



Corporate Services

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January 31, 2020

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Dear SILGA Executive Director:

Re: 2020 SILGA Community Excellence Awards – Okanagan Flood Collaboration Project
Category: Environmental Sustainability

The Regional District of Central Okanagan respectfully submits its Okanagan Flood Collaboration project to the 2020 SILGA Community Excellence Awards under the Environmental Sustainability category.

Following the dramatic flooding in 2017, there was a desire by Okanagan local governments, First Nations, and the Province of BC to undertake risk assessments and flood mapping, and make the Okanagan more resilient to extreme precipitation. In partnership with the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB), in 2018 the Regional District of Central Okanagan formed a collaborative multi-stakeholder committee (Okanagan Flood Mapping Project Coordination Committee) to engage stakeholders involved in Okanagan flood risk assessments, mapping and mitigation planning.

The RDCO's main responsibility with the Committee has been to coordinate and inform. In collaboration with OBWB, regular emails are distributed which outline the status of major projects, upcoming flood funding opportunities, and project coordination meetings. Meetings are jointly organized with OBWB while RDCO manages the Committee contact list, meeting invitations, and attendance.

In addition to OBWB and RDCO, the Committee is comprised of staff from:

- City of Armstrong
- City of Vernon
- Village of Lumby
- District of Coldstream
- City of West Kelowna
- District of Lake Country
- City of Kelowna
- District of Peachland
- District of Summerland
- Town of Osoyoos
- Okanagan Indian Band
- Westbank First Nation
- Osoyoos Indian Band,
- Penticton Indian Band
- Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program
- Regional District of North Okanagan
- Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
- City of Penticton

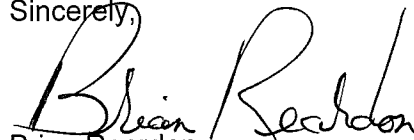
The Province, represented by Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development plus Emergency Management BC, has also been included as external participants.

Beneficial outcomes of this project include the following:

- Strengthen the foundation of regional and provincial knowledge-sharing and consistency.
- Staff resources have been leveraged and efficiencies realized.
- Collaborative projects have been initiated, such as:
 - LiDAR and Aerial Image Acquisition for the Okanagan Valley Watershed: With multiple funding partners, OBWB and GeoBC teamed up to manage the capture of LiDAR and digital aerial imagery for the Okanagan watershed.
 - Okanagan Mainstem Flood Mapping: A joint project with RDCO, OBWB, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen and Regional District of North Okanagan for flood modeling and mapping for the Okanagan mainstem lakes shorelines and reaches of the Okanagan river.

The Regional District of Central Okanagan is proud of our region's ongoing accomplishment; the Okanagan Flood Collaboration is a fantastic project to share with SILGA's members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Reardon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Reardon

Chief Administrative Officer