

Council backs water projects

By [Roger Knox - Vernon Morning Star](#)

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Spallumcheen council is showering its support on a pair of local waterworks districts who are seeking grant money from the Okanagan Basin Water Board.

The Steele Springs and Otter Lake Waterworks Districts are both seeking township support for their requests, which were granted unanimously by council.

“Our waterworks districts are getting innovative,” said Coun. Ralph Leyenhorst.

Steele Springs is seeking two grants of \$12,500 each. One is for using wireless radio communication from its remote reservoir to its pump house to control the output from its water pumps.

The total cost of the project is \$30,000.

Steele Springs is also seeking \$12,500 towards a \$25,000 project that would result in the natural filtration and collection of spring water.

Otter Lake would like \$6,000 to purchase an ultrasonic flow meter to help monitor the draw down with trending and correlation between flow and draw down in its well.

Otter Lake is also asking for between \$15,000 and \$30,000 towards a \$70,000 project to improve quality and delivery of water to a specified neighbourhood.

The current aging infrastructure on Round Prairie Road is asbestos in nature, writes Otter Lake Waterworks District president Kevin Blaser in an application to the OBWB, and has been installed in soil with a very high clay content.

This type of soil, said Blaser, has a higher sulfate content and lends to swelling and shrinking with seasonal temperature changes.

“We are expecting reduced consumption due to leakage,” wrote Blaser.

“Extensive flushing after line repairs will result in water conservation.”

Both districts are applying for grants through the OBWB’s water conservation and quality improvement grant program.

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