



Funding for Water Projects

4/3/2014

The Okanagan Basin Water Board has approved \$300,000 in funding to 20 projects that will help conserve and improve the quality of water in the valley.

Directors approved the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants at their regular board meeting on Tuesday, April 1. In all, there were 26 applications with a total ask of \$592,778. "Like every year, we had more proposals than funding available and a very strong pool of applications," said James Littley, OBWB's Office and Projects Manager, highlighting some of the projects approved.

In the North Okanagan, Greater Vernon Water will be hiring and training summer students to expand its water auditing program from working with residents to commercial and agricultural property owners as well. The students will also be conducting other outreach to encourage water conservation. "Residential outdoor water use is the 2nd largest use of water in the Okanagan with it spiking in the summer. The Water Board sees this as an important project, partnering well with our valley-wide Make Water Work outdoor water conservation initiative," said Mr. Littley. "We are also pleased to see greater engagement with the agricultural and business community."

The \$45,700 is broken down as follows:

Greater Vernon Water North Kal Lake IPZ Storm Water Reclamation Project \$20,000
Greater Vernon Water Water Ambassador Summer Program \$8,000
Greater Vernon Water Water Educational Programming \$8,000
Greater Vernon Water Water Quality Monitoring - Cosens Bay \$9,700

Since the program began awarding funds in 2006, \$2.7 million has been provided to 179 projects throughout the Okanagan.