

Debbie Schulz

From: Info E-Box
Sent: August 22, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Debbie Schulz
Subject: FW: Our Water Crisis - documentary and plea

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