

Debbie Schulz

From: Debbie Schulz
Sent: August 24, 2022 11:32 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Our Water Crisis - documentary and plea

From: Info E-Box <info@rdos.bc.ca>
Sent: August 24, 2022 9:20 AM
To: Debbie Schulz <dschulz@rdos.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Our Water Crisis - documentary and plea

From: Anna Warwick Sears <anna.warwick.sears@obwb.ca>
Sent: August 23, 2022 3:54 PM
To:
Subject: RE: Our Water Crisis - documentary and plea

Dear Ms. Goldman,

I appreciate your care and concern about the Okanagan's water supply. We are working closely with all the Okanagan communities, and with provincial ministries, to prepare for climate change and become more climate resilient. The Okanagan has a highly-variable water supply, from year-to-year, and within years. For example, in 2017 we had record-breaking rains, followed by a record-breaking dry spell. Please be assured that we are closely monitoring the water sources in the valley, and that we are also undertaking a variety of climate modeling studies to better project what the range of conditions will be in the future. In particular, we are concerned about the infrastructure of the Okanagan Lake Regulation System and operating plan that controls Okanagan Lake levels (for more information see here: <https://www.obwb.ca/lakelevelmanagement/>).

We are expanding the network of streamflow monitoring stations, and groundwater monitoring stations in the valley, working closely with the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Ministry of Forests. Please let me know if you would like more information about these data. They are available on the web, but some of the web-interfaces are complicated.

With respect to water conservation bylaws, many communities already have these in place, and watering restrictions are triggered by reservoir or lake levels, or groundwater supplies, depending on the water source used by each purveyor. As water levels fall, the restrictions become tighter, limiting the amount that is withdrawn and used. Please be assured that the basic drought plans are in place for most communities. However, as you suggest, droughts are likely to become deeper and more frequent over time, and we will likely need to do more to become more climate resilient, valley-wide. This will take a lot of community support and outreach to the public, and we appreciate that you are reaching out to your network.

If you can, please share our Make Water Work campaign information, encouraging the public to conserve water with their landscaping (for more information see here: <https://www.makewaterwork.ca/>). For more information on drought-tolerant landscaping, I recommend the Okanagan Xeriscaping Association (for more information see here: <https://okanaganxeriscape.org/>).

Please let me know if you have further questions. We have a very large number of resources, depending on your specific interests.

Anna

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From: L Goldman
Sent: August 22, 2022 9:09 AM
To:

Subject: Our Water Crisis - documentary and plea

Dear mayors, councils, OBWB members, elected leaders, and water protectors,

I have a deep fear that we in the Okanagan are not taking the water situation seriously enough in the face of severe climate crisis. The Okanagan Basin is an incredibly sensitive area and people waste water daily on lawns, pools, and more without a thought to how precious our water resource really is. And what a great risk we face.

The OBWB has a critical role in the health, safety, and security of our people, species, and wildlife. And our future.

The power of the Board is vast and important, and it must take stronger and bolder action to preserve our water and legislate rules that force people to conserve. Each community has to pass bylaws regarding water usage that are much stricter than what are now in place. What cities and farms are doing now is not sustainable for much longer. Drought will come here like in the US and Europe and it will be dire.

Germany, the USA, Saskatchewan, Africa, and Asia are experiencing severe water shortages or complete depletion. To pretend that all is well in BC and especially in the OK Valley is dangerous and naive and leaves us totally vulnerable. In California, the ground water is disappearing at 7X the rate that surface water, like Lake Powell or Okanagan Lake, is. So levels in Greyback and Okanagan Lakes are not the whole picture of the water situation. In Germany, the groundwater levels have dropped many meters in a decade. Water in testing stations dropped 4 cm in a week and 1.5 m in a year. Since 2012, the groundwater level dropped 13 m.

Does that OBWB have plans to deal with the impending emergency? Perhaps the Board is already working on a strategy to implement stringent policies to protect water.

The Bavarian Environment Minister when viewing NASA graphs on water said, "For a very long time, everything seems fine. But when changes become tangible, it is already too later. Unless we take action at some point, water will stop flowing." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MZFrJPPIQ8>

In many countries, the distribution battles for precious water reserves have already begun. In Mendocino, California, there is no longer enough water to flush the toilets. And in Germany, regional drinking water supplies collapse in hot weather. Groundwater levels have dropped to record lows in many places. Will we still have enough drinking water in the future? What happens when our water disappears?

As a local resident and global citizen, I plead with you to move with alacrity on protecting the most essential resource in the OK Valley. We don't have time to waste!

Limlømt

Lori Goldman

Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.

[Ban Ki-moon](#)