



Regional Board Report

Request for Decision

To: Regional Board
From: Associate Director, Engineering Services
Date: February 22, 2024
Subject: BMID – Request for Letter of Support

Voting Entitlement: *All Directors - Unweighted Corporate Vote - Simple Majority (LGA s.208)*

Purpose: To seek Regional Board consideration for a Letter of Support, to further Black Mountain Irrigation District's application for a grant under the OBWB Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Grant program.

Executive Summary:

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.

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.

BMID is applying for a \$30,000 grant to enhance the operational release efficiency from the Belgo Reservoir. BMID anticipates this project will achieve conservation savings of 500 ML annually. This project has the potential to make Mission Creek more resilient to periods of drought by conserving more water in the upper watershed of Mission Creek.

Recommendation(s):

THAT the Regional Board approve the Chair forwarding a letter of support on behalf of the Board for the Black Mountain Irrigation District's grant application to Okanagan Basin Water Board.

Report Approved by:

Handwritten signature of Travis Kendel in black ink, underlined.

Travis Kendel, Associate Director, Engineering Services

Approved for Agenda:

Handwritten signature of Sally Ginter in black ink.

Sally Ginter, Chief Administrative Officer

Strategic Plan Alignment:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency preparedness | <input type="checkbox"/> Truth and reconciliation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and wellness | <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and climate – Regional priority only |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regional transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development – Electoral Area priority only |
-

Background:

To comply with OBWB requirements, grant applicants must secure a Letter-of-Support from the local government with jurisdiction in the project area. BMID is applying for a \$30,000 grant to enhance the operational release efficiency from the Belgo Reservoir. By using telecommunications and remote-control hardware, there would be a 10% increase in efficiencies in controlling water released from Belgo Reservoir.

There is a 12-hour delay in water travel time from Belgo Reservoir to the BMID intake below 8-Mile Ranch. Round-trip to adjust the Belgo Outlet gate takes 3 hours. By aligning streamflow release adjustments in Mission Creek with the real-time water demand, BMID anticipates achieving conservation savings of 500 ML annually. This makes the creek more resilient to withstand periods of drought.

The RDCO draws water from Mission Creek to support the Falcon Ridge Water System. This project as proposed, furthers water conservation and drought resilience, benefits nearby RDCO drinking water systems, and is in alignment with the Okanagan Basin Water Boards Okanagan Sustainable Water Strategy.

Considerations:

Financial:

- If successful in their application, BMID would use the grant funds to complete the project as outlined.

Legal/Statutory Authority:

- OBWB's grant program requires a letter of support from the Local Government with jurisdiction.
- The grant application deadline is February 24, 2024.

Alternate Recommendation:

THAT the Regional Board receive the report from the Associate Director, Engineering Services, as presented on February 22, 2024.

Considerations not applicable:

- Organizational/External
-

Attachment(s): 1. RDCO Letter of Support Request.
2. OBWB_Grant_Info_Local_Gov_Support.
