

## Okanagan Basin Water Board Meeting Agenda



Okanagan Basin  
WATER BOARD

**DATE:** Friday, Sept. 11, 2026

**TIME:** 10:00 a.m.

**PLACE:** Manteo at Eldorado Resort, 3762  
Lakeshore Rd., in Kelowna, B.C.

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

#### 1.1 Acknowledgement of First Nations Traditional Territory

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

### 2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Recommendation:

***THAT** the agenda of the meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 11, 2026, be approved.*

### 4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

#### 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 7, 2026, held at the Regional District of North Okanagan, 9848 Aberdeen Rd., Coldstream, B.C., V1B 2K9.

Recommendation:

***THAT** the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July 7, 2026 held at the Regional District of North Okanagan, Coldstream, B.C., be approved.*

P. 3

### 5. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS

### 6. DELEGATION

### 7. STAFF REPORTS

#### 7.1 Executive Director Report

P. 7

##### 7.1.1 2026 Annual Report (to be circulated)

Recommendation:

***THAT** the Executive Director Report, dated Sept. 3, 2026, be received.*

#### 7.2 Chief Operating Officer Report

P. 10

Recommendation:

***THAT** the board authorize staff to procure a replacement milfoil boat and trailer at a maximum cost of \$150,000 plus tax;*

***AND THAT** replacement of the OBWB staff car be deferred to a future year;*

***AND THAT** proceeds from the disposal of retired milfoil equipment be returned to the milfoil equipment reserve.*

***THAT** the Chief Operating Officer Report, dated Sept. 3, 2026, be received.*

- 7.3 Water Stewardship Director Report P. 13  
Recommendation:  
*THAT the Water Stewardship Director's Report, dated Sept. 2, 2026, be received.*
- 7.4 Communication Manager Report P. 15  
Recommendation:  
*THAT the Communications Manager's Report, dated Sept. 2, 2026, be received.*
- 7.5 Drought Report P. 27  
Recommendation:  
*THAT the Drought Report dated Sept. 3, 2026, be received.*
8. **NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- 8.1 Draft Budget for Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2028  
8.1.1 DRAFT Regional District Provisional Assessments (*to be circulated*)  
8.1.2 DRAFT OBWB Segmented Budget for the Year Ending March 31, 2028 (*to be circulated*)  
Recommendation:  
*THAT the OBWB approve the 2027-28 budget as presented.*
- 8.2 DRAFT 2027 Meeting Schedule P. 39  
Recommendation:  
*THAT the OBWB approve the 2027 Meeting Schedule as presented.*
9. **CORRESPONDENCE**
10. **NEXT MEETING**
- 10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Regional District of North Okanagan, located at 9848 Aberdeen Road, Coldstream, B.C., V1B 2K9.
11. **ADJOURNMENT**  
Recommendation:  
*THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of Sept. 11, 2026 be adjourned at \_\_\_\_.*

\* **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](mailto:communications@obwb.ca) for further details.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OKANAGAN BASIN WATER BOARD  
HELD JULY 7, 2026 AT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN**

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**PRESENT**

|                               |                                           |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Chair Blair Ireland           | Regional District of Central Okanagan     |
| Vice Chair Doug Holmes        | Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen |
| Director Brian Guy            | Regional District of North Okanagan       |
| Director Bob Fleming          | Regional District of North Okanagan       |
| Director Rick Fairbairn       | Regional District of North Okanagan       |
| Director Kevin Kraft          | Regional District of Central Okanagan     |
| Director Ron Cannan           | Regional District of Central Okanagan     |
| Alt-Director Adrienne Fedrigo | Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen |
| Alt-Director Jeremy Fyke      | Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) |
| Director Bob Hrasko           | Water Supply Association of B.C.          |

**REGRETS**

|                           |                                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Director Tim Lezard       | Okanagan Nation Alliance                  |
| Director Sue McKortoff    | Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen |
| Director Subrina Monteith | Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen |
| Director Sheena Spencer   | Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (OWSC) |

**STAFF**

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Melissa Tesche           | Executive Director         |
| James Littley            | Chief Operating Officer    |
| Nelson Jatel             | Water Stewardship Director |
| Carolina Restrepo Tamayo | Office and Grants Manager  |
| Carmen Weld              | Communications Manager     |
| Sandra Schira            | Water Science Specialist   |
| Amanda Burnett           | Communications Coordinator |

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Ireland called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

- 1.1 He respectfully acknowledged that we work on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded tm̓xʷúlaʔxʷ land of the syilx Okanagan people who have resided here since time immemorial. We honour and respect this land and the siwl̓k water which flows through the valley and connects us all.

**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 July 7, 2026 be approved. "***

***CARRIED***

**4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board held June 2, 2026.

***"THAT the minutes of the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board on June 2, held at the offices of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen, be approved."***  
**CARRIED**

**5. BOARD CHAIR REMARKS**

No Board Chair remarks.

**6. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

- 6.1 Okanagan Watershed Security: Yesterday's Infrastructure, Today's Data, and Tomorrow's Climate. Presented by Rod MacLean, P.Eng. Department Manager - Utility Services, City of Kelowna.

Directors received a presentation from Rod MacLean, Department Manager of Utility Services for the City of Kelowna, on water security in the Okanagan and the role of infrastructure, data, and climate adaptation in managing the region's water resources.

He provided an overview of the Okanagan Lake Regulation System, the importance of reliable local data for water management, and current drought conditions affecting lake levels, reservoir storage, and streamflows across the region.

Mr. MacLean emphasized the need for evidence-based decision-making, continued investment in aging water infrastructure, expanded data collection and monitoring, and greater collaboration among governments and water managers to support long-term water security in the Okanagan.

The Board thanked Mr. MacLean for his presentation and he exited the meeting.

**7. STAFF REPORTS**

7.1 Executive Director Report – Melissa Tesche

Ms. Tesche updated the Board on ongoing drought and water scarcity concerns across the Okanagan and discussed challenges related to provincial drought messaging. She noted that recent changes to the provincial drought rating system have not been reflecting conditions being experienced in many communities and this messaging could contribute to confusion regarding water conservation efforts and local water restrictions.

Ms. Tesche advised that the OBWB communications strategy will continue directing residents to their local water providers for information on restrictions and drought response measures. She also noted that staff will resume regional meetings with water suppliers to support information sharing and coordination throughout the drought season. Preparations are also underway for the 2027-28 OBWB budget, with a draft budget to be presented to the Board in September.

***"THAT the Executive Director's Report, dated June 26, 2026, be received."***  
**CARRIED**

7.2 Chief Operating Officer Report - James Littlely

Mr. Littlely updated the Board on invasive milfoil removal activities, noting that the amphibious harvester had recently been deployed to Duck Lake to support invasive milfoil management efforts ahead of the B.C. Summer Games. He advised that the machine would soon be redeployed

to other areas of the valley as part of the annual harvesting program and noted that staff are exploring operational options to address increasingly early-season aquatic plant growth associated with longer and warmer summers.

The Board was also updated on invasive mussel prevention efforts, including reports of a single dead quagga mussel shell discovered at a reservoir in central Oregon and confirmation of zebra mussels in Lake of the Prairies, which spans the Saskatchewan-Manitoba border, which would be the first incursion of invasive mussels into the province of Saskatchewan. Mr. Littley noted these developments continue to highlight the importance of prevention and early detection efforts throughout Western Canada. He further updated the Board on the ongoing development of a prototype watercraft decontamination system for Alberta that would allow high-risk watercraft to be treated before entering the province.

Mr. Littley also provided an update on work related to onsite septic systems and provincial Sewerage System Regulations (SSR). He noted that staff are exploring options, including the potential development of a best-practices guide for local governments while also encouraging the Province to undertake a comprehensive review and modernization of the regulations to best support modernization of the SSR in the future.

***“THAT the OBWB send a letter to appropriate provincial ministries requesting that the province undertake a comprehensive review and modernization of the Sewerage System Regulations.”***

***“THAT the Chief Operating Officer’s Report, dated June 26, 2026, be received.”***  
**CARRIED**

#### 7.3 Water Stewardship Director Report – Dr. Nelson Jatel

Dr. Jatel updated the Board on recent activities, including participation in the Canadian Water Resources Association National Conference in Winnipeg, where he presented on stream temperature monitoring and forecasting and on how social network analysis can influence water management. He noted that the conference provided an opportunity to highlight Okanagan water management initiatives and promote the upcoming Environmental Flows 2026 conference in Kelowna.

Dr. Jatel also provided an overview of the June meeting of the Okanagan Water Stewardship Council, noting discussion around data-driven drought management and the importance of reliable local information to support water restriction decisions and public communication.

Dr. Jatel acknowledged the passing of former federal cabinet minister and former OBWB Chair Tom Siddon, noting his significant contributions to water stewardship and leadership in the Okanagan.

***“THAT the Water Stewardship Director’s Report, dated June 26, 2026, be received.”***  
**CARRIED.**

#### 7.4 Communications Manager Report – Carmen Weld

Ms. Weld updated the Board on communications initiatives and outreach activities since the previous meeting. She reported that the winning name for the invasive milfoil harvester had been selected and would be officially unveiled following the Board meeting at a public launch even at Paddlewheel Park in Vernon. She also noted ongoing efforts to promote the Environmental Flows 2026 Indigenous Youth Logo Contest and upcoming Make Water Work campaign videos featuring updated messaging and local participants.

The Board heard that pilot Don’t Move a Mussel boat ramp stencils had been installed in Peachland and West Kelowna, with positive early feedback from participating communities.

Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society (OASISS) will be conducting surveys to evaluate the effectiveness of the initiative. Ms. Weld also highlighted a new co-branded Don't Move a Mussel digital campaign developed in partnership with the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association to help reach more visitors travelling to the region.

Staff noted that information on costs and implementation options for the stencil initiative could be shared with interested local governments, and the two initial stencils could be considered a trial for other areas in the Okanagan.

***"THAT the Communications Manager's Report, dated June 26, 2026, be received."***  
***CARRIED.***

#### 7.5 Water Science Specialist Report – Sandra Schira

Ms. Schira reported on ongoing drought conditions across the Okanagan, noting the cumulative impacts of multiple years of drought, extremely low freshet conditions, and continued precipitation deficits.

She advised that streamflows remain well below normal in many areas, while Okanagan Lake, Kalamalka Lake, and many groundwater monitoring wells are at exceptionally low levels for this time of year, reflecting the year-over-year effects of continued dry conditions across the basin.

***"THAT the Water Science Specialist's Report, dated June 26, 2026, be received."***  
***CARRIED.***

#### 8. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No new or unfinished business.

#### 9. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondences.

#### 10. NEXT MEETING

10.1 The next meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board will be Sept. 11, 2026, held at the Manteo at Eldorado Resort, 3762 Lakeshore Rd., Kelowna, B.C. as an abbreviated meeting ahead of the Water Management Program's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

**\*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](mailto:Communications@OBWB.ca) for further details.

#### 11. ADJOURNMENT

***"THAT there being no further business, the regular meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board of July, 7, 2026 be adjourned at 12:05 p.m."***  
***CARRIED***

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Blair Ireland, OBWB Chairperson

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Melissa Tesche, OBWB Executive Director



## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Melissa Tesche, Executive Director  
Date: Sept. 3, 2026  
Subject: **Executive Director's Report**

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
Sept. 11, 2026  
Agenda No: 7.1

### **2026 OBWB Annual Report Released**

The OBWB's 2026 Annual Report, *Strong Foundation, Shared Future: Navigating Change Together*, will be released next week. The report provides updates on the OBWB's core programs and work over the 2025-26 fiscal year, along with the audited financial statements. This year's report also highlights the development and adoption of the OBWB's new 2026–2030 Strategic Direction. In recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Water Management Program, the Annual Report will be complemented by a special timeline publication looking back at the program's development, key milestones and accomplishments over the past 20 years.

### **Draft 2027-28 Budget and Meeting Schedule Prepared**

OBWB's legislation requires that the budget and requisition amounts are shared with the partnering regional districts by December 15 of each year. Ordinarily, I would present the draft budget in November, giving time for revisions and final approval at the December meeting, in advance of the legislated deadline.

With the local elections this October, we will need to have our budget approved much earlier this year. I am preparing a draft budget for the 2027-28 financial year, working with staff and RDCO's Manager of Financial Services, Cody Troutman. I will circulate the draft budget as a separate memo next week in advance of the meeting. This will allow for feedback and any needed revisions before our final board meeting on Oct. 6, 2026 at RDNO.

I have also prepared a draft meeting schedule for 2027 with a proposed date for the rescheduled 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the OBWB's Water Management Program.

### **Water Management Program 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Rescheduled for May 2027**

We were able to reschedule the 20th anniversary celebration of the OBWB's Water Management Program to May 2027, without penalty. The decision to postpone the event

was not easy, but with the event one month away, all three regional districts had activated Emergency Operations Centres. There had already been significant loss in our communities, with many residents displaced, and there remained a strong possibility of additional wildfires.

We look forward to bringing together our new and former Board members, staff and partners in the spring to recognize the accomplishments of the Water Management Program over the past 20 years.

### **OBWB Meets with Minister Neill to Discuss Drought and Key Okanagan Water Issues**

At the invitation of the WLRs Minister's office, Chair Ireland, Mr. Littley, and I travelled to Osoyoos to meet with the Minister and Deputy Minister on Aug. 4, 2026. Director McKortoff kindly offered the use of the Osoyoos council chambers and also joined the meeting, where we were able to discuss several priority water issues facing the Okanagan.

In advance of the meeting, we prepared a ministerial discussion paper focused on four areas where we see opportunities for increased provincial partnership: drought preparedness and Water Use Plans; invasive mussel prevention and preparedness; investment in both natural and built water infrastructure; and provincial investment in the Okanagan hydrometric monitoring network.

Given current conditions, much of the discussion focused on drought and the need to begin preparing now for the possibility of another difficult year in 2027.

### **Okanagan Drought Situation Bad in 2026: Could Get Much Worse in 2027**

In this fourth consecutive year of drought, new record lows have been hit for lake levels, streamflows, and groundwater levels. Kalamalka Lake effectively reached dead pool this summer, meaning there is no longer sufficient lake level to allow water to flow over the control structure into Vernon Creek. These conditions reflect a significant accumulated water deficit following several dry years and a very low snowpack in 2026.

We are very concerned about what these conditions mean for 2027. We are entering this fall with substantially less water stored in our lakes, reservoirs, and groundwater systems than we normally would. All precipitation will help, but a single wet period will not be enough to fully recover the deficit that has accumulated over the last several years.

We need to use this fall and winter to prepare for the possibility of another difficult year in 2027, rather than waiting until the spring to see where we are at. We should hope for the best — a wet fall and a good snow year — but prepare for the worst. That means having the difficult conversations now about where the greatest risks are, what actions may be needed, and what decisions will need to be made if conditions do not improve.

## **FBC Flood Modelling in Area**

The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is coordinating several floodplain mapping projects across BC as part of the national Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program (FHIMP), which aims to advance flood mapping and develop high-quality floodplain maps for targeted higher-risk communities. Funding and technical support is provided by the Government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada.

Floodplain and flood hazard maps show the potential depth and extent of flooding under different scenarios, including rare but severe events such as a “1-in-200-year” flood or a “flood of record.” Floodplain maps include recommended flood construction levels and setbacks, helping communities determine where and how high buildings and infrastructure should be built to reduce future damage and disruption.

OBWB and partners have already completed extensive flood mapping for the Okanagan, with the mainstem lakes and rivers in the Okanagan Basin. The FBC project will complement and build on the existing work, with a focus on key creeks in the valley. OBWB is supporting the work through sharing of the existing models and data sets.



## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: James Littley, Chief Operating Officer  
Date: Sept. 3, 2026  
Subject: COO's Report

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
Sept. 11, 2026  
Agenda No: 7.2

### **Staff requests authorization to procure new milfoil survey and safety boat**

As part of the approved 2022–2027 Milfoil Control Program Asset Replacement Plan, the existing 1978 aluminum boat and trailer are scheduled for replacement this year.

The existing boat and trailer are now 48 years old and require significant annual maintenance. The boat has a persistent leak into one hull compartment that requires regular bilging, and staff have been unable to identify the source. The vessel is used for annual milfoil surveys and as a safety/rescue boat for equipment breakdowns, and has also supported water-quality sampling, LiDAR work, lake-evaporation monitoring, scientific tours, and other OBWB projects.

This year, \$127,000 was budgeted for capital purchases, with an additional \$200,000 budgeted for the equipment reserve. The reserve opened the year at \$358,987. Recent disposal of the retired harvesters resulted in a gain of \$8,500, and the anticipated gain from the disposal of the existing boat, motors, and trailer is another \$10-12K.

Both the boat/trailer and OBWB staff car are scheduled for replacement this year in the approved 2022-27 Milfoil Control Program Asset Replacement Plan. As the staff vehicle remains in good condition, staff recommend deferring the car replacement and applying additional funds toward the boat purchase.

Ideally the purchase will provide key operational improvements over the existing boat, including: a cab for improved winter weather protection, capacity for four or more crew, shore access capability, and towing capabilities for disabled milfoil equipment. The new vessel should be adaptable for future monitoring, research, and response needs, including potential invasive mussel response.

Professional marine surveys estimated replacement cost of the existing boat at approximately \$100,000 in 2022. Last month, staff obtained pricing estimates from three manufacturers based on the ideal vessel and a suitable trailer. Staff recommend a maximum purchase authorization of \$150,000 plus tax for the replacement vessel and trailer.

#### **Recommendation:**

***THAT*** the board authorize staff to procure a replacement milfoil boat and trailer at a maximum cost of \$150,000 plus tax;

***AND THAT*** replacement of the OBWB staff car be deferred to a future year;

***AND THAT*** proceeds from the disposal of retired milfoil equipment be returned to the milfoil equipment reserve.

#### **Milfoil Update**

Summer milfoil harvesting is now complete for 2026. This year we saw very little invasive milfoil growth compared to previous years, likely due to a combination of drought and fire smoke. Spring runoff usually brings significant nutrients into the lake, fertilizing the plants, followed by clear sunny weather, providing significant light for the plants to absorb. This year we had record low and early runoff, followed by weeks of smoke-clouded skies, filtering the light available. Despite the low growth, the milfoil crew treated areas in Duck (Ellison) in advance of the BC Summer Games, Wood, Kalamalka, Okanagan, Vaseux and Osoyoos lakes. We are currently preparing our equipment for the winter rototilling season that runs from October to April.

#### **Invasive Mussels Update**

##### OBWB Attends Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Invasive Species Working Group

On July 20, 2026, I attended the PNWER working group session on invasive mussels in Edmonton. The working group consists of mussel program staff, legislators and experts from across the Pacific Northwest. This year focused on updates from the recent introduction of golden mussels to California including the following key points:

- Early this summer, Oregon intercepted a boat infested with more than 2.5 gallons of golden mussels attached.
- Golden mussels lie flatter than zebra or quagga mussels making them harder to remove from watercraft.

- Golden mussels continue to spread through California and are now 500 miles away from their original introduction site.
- New research shows that golden mussels can survive transiting through salt water from port to port, making some sites at the Port of Vancouver vulnerable, and a potential new introduction pathway.
- One utility in California spent approximately \$3 million USD in 30 days on a copper treatment for invasive mussels that were only introduced 6 months earlier.
- California now requires infested facilities to develop a control plan to try to stop downstream spread.

In California, researchers reported a “historical cyanobacteria bloom” that caused significant golden mussel veliger mortality, raising the possibility of a feedback cycle similar to that seen with zebra and quagga mussels, where mussel-driven ecological changes can temporarily suppress recruitment before populations rebound.

#### Idaho continues chemical treatment for Quagga mussels in Snake River

On Aug. 18, 2026, Idaho announced that following extensive sampling, quagga mussel detections found 77 per cent fewer veligers than in 2025. The State is currently conducting it’s fourth year of chemical treatments since the mussels were first detected in 2023.

#### OBWB issues final construction contracts for Modular Mussel Eradication Station

As reported to the Board in April, staff have been working with the Government of Alberta on a project to develop an invasive mussel dip tank prototype.

The design is now complete, and following a full procurement process, OBWB has signed the following contracts for the final construction and related services:

- Petro Engineering, Rocky Plain AB: \$750,000 (Plus GST) for the construction of the decontamination chamber, hot water tank, system assembly and all related services; and
- Nation Ramps, Winnipeg Manitoba: \$118,483 (Plus GST) for the construction and delivery of vehicle ramp and platform components.

In April, the board authorized the Executive Director to sign contracts more than \$35,000 specifically related to this project and that the contracts be reported to the board at the next regular meeting.

## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Nelson Jatel, Water Stewardship Director  
Date: **Sept. 2, 2026**  
Subject: **Water Science and Stewardship Report**

|                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Okanagan Basin Water Board<br>Regular meeting<br>Sept. 11, 2026<br>Agenda No: 7.3 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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### **Okanagan Water Stewardship Council returns Sept. 10, 2026 with a focus on drought impacts and planning**

The Okanagan Water Stewardship Council did not meet in July or August. Its first fall meeting is Sept. 10, 2026. The meeting will focus on the practical side of this summer's water scarcity challenges: Council members and guests will share what happened in their communities and organizations, and identify gaps and needs as they plan and prepare for 2027.

### **Updated drought data set aims to communicate valley-wide conditions from several angles at once**

I have been heavily involved with the regional drought file this summer. We have developed a set of graphs and graphics that show valley-wide conditions from several perspectives: lake levels, groundwater levels, precipitation, streamflows, and stream temperatures. The goal was to find a way to communicate the basin-wide deficit and bigger picture with credible data. We are now able to quickly refresh the data set and are exploring the potential of creating a dashboard that would allow interested parties to refresh the data in real time.

### **Supporting water utilities remains a core focus**

Water utilities are making hard restriction decisions with limited water and a public that wants clear reasons. We continue to support them with consistent basin-wide data, comparisons of restriction stages and triggers across suppliers, and public messaging (including my Aug. 11 drought presentation to the Kelowna Rotary Club). Our aim is that we get to a point where a Stage 2 in one community means roughly the same thing as a Stage 2 in the next.

### **Hydrometric program active all summer, and its data is shaping decisions**

The hydrometric program, delivered in partnership with the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Water Survey of Canada, was very active through July and August. Field crews kept stations running and took low-flow measurements during record lows, which is when accurate data matter most and is hardest to collect. These data feed directly into the water scarcity assessment, stream-temperature forecasting, and the decisions individual utilities are making

week to week. Sustained long term monitoring provides the necessary data to support informed managed outcomes.

Alongside the fieldwork, a major focus this summer has been improving how the OBWB manages and uses available water flow and temperature data. Water temperature is especially useful, but it is not used as much as it could be. It can show when low water levels start to harm aquatic life, warn us about water-quality problems such as cyanobacteria blooms, and help water suppliers make safe treatment decisions. When combined with flow and lake level data, it can also help show when stronger water conservation measures may be needed to protect Okanagan waters. Better tools for storing, checking, and sharing this information will help the OBWB make faster and better decisions during future droughts.

**OBWB, ONA, and CWRA Cohost third conference on environmental flows. Water for All: Connecting Flows, People, and Ecosystems, Oct. 7 – 9, 2026 in Kelowna**

Next month the Okanagan hosts the 2026 Environmental Flows Conference, co-hosted by the OBWB, the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Canadian Water Resources Association, Oct. 7 – 9, 2026 at the Coast Capri Hotel. It is the third conference in the series and this year's theme is Connecting Flows, People, and Ecosystems.

The keynote lineup is exceptional: Dr. Rebecca Tharme (Riverfutures Ltd.), a global leader in environmental water management and cultural flows; Dr. Wendy Monk (Environment and Climate Change Canada) on holistic flow methods, modelling and monitoring from the Peace, Athabasca and Saint John systems; Dr. Eric Stein and Dr. Kristine Taniguchi-Quan (Southern California Coastal Water Research Project) on applying the California Environmental Flows Framework to real water management decisions; and Dr. Nathanael Bergbusch (University of Waterloo) on collaborative governance for environmental and cultural water.

After a season of record low flows, the timing could not be better. I encourage Directors, local government water staff and community members to attend; environmental flow decisions are increasingly local decisions, and this is a rare chance to hear from leading practitioners right in our own valley and bring what you learn back to your councils and boards. Registration and the full program info are at [ef2026.ca](https://ef2026.ca).

Sessions span flow science, Indigenous governance and cultural flows, water licensing and regulatory reform, and the question every Okanagan utility faced this summer, how much water a stream needs when there is not enough to go around. Conference papers will feed a proposed Canadian Water Resources Journal special issue on the state of environmental flow science in Canada, with manuscripts due November 2026.



## MEMORANDUM

To: OBWB Directors  
From: Carmen Weld, Communications Manager  
Date: Sept. 2, 2026  
Subject: Communications Report

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
Sept. 11, 2026  
Agenda No: 7.4

### Make Water Work 2026 campaign videos showcase new voices in water conservation.

Four new Make Water Work campaign videos were completed and shared this summer featuring water conservation messaging from four key voices in our valley;



- West Kelowna Fire Rescue Fire Chief Jason Brolund: [Why Water Conservation Is Wildfire Prevention](#)
- Osoyoos Mayor and OBWB Director Sue McKortoff : [A Mayor's Message From the Driest Town in Canada](#)
- Tantalus Vineyard Sustainable Winemaker David Paterson: [Great wine doesn't start in the cellar – it starts with the land.](#)
- Okanagan Xeriscape Association Master Gardener Sigrie Kendrick: [This is What Xeriscaping Actually Looks Like](#)

These have been, and will continue to be, shared on our social media channels. So far, they've received good engagement and feedback. Chief Brolund's video has more than 11,000 views and 452 engagements.

Scripts for the videos were created by OBWB, while all the videos were shot and edited by Curtis Allen of Distill Media. Huge thanks to Chief Brolund, Director McKortoff, Mr. Paterson, and Ms. Kendrick for starring in this series.

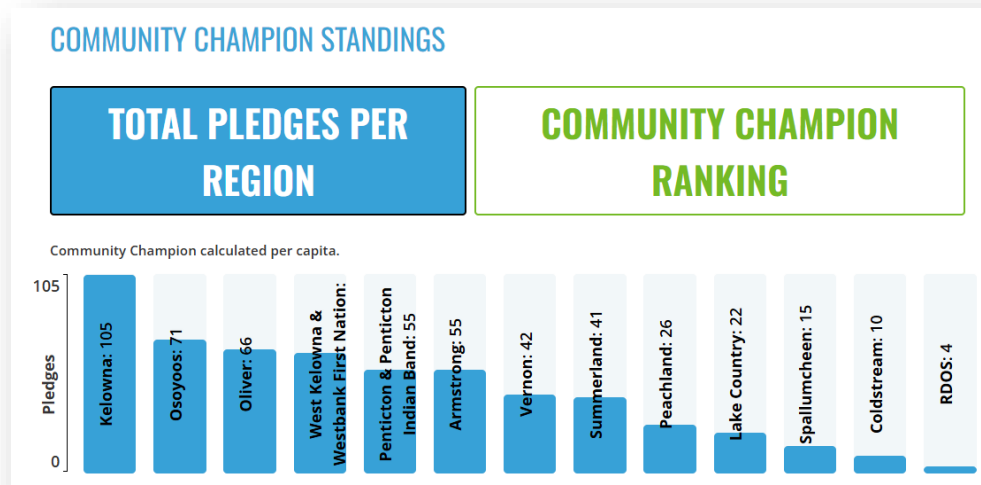
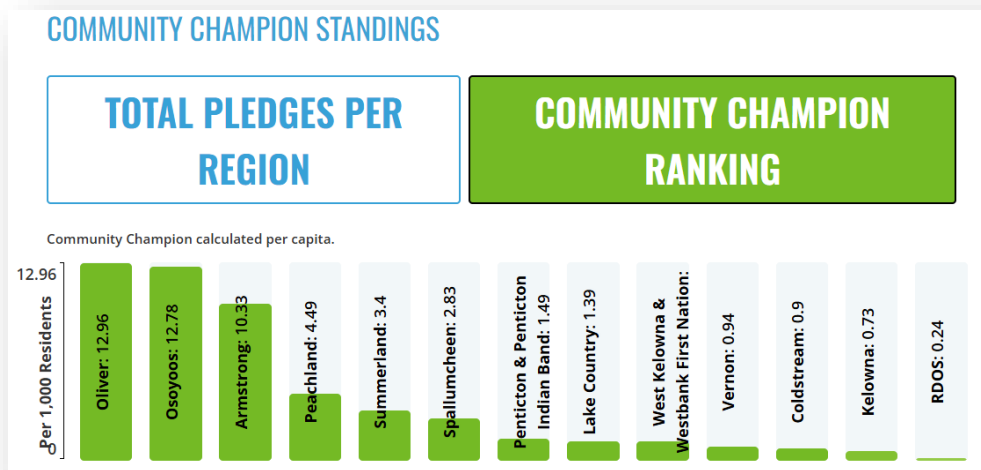
## Make Water Work Community Champion standings

We're excited to see Okanagan residents taking the pledge to Make Water Work again this year. As of Sept. 1, 2026, we're sitting at 576 total pledges, and we still hope to beat last years record-setting 686 pledges.

For the first time, Kelowna is leading the roster in total pledges submitted. It is exciting to see our largest Okanagan community getting behind this initiative. While Kelowna has the most pledges so far, the winner of Community Champion is based on pledges per capita, which bumps Oliver to top spot.

You can see which community is in the lead on the website now! One of the many improvements made to [MakeWaterWork.ca](https://www.makewaterwork.ca) this year includes a new Community Champion Ranking toggle which showcases which community is in the lead for Community Champion

based on the pledges per capita. You'll also find an improved design and interface on the Take the Pledge page.



Last year, Osoyoos won with most total overall pledges, and most pledges per capita. Their winning title gave them both bragging rights and two free Principles of Xeriscape Workshops hosted by Okanagan Xeriscape Association Master Gardener Sigrie Kendrick. Both workshops were free to attend and hit maximum capacity!

As fall planting season is just around the corner, Okanagan residents are urged to visit [www.MakeWaterWork.ca](http://www.MakeWaterWork.ca) to find water-saving tips, view [the plant collection](#) as they plan their fall planting choices, and [take the pledge](#) to be automatically entered to win \$1,000 to transform their outdoor space into a water-saving powerhouse!

### **Okanagan Xeriscape Association holds annual fall plant sale in West Kelowna on Sept. 19**

The Okanagan Xeriscape Association is also hosting their fall plant sale this month in West Kelowna. Join them on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the West Kelowna Xeriscape Spirit Square Garden, 2569 May Street, West Kelowna, BC (in Westbank Centre Park). There will be hundreds of xeriscape perennials available, as well as an education fair with lots of information about Make Water Work and related subjects. Experts will be available to answer all your questions about xeriscape gardening and landscapes.

Did you know? Fall is the best time of year to plant perennials! It provides them time to establish their root systems in a new bed prior to the heat and dry conditions of spring and summer.

### **Indigenous Youth Contest winner chosen, winning design being announced this month.**

OBWB, alongside the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Canadian Water Resources Association, launched a contest inviting Indigenous youth artists to submit original artwork for the official logo of the Environmental Flows 2026 Conference. We got beautiful submissions and it was hard to pick a winner, but a Vernon teenager was chosen. Over the last month she has been working with our Lead Artistic Advisor, Syilx artist and graphic designer Evelyn Alec, to refine the design and get it ready to share!

We will be sharing the final design in the coming weeks and look forward to incorporating it in multiple facets of the EF 2026 conference including swag items available for purchase. All profits will go to the winning artist.



### **Millie Manatee Launch**

On July 7, 2026 at Vernon's Paddlewheel Park, the OBWB officially launched its newest invasive milfoil harvester, unveiling the winning entry from a region-wide naming contest: Millie Manatee.

The naming contest attracted 340 submissions — Contest winner Dorothy Sela attended the launch and took a spin aboard Millie

Manatee. Her prize included a gift basket of local-curated goodies and OBWB items including the new Millie Manatee logo.

Millie Manatee is a customized Aquarius Systems HM-620 Aquatic Weed Harvester, built specifically to meet the needs of the OBWB's milfoil control program. The machine replaces a harvester originally purchased by the Province of B.C. in 1978 and transferred to the Water Board in 1998 when the program became fully locally funded.

Thanks to our Board of Directors for attending our Millie Manatee name reveal and launch.

### **eDNA "artificial dog's nose" project gets Minister's attention**

Colin Pritchard had the opportunity to sit with the Honourable Tamara Davidson, Minister of Environment and Parks at a BC Parks Foundation luncheon earlier this year. She encouraged him to get OBWB to send her team information on the eDNA project. At Colin's request, I sent her office information including our brochure, video and news releases. We received a reply from her office from Charlie Short, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister. They noted they have met with Dr. Michael Russello and James Littlely and they look forward to continuing to work with the OBWB to explore new approaches to mitigate the threat of invasive mussels in B.C. and across the Pacific Northwest.

### **Website project update**

Our website redesign project is underway and in the early stages. This work includes a review of existing digital and physical materials to better understand current strengths, opportunities, and future requirements. The Board is expected to receive a high-level update

from the contractor at the October meeting regarding preliminary findings and the planned path forward.

### Key communications since last report

- July 28, 2026: [Rotary-Led Fundraiser Exceeds Target, Boosting Invasive Mussel Detection Research](#)
- July 9, 2026: [July 2026 Board Report](#)
- July 7, 2026: [Move Over “Harvesty McHarvestface”: Meet Millie Manatee, the Newest Member of the OBWB Fleet](#)
- Drought Bulletins 2026:
  - Issue 5 – Aug. 8, 2026: [Summer 2026 Setting New Record Lows: Water Conservation is Essential](#)
  - Issue 4 – July 15, 2026: [Every Drop Counts: Okanagan Faces Continued Water Stress Heading into Peak Summer Heat](#)
- Key presentations/events;
  - Aug. 11, 2026: Nelson Jatel presented to the Kelowna Rotary Club regarding drought
  - July 28, 2026: James Littlely presented to the Kelowna Rotary Club on the OBWB
  - July 25, 2026: Carmen Weld presented at the Allan Brooks Nature Centre regarding Make Water Work, Don't Move a Mussel and drought
- Key social media posts with the most engagement since the last report include:
  - Aug. 25, 2026:  [What Does Drought Look Like to You?](#)
  - Aug. 20, 2026: [Imagine an Okanagan summer where you can't go barefoot at the beach.](#)    
  - Aug. 5, 2026: [This is our home: Osoyoos Mayor Sue McKortoff.](#)
  - July 21, 2026: [West Kelowna Fire Chief Jason Brolund explains](#) why fire and water aren't opposites — they're connected.
  - July 15, 2026:  [Every Drop Counts:](#) The Okanagan is heading into peak summer heat with serious water stress already underway.
  - July 7, 2026: [She's here, she's hungry, and she's ready to eat some weeds](#)  

### Media Tracking

Please find monthly media tracking below, listing articles from June 26, 2026 to Aug. 31, 2026, in reverse chronological order.

| Date          | Source   | Headline                                                     | Link                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUG. 30, 2026 | InfoNews | <b>iN NUMBERS:</b><br>Kamloops, Okanagan water use more than | <a href="https://infonews.ca/news/7854023/in-numbers-kamloops-okanagan-water-use-more-">https://infonews.ca/news/7854023/in-numbers-kamloops-okanagan-water-use-more-</a> |

|               |                                   |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               |                                   | <b>doubles national average</b>                                                                                  | <a href="#">than-doubles-national-average/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| AUG. 29, 2026 | Western Standard                  | <b>Alberta launches Canada's first watercraft dip tank to fight invasive mussels</b>                             | <a href="https://www.westernstandard.news/news/alberta-launches-canadas-first-watercraft-dip-tank-to-fight-invasive-mussels/76419">https://www.westernstandard.news/news/alberta-launches-canadas-first-watercraft-dip-tank-to-fight-invasive-mussels/76419</a>                                                                                                                                           |
| AUG. 28, 2026 | Water Canada                      | <b>Canada's first dip tank takes on aquatic invaders</b>                                                         | <a href="https://www.watercanada.net/canadas-first-dip-tank-takes-on-aquatic-invaders/">https://www.watercanada.net/canadas-first-dip-tank-takes-on-aquatic-invaders/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| AUG. 27, 2026 | The Municipal Information Network | <b>Alberta is implementing Canada's first watercraft dip tank to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species</b> | <a href="https://municipalinfonet.com/article/municipal/category/environment/18/1215595/alberta-is-implementing-canada-s-first-watercraft-dip-tank-to-stop-the-spread-of-aquatic-invasive-species.html">https://municipalinfonet.com/article/municipal/category/environment/18/1215595/alberta-is-implementing-canada-s-first-watercraft-dip-tank-to-stop-the-spread-of-aquatic-invasive-species.html</a> |
| AUG. 27, 2026 | Chat News Today! And rdnewsNOW    | <b>Alberta launches Canada's first watercraft dip tank in Dunmore to fight invasive aquatic species</b>          | <a href="https://chatnewstoday.ca/2026/08/27/alberta-launches-canadas-first-watercraft-dip-tank-in-dunmore-to-fight-invasive-aquatic-species/">https://chatnewstoday.ca/2026/08/27/alberta-launches-canadas-first-watercraft-dip-tank-in-dunmore-to-fight-invasive-aquatic-species/</a>                                                                                                                   |
| AUG. 26, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops    | <b>How Okanagan native plants survive fire</b>                                                                   | <a href="https://www.castanetkamloops.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/629264/How-Okanagan-native-plants-survive-fire">https://www.castanetkamloops.net/news/Gardening-with-nature/629264/How-Okanagan-native-plants-survive-fire</a>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| AUG. 26, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops    | <b>North Okanagan Wastewater Recovery Project moves ahead after approvals</b>                                    | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/629283/North-Okanagan-Wastewater-Recovery-Project-moves-ahead-after-approvals">https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/629283/North-Okanagan-Wastewater-Recovery-Project-moves-ahead-after-approvals</a>                                                                                                                                                       |
| AUG. 24, 2026 | Pique Newsmagazine                | <b>Fork in the Road: Let's face it!</b>                                                                          | <a href="https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-news/fork-in-the-road-lets-face-it-12698304">https://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/local-news/fork-in-the-road-lets-face-it-12698304</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| AUG. 22, 2026 | CBC, YahooNews                    | <b>Crops sacrificed, losses mount for B.C. farmers grappling with historic drought</b>                           | <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-southern-interior-drought-9.7314914">https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bc-southern-interior-drought-9.7314914</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| AUG. 21, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops    | <b>Construction on the \$49.6-million North Okanagan Wastewater Recovery Project has started</b>                 | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/628754/Construction-on-the-49-6-million-North-Okanagan-Wastewater-Recovery-Project-has-started">https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/628754/Construction-on-the-49-6-million-North-Okanagan-Wastewater-Recovery-Project-has-started</a>                                                                                                                     |
| AUG. 21, 2026 | Vernon Morning Star and 9         | <b>Construction underway on \$49-plus million</b>                                                                | <a href="https://vernontomorrowstar.com/2026/08/21/construction-underway-on-49-plus-million-">https://vernontomorrowstar.com/2026/08/21/construction-underway-on-49-plus-million-</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | BlackPress Publications                           | North Okanagan wastewater project                                                         | <a href="#">north-okanagan-wastewater-project/</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| AUG. 19, 2026 | Kelowna Chamber of Commerce                       | Policy Horizon - August 2026                                                              | <a href="https://www.kelownachamber.org/news/post/995/Policy_Horizon_August_2026/">https://www.kelownachamber.org/news/post/995/Policy_Horizon_August_2026/</a>                                                                                         |
| AUG. 15, 2026 | CBC Radio One - BC Today                          | In the heart of B.C.'s wildfire crisis                                                    | <a href="https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-64-the-house/clip/16231951-in-heart-b.c.s-wildfire-crisis">https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-64-the-house/clip/16231951-in-heart-b.c.s-wildfire-crisis</a>                                         |
| AUG. 12, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                    | Avoid causing harm to a pet with your garden choices                                      | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/editon/news-story-627729-1152-.htm#627729">https://www.castanet.net/editon/news-story-627729-1152-.htm#627729</a>                                                                                                     |
| AUG. 10, 2026 | CBC, YahooNews                                    | We've had a lot of close calls : Canada wildfire evacuees wonder if they still have homes | <a href="https://ca.news.yahoo.com/total-incinerated-destruction-canada-wildfire-161435235.html">https://ca.news.yahoo.com/total-incinerated-destruction-canada-wildfire-161435235.html</a>                                                             |
| AUG. 9, 2026  | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                    | Okanagan, Kalamalka lakes at historic lows                                                | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/627381/Okanagan-Kalamalka-lakes-at-historic-lows#627381">https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/627381/Okanagan-Kalamalka-lakes-at-historic-lows#627381</a>                                               |
| AUG. 8, 2026  | BlackPress publications                           | Let lawns go brown but save plants during a drought                                       | <a href="https://kelownacapnews.com/2026/08/08/let-lawns-go-brown-but-save-plants-during-a-drought/">https://kelownacapnews.com/2026/08/08/let-lawns-go-brown-but-save-plants-during-a-drought/</a>                                                     |
| AUG. 7, 2026  | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald          | Letters to the Editor: Aug. 7, 2026                                                       | <a href="https://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_0d4847f8-692b-4802-95d5-9ce055347ce7.html">https://www.kelownadailycourier.ca/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_0d4847f8-692b-4802-95d5-9ce055347ce7.html</a>             |
| AUG. 7, 2026  | Vernon Morning Star and 9 BlackPress Publications | Lake levels hit record lows in Okanagan halfway through summer                            | <a href="https://vernnonmorningstar.com/2026/08/07/lake-levels-hit-record-lows-in-okanagan-halfway-through-summer/">https://vernnonmorningstar.com/2026/08/07/lake-levels-hit-record-lows-in-okanagan-halfway-through-summer/</a>                       |
| AUG. 7, 2026  | infoNews                                          | Thompson-Okanagan drought a threat to your lawn and deadly for fish                       | <a href="https://infonews.ca/news/7804126/thompson-okanagan-drought-a-threat-to-your-lawn-and-deadly-for-fish/">https://infonews.ca/news/7804126/thompson-okanagan-drought-a-threat-to-your-lawn-and-deadly-for-fish/</a>                               |
| AUG. 7, 2026  | Vernon Matters                                    | Okanagan drought reaches highest level as water supplies hit record lows                  | <a href="https://vernnonmatters.ca/2026/08/07/okanagan-drought-reaches-highest-level-as-water-supplies-hit-record-lows/">https://vernnonmatters.ca/2026/08/07/okanagan-drought-reaches-highest-level-as-water-supplies-hit-record-lows/</a>             |
| AUG. 1, 2026  | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                    | Boaters urged to stop invasive mussels before they reach Okanagan lakes                   | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/626713/Boaters-urged-to-stop-invasive-mussels-before-they-reach-Okanagan-lakes">https://www.castanet.net/news/Kelowna/626713/Boaters-urged-to-stop-invasive-mussels-before-they-reach-Okanagan-lakes</a> |

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|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AUG. 7, 2026  | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald            | Fundraising passes goal                                          | Print                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| JULY 29, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops, All for Gardening   | In drought, let lawns go, but save your plants                   | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/editon/news-story-626318-1152-.htm#626318">https://www.castanet.net/editon/news-story-626318-1152-.htm#626318</a>                                                                 |
| JULY 29, 2026 | KelownaNow                                          | Why Your Garden Should Play Double Duty This Summer              | <a href="https://www.kelownanow.com/news/news/Sponsored/Why_Your_Garden_Should_Play_Double_Duty_This_Summer">https://www.kelownanow.com/news/news/Sponsored/Why_Your_Garden_Should_Play_Double_Duty_This_Summer</a> |
| JULY 29, 2026 | Vernon Matters                                      | Fundraiser to support mussel detection technology a success      | <a href="https://vernonmatters.ca/2026/07/29/fundraiser-to-support-mussel-detection-technology-a-success/">https://vernonmatters.ca/2026/07/29/fundraiser-to-support-mussel-detection-technology-a-success/</a>     |
| JULY 28, 2026 | Vernon Matters                                      | Vernon joining Make Water Work initiative                        | <a href="https://vernonmatters.ca/2026/07/28/vernon-joining-make-water-work-initiative/">https://vernonmatters.ca/2026/07/28/vernon-joining-make-water-work-initiative/</a>                                         |
| JULY 26, 2026 | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald            | New lake harvester gets a name                                   | PRINT                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| JULY 25, 2026 | InfoNews                                            | Drought putting Okanagan water shortage in “uncharted territory” | <a href="https://infonews.ca/news/7751461/drought-putting-okanagan-water-shortage-in-uncharted-territory/">https://infonews.ca/news/7751461/drought-putting-okanagan-water-shortage-in-uncharted-territory/</a>     |
| JULY 25, 2026 | The Times Chronicle                                 | Oliver’s drought plan finally sees light of day                  | <a href="https://www.timeschronicle.ca/olivers-drought-plan-finally-sees-light-of-day/">https://www.timeschronicle.ca/olivers-drought-plan-finally-sees-light-of-day/</a>                                           |
| JULY 25, 2026 | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald            | Docks needed to probe local lakes for mussels                    | PRINT                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| JULY 25, 2026 | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald            | Thanks for reaching 13%, but the goal is 20%                     | PRINT                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| JULY 23, 2026 | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald and others | Drought Management Plan flows through Oliver Council             | <a href="https://www.pentictonherald.ca/spare_news/article_2b84e926-1c67-57eb-bd77-c1952d6ca0da.html">https://www.pentictonherald.ca/spare_news/article_2b84e926-1c67-57eb-bd77-c1952d6ca0da.html</a>               |
| JULY 23, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                      | Vernon officially joins regional Make Water Work campaign to     | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/625709/Vernon-officially-joins-regional-Make-">https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/625709/Vernon-officially-joins-regional-Make-</a>                                 |

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|---------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               |                                                   | <b>tackle outdoor water use</b>                                                               | <a href="#">Water-Work-campaign-to-tackle-outdoor-water-use</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| JULY 23, 2026 | The Times Chronicle                               | <b>Sprinkler alert: When bylaw comes a-knockin’</b>                                           | <a href="https://www.timeschronicle.ca/sprinkler-alert-when-bylaw-comes-a-knockin/">https://www.timeschronicle.ca/sprinkler-alert-when-bylaw-comes-a-knockin/</a>                                                                                                                             |
| JULY 20, 2026 | Kelowna Chamber of Commerce                       | <b>Policy Horizon July 2026</b>                                                               | <a href="https://www.kelownachamber.org/news/post/994/Policy_Horizon_July_2026/">https://www.kelownachamber.org/news/post/994/Policy_Horizon_July_2026/</a>                                                                                                                                   |
| JULY 20, 2026 | The Vernon Morning Star                           | <b>Councillor calls for City of Vernon to join water campaign</b>                             | <a href="https://vernontomorrowstar.com/2026/07/20/councillor-calls-for-city-of-vernon-to-join-water-campaign/">https://vernontomorrowstar.com/2026/07/20/councillor-calls-for-city-of-vernon-to-join-water-campaign/</a>                                                                     |
| JULY 17, 2026 | Vernon Morning Star and 9 BlackPress Publications | <b>Water briefs: Drought conditions persist across Okanagan watershed</b>                     | <a href="https://vernontomorrowstar.com/2026/07/17/water-briefs-drought-conditions-persist-across-okanagan-watershed/">https://vernontomorrowstar.com/2026/07/17/water-briefs-drought-conditions-persist-across-okanagan-watershed/</a>                                                       |
| JULY 16, 2026 | City of Penticton                                 | <b>More water conservation needed as Penticton falls short of Stage 2 reduction target</b>    | <a href="https://www.penticton.ca/city-hall/news-alerts/more-water-conservation-needed-penticton-falls-short-stage-2-reduction-target">https://www.penticton.ca/city-hall/news-alerts/more-water-conservation-needed-penticton-falls-short-stage-2-reduction-target</a>                       |
| JULY 16, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                    | <b>Penticton falls short of water saving goal as drought conditions continue</b>              | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/624971/Penticton-falls-short-of-water-saving-goal-as-drought-conditions-continue#624971">https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/624971/Penticton-falls-short-of-water-saving-goal-as-drought-conditions-continue#624971</a>                 |
| JULY 15, 2026 | KelownaNow                                        | <b>How Your Yard Can Help Protect What Matters Most This Summer</b>                           | <a href="https://www.kelownanow.com/news/news/Sponsored/How_Your_Yard_Can_Help_Protect_What_Matters_Most_This_Summer">https://www.kelownanow.com/news/news/Sponsored/How_Your_Yard_Can_Help_Protect_What_Matters_Most_This_Summer</a>                                                         |
| JULY 15, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops, All for Gardening | <b>Three spectacular shrubs for your summer garden</b>                                        | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-624690-1152-.htm#624690">https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-624690-1152-.htm#624690</a>                                                                                                                                         |
| JULY 13, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                    | <b>How tourists and locals can help keep invasive mussels out of the Okanagan this summer</b> | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Think-Local/623970/How-tourists-and-locals-can-help-keep-invasive-mussels-out-of-the-Okanagan-this-summer">https://www.castanet.net/news/Think-Local/623970/How-tourists-and-locals-can-help-keep-invasive-mussels-out-of-the-Okanagan-this-summer</a> |
| JULY 12, 2026 | KelownaNow                                        | <b>Okanagan’s new invasive milfoil harvester dubbed Millie Manatee</b>                        | <a href="https://www.kelownanow.com/watercooler/news/news/Okanagan/Okanagan_s_new_invasive_milfoil_harvester_dubbed_Millie_Manatee">https://www.kelownanow.com/watercooler/news/news/Okanagan/Okanagan_s_new_invasive_milfoil_harvester_dubbed_Millie_Manatee</a>                             |
| JULY 10, 2026 | AP (Print)                                        | <b>Oliver finalizes new Drought Management</b>                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

|              |                                                             | plan after months of discussion                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JULY 9, 2026 | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald and Canadian Press | Expanded reservoir, Okanagan Lake are future options for Peachland water            | <a href="https://www.pentictonherald.ca/spare_news/article_1d80888f-4053-5203-b4d8-219f80f0575b.html">https://www.pentictonherald.ca/spare_news/article_1d80888f-4053-5203-b4d8-219f80f0575b.html</a>                                                                                       |
| JULY 9, 2026 | Vernon Matters                                              | New boat launch signage installed to prevent invasive mussel spread                 | <a href="https://vernonsmatters.ca/2026/07/09/new-boat-launch-signage-installed-to-prevent-invasive-mussel-spread/">https://vernonsmatters.ca/2026/07/09/new-boat-launch-signage-installed-to-prevent-invasive-mussel-spread/</a>                                                           |
| JULY 9, 2026 | The Times Chronicle                                         | Oliver finalizes new drought plan after months of discussion                        | <a href="https://www.timeschronicle.ca/oliver-finalizes-new-drought-plan-after-months-of-discussion/">https://www.timeschronicle.ca/oliver-finalizes-new-drought-plan-after-months-of-discussion/</a>                                                                                       |
| JULY 8, 2026 | Global Okanagan                                             | Global News at 5:30 Okanagan: July 8                                                | <a href="https://globalnews.ca/video/11959051/global-news-at-530-okanagan-july-8/">https://globalnews.ca/video/11959051/global-news-at-530-okanagan-july-8/</a>                                                                                                                             |
| JULY 8, 2026 | Vernon Matters                                              | New milfoil harvester out on Okanagan Lake following naming contest                 | <a href="https://vernonsmatters.ca/2026/07/08/new-milfoil-harvester-out-on-okanagan-lake-following-naming-contest/">https://vernonsmatters.ca/2026/07/08/new-milfoil-harvester-out-on-okanagan-lake-following-naming-contest/</a>                                                           |
| JULY 7, 2026 | Vernon Morning Star and 9 BlackPress Publications           | A new creature will be roaming Okanagan waters                                      | <a href="https://vernonsmorningstar.com/2026/07/08/a-new-creature-will-be-roaming-okanagan-waters/">https://vernonsmorningstar.com/2026/07/08/a-new-creature-will-be-roaming-okanagan-waters/</a>                                                                                           |
| JULY 7, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                              | 'Millie Manatee' will fight invasive milfoil in the Okanagan                        | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/623672/Millie-Manatee-will-fight-invasive-milfoil-in-the-Okanagan#623672">https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/623672/Millie-Manatee-will-fight-invasive-milfoil-in-the-Okanagan#623672</a>                                                   |
| JULY 7, 2026 | Vernon Morning Star and 9 BlackPress Publications           | North Okanagan wastewater project on uncertain ground as approval process fails     | <a href="https://vernonsmorningstar.com/2026/07/07/north-okanagan-wastewater-project-on-uncertain-ground-as-approval-process-fails/">https://vernonsmorningstar.com/2026/07/07/north-okanagan-wastewater-project-on-uncertain-ground-as-approval-process-fails/</a>                         |
| JULY 7, 2026 | Vernon Matters                                              | Public opposes borrowing for Swan Lake Wastewater Recovery Project                  | <a href="https://vernonsmatters.ca/2026/07/07/public-opposes-borrowing-for-swan-lake-wastewater-recovery-project/">https://vernonsmatters.ca/2026/07/07/public-opposes-borrowing-for-swan-lake-wastewater-recovery-project/</a>                                                             |
| JULY 7, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                              | Failed approval process forces RDNO to review options for Swan Lake wastewater loan | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/623636/Failed-approval-process-forces-RDNO-to-review-options-for-Swan-Lake-wastewater-loan#623636">https://www.castanet.net/news/Vernon/623636/Failed-approval-process-forces-RDNO-to-review-options-for-Swan-Lake-wastewater-loan#623636</a> |

|               |                                                             |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| JULY 6, 2026  | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald and Canadian Press | <b>OASISS seeks Skaha, Okanagan Lake dock owners for invasive mussel monitoring</b>                    | <a href="https://www.pentictonherald.ca/news/article_52790ec8-dd25-4913-9475-ee981cc8eb9d.html">https://www.pentictonherald.ca/news/article_52790ec8-dd25-4913-9475-ee981cc8eb9d.html</a>                                                                           |
| JULY 5, 2026  | BlackPress Publications                                     | <b>Dock owners in Peachland, West Kelowna, Summerland can help keep invasive mussels out</b>           | <a href="https://kelownacapnews.com/2026/07/05/dock-owners-in-peachland-west-kelowna-summerland-can-help-keep-invasive-mussels-out/">https://kelownacapnews.com/2026/07/05/dock-owners-in-peachland-west-kelowna-summerland-can-help-keep-invasive-mussels-out/</a> |
| JULY 3, 2026  | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                              | <b>South Okanagan conservation group warning dock owners to be on the lookout for invasive mussels</b> | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-623025-21-.htm#623025">https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-623025-21-.htm#623025</a>                                                                                                                   |
| JULY 3, 2026  | Substack                                                    | <b>To Manage Its Growing Drought Crisis, Canada Could Look Across the Pacific</b>                      | <a href="https://maxpolicy.substack.com/p/to-manage-its-growing-drought-crisis">https://maxpolicy.substack.com/p/to-manage-its-growing-drought-crisis</a>                                                                                                           |
| JULY 3, 2026  | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                              | <b>Summerland urges conservation as reservoir enters storage mode</b>                                  | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Summerland/622803/Summerland-urges-conservation-as-reservoir-enters-storage-mode#622803">https://www.castanet.net/news/Summerland/622803/Summerland-urges-conservation-as-reservoir-enters-storage-mode#622803</a>           |
| JULY 3, 2026  | The Kelowna Courier and Penticton Herald and Canadian Press | <b>The family man who shaped Canada and Kaleden</b>                                                    | <a href="https://www.pentictonherald.ca/news/article_105fb319-5b2e-477b-9e86-6ba98c969722.html">https://www.pentictonherald.ca/news/article_105fb319-5b2e-477b-9e86-6ba98c969722.html</a>                                                                           |
| JULY 1, 2026  | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops, All for Gardening           | <b>Make use of plants that kill weeds</b>                                                              | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-622550-1152-.htm#622550">https://www.castanet.net/edition/news-story-622550-1152-.htm#622550</a>                                                                                                               |
| JUNE 28, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                              | <b>From Parliament Hill to the South Okanagan: Tom Siddon dies at 84</b>                               | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/622170/From-Parliament-Hill-to-the-South-Okanagan-Tom-Siddon-dies-at-84">https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/622170/From-Parliament-Hill-to-the-South-Okanagan-Tom-Siddon-dies-at-84</a>                       |
| JUNE 27, 2026 | Castanet and Castanet Kamloops                              | <b>Okanagan Dam Fish Passage in Penticton given international recognition</b>                          | <a href="https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/621974/Okanagan-Dam-Fish-Passage-in-Penticton-given-international-recognition">https://www.castanet.net/news/Penticton/621974/Okanagan-Dam-Fish-Passage-in-Penticton-given-international-recognition</a>           |
| JUNE 27, 2026 | GlobalNews and Daily Guardian                               | <b>As drought deepens, Okanagan leaders unite to protect water supply</b>                              | <a href="https://globalnews.ca/news/11941030/drought-okanagan-leaders-unite-protect-water-supply/">https://globalnews.ca/news/11941030/drought-okanagan-leaders-unite-protect-water-supply/</a>                                                                     |

The Stats: June 26, 2026 – Aug. 31, 2026

| <i>Total individual articles mentioning OBWB work, projects etc. (includes multiple listings of the same article)</i> | <i>Total Estimated Views*</i> | <i>Total Reach*</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 153                                                                                                                   | 138,592                       | 559M                |

**\*Total Estimated Views** is pulled from our media monitoring service Meltwater. According to Meltwater, Estimated Views is a metric that approximates the number of times an average article from a publication has been viewed. This is accomplished by dividing a publication's monthly page views by the number of articles it published in a given month.

**\*Total Reach** is pulled from our media monitoring service Meltwater. It's important to note that in Meltwater, "reach" is inflated as it represents the potential number of unique visitors who could have seen a specific article or piece of content. It's calculated based on the monthly unique visitors to the source publication, not the number of times the content was displayed. This metric helps organizations understand the potential audience size and reach of their content across various platforms.



## MEMORANDUM

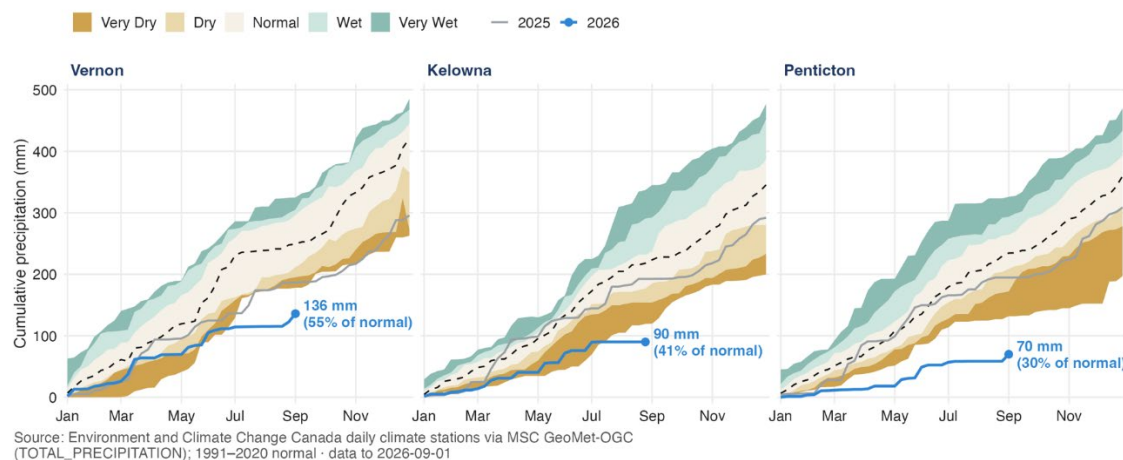
To: OBWB Directors  
From: Melissa Tesche, Executive Director,  
Nelson Jatel, Water Stewardship Director, and  
Sandra Schira, Water Science Specialist  
Date: Sept. 3, 2026  
Subject: Drought Report

Okanagan Basin Water Board  
Regular meeting  
Sept. 11, 2026  
Agenda No: 7.5

### Summary

As of Sept. 1, 2026, drought conditions remain severe across the Okanagan, with multiple indicators showing sustained water stress. Taken together, the indicators suggest that the basin remains vulnerable through the remainder of the irrigation season and will remain vulnerable well into the next year. Continued water conservation and close monitoring the winter are warranted.

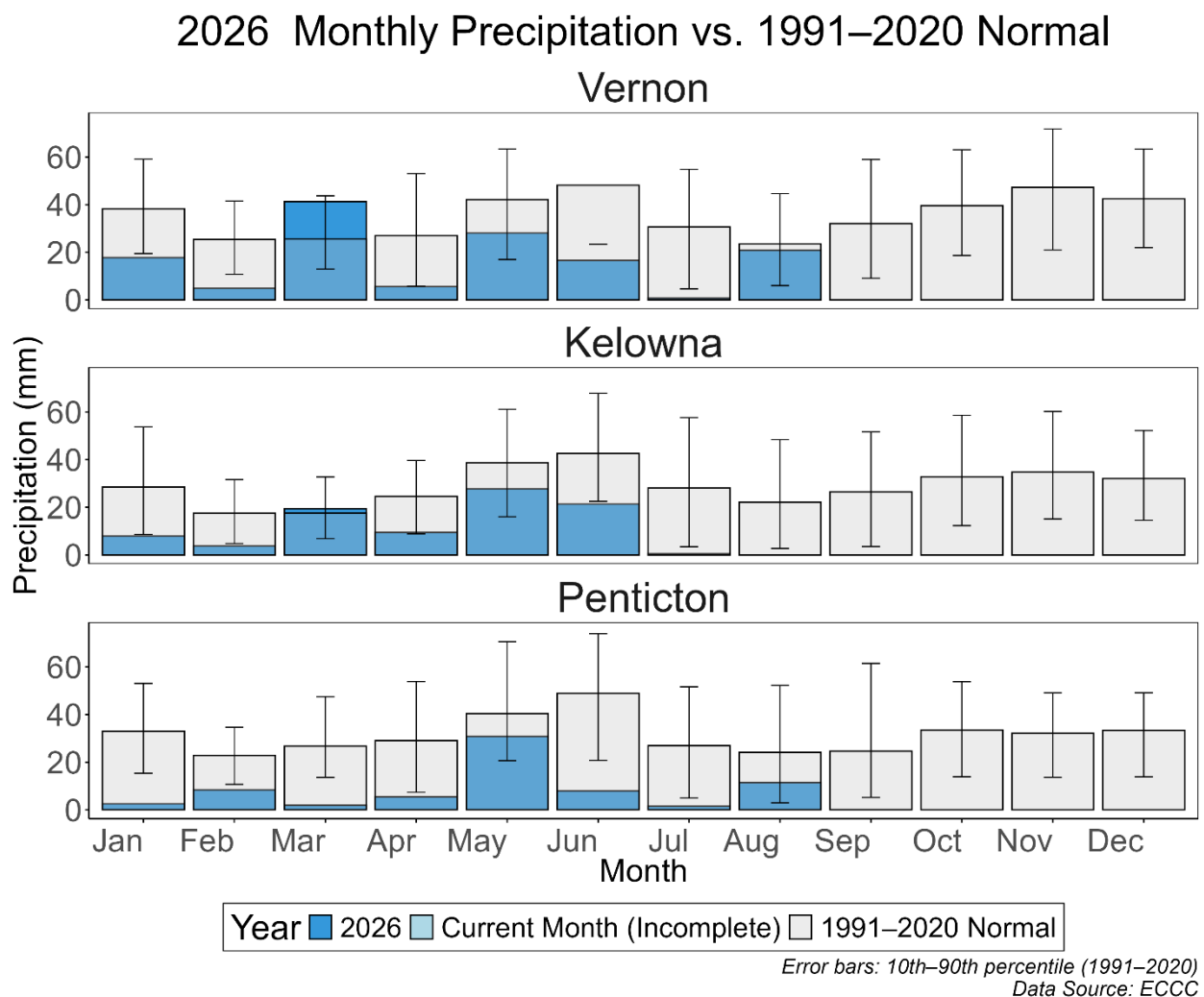
### Precipitation



**Figure 1.** Cumulative precipitation from Jan. 1 to Sept. 1, 2026, at Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton, shown alongside historical normal precipitation for each location. Data source: Environment and Climate Change Canada.

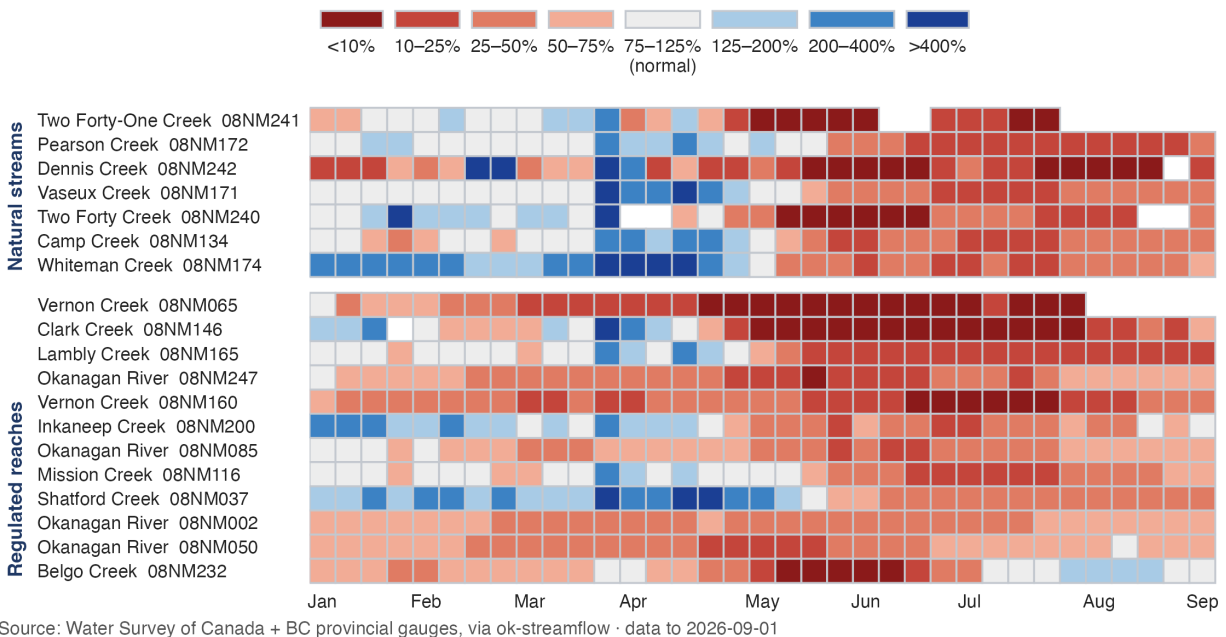
Precipitation deficits remain pronounced across the Okanagan. Cumulative precipitation through September 1 was approximately 136 mm in Vernon, 90 mm in Kelowna and 70 mm in Penticton, representing about 50%, 41% and 30% of normal, respectively. The deficit gets

worse from north to south and has persisted through the spring and summer, with relatively little precipitation available to offset water use or replenish surface-water and groundwater supplies. The prolonged precipitation deficit is an important underlying driver of the low streamflows, declining lake levels and groundwater stress now being observed throughout the basin.



**Figure 2.** 2026 Monthly Precipitation Compared with 1991–2020 Normal at Vernon, Kelowna and Penticton. Error bars represent the 10th–90th percentile range for each month during the normal period. Data source: Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

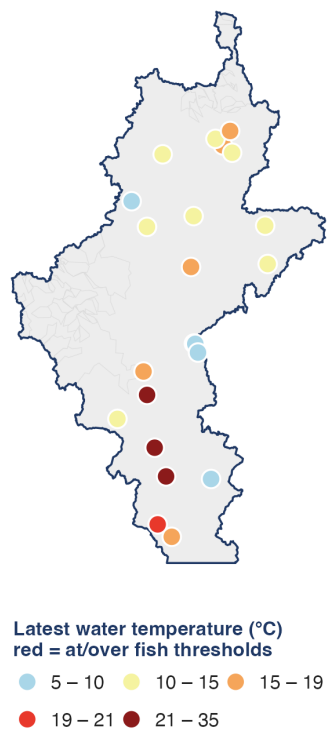
## Streamflows



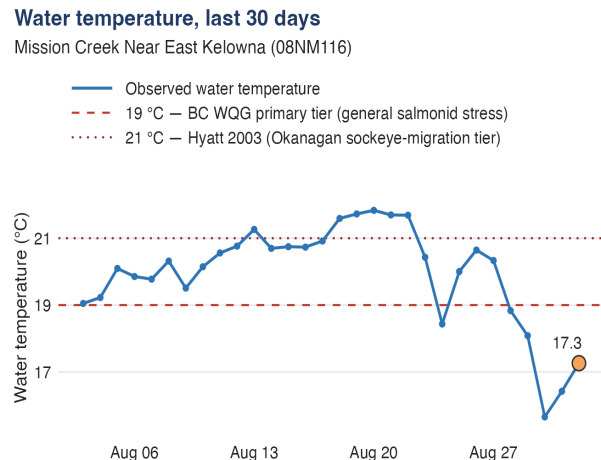
**Figure 3.** Weekly average streamflow conditions at monitored locations across the Okanagan, expressed relative to the historical range for each station. Data source: Water Survey of Canada and Okanagan Basin Water Board hydrometric monitoring stations.

Streamflow conditions continue to reflect severe hydrologic stress across the Okanagan. Many monitored streams transitioned from near- or above-normal conditions earlier in the year to below-normal flows during late spring, with flows remaining depressed through July and August. By late summer, numerous natural streams were within the lowest historical percentile ranges, while many regulated reaches were also substantially below normal. The persistence and geographic extent of these low flows are particularly important because they reduce available aquatic habitat, increase sensitivity to elevated water temperatures, and narrow the margin available to balance environmental flow needs with domestic and agricultural water demands.

## Temperatures



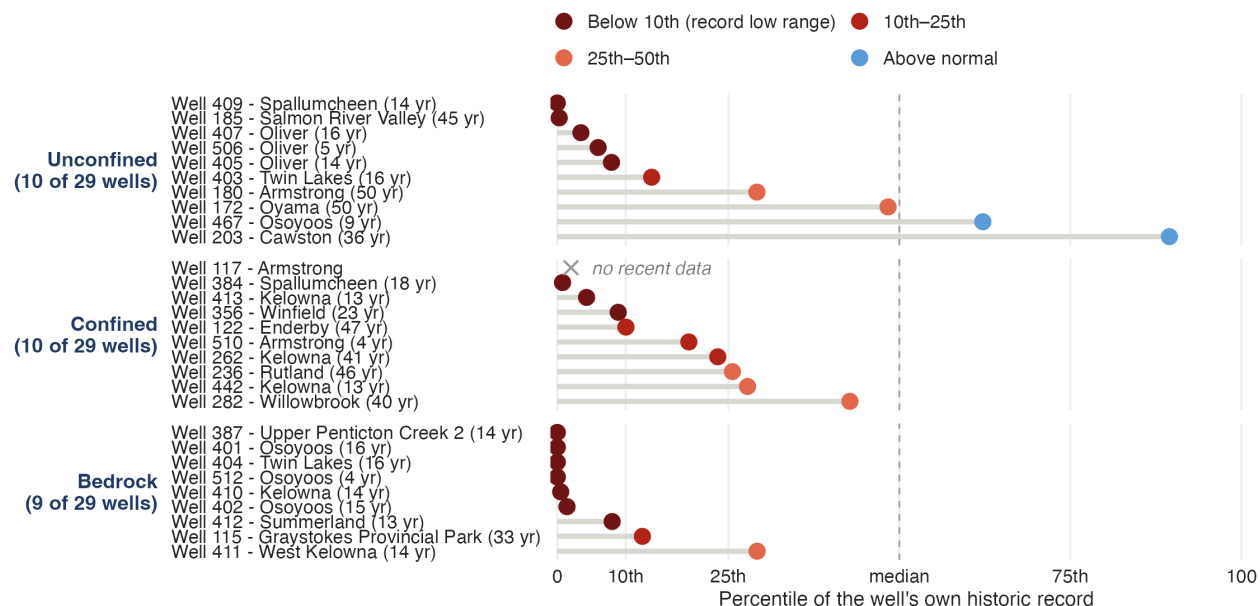
**Figure 4.** Observed stream temperatures on Sept. 1, 2026, at monitored locations across the Okanagan, displayed by temperature range to provide a basin-wide snapshot of current thermal conditions. Data source: Okanagan Basin Water Board and partner hydrometric monitoring stations.



**Figure 5.** Observed water temperatures in Mission Creek near East Kelowna over the previous 30 days, with reference lines identifying the 19°C general salmonid-stress threshold and the 21°C Okanagan sockeye migration threshold. Data source: Okanagan Basin Water Board hydrometric monitoring network.

Stream temperatures were elevated through much of August, compounding the effects of low flows. At Mission Creek near East Kelowna, water temperatures were above the 19°C general salmonid-stress threshold for much of the month and exceeded the 21°C Okanagan sockeye migration threshold for several days during the warmest period. Temperatures declined sharply toward the end of August, with the most recent observation shown in the report at 17.3°C, providing some short-term relief from acute thermal stress. The cooler conditions are beneficial; however, continued low streamflows mean that aquatic systems remain vulnerable should another period of sustained warm weather occur.

## Groundwater

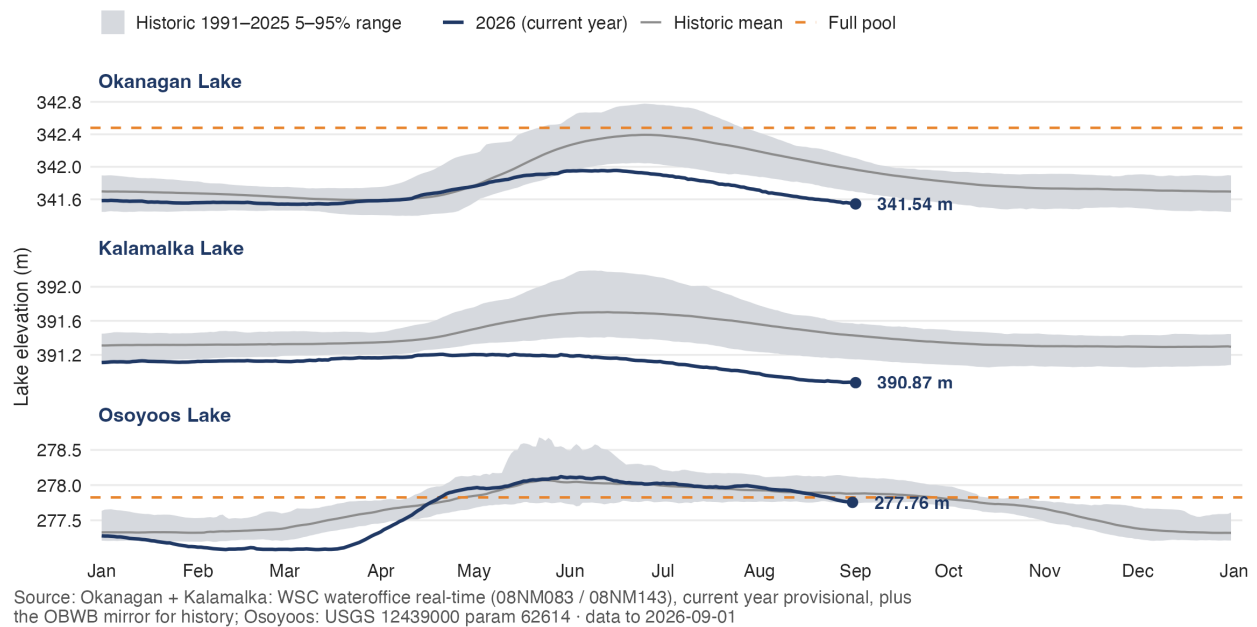


Source: BC Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network (PGOWN) daily means; fixed 29-well roster and aquifer class per the WSCOP reporting standard. Years in brackets = how many years of the same season stand behind that well's percentile; a well with only a few is weakly constrained, and one commissioned during this drought has only dry years to compare against, so it cannot read as dry - data to 2026-09-01

**Figure 6.** Groundwater levels measured on Sept. 1, 2026, at provincial observation wells in the Okanagan, expressed as historical percentiles and grouped by aquifer type. Data source: B.C. Provincial Groundwater Observation Well Network.

Groundwater monitoring indicates widespread stress across the region. Most of the observation wells shown in the report are below their historical median for this time of year, with numerous wells in unconfined, confined and bedrock aquifers falling within the lowest historical percentile ranges. Bedrock wells are particularly notable, with most observations concentrated near or below the 10th percentile, while only a small number of monitored wells, primarily in unconfined aquifers, remain near or above normal. The broad distribution of low groundwater levels indicates that drought impacts are not limited to surface-water systems and may also affect groundwater-dependent water supplies and groundwater contributions to stream baseflow.

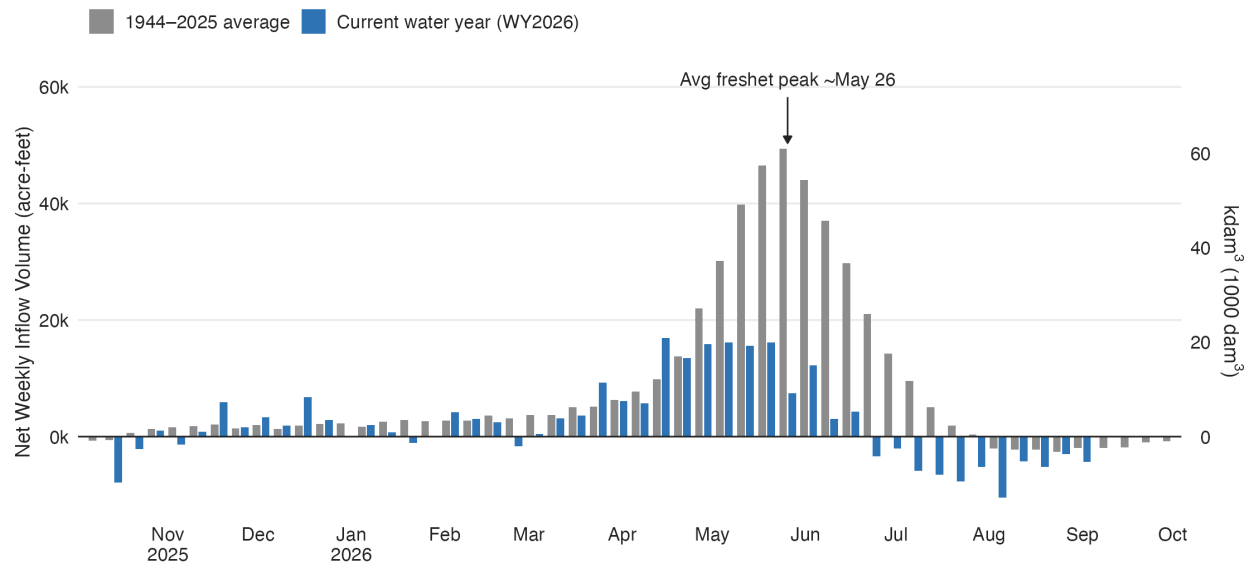
## Lake Levels



**Figure 7.** 2026 water levels in Okanagan, Kalamalka and Osoyoos lakes plotted against their historical ranges to show current lake elevations in seasonal context. Data source: Water Survey of Canada.

Mainstem lake levels remain extremely low for this time of year. As of Sept. 1, 2026, Okanagan Lake was approximately 341.54 m, Kalamalka Lake 390.87 m and Osoyoos Lake 277.76 m. Kalamalka Lake is at the lowest level recorded since the installation of the control structures – so low that water is no longer able to flow into Vernon Creek, a condition known as ‘dead pooling’. Okanagan Lake is at a historic low for this time of year. The low levels in Okanagan and Kalamalka lakes reflect both the limited water carried into the system by the 2026 freshet and continued summer losses, leaving less stored water available entering the fall and winter recharge period.

## Net Inflow



Source: okanaganwatersupply.com (ok-waterconditions), WSC/ECCC gauges 08NM083 + 08NM050 · data to 2026-09-01

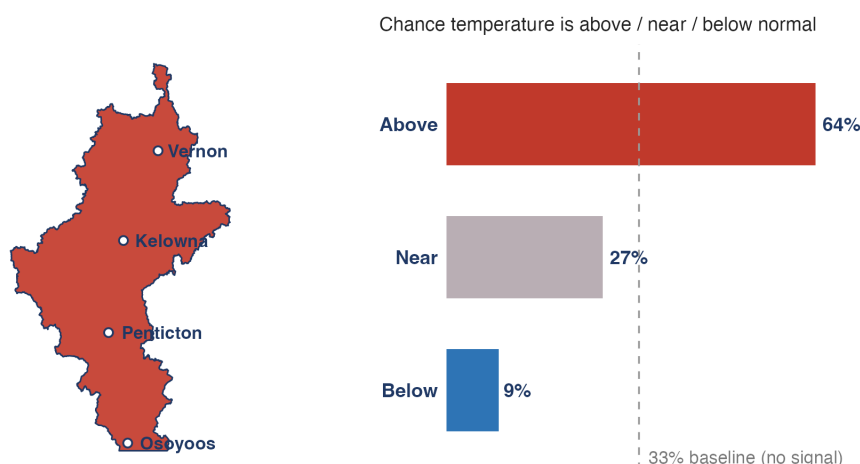
**Figure 8.** Weekly net inflow to Okanagan Lake during 2026 compared with the historical weekly average, illustrating the timing and magnitude of water entering and leaving the lake system. Data source: WSC and ECCC.

Net inflow provides one of the clearest indications of the magnitude of the 2026 water-supply deficit. The spring freshet was less than half of normal, peaking and ending very early. Weekly net inflow during the late-May period reached only roughly 15,000–17,000 acre-feet, compared with an average freshet peak approaching 50,000 acre-feet per week. Net inflows turned negative and the lake level started dropping by the end of June. In an average year, net inflows turn negative in August. The magnitude of lake drawdown was significantly greater than average.

## Forecast

### Seasonal Temperature Outlook — Okanagan Basin

September–October–November 2026 · 64% chance warmer than normal



Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada, CanSIPS 100 km seasonal forecast, issued September 2026 (MSC datamart), vs the model's own climatology; mean of the 4 grid cells over the basin · data to 2026-09-01 · MODEL OUTPUT, NOT OBSERVED DATA — the only forecast in this brief

**Figure 9.** Environment and Climate Change Canada's probabilistic seasonal temperature outlook for September through November 2026, showing the likelihood of below-normal, near-normal and above-normal temperatures across Canada. Data source: Environment and Climate Change Canada.

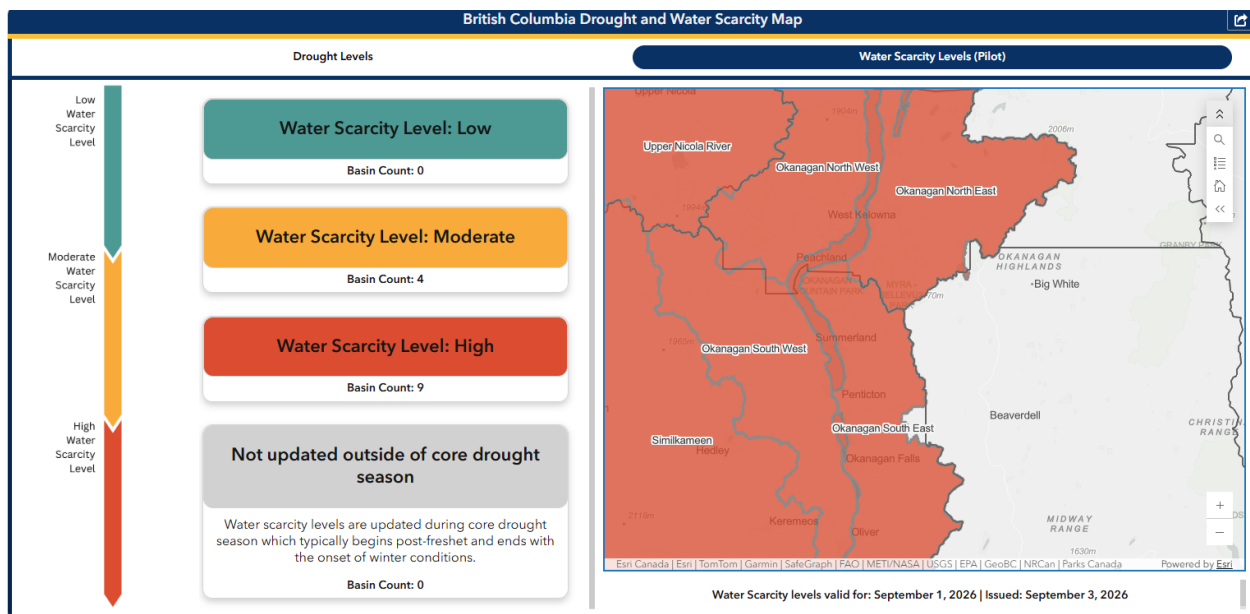
The seasonal temperature outlook does not indicate significant relief from drought pressure. Environment and Climate Change Canada's September–October–November outlook shows a 64% probability of above-normal temperatures for the Okanagan, compared with a 27% probability of near-normal and only a 9% probability of below-normal temperatures. Warmer fall temperatures can prolong evapotranspiration and outdoor water demand and may delay the seasonal reduction in water losses normally associated with cooler autumn conditions. Substantial and sustained precipitation would therefore be required to materially improve the basin's hydrologic position heading into winter.

### *El Niño Outlook*

El Niño develops as sea-surface temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific become warmer than normal, altering atmospheric circulation and influencing weather patterns across North America. ECCC notes that El Niño's strongest and most consistent effects in Canada generally occur during winter and spring. However, the Government of Canada's summer drought outlook specifically identified the developing El Niño as increasing confidence in a warmer and drier seasonal pattern across much of British Columbia, with southern B.C. among the areas showing the strongest signal for above-normal temperatures and elevated risk of drought intensification. For the Okanagan, the developing El Niño therefore adds to concern that existing precipitation deficits, low streamflows and depleted water storage could persist into the fall in the absence of substantial precipitation.

## Water Scarcity Index

The Okanagan Water Scarcity Index is currently set at High (Sept. 3) for all five sub-basin regions. Unlike the provincial drought level, which describes how dry current hydrologic conditions are relative to historical conditions, the water-scarcity assessment considers the risk that available water will be insufficient to meet human and ecosystem needs. The Okanagan Water Scarcity Index was co-developed between the Syilx Okanagan Nation and the Province of British Columbia through their *nx̓w̓ʔulaʔx̓w̓* Management Committee. The pilot launched on July 30, 2026 and splits the Okanagan into five regions as shown in the figure below.



**Figure 10.** Water-scarcity classifications on Sept. 3, 2026, for the five Okanagan sub-basin regions under the Okanagan Water Scarcity Index. Data source: Province of British Columbia and Syilx Okanagan Nation, through the *nx̓w̓ʔulaʔx̓w̓* Management Committee.

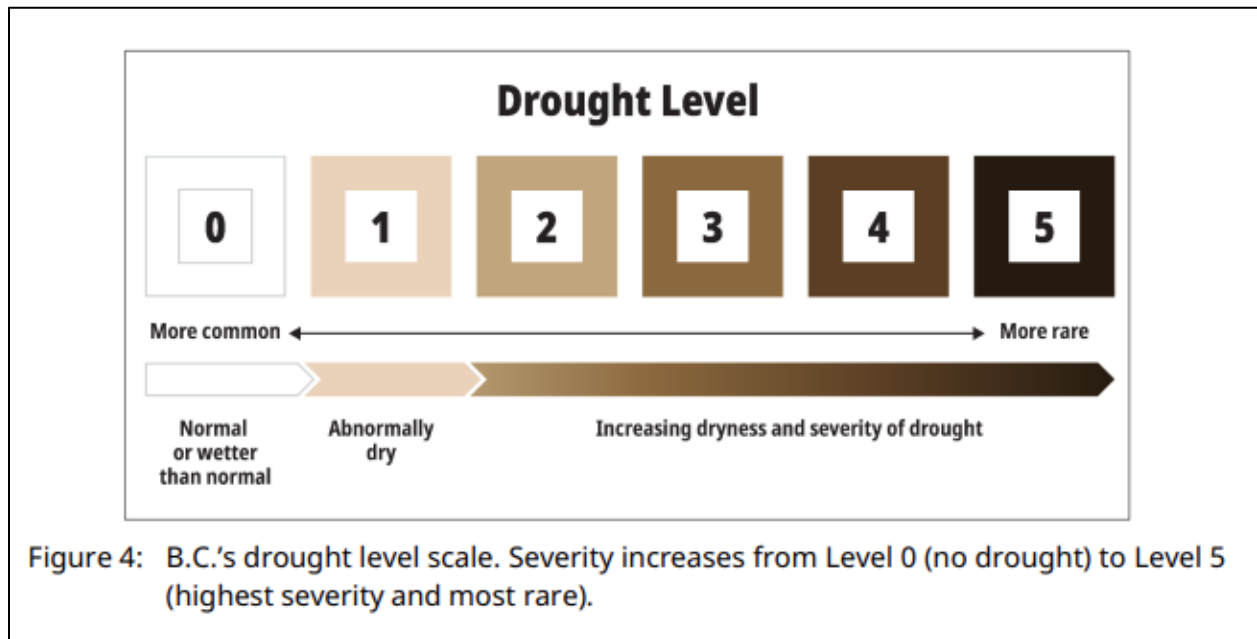
Per the BC Drought Portal website: “The scale at which water scarcity levels are set is typically smaller than the scale at which drought levels are set. Monitoring and analysis for water scarcity levels is based on local watershed data and knowledge. This may include local streamflow measurements on priority systems, Indigenous and cultural knowledge, known recurring risks, and other considerations.

Water scarcity levels are associated with recommended management actions. These actions may include information sharing, targeted requests for voluntary water conservation or recommendations to relevant authorities for additional mitigation measures. Water scarcity levels do not trigger regulatory actions. Their intent is to raise awareness early and encourage voluntary action to prevent water scarcity from occurring or worsening.”

## Provincial Drought Index

The Okanagan Drought Index is currently set at 4 (Sept. 3, 2026).

Per the 2026 BC Drought and Water Scarcity Operations Plan:



**Figure 11.** Explanation of B.C. Drought Levels from the 2026 B.C. Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan (page 21).

“Drought levels measure a natural hazard; they are not direct measures of water scarcity, impacts, or response triggers. They help inform (but do not determine) water scarcity risk and response decisions. See Section 4.2 for more on water scarcity monitoring and risk assessment. A summary of what drought levels do and do not describe is provided in Table 4 to clarify the scope and limitations of the drought-level framework.”

**Table 4: At-a-glance scope of drought levels.**

| They describe                                          | They do not describe                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meteorological/hydrological dryness                    | Ecosystem, social or economic impacts                         |
| Relative frequency (rarity) of dryness                 | Whether specific response actions should be taken             |
| Current conditions on the assessment date              | Outlooks or forecasts                                         |
| Broad conditions and trends at the drought basin scale | Localized conditions on small tributaries or specific systems |

**Figure 12.** Excerpt of Table 4 from the 2026 B.C. Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan, outlining what drought levels describe and do not describe.

This is contrasted with the 2023 version of the same document, The 2023 BC Drought and Water Scarcity Response Plan:

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Level 0: Green</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | At Level 0, conditions are average or wetter than average. Emphasis is on preparedness, taking proactive actions in advance of potential droughts to increase readiness of water users and communities where drought may occur.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Level 1: Yellow</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | At Level 1, conditions are starting to become dry and the likelihood for adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values is rare. Emphasis is on stewardship, voluntary conservation through education, communication and planning, and investigating unauthorized water uses.                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Level 2: Peach</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | At Level 2, conditions are becoming very dry. Potential adverse impacts to ecosystem or socio-economic values are unlikely. Emphasis continues to be on voluntary conservation and restricting or curtailing unauthorized use. Water suppliers may consider invoking water restrictions where appropriate. If serious impacts are occurring in an area, the provincial government may begin considering regulatory action. |
| <b>Level 3: Orange</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | At Level 3, conditions are becoming severely dry. Potentially serious ecosystem or socio-economic impacts are possible in some circumstances. All unauthorized use should be curtailed. Water suppliers are much more likely to impose watering restrictions, and data collection for regulatory action by the provincial government may start to occur.                                                                   |
| <b>Level 4: Red</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | At Level 4, conditions are extremely dry and adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are likely. Voluntary measures and increasing use of watering restrictions will continue and may be augmented by regulatory action by the provincial government where necessary to reduce water user conflicts or protect the environment.                                                                              |
| <b>Level 5: Maroon</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | At Level 5, conditions are exceptionally dry and adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are almost certain. All efforts should be made to conserve water and protect critical environmental flows.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Further action including emergency responses may be required in the event that a community or system experiences complete loss or near loss of supply. More information can be found in the regional drought plans and in the document; <a href="#">Dealing with Drought: A Handbook for Water Suppliers in B.C.</a> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <i>Table 2: B.C.'s Drought Response Levels</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| April 2023                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Page 18 of 54                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Figure 13.** Excerpt of Table 2 from the B.C. Drought Response Plan, describing the six provincial drought levels and associated response actions.

## Okanagan Drought and Water Scarcity Levels Through 2026

| Date   | Drought Level | Okanagan Water Scarcity Level |                     |                     |                     |                     |
|--------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|        |               | Okanagan Mainstem             | Okanagan North West | Okanagan North East | Okanagan South West | Okanagan South East |
| May 28 | 5             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jun 4  | 4             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jun 11 | 3             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jun 18 | 4             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jun 25 | 4             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jul 2  | 4             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jul 9  | 4             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jul 16 | 4             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jul 23 | 4             | -                             | -                   | -                   | -                   | -                   |
| Jul 30 | 5             | HIGH                          | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                |
| Aug 6  | 5             | HIGH                          | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                |
| Aug 13 | 5             | HIGH                          | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                |
| Aug 20 | 5             | HIGH                          | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                |
| Aug 27 | 5             | HIGH                          | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                |
| Sep 3  | 4             | HIGH                          | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                | HIGH                |

**Table 1.** Progression of Provincial Drought Levels and Okanagan Water Scarcity Levels Through the 2026 Drought Season. Data from BC Drought Portal, exported on Sept. 3, 2026.



## **2027 Draft OBWB Meeting Schedule**

| <b>Date</b>                   | <b>Location</b>                  | <b>Notes</b>                                                                |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2027         | No Meeting                       | Winter Break - avoiding conflicts with holiday schedules                    |
| Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2027         | RDCO                             | Regular Meeting – Board Directors orientation                               |
| Tuesday, March 2, 2027        | RDNO                             | Regular Meeting                                                             |
| Tuesday, April 6, 2027        | RDOS                             | WCQI grant approvals                                                        |
| <b>Friday, May 7, 2027</b>    | <b>Kelowna,<br/>Manteo Hotel</b> | <b>Water Management Program 20<sup>th</sup><br/>Anniversary Celebration</b> |
| Tuesday, June 1, 2027         | RDOS                             | Regular Meeting                                                             |
| Tuesday, July 6, 2027         | RDNO                             | Regular Meeting                                                             |
| Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2027         | No Meeting                       | Summer break – avoiding day after BC Day Stat                               |
| <b>Tuesday, Sept. 7, 2027</b> | <b>RDCO</b>                      | <b>Joint OBWB/Water Stewardship Council<br/>Meeting</b>                     |
| Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2027         | RDNO                             | Regular Meeting                                                             |
| Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2027         | RDOS                             | Adopt 2028-29 Budget. Approve 2028 Meeting Schedule                         |
| Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2027         | RDCO                             | Regular Meeting                                                             |

Drafted Sept. 3, 2026

Recommended motion:

**“THAT** the Board approve the 2027 meeting schedule as presented.”