

April 7, 2017

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## OKANAGAN WATER BOARD ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR PROJECTS TO CONSERVE AND IMPROVE VALLEY WATER

**Kelowna, B.C.** – The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) has approved \$300,000 in funding to 17 projects that will help conserve and improve the quality of water in the valley. Directors approved the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grants at their regular board meeting on Tuesday, April 5. In all, there were 25 applications with a total ask of \$467,348.

"This year we saw a lot of very strong applications focussed on action for conserving water or improving its quality," noted James Littley, OBWB's Operations and Grants Manager, providing highlights from each region.

Three projects were funded in the North Okanagan, including \$15,427 to Sqilxw Apna, a local non-profit, to help protect and restore the lower reaches of N'sisooloxw (also known as Bradley) Creek. This innovative project combines traditional ecological knowledge of Okanagan Indian Band elders with scientific data gathered about the current health of the creek, located near the head of Okanagan Lake. "This project is community-led, and proposes to work with volunteers to accomplish the goals of educating about the creek, conducting scientific sampling, protecting it from development pressures, and restoring a portion to a more natural state," noted Littley. "A lot of work we fund looks at streams that have already been significantly impacted by human activity, and that's important. This project will be proactive in protecting a creek which has been altered, but not to as great an extent as others in more urbanized areas. We can protect what we have, and restore what has been lost."

In the Central Okanagan, 10 projects were funded. These include \$20,000 to the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program for a project that increases public awareness on the importance of foreshore ecosystems in protecting water quality and creates a demonstration restoration site. Additional projects include floodplain mapping with the Regional District of Central Okanagan (\$30,000), a City of Kelowna bio-swale pilot project for the new parking lot at Boyce-Gyro Park (\$30,000), an Eco-Blast Kids Camp with Fresh Outlook Foundation (\$5,000), an expansion of the BC Wildlife Federation Conservation App with Oceola Fish & Game Club (\$10,000), and others.

Another four projects were supported in the South Okanagan. One of these was \$25,440 granted to the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen to conduct the first phase of a Land Use and Water Quality Assessment for Vaseux Lake. "This is an example where a previous project we funded, at Swan Lake in the North Okanagan, provided a template to do a similar study in another part of the valley," Littley added. "Vaseux Lake is one of only a few lakes in the valley where there is no motorized boat traffic, so anything that is going into the lake comes from the land around it, or down the Okanagan River. This assessment will show how certain land uses affect water quality in the lake, and can potentially identify some areas for significant improvements in the future."

Since the Water Board began awarding WCQI grants in 2006, it has awarded \$3.8 million to 232 projects throughout the Okanagan. The amount available in each region is based on the contribution into the program from each Regional District.

Projects must meet a number of criteria, including the ability to demonstrate water savings or improvements to water quality, show collaboration, and provide valley-wide benefit, recognizing that Okanagan communities share "One valley. One water."

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For a full listing of funded projects please see the attached.

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## WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AWARDS - 2017

	Number of Applications	Total Requested	Total Available
RDNO	4	\$87,660	\$55,800
RDCO	12	\$251,021	\$182,760
RDOS	9	\$128,667	\$61,440
Totals	25	\$467,348	\$300,000

Regional District North Okanagan			
Organization	Project Title	OBWB Funding	
1. Sqilxw Apna	N'sisooloxw Watershed Corridor	\$15,427	
2. RDNO	Watershed Risk Communication Project	\$20,000	
3. UBC O	Water Turbidity Risk from ORV Traffic in Okanagan Watersheds	\$20,373	
Total		\$55,800	

Regional District Central Okanagan			
Organization	Project Title	OBWB Funding	
1. RDCO	Regional Floodplain Management Project – Phase 2	\$30,000	
2. Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program	Protecting Foreshore Ecosystems for Water Quality	\$20,000	
3. Mission Creek Restoration Initiative	MCRI Demonstration Project Monitoring	\$25,000	
4. Oceola Fish and Game Club	Conservation App	\$10,000	
5. City of Kelowna	Boyce-Gyro Park Bio-Swale pilot project	\$30,000	
6. Fresh Outlook Foundation	Eco-Blast Kids Camp & Concerts in Lake Country and Kelowna	\$5,000	
7. RDCO	Westside Regional Source Control Program	\$15,000	
8. City of Kelowna	Irrigation Connection Point Retro-fit Project	\$30,000	
9. Friends of Black Mountain	Pond Rehabilitation and Interpretive Trail Project	\$12,760*	
10. Fresh Outlook Foundation	Building SustainABLE Communities Conference	\$5,000*	
Total		\$182,760	

Regional District Okanagan Similkameen		
Organization	Project Title	OBWB Funding
1. RDOS	Vaseux Lake Land Use and Water Quality Assessment Phase 1	\$25,440
2. City of Penticton	Drought Management Plan Phase 2	\$12,000

3. RDOS	Drought/Flood Risk Mitigation Phase 3	\$14,000
4. ONA	Water Quality Assurance during ORRI Penticton Channel Spawning Bed no. 4	\$10,000
Total		\$61,440

\*Recommended amounts subject to certain conditions as explained below

### Regional District North Okanagan

Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	N'Sisooloxw Watershed Corridor Improvement Sqilxw Apna The aim of Sqilxw Apna's project in the N'sison encompasses the water quality improvement therefore improving the way of life for the OKI diminishing any effects activities upstream. En water analysis, and tangible projects are all ke projects and are the emphasis in the N'sisoole (NWCI) project. The NWCI aims to involve the galvanizing a re-claimed stewardship of the N the privately owned mouth of entry into the he community buy-in, re-establishing a model cre- microsystems of life, as well as establishing a quality analysis for future project direction.	oloxw Watershed Corrido of one source for the Ok B community and reside ducation, community inv eys to success for water oxw Watershed Corridor immediate local resident 'sisooloxw creek area, st ead of the Okanagan Lak eek meandering paths ar	anagan Lake, nts, and olvement, improvement Improvement ts in carting with ce. Building nd
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3.c., a knowledgeable public with widespread commitment to science-based planning, water conservation and reducing pollution. This multi-phase project is a demonstration of community-led restoration with valley-wide benefit. It can assist with flood and drought mitigation, water quality and storage capacity, and development of best-practices. \$25,437 Recommended \$15,427 Funding:		
Project Budget:			
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	Watershed Risk Communication Project RDNO The aim of this project is to develop a tool to and understanding of water quality and quan- identified various risks to the water supply ye cumulative effects of those varied risks and o be mitigated. Many water utilities do not have response to requests for input on docks, mar extraction activities therefore the goal of this improving the ability of water utilities to respon	tity risks. Numerous stuc t it is challenging to unde communicate how those the capacity to provide inas, forestry or other res project is to provide a te	dies have erstand the risks should a detailed source
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3.c., a knowledgeable public with widespread commitment to science-based planning, water conservation and reducing pollution. This is a worthwhile project, closely aligned with other OBWB work. It can be used in other areas of the valley, and addresses a key gap in planning for source protection.		
Project Budget:	\$35,000	Recommended Funding:	\$20,000

#### **Project Title:** Water Turbidity Risk from ORV Traffic in Okanagan Watersheds Organization: **UBC** Okanagan **Project Goals:** The proposed project is part of a larger initiative to understand and mitigate the risk to water quality in source water streams due to multi-use activities that take place on Crown lands. Included in this activity mix are: (1) forestry operations and road maintenance; (2) cattle grazing; and (3) recreational use by humans (e.g., camping, fishing, hiking). Although a great deal is known about deleterious impacts due to the first two categories of activity, accompanied by a range of recommended best management practices (BMPs) implemented by the respective industries. there remains great uncertainty with regard to the human recreational impact as well as the cumulative effects. The proposed project will examine one component of this complex process-the effect that Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) traffic may be having on suspending streambed sediments (measured as increased turbidity levels) in streams as a consequence of in-stream crossings. Staff Notes: This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 1.a., that the Okanagan has sufficient, accessible water science and data to plan for changing conditions in climate. economy, and population growth. The project addresses water quality concerns in source water areas and can enhance management practices and public education. \$105,000 Recommended \$20,373

Project Budget:

#### Regional District Central Okanagan

Funding:

# Project Title:Regional Floodplain Management Project - Phase 2Organization:RDCO

**Project Goals:** The RDCO has embarked on a collaborative flood preparedness project. The Regional Floodplain Management Project is intended to provide a consistent, regional approach to address flood hazards and risk and guide future decision making. There is a need for a coordinated approach to reduce flood risk; improve emergency response; and increase flood resilience. Flooding is commonly seen as being consequential primarily to individuals who may be living or working in a flood prone area. While impacts to property may be of prime importance, flooding also has the potential to severely impact water quality; water availability for domestic and in-stream use; and aquatic habitat. Phase 1 of the project resulted in the development of a Regional Floodplain Management Plan (RFMP). Phase 2 is intended to implement the recommendations of the RFMP. In particular, Phase 1 identified priority areas for more detailed flood hazard and risk assessment. Of particular concern are the safety of dams and reservoirs and the consequences of dam failures. The RFMP also identified information gaps required to carry out Phase 2. In order to improve the Phase 2 risk assessment, mapping of environmental elements at risk is required. The funding will be directed specifically towards dam failure inundation mapping and collection of additional environmental information required to adequately assess and address flood risk.

Staff Notes:This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 1.a., that the Okanagan has sufficient,<br/>accessible water science and data to plan for changing conditions in climate,<br/>economy, and population growth. This is part of valley-wide drought and flood<br/>planning work which will increase our management ability and resilience to drought<br/>and floods, lowering property and infrastructure damage and costs.Project\$150,000Recommended\$30,000

Budget:

Recommended \$30,000 Funding:

Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	Protecting Foreshore Ecosystems for Water Quality Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program The aim of this project is to create an educational outreach program, and a demonstration restoration site, to increase the public's awareness of the importance of foreshore ecosystems for water quality on Okanagan Lake. This project is driven by the recent Foreshore Inventory and Mapping of Okanagan Lake (2016) that showed significant non-compliance to local and provincial regulations and a loss of natural areas from foreshore development. This project is designed to address these issues by developing informative materials on the importance of conserving and protecting foreshore ecosystems. The materials include a primer document to lakeshore landowners, presentations to developers, elected officials, and real estate agents, and a 3D interactive display that will be exhibited at community facilities throughout the region. The habitat restoration site will rehabilitate the mouth of Powers Creek back to its natural state. The site and its interpretive signs will assist in demonstrating how foreshore ecosystems can be restored around the Lake.			
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3 widespread commitment to science-based p reducing pollution. This project addresses be demonstration restoration site, directly impa Outreach and works like this project, when e on water quality entering our lakes.	planning, water conserva oth public education and acting water quality in Ok	tion and I creates a kanagan Lake.	
Project Budget:	\$97,625	Recommended Funding:	\$20,000	
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	MCRI Demonstration Project Monitoring Mission Creek Restoration Initiative In order to evaluate MCRI Phase 1 demonstration project effectiveness, an intensive monitoring plan was developed and implemented starting in 2016. This application is a continuation of the 2016/17 OBWB funded project which is focused on long term assessment of 3 effectiveness categories and associated indices: Flood protection – indices include channel capacity, groundwater levels, and dike and floodplain integrity / functionality. Fish habitat suitability monitoring - involves measurements of depth and velocity within control and project footprint sites to determine how they match documented species preferences for those variables. Fish habitat monitoring involves assessments of rainbow trout and kokanee utilization of newly developed fish habitat. Floodplain wildlife, wildlife habitat, and fish stranding – monitoring of survival of planted vegetation and colonization/survival of amphibian wildlife species within the expanded floodplain. This component also includes monitoring for fish stranding. Outreach and communications is also included as a component of this project based on the importance of maintaining strong support for current and future MCRI projects. A strong focus has been directed at this component to date and it has resulted in a high level of community, government and First Nations support for MCRI and the Phase 1 projects.			
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3 widespread commitment to science-based p reducing pollution. This multi-phase project restoration with valley-wide benefit. It can as water quality and storage capacity, and deve aligned with our own Mission Creek Groundy complementary.	planning, water conserva is a leading demonstrati ssist with flood and drou elopment of best-practic	tion and on of ght mitigation, es. It is closely	

Project	\$99,000
Budget:	

Project Title: Organization: Project Goals: Staff Notes:	Conservation App Oceola Fish and Game Club To create the android version of the BCWF Conservation App, increase the existing user base, and improve app and website functionality. The BCWF Conservation app and website's goal is to raise social awareness surrounding the value of B.C.'s natural resources, including water, and to document and report issues related to illegal use/abuse. This is a cooperative project between the BC Wildlife Federation and UBC-0 that OCEOLA will be supporting as a member club of the BC Wildlife Federation. The app allows users to photograph potential environmental damage, poaching, polluting, etc.; the photographs are time-stamped, and geo-referenced. Photos are stored on UBC-O's secure server and relayed to enforcement agencies. Appropriate photos are posted on a Google Maps based platform page on the BCWF website to increase social awareness about the misuse of BC's natural resources. The app will encourage and facilitate the reporting and social awareness surrounding ORV use, mud bogging, and illegal dumping in community watersheds, illegal water pumps and other illegal uses associated with riparian habitat, wetlands, and water quality/quantity conservation. Community watersheds in the Okanagan are subject to high use; this is one tool which could aid in mitigating the risk of contamination of source drink water. This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3.c., a knowledgeable public with widespread commitment to science-based planning, water conservation and reducing pollution. The Conservation App will assist in the protection of, and enforcement around source waters, including reporting on activities that are contrary to source protection and best practices on drinking water reservoirs. The page is upmosed to the DW Wildlife Federation of is on inverse to		
	app is supported by the BC Wildlife Federation, and is an innovative approach to increase social awareness about watershed protection and values. Phase one proved very successful, and this will be an extension of that success.		
Project Budget:	\$50,000	Recommended Funding:	\$10,000
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	<b>Boyce-Gyro Park Bio-Swale pilot project</b> City of Kelowna The 'Boyce-Gyro Park Bio-swale Pilot Project' aims to effectively manage stormwater for a highly popular beach park parking lot through the use of planted bio-swales as part of a 2017 capital project for the City of Kelowna. The capital project, 'Boyce-Gyro Park Parking Lot Improvements' includes the partial closure of Watt Road and reconfiguration of the existing temporary parking lot. The multi-use trail along Lakeshore Drive will be extended past the parking lot and will feature a new addition to the public art collection.		
Staff Notes: Project Budget:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3.c., widespread commitment to science-based plan reducing pollution. This project will utilize and highly visible area, and will reduce polluted run \$ 2,195,000	nning, water conservatic demonstrate best practi	on and

Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	<b>Eco-Blast Kids Camp &amp; Concerts in Lake Country</b> Fresh Outlook Foundation Eco-Blast is designed and delivered by eco-music artists, and environmental experts to connect ch each other through song, dance, art, and interact to be part of the solution rather than part of the energy and reducing waste. And they participate urban gardens, waste reduction sites, and nature in a concert where campers showcase their song	cians (Artists Response ildren from 6-12 with n tive play. Campers also problem by saving wate in field trips to places s e preserves. The week	nature and o learn how er and such as local culminates
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3.c., a knowledgeable public with widespread commitment to science-based planning, water conservation and reducing pollution. This recurring program has demonstrated significant, quantifiable results in public education and behaviour change.		
Project Budget:	\$30,000	Recommended Funding:	\$5,000
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	Westside Regional Source Control Program RDCO The project aims to educate users of the Westside Wastewater Treatment collection system and bring awareness to the proper use of this infrastructure. Eliminating or at least reducing the improper disposal of high organic waste streams, non- flushable products, toxic and emerging substances (pharmaceuticals) into the wastewater collection system. The consequences of these contaminates entering the wastewater treatment system can be detrimental to treatment and can interfere, or even completely stop the biological process, leading to toxic volumes of BOD, phosphorus (PO4) and nitrogen (TN) entering Okanagan Lake. Non flushable products can clog pumps and inhibit mechanical processes that can also lead to process upsets, and the improper disposal of pharmaceuticals all further lead to detrimental impacts to Okanagan Lake.		
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3.c., a widespread commitment to science-based plann reducing pollution. Public information and outreat be duplicated valley-wide.	ning, water conservation	n and
Project Budget:	\$22,500	Recommended Funding:	\$15,000
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	Irrigation Connection Point Retro-fit Project City of Kelowna The City of Kelowna has approximately 350 irrigation points of connection. Less than a third of these POCs (Point of Connections) have functioning flow monitoring capabilities. The aim of this pilot project is to increase the number of POC upgrades this year with current technology to include flow monitoring. Flow monitoring will increase water conservation levels and reduce property damage liability through the detection and elimination of excess or unexpected flow caused by line breaks, valve failures and sprinkler vandalism. Historical use reports will be generated and a heightened awareness of water consumption through live usage data will be realized.		
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 1.d., we monitoring is one of the key ways to ensure water overuse. This is part of overall improvements may	er efficiency, identify lea	aks and

	multiple years, partially funded by other WCQI for other communities. \$1,500,000	grants. It will provide a BMP example	
Project Budget:		Recommended Funding:	\$30,000
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals: Staff Notes: Project Budget:	Pond Rehabilitation and Interpretive Trail Proj Friends of Black Mountain The project's aims include water quality and c riparian habitat restoration – an educational of plan is to rehabilitate two ephemeral ponds and and around the ponds; this will allow Regional environmental education program. The ponds of cattle grazing, are within the new Black Mod In addition, the group believes the project will restoration that can be replicated elsewhere in This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3.c widespread commitment to science-based plar reducing pollution. Funds from the WCQI gram and signage work, and not available for pond- \$37,321	ect onservation, specifical putreach program on p nd construct an interpr l Parks to use them as , heavily damaged by c untain Regional Park, r offer a unique model o n the Okanagan. ., a knowledgeable put anning, water conserva t will be available for p	ublic land. The retive trail to part of RDCO's over 150 years near Kelowna. of pond blic with tion and lantings, trail
		U	
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	<b>Building SustainABLE Communities Conference</b> Fresh Outlook Foundation FOF is hosting its 7th Building SustainABLE Communities conference Nov 21-24 in Kelowna, the overall theme of which is Innovation Through Collaboration. The three major sub-themes are water stewardship, climate action, and food security. During the water stewardship 'stream,' experts from all sectors will engage event-goers in dialogue about: 1) water literacy, rights, security, and prosperity; 2) the impacts of water management on human, environmental, and economic health; and 3) the pressing need to integrate decision-making and spending for water stewardship, climate action, and food security.		
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 3.c., a knowledgeable public with widespread commitment to science-based planning, water conservation and reducing pollution. The funding will be directed to a water workshop focussed on issues such as quality, supply, conservation, drought, and the link between water stewardship, climate action and food security.		
Project Budget:	\$140,000	Recommended Funding:	\$5,000
Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen			
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	Vaseux Lake Land Use and Water Quality Asse RDOS The overall aim of the Vaseux Lake Land Use a determine likely sources of nutrients or sedim milfoil and algae growth over the past years in considered a productive lake as it is shallow a over 23C in the summer months. The water le	and Water Quality Asse ent contributing to the the lake. The lake has and typically the water s	increased s always been surface gets

	what is released upstream from Skaha Lake. Phase 1 will include identification of potential pollution and sediment sources, the creation of a monitoring plan and the start of data collection based on the plan. Phase 2 will focus on continued sampling, collection of data, analysis of data and production of a final report that includes recommendations to improve and protect the water quality of the lake.				
Staff Notes:	waters and how to manage them. This will enh - water quality interactions, and provide a con support land use decisions by local governmen	s project addresses Strategic Plan goal 2.a., understanding risks to source ters and how to manage them. This will enhance the understanding of land use vater quality interactions, and provide a concrete set of maps and information to oport land use decisions by local government. This will also allow us to better derstand interactions between water quality, milfoil growth, and milfoil control ivities.			
Project Budget:	\$30,000	Recommended Funding:	\$25,440		
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	Drought Management Plan Phase 2 City of Penticton The aim of this project is to address phase II of Phase I has an anticipated completion date of will be a professional report that identifies our historically and for the future. The report will if and the requirements to mitigate an extended trigger points and provide decision making gui communications protocol will be clearly define phase II and is required to complete the project	March 31, 2017. The de water supply and looks a dentify the resilience in the drought. The end report delines for each level of d for each level of drough	liverables at demands he sources will identify drought. A		
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 1.a., that the Okanagan has sufficient, accessible water science and data to plan for changing conditions in climate, economy, and population growth. This is part of valley-wide drought and flood planning work which will increase our management ability and resilience to drought and floods, lowering property and infrastructure damage and costs.				
Project Budget:	\$25,000	Recommended Funding:	\$12,000		
Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	Drought/Flood Risk Mitigation Phase 3 RDOS To continue on to Phase 3 completion of the re- mitigation and management planning as per P integrating results of the provincial audit of RD use regulations, and Water Conservation Plan. support other efforts to reduce greenhouse ga more sustainable food and agriculture system. Drought and Flood Risk Management and Miti district's ability to protect against water shorta planning the RDOS will not be unprepared in o significant addition will be the Mainstem Lake finalized.	hase 2 – Gap Analysis an OS Water Systems, and Implementing the final p ses and water use, and a . The Okanagan-Similkam gation Plan will enhance ges and flooding events. verly dry or wet years. Als	nd new water blan can a healthier, neen the regional With proper so a		
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 1.a. accessible water science and data to plan for economy, and population growth. This phased valley-wide planning for flood and drought miti \$28,000	changing conditions in clippoject will fill a significa	imate,		

Project Budget:		Recommended Funding:	\$14,000
Budget: Project Title: Organization: Project Goals:	Funding: Water Quality Assurance during ORRI Penticton Channel Spawning Bed no. 4 Okanagan Nation Alliance The overall Okanagan River Restoration Initiative (ORRI) goal is to regain some of the Okanagan River habitat quality and quantity that has been lost, returning channelized river portions back to more natural conditions. ORRI works involve relocating dikes, river channel lengthening, re-establishing meanders, creating pool/riffle sequences, adding natural habitat features, reconnecting floodplains, and restoring riparian vegetation. The long-term purpose of ORRI is to improve water quality; create self-sustainable, complex, and diverse habitat for fish and wildlife; and to enhance human relations with the river ecosystem. The restoration work's construction activities are aimed at limiting the risks for potential immediate negative impacts on water quality and surrounding environment. The goal during construction is to assure the preservation of water quality in the Okanagan River and Skaha Lake during all works. The OBWB WCQI grant funding will support monitoring and assuring water quality experiences minimal impacts during the associated restoration construction activities.		
Staff Notes:	This project addresses Strategic Plan goal 2.a., understanding risks to source waters and how to manage them. This multi-phase project is a leading demonstration of restoration with valley-wide benefit. It can assist with flood and drought mitigation, water quality protection, and development of best-practices.		
Project Budget:	\$895,000	Recommended Funding:	\$10,000