



February 2023

Council Members (Term 10, April 2021-March 2023)

Appointed representatives | alternates

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFC, Research Branch Kirsten Hannam Thomas Forge Jesse MacDonald
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Agriculture Council Hans Buchler
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Cattlemen's Association Lee Hesketh Keith Manders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Fruit Growers Association Katie Sardinha Glen Lucas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Forests Sheena Spencer (Research Hydrologist) Kelly Chiatto Ray Crampton
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Ground Water Association Marta Green Doug Geller
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Water Supply Association Patti Meger Bob Hrasko Shawn Grundy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Wildlife Federation – Region 8 Lorne Davies Jackson MacPherson Nick Kozub
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian Water Resources Association Brian Guy (past chair) Dwayne Meredith
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Kelowna Rod MacLean Ed Hoppe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Penticton Mike Firlotte
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Vernon Ed Stranks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries and Oceans Canada Lynda Ritchie Sue Lemke Teri Ridley
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment and Climate Change Canada Jeremy Fyke (vice-chair) Dave Hutchinson Alyssa Charbonneau
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emerita Denise Neilsen (past chair)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineers & Geoscientists BC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interior Health Rob Birtles Judi Ekkert
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation Industry Association of BC (IIABC) Bruce Naka Ted van der Gulik (past vice-chair)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture Stephanie Tam
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Environment and CC Strategy Kym Keogh Dennis Einarson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Land, Water & Resource Stewardship TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program Scott Boswell (chair)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okanagan College Allison O'Neill Rob St Onge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okanagan Indian Band Patrick Riley Dan Wilson Tim Isaac
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RD Central Okanagan Jing Niu Todd Cashin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RD North Okanagan Tricia Brett Zee Marcolin
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RD Okanagan –Similkameen Shelley Fiorito
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shuswap Okanagan Forestry Association Randy Hardy Matt Scott
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thompson - Okanagan Tourism Association Ellen Walker – Matthews Mike Overend
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of British Columbia - Okanagan Bernie Bauer (past chair) Craig Nichol Derek Gratz

Council Meeting Highlights

Research and Environmental Projects Summary of Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB) Presentation by Mr. Patrick Riley, Research & Environmental Projects Manager.

One critical goal of OKIB is building relationships with the local and regional territory, creating meaningful employment opportunities for band members, developing projects based on cultural and heritage policies, and protecting and supporting culturally sensitive lands. To fulfill these aims, OKIB has a wide range of ongoing projects under different funding arrangements. Recently, the OKIB has installed fixed remote automated weather stations to measure soil moisture, snow depth, soil temperature, precipitation, air quality, visibility, etc. They have developed a protocol system to monitor wildfire-affected areas in real-time. The OKIB environmental team is carrying out drone and boat fieldwork to take videos of creeks, shorelines, and wetlands as well as monitor water quality. Plans to install new hydrometric stations, manage existing dam infrastructure, expand fixed remote automated weather stations, and increased collaboration with ONA to install wildlife cameras to study animal community populations are underway.

Council committee highlights

- **Climate Change** [Neilsen | Fyke] Modernization of the Okanagan Lake Regulation System is ongoing. New Okanagan climate change indicators are being developed.
- **Agriculture and Irrigation** [Hannam | Naka] Value of the irrigated agricultural analysis is going ahead along with funding application and interviewing for project postdoc. Planning to make irrigation education videos with a workshop is underway.
- **Wetlands** [Boswell] Cumulative effects model and habitat connectivity works are under development.
- **Alluvial Fans** [Bauer] A Primer on Okanagan Alluvial fans and associated recommendations is under development.
- **Water Quality** [Birtles | MacLean] Looking into different communities' water quality bylaws to identify best practices.
- **Policy** [Green] Finding opportunities to comment on different levels of policy documents.

Other news

- OBWB is developing Okanagan climate indicators to help track and understand the climate change effects on the region including changes in the weather pattern, snowpack, rainfall pattern, timing of inflows, and change in the growing season.
- Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences of UBCO is offering a Micro-credential course titled 'Wetland Delineation and Assessment' with both online (May 8 -10) and field (May 16-17) components. More information coming soon at: <https://eegs.ok.ubc.ca/nondegree-programs/>
- Okanagan College's Water Engineering Technology two-year diploma program is looking for interested students. For more information check out: <https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/water-engineering-technology-diploma>.

For more information contact:

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