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November Water Board Report

Highlights from the Nov. 4, 2025 Meeting of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, held online.

OBWB Celebrates \$200K Federal Investment in Algal Bloom Monitoring:

The City of Kelowna has been awarded funding through Environment and Climate Change Canada's EcoAction Stream 2 program for a new

regional project focused on monitoring and forecasting harmful algal blooms. OBWB will be a key partner in developing this regional early-warning system aimed to enhance drinking water safety and climate resilience through coordinated monitoring, predictive tools, and collaborative data sharing across the Okanagan Basin.



2026 WCQI Grant Theme Prioritizes Innovation in Water Supply and Quality:

The Water Board approved "Innovation in Water Supply, Quality, and Quantity" as the 2026–27 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) grant theme; encouraging creative, science-based solutions to emerging water challenges. The theme supports regional efforts to address climate-driven hydrologic shifts, contaminants, and infrastructure planning. This year, the call for applications will go out on Nov. 12, 2025, with the application deadline set for Feb. 20, 2026.



Okanagan Ends 2025 Season in

Drought: As fall began and overnight temperatures dropped, the Okanagan remained in drought level 3. The region was briefly raised to level 4 at the beginning of October but was subsequently downgraded and remained at level 3, until dropping to level 2 at the very end of the month as precipitation

increased. 2025 marks the third consecutive year the Okanagan was in drought, signaling a concerning trend for the region. This year was the first year with the new provincial system for assessing drought levels, and both OBWB and Okanagan Nation Alliance have raised concerns over the new method.

Learn more about Provincial Drought Levels:

[Visit the Provincial Drought Portal - click here.](#)

Make Water Work Contest Closes:

The 2025 Make Water Work Pledge contest ended in October with a record-breaking 686 pledges, surpassing the previous high of 677 in 2020. After the Town of Osoyoos was announced as the Make Water Work Community Champion in September, two individual winners in the Okanagan were randomly drawn to receive a \$500 gift cards towards a WaterWise yard upgrade. The two winners will be announced this winter.



OBWB Approves Budget: Directors approved the 2026–27 budget, which includes a two per cent increase to account for inflation. The budget allows for the continued delivery of core programs such as invasive mussel monitoring and prevention outreach, the hydrometric (streamflow monitoring) program, and the Make Water Work campaign, as well as other priority projects.

Want to support our goal to educate residents on water in the Okanagan? Follow us on social media, like and share our content and leave us a comment — your engagement helps us reach more people.



[Go to OBWB.ca](https://www.obwb.ca)

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Okanagan Basin
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