

WATER CONSERVATION & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM

Applicant 'Requests for Support' from Okanagan Local Governments

Requirements for Local Government Letters of Support

As part of the application process for the Okanagan Basin Water Board's Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Program, applicants require a letter of support from an Okanagan local government. The letter must be signed by an officer (CO, CAO or CFO) within the local government, or by the Mayor of a municipality or Board Chairperson of a regional district.

Further, the letter of support must be from the local government who has jurisdiction in the area where the project will occur. For projects which span multiple jurisdictions, the applicant must obtain letters of support from each jurisdiction.

The requirements are:

1. Letter must be signed by an officer, the Mayor or Chairperson; and
2. The letter must be from the local government(s) with jurisdiction over the proposed project area.

Local Government Process for Providing Letters of Support

Local government letters of support for WCQI applicants are meant to ensure that the project is consistent with water management objectives of local jurisdictions and give local governments a role in the screening process. It also informs officials so they are aware of proposed projects in their community, and ensures that they have endorsed those applications coming from their own organization.

In previous years, a formal resolution of support was required for applications, and local governments may wish to continue that requirement for their jurisdictions. However, many local governments found that requirement confusing and onerous. Starting in the 2019 grant year, the OBWB will only require a letter of support meeting the requirements outlined above. The process for providing this support is at the discretion of each local government.

When providing a letter of support for this program, the OBWB asks local governments to consider:

- whether the application is consistent with water-related objectives in their jurisdiction;

- whether the applicant and suggested project reflect the values of the community; and
- other subjective criteria that would go into any other letter of support;

We ask that local governments not base their decision on perceived competition for available funding, or other criteria which will be reviewed by the OBWB at a later stage in the grant review process.

WCQI grant applications are competed in a consistent and transparent process by OBWB staff, making final recommendations to the Board for approval.

Projects are evaluated according to the following scoring criteria:

• Basin-Wide Benefit	20%
• Complements Current OBWB Activities	20%
• Focus on Action	15%
• Promotion of Best Practices	15%
• Collaboration	10%
• Innovativeness of Project	10%
• <u>Quality of Proposal</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%
• Annual Theme Bonus*	up to 10%

* Bonus Points up to 10% may be applied based on the degree to which a project addresses board-approved annual priorities. These bonus areas are described each year in the call for applications and can be found on our website.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE WCQI GRANTS PROGRAM, CONTACT THE OPERATIONS AND GRANTS MANAGER, 250-469-6270 OR GRANTS@OBWB.CA