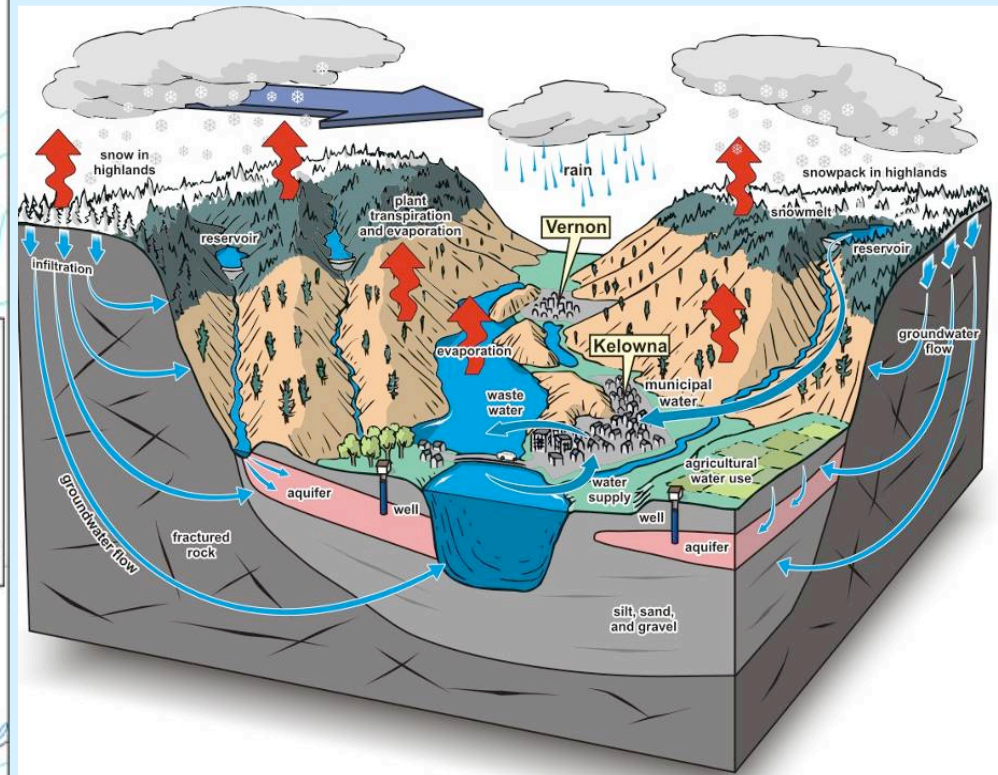
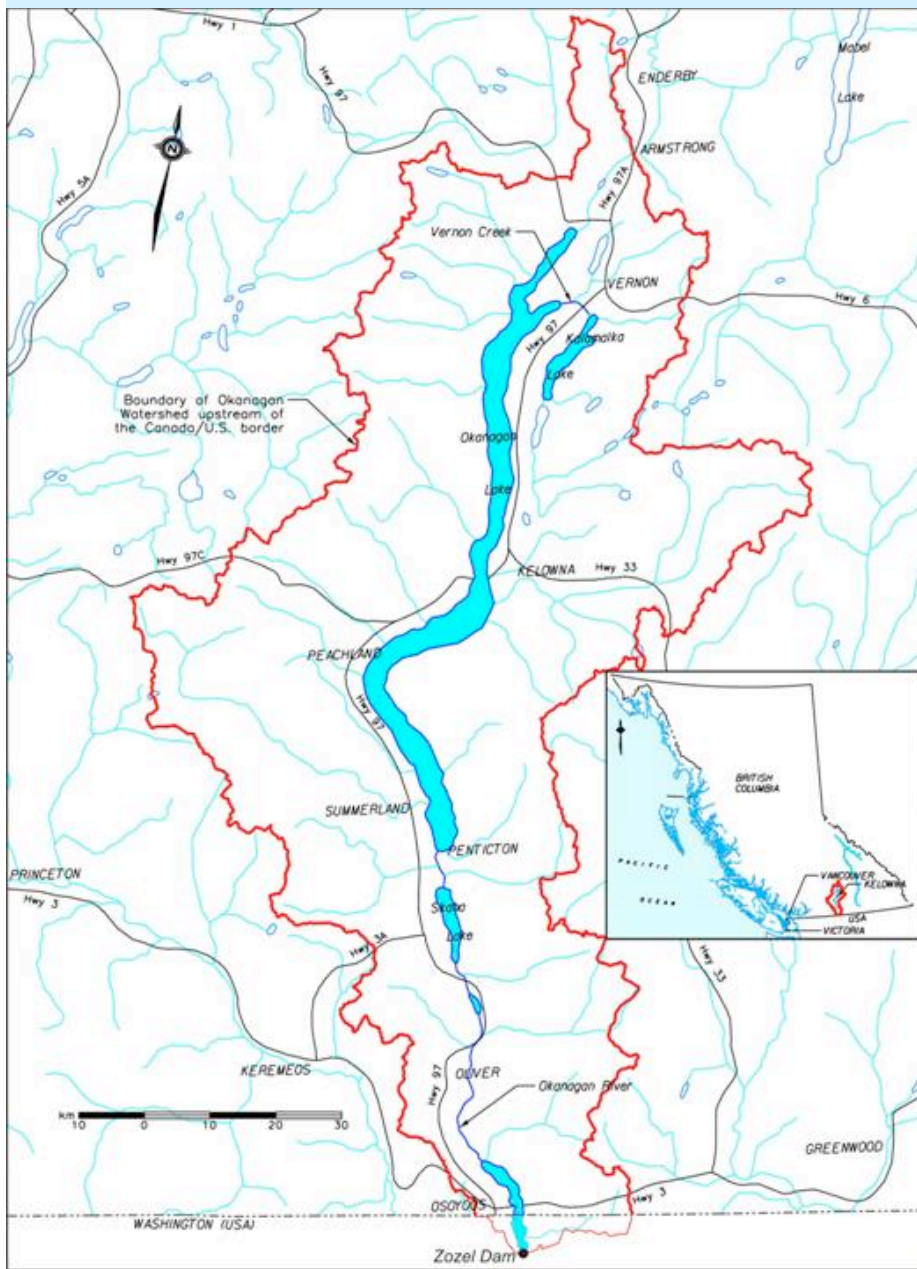


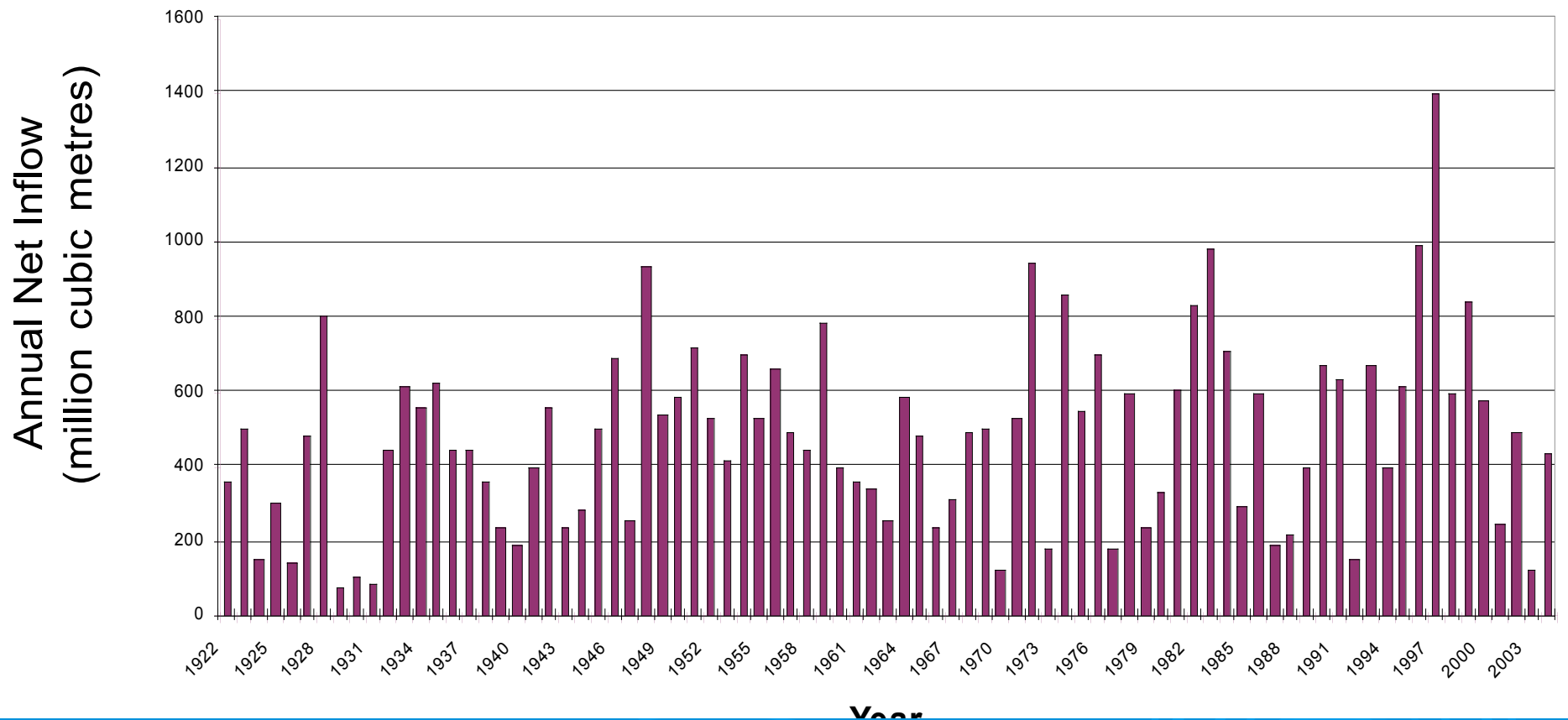
Transitioning from Planning to Implementation in the Okanagan *A Case Study*



Okanagan watershed

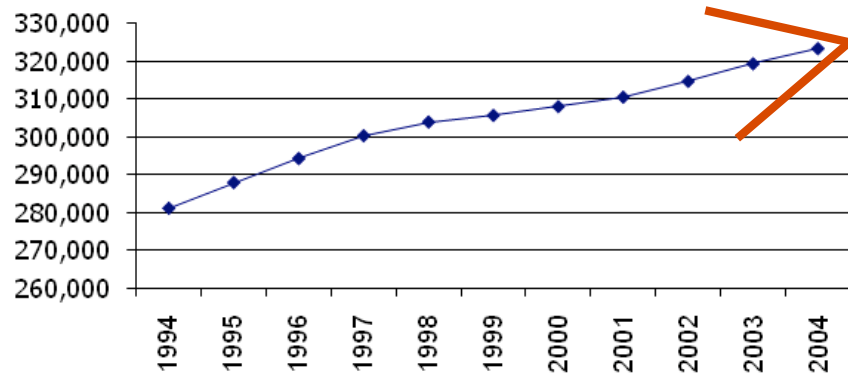


Okanagan Lake - Annual Net Inflow Volume (1921-2004)



Rapid population growth and rapid economic development

**Population Growth in Okanagan
(1994 - 2004)**



Climate Change: *less supply, more demand*

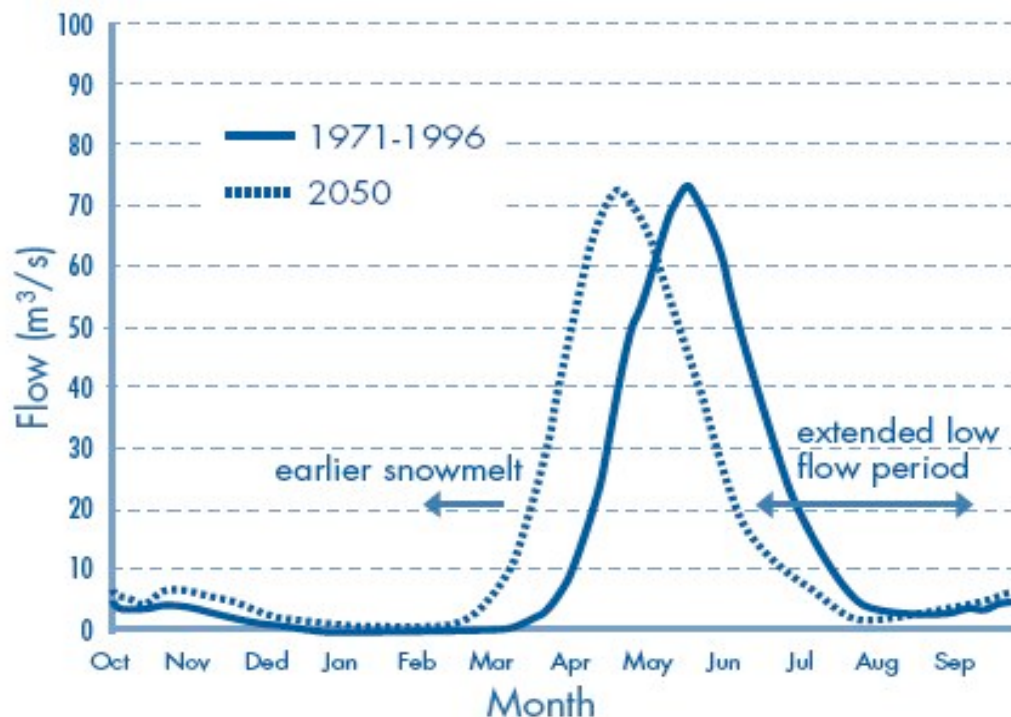


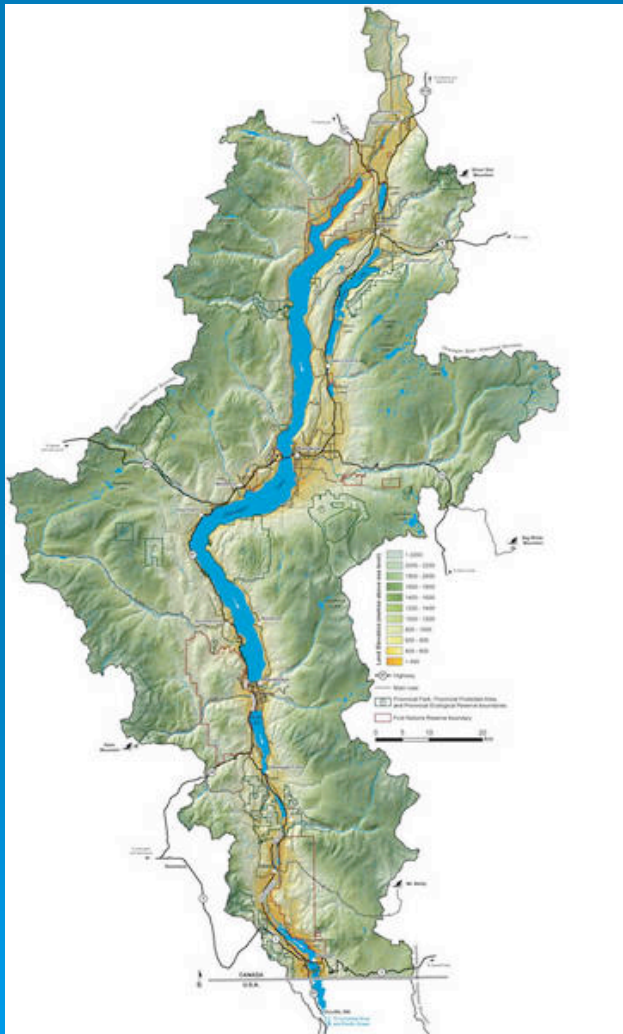
Figure 1-16
Past and projected water flows in Whiteman Creek, which enters Okanagan Lake near Vernon. (adapted from Cohen & Kulkarni, 2001)

- More rain
- Less snow
- Earlier melt
- Hotter summers
- More evaporation

What's a
watershed to
do?



OBWB History and Structure




- Established by Province in 1970 as regional district joint function
- Boundaries follow the watershed
- Directors from 3 Okanagan RDs
- Coordinating authority for Okanagan Basin Study
- Supported by property taxes – mechanism for sharing resources

Original OBWB Purpose

- OBWB established for watershed leadership
 - Organize and receive proposals
 - Define problems and priorities
 - Provide communication and coordination
 - Present proposals and recommendations
 - Participate financially in projects on behalf of local governments
- Mandate not fully adopted until 2006
- Two Programs (1970-2006): Sewage treatment & Milfoil Control

Sewage Grant Program

- 
- Initiated to stop sewage pollution and algae blooms
 - Funds sewage treatment and sewer infrastructure
 - Water quality has much improved

Eurasian Watermilfoil Program

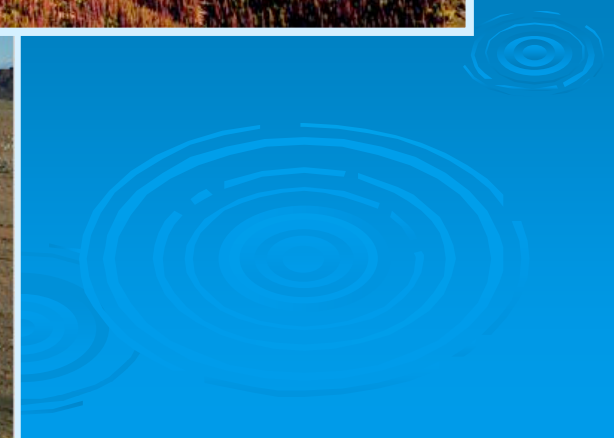


- Invasive aquatic weed along shallow lakeshore
- obstructs boating & swimming
- Management not eradication

30+ Years of Status Quo

- Great vehicle – terrific mechanism
- No drivers (lack of political will)

Enter the new millennium

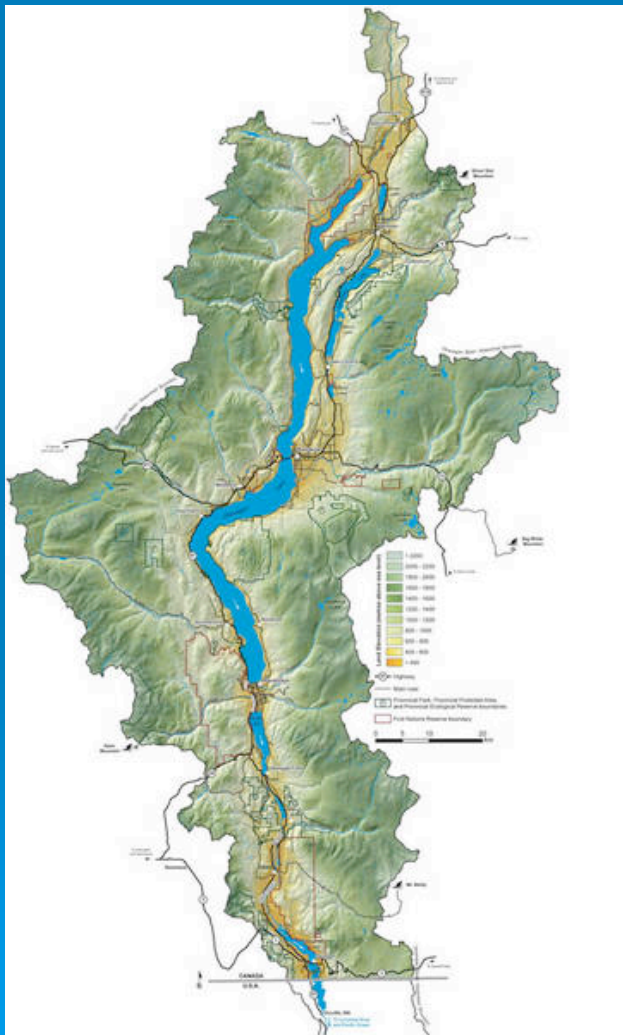


Partners pushing through inertia

— convinced local government to act

- Local business groups
 - Environmental community
 - Academic researchers
 - Senior government staff
 - Key local leaders
-
- Key ingredients: base funding & agreement on the problem

OBWB New Structure



- Refreshing the original mandate
- 3 New Directors from ONA, WSABC, OWSC
- Okanagan Water Stewardship Council – advisory to OBWB
- Model for multi-level collaborative governance in BC

Re-framing Strategic Role

- *“... to provide leadership to protect and enhance quality of life in the Okanagan Basin through sustainable water resource management”*
- Bridges interests of all Okanagan jurisdictions
- Okanagan voice to senior government
- Get information to decision makers
- Focus on actions with valley-wide benefits:
“Everyone contributes, everyone benefits”

Making the most of Resources



- Property taxes still provide base funds
 - Costs shared by three regional districts
- Focus on long-term value and basin-scale problems
- Leverage base funds with external grants & in-kind partnerships
- Many partners – direct & indirect
 - ONA, MOE, MCD, MAL, IH, Ag & Environment Canada, Real Estate Foundation, Vancouver Foundation, etc...

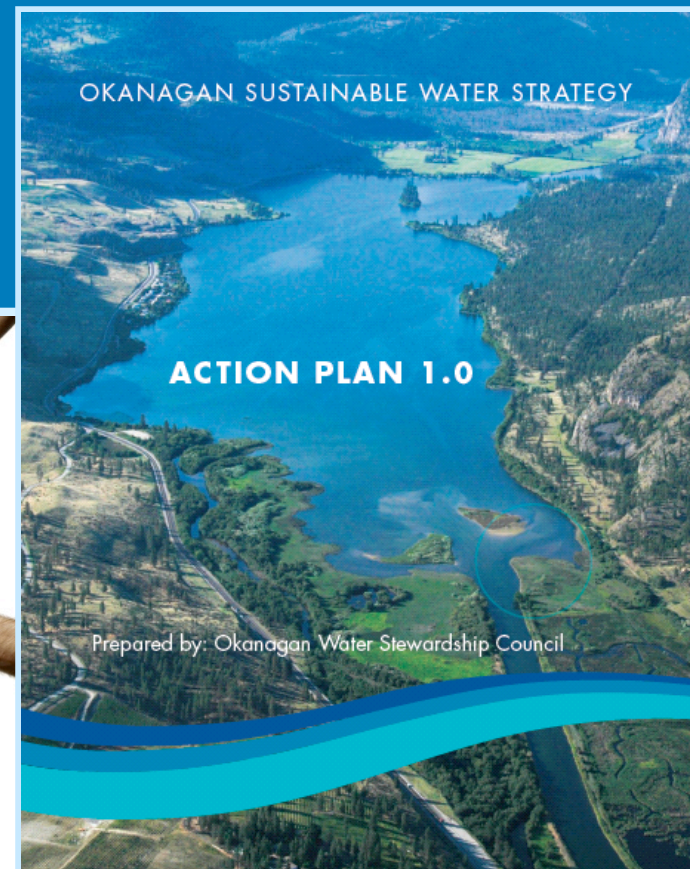
New Emphasis: *Water Management*

- Is our water over-allocated?
- How do we protect groundwater?
- How will we share during shortages?
- How do we reduce risks to water quality?
- How can local government protect water sources?
- How can we become more water efficient?



Water Stewardship Council

- Forum for Stakeholder perspectives – Liaison TAC
- Recommendations from technical experts.
- 27 member organizations
- Sustainable Water Strategy
- Action Committees



Water Conservation & Quality Improvement Grants - \$300K/yr

Wetland Habitat Mapping



PROJECT UPDATE

Joe Rich Creek Channel Restoration



PROJECT UPDATE

Groundwater Protection Plan



PROJECT UPDATE

Farm Drought Risk Management



PROJECT UPDATE

Greater Vernon Services Hydrometric Monitoring Project



PROJECT UPDATE

Leak Detection Program



PROJECT UPDATE

SHIM Mapping project



PROJECT UPDATE

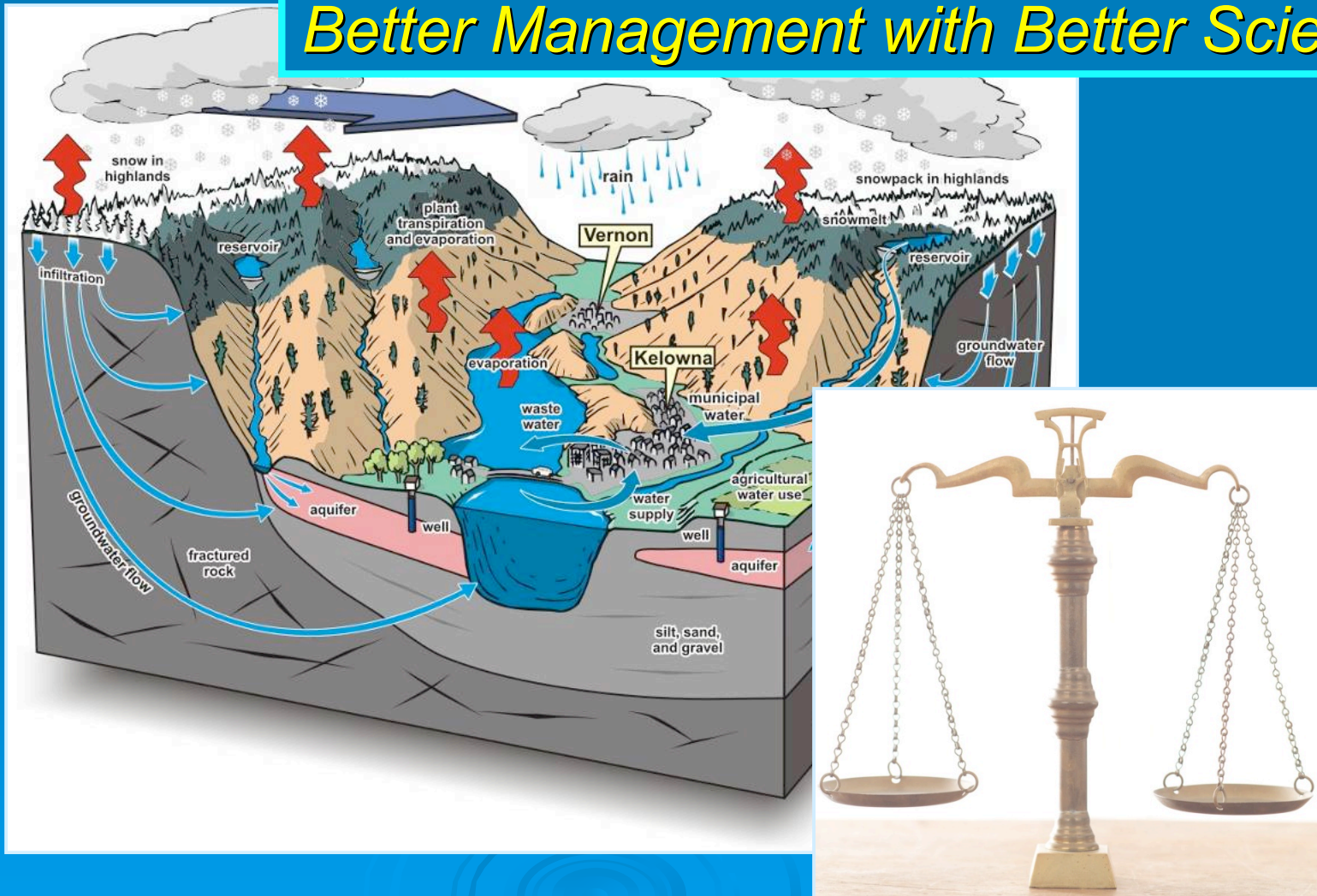
Low Flow Toilet Rebate



PROJECT UPDATE

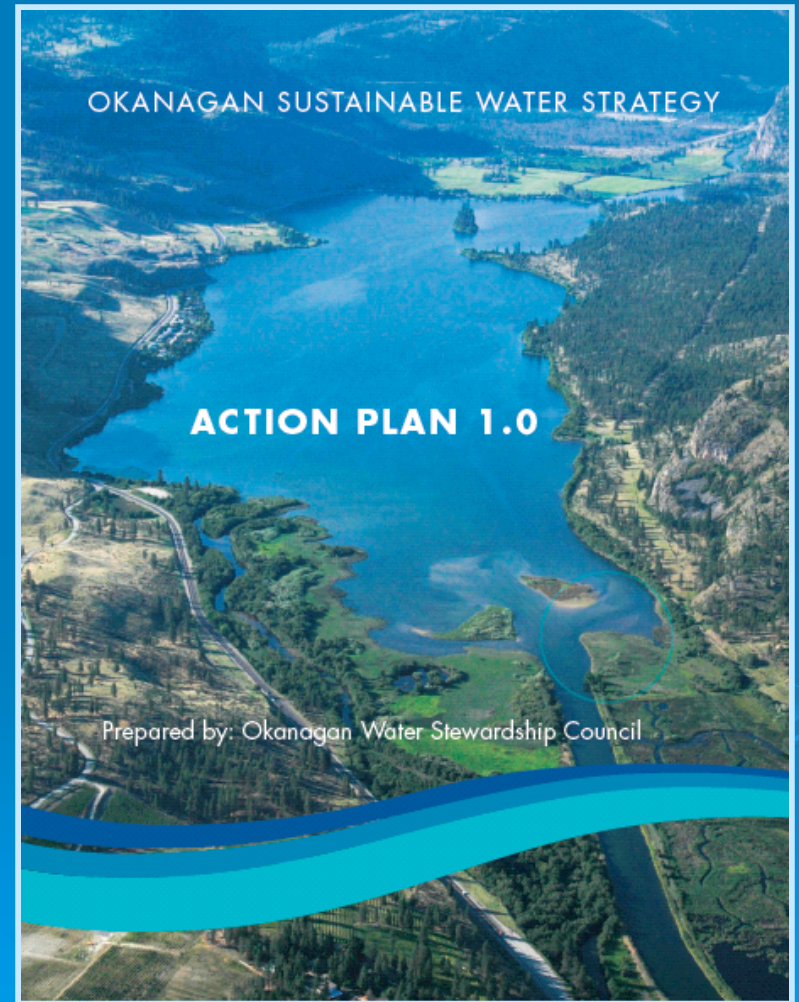
Water Supply & Demand Project

Better Management with Better Science



Water Management Projects

- Groundwater Bylaws Toolkit
- Groundwater Management Pilot
- Basin-wide Drought Planning
- Water Education & Outreach
- Water Source Protection
- Okanagan Water Database



Things We Have Learned

- Clearly articulate your vision
- Get agreement on common problem
- Build alliances across interests and political boundaries
 - the environment is non-partisan
 - We all want to leave a healthy place for our grandkids
- Think like a politician, like a salesman, like a rancher, like a Salmon

Focus on your goals, not your obstacles





Questions?

Contact Anna.Warwick.Sears@OBWB.CA
Website: www.obwb.ca