



Osoyoos International Watershed Board Feasibility Study

In 2025, the International Joint Commission (IJC) established a working group of local representatives and government officials to study the current status of water management in the Osoyoos Lake region. This working group is conducting a feasibility study to assess whether a new international watershed board could be beneficial for the region. Through conversations with organizations and people in the basin, the study will determine what benefits a new watershed board could provide and make recommendations on what a potential watershed board in the Osoyoos Lake region could look like and the issues it could help address.

Osoyoos Lake - (Adobe Stock Photo)

What are IJC International Watershed Boards?

International Watershed Boards (IWBs) are an approach to resolving transboundary water issues. They are grounded in the belief that local communities, given appropriate assistance, are best placed to achieve solutions. IWBs take a holistic approach, recognizing that ecosystems function as whole entities and should be managed as such; considering water quality, water quantity and aquatic ecosystem health and how they can interact and impact one another.

This more holistic approach ensures broad engagement and solutions that are tailored to meet local needs, while also reducing duplication by making the best use of existing resources. Watershed boards typically include local membership and Indigenous participation in addition to government agency representatives and technical experts.

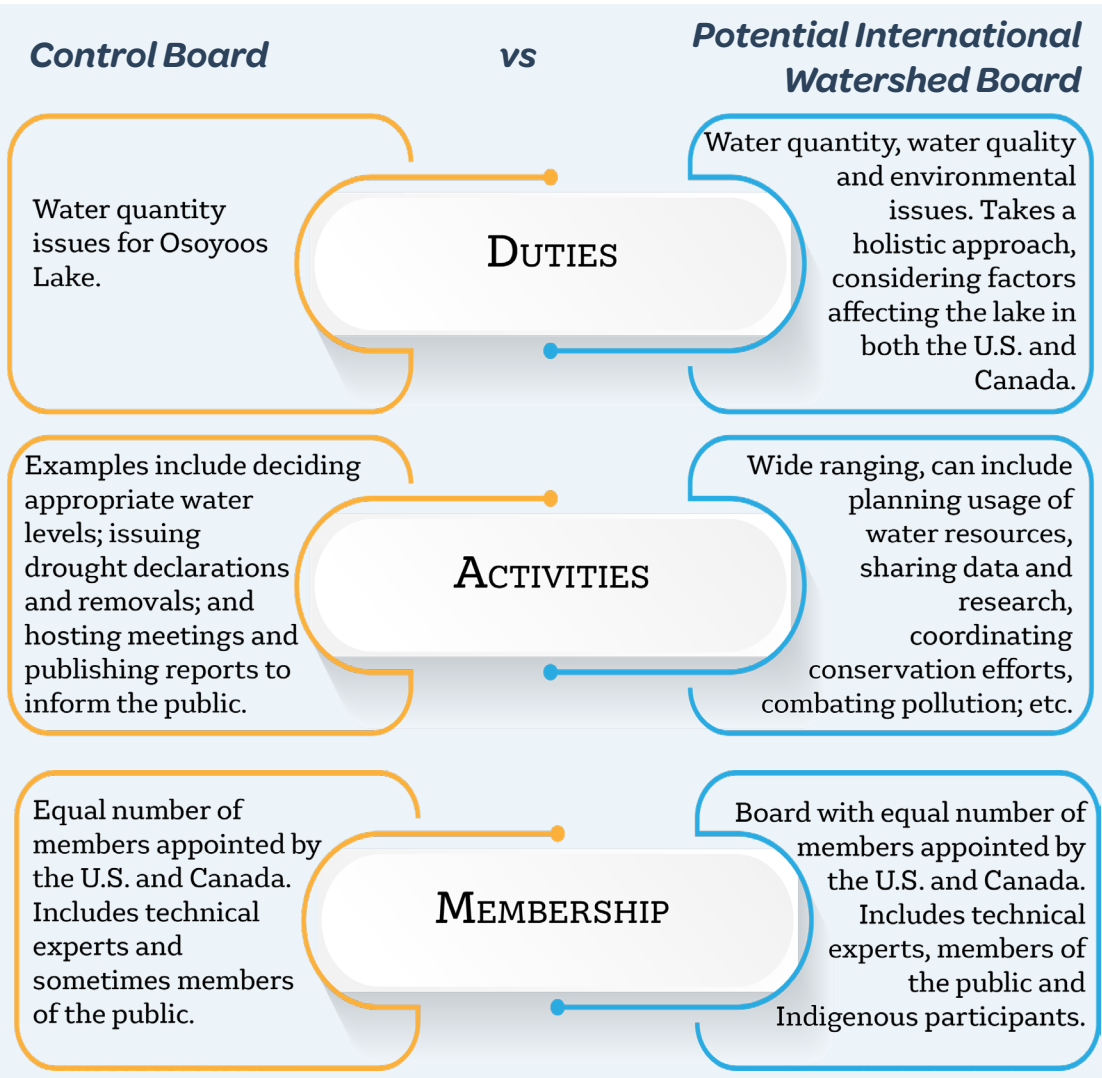
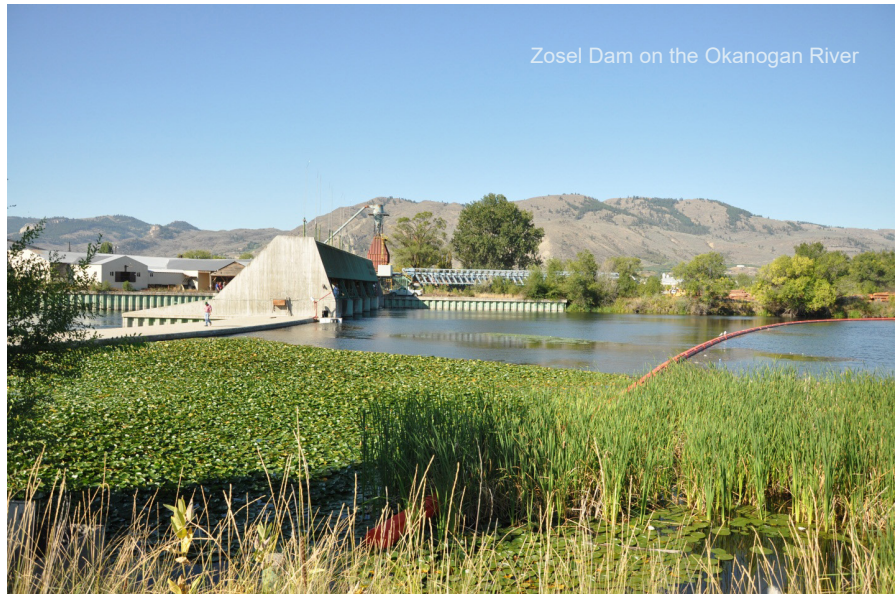


Osoyoos International Watershed Feasibility Study Timeline



The Current International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (IOLBC)

The International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control (IOLBC) was established in 1946 by an Order of Approval from the IJC, regulating the operation of Osoyoos Lake levels by Zosel Dam. The IOLBC's role is to ensure that all the conditions listed in the Order (and all supplemental Orders) are met. The IOLBC takes into account flows at different times of the year and drought conditions that may impact Okanag(o)an and Similkameen watersheds in its decision making for the operation of Zosel Dam. Learn more about the IOLBC at [International Osoyoos Lake Board of Control](http://InternationalOsoyoosLakeBoardofControl.com) | [International Joint Commission](http://InternationalJointCommission.org).



Examples of Watershed Boards and their activities:

[International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board](http://InternationalRainyLakeoftheWoodsWatershedBoard.com)



[International St. Croix River Watershed Board](http://InternationalStCroixRiverWatershedBoard.com)



Want to know more?

Please see the IJC website for more information at ijc.org.



Feel free to reach out with any questions:
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