\$1,000 last year due to increased interest rates payable on grants and our need to build up the SFA reserve. We are required by legislation to hold a reserve to buffer mid-year changes in grant obligations (such as increased interest rates) that would require a mid-year budget amendment. This budget will bring our current reserve level to approximately \$1.1 million. The requisition ceiling for the SFA program is 21.0 cents/\$1,000 assessment, which means we are only using 3.2% of our funding capacity. With large projects approved in principle for the coming fiscal years, we expect increases in the program after 2026.

Watermilfoil Control Program

The requisition for watermilfoil is 0.88 cents/\$1,000 assessment, up from 0.78 cents/\$1,000 assessment last year. This year's budget covers an extra 6-month FTE to train a new operator in anticipation of the retirement of the milfoil supervisor, as well as funds to support a new project manager position, split between the milfoil and water management programs. The budget also includes a transfer of \$266,000 to the equipment reserve to replace the existing 1978 milfoil harvester. This purchase was split between the 2025 and 2026 fiscal years.

Water Management

The requisition for Water Management is 1.3 cents/\$1,000 assessment, this rate is unchanged since last year. There is a 2.0 cent/\$1,000 ceiling for the program. As in previous years, we anticipate additional matching grants for our projects from senior government agencies and will continue to apply for external funding to enhance project budgets. Ongoing priorities include funding for invasive mussel monitoring and prevention outreach; continuing support for the hydrometric (streamflow monitoring) program; and more funding for water quality projects. This budget also includes funds to support a new project manager position, split between the milfoil and water management programs.

Our Supplementary Letters Patent gives a ceiling of 3.6 cents/\$1,000 assessment for the combined budgets of the Milfoil and Water Management programs, and our current combined budget as proposed is 2.1 cents/\$1,000, which means we are using 58% of our funding capacity room.

Recommended Resolution: THAT the OBWB adopts the updated 2025-2026 budget as presented.



**Regional District Provisional Assessment
Budget For The Year Ending March 31, 2026**

	Central Okanagan	Okanagan Similkameen	North Okanagan	Total
	\$ 93,469,361,475	28,848,371,103	26,621,692,470	148,939,425,048
Percentage Share	62.76%	19.37%	17.87%	100.00%
REQUISITION				
Water Management	1,186,965	366,340	337,971	1,891,276
Water Milfoil	820,279	253,168	233,563	1,307,009
Sewerage Assistance	620,789	191,598	176,761	989,148
Total	\$ 2,628,033	811,106	748,295	4,187,433
<i>Total Prior Year Requisition</i>	\$ 2,454,940	767,608	687,838	3,910,386
	62.78%	19.63%	17.59%	100.00%



Budget for the year ending March 31, 2026

	Water Management	Water Milfoil	Sewerage Assistance	2026 Consolidated Budget	2025 Consolidated Budget	2024 Consolidated Budget	2024 Consolidated Audited Year End
Revenues							
Requisitions	\$ 1,891,276	\$ 1,307,010	\$ 989,148	\$ 4,187,434	\$ 3,910,386	\$ 3,833,982	\$ 3,833,982
Grant income	0	0	0	0	0	0	42,750
Interest income	21,743	682	16,075	38,500	33,845	18,050	210,338
Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	0	306,887
Transfer from reserve	0	0	0	0	50,000	400,000	0
	1,913,019	1,307,692	1,005,223	4,225,934	3,994,231	4,252,032	4,393,957
				7.1%	2.0%	0	
Expenses							
Assistance grants	350,000	0	905,223	1,255,223	1,197,624	1,498,441	1,477,117
Amortization	26,000	60,000	0	86,000	104,000	66,000	79,857
Transfer amortization to tangible capital assets	(26,000)	(60,000)	0	(86,000)	(104,000)	(66,000)	(79,857)
Contract services	619,045	38,000	0	657,045	740,000	758,664	755,180
Director's remuneration and expenses	14,810	14,310	0	29,120	26,500	26,000	17,487
Stewardship council expenses	42,010	0	0	42,010	34,010	20,000	5,589
Equipment costs	2,500	150,000	0	152,500	154,000	124,000	102,324
Insurance	4,778	48,773	0	53,551	53,551	49,000	35,476
Interest charges	400	400	0	800	800	800	237
Office	40,225	21,213	0	61,438	56,700	46,867	59,140
Outreach and publicity	37,000	3,500	0	40,500	40,500	38,500	43,502
Administrative allocation	(50,000)	(50,000)	100,000	-	-	-	-
Professional fees	45,231	43,231	0	88,462	85,750	80,000	85,975
Rental costs	9,620	35,720	0	45,340	44,897	32,960	44,519
Safety	2,500	16,500	0	19,000	14,000	11,500	11,014
Travel, conferences and meetings	62,000	1,200	0	63,200	53,200	41,200	206,287
Utilities, yard supplies and maintenance	0	21,700	0	21,700	21,700	18,200	18,737
Wages and benefits	732,900	669,100	0	1,402,000	1,196,000	1,125,900	1,114,174
Capital Purchase (as per Asset Replacement Plan)	0	0	0	0	0	300,000	
Transfer to equipment reserve	0	294,045	0	294,045	275,000	80,000	417,199
	1,913,019	1,307,692	1,005,223	4,225,934	3,994,231	4,252,032	4,393,957
Net revenues (deficiency) over expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -