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# Water quality improving

Madison Erhardt - Apr 15, 2017 / 5:00 am



Photo: Contributed

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.

"This year we saw a lot of very strong applications focussed on action for conserving water or improving its quality," said James Littlely, OBWB's Operations and Grants Manager.

Three projects were funded in the North Okanagan, including \$15,427 to Sqilxw Apna, a local non-profit, aiming to protect and restore the lower reaches of Bradley Creek.

"This project is community-led, and proposes to work with volunteers to accomplish the goals of educating about the creek," said Littlely.

"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," he said.

10 projects were funded in the Central Okanagan.

These include \$20,000 to the Okanagan Collaborative Conservation Program.

The goal is to increase public awareness on the importance of foreshore ecosystems in protecting water quality and creating a demonstration restoration site

Another four projects were supported in the South Okanagan.

Projects must meet a number of criteria.

The projects must 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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