

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM 2014

The Okanagan Basin Water Board is now accepting applications to its 2014 Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program. The program, in its ninth year, has \$300,000 available for projects that conserve water or improve its quality. Successful applicants can receive up to a maximum of \$30,000 for their project. The purpose of the program is to assist local organizations in addressing water issues and to enhance the valley-wide sustainable use of water. Eligible applicants can be Okanagan municipalities, regional districts, irrigation/improvement districts (must be water suppliers and recognized under the Local Government Act and Community Charter), and non-profit community organizations. Ineligible applicants include senior government agencies, consulting firms, businesses and any research/development projects that are associated with for-profit business activities.

Eligible projects must demonstrate water savings or improvements to water quality, be supported by local government through a board or council resolution, and be consistent with water management planning objectives in their respective jurisdictions.

This year the Board is calling for projects addressing the 2014 - 2019 OBWB Strategic Goals. Preference may be given to projects that focus on:

- Source water protection;
- Promoting or enhancing science-based planning;
- Promoting or enhancing inter-jurisdictional collaboration; or
- Long-term adequate supply addressing changing conditions in climate, economy and population growth.

Priority will be given to projects that meet some or all of the following:

- have a measureable outcome and clearly demonstrate how goals will be met,
- have matching funding in place or applied for,
- demonstrate a collaborative approach with other jurisdictions and stakeholders,
- address issues of basin-wide significance and/or can be used as a model for other organizations,
- complement existing OBWB programs, including drought response planning and education and outreach activities, and
- demonstrate an innovative approach to water management.

Applications will be reviewed and ranked by OBWB staff, and presented to the Board for a decision. The Board may award full or partial funding at their discretion. The deadline for submissions this year will be Feb 21 at 4PM.

Information on the application process, complete Terms of Reference including the need for a board or council resolution of support, as well as the application, can be found at www.obwb.ca/wcqi.