

Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grants - 2007

The intent of this grant program is to assist local governments in addressing issues that enhance valley-wide sustainable use of water. Projects were selected for recommendation based on a range of factors – including how well the project matched the goals of the program, the availability of funding, and whether the project supports other regional initiatives such as the Okanagan Basin Water Supply and Demand Study and OBWB policy recommendations. The total of all eligible proposals was \$605,566, out of an original \$300,000 allocation.

North Okanagan Regional District

Allocation: \$57,000.

Total of proposals submitted: \$104,859.

- Source Water Hydrometric Monitoring: \$18,000
Greater Vernon Services
 - Greater Vernon Services will install, operate and maintain hydrometric stations for three tributaries into the Duteau Creek system. The data will allow GVS to establish best management practices for the Duteau source.
 - Hydrometric monitoring is a high priority for the OBWB and a vital component of the Water Supply and Demand Study, in addition to contributing to the hydrometric network of BC.

- 2007 Leak Detection Survey: \$20,000
City of Armstrong
 - The City of Armstrong will undertake a leak detection program on its own distribution system as a way to reach its water conservation goals.
 - Leak detection and repair is one of the most cost effective water conservation activities

- 2007 SHIM Mapping of BX Creek: \$19,000
North Okanagan Regional District
 - The North Okanagan Regional District and City of Vernon will complete Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) on the BX Creek.
 - The project will collect data on the health of riparian areas, fisheries values, human modifications, water intakes, storm water outfalls, erosion and other water quality concerns.
 - Projects that contribute data to large regional efforts are given high priority for this grant program and this project complements and extends work already done in the North and Central Okanagan. The data will be used by planners at the Regional District of North Okanagan and the City of Vernon.

Central Okanagan Regional District**Allocation: \$176,700****Total of proposals submitted: \$363,857**

- Water Use Plan – Mission Creek: \$30,000
Black Mountain Irrigation District
 - A Water Use Plan for Mission Creek will be developed to address large scale water use challenges such as competition for water between fish, farmers and domestic users. The Water Use Plan involves a cooperative decision making process to agree on tradeoffs during water shortages.
 - A portion of this project is to improve understanding of instream supply and demand. This information will be valuable for the ongoing Water Supply and Demand Study.

- Waterscape Teacher’s Guide: Outreach in Schools : \$20,000
Central Okanagan Science Opportunities for Kids Society
 - Last year the Board funded the development of a teacher’s guide as a companion to the Waterscape Poster, and this project is the continuation of that initiative.
 - This phase will facilitate outreach and instruction to teachers on how to implement the educational Teacher’s Guide to the Waterscape Poster with their students.

- Farm Drought Risk Management: \$17,857
University of British Columbia - Okanagan
 - This study will survey farmers throughout the entire Okanagan Valley in the summer of 2007 to determine the strategies they use to prepare for water shortage, how they cooperate for water conservation and manage drought risk.
 - Understanding how farmers maximize water resources will be important for developing agricultural water conservation policy throughout the valley.

- Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping: \$30,000
Lakeview Irrigation District
 - SHIM in Lakeview Irrigation District will collect data on areas of water quality impact (erosion); indicate where restoration is appropriate, and form a component of the Source Protection Plan for the watershed.
 - This project will contribute data for the Central Okanagan area and complement efforts by RDCO to accurately map the region.

- Wetland Inventory Mapping: \$20,000
City of Kelowna – Environment and Solid Waste Division
 - The City of Kelowna will map and inventory approximately 57 wetland areas in the City of Kelowna in a similar manner to the SHIM method. This project is a partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada.
 - These results will be used by city planners to reduce potential impacts of development.

- Management of Water Levels on Ellison Lake: \$22,000
Oceola Fish and Game Club
 - This grant application will monitor water levels on Ellison Lake and Middle Vernon Creek by re-installing two water level recorders.
 - The Oceola Fish and Game Club will also undertake a planning process for lake and stream management to develop a voluntary water level management plan.
 - This project supports coordinated water management planning and is a collaborative effort with support from Ministry of Environment, First Nations and many other partners bridging fisheries and agriculture interests.

- Source Water Hydrometric Monitoring: \$11,843
Westbank Irrigation District
 - This project will install hydrometric stations on Upper Powers Creek to determine how ground water extraction by proposed development affects surface water supply to the district.
 - The findings of this study can be applied to the Water Supply and Demand Study and the Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin

- Joe Rich Creek Channel Restoration: \$15,000
Regional District of Central Okanagan
 - This project will restore and enhance a 1.7 km section of stream by establishing riparian planting, erecting livestock exclusion fencing, and installing 12 rock riffle structures to reduce stream energy in order to improve channel stability, stream shading and long term water quality.

- Phase 2 Groundwater Protection Plan: \$10,000
Kelowna Joint Water Committee (KJWC)
 - The KJWC will accurately delineate well capture zones in addition to completing an inventory of contaminant sources within these zones in order to provide risk management recommendations for water supply.
 - This Groundwater Protection Planning will contribute data to ongoing research work being conducted by the Groundwater Assessment of the Okanagan Basin and the Canadian Water Network.

Regional District Okanagan Similkameen**Allocation: \$66,300.****Total of proposals submitted: \$136,850**

The Regional District Okanagan Similkameen has a standing board resolution regarding the OBWB's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant Initiative stating that funding priority shall be given to projects put forward by the Regional District and its member municipalities (resolution B269/06E).

- SHIM for South Okanagan: \$16,350
Regional District Okanagan Similkameen
 - Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping will be initiated in the South Okanagan with mapping to be concentrated in areas of high development. Environmental activities in this respect are new for RDOS.
 - Projects that contribute data to large regional projects are given high priority for this grant program; SHIM has been completed extensively in the Central Okanagan Regional District thus efforts in RDOS will complement this information.
- Web Based Irrigation Software: \$12,500
District of Summerland
 - This project will create a web based tool for farmers to access information about their water usage.
 - This is a joint project between the District of Summerland and Greater Vernon Services and the product will be used by agricultural customers in both areas.
 - This project will contribute information to the Water Supply and Demand Study.
- Agricultural Metering Pilot Program: \$11,000
Town of Osoyoos
 - This project will provide information about agricultural water use for different crop types and will support the Water Supply and Demand Study.
 - Agricultural metering is given a high priority for this grant program.
- Ellis Creek Flow Measurement: \$5000
City of Penticton
 - The City of Penticton will install flow monitoring equipment for Ellis Creek.
 - Hydrometric monitoring is a high priority for the OBWB and a vital component of the Water Supply and Demand Study, in addition to contributing to the hydrometric network of BC.
- Low Flow Toilet Rebate Program: \$21,450
Regional District Okanagan Similkameen
 - This project compliments the education program undertaken by RDOS with last year's WCQI grant funds.
 - This project will contribute to reductions in water demand.