



RBC Blue Water Project Advisory Panel



Anna Warwick Sears
Executive Director, Okanagan Basin Water Board

Anna Warwick Sears is the Executive Director of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, a local government agency focused on water sustainability in the arid interior of British Columbia. She is responsible for a broad range of water planning, science and policy programs as well as aquatic weed management and environmental grant making.

Dr. Sears developed a comprehensive governance guide for the Board, and speaks and writes extensively about the practical application of watershed governance in B.C.

A dual U.S./Canadian citizen, Dr. Sears holds a PhD in population biology from the University of California - Davis, where she received a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to study competition for resources in arid environments. Before coming to the Okanagan in 2006, she was the Research Director of an environmental non-profit in Sonoma County, California, leading restoration and planning initiatives.

Along with a number of science publications, she co-authored the two-volume, “Enhancing and Caring for the Laguna.”

Dr. Sears is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee on BC Water Act Modernization for the Province of B.C. She co-chaired the multi-agency working group for the groundbreaking Okanagan Water Supply and Demand Project, which received a Premier’s Innovation Award in 2010 for its Agricultural Water Demand Model. Dr. Sears is also the incoming Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee for the University of B.C. – Okanagan’s Regional Innovation Chair in Water Resources and Ecosystem Management, and occasionally teaches classes on “Water Sustainability and the Political Process”.

Dr. Sears is particularly interested in using science to solve real-world problems and building bridges with community stakeholders. She is also passionate about mentoring graduate students and early career professionals – expanding the pool of water talent. In her free time, she likes to write and blog about B.C. water topics, and to explore the food and wine of the Okanagan valley. She lives in Kelowna.

