

January 26, 2022

To Okanagan Local Government Councils and Boards,

Re: 2022 Changes to Water Conservation and Quality Improvement (WCQI) Grant Process

The purpose of the Okanagan Basin Water Board's WCQI grant program is to assist local organizations - local governments, First Nations, public irrigation districts and non-profits - to address water issues and enhance the valley-wide sustainable use of water. Our grants continue to be one of the most flexible and least time-consuming funding programs available for these organizations.

Applicants to the program require a letter or resolution of support from the local government in whose jurisdiction the project will occur. The letter must be signed by an officer (CAO, CO, or CFO) of the local government or the Mayor (municipality) or Chairperson (regional district). Without the required local government support, applications will not be considered.

When discussing support for a project, the OBWB asks local governments to consider:

- *whether the project 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 consideration for providing support;*

We ask that local governments not base their decision on perceived competition for available funding or other criteria (see below) that are reviewed by the OBWB at a later stage of the process.

It often helps if all applications are considered at a single meeting, to create a full picture of all proposed projects in the area. Should a local government have concerns or recommendations regarding a specific application, we ask that they be forwarded to the OBWB Operations and Grants Manager for consideration before or during the grant award process.

Scoring Criteria Changes

At the November 2021 OBWB meeting, the Board approved new scoring criteria which will be used to rank projects and award funds during the grant competition process. The new criteria focus on project objectives, scope and methods, and how the project will directly or indirectly improve water conservation and water quality.

The following criteria will be considered by the OBWB:

- Outcome on water quality or conservation 20%
- Basin-wide benefit 20%
- Method appropriate for objectives 15%



- Budget and Timeline	15%
- Use and promotion of best practices	10%
- Collaboration	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 at <https://www.obwb.ca/overview-grants/wcqi/application-information/>.

The deadline for applications this year is February 28th at 4 p.m., but the deadline for local government support can be extended at the request of the local government, under special circumstances.

If you would like any more information about the WCQI grant program, please contact the Operations and Grants Manager, James Littlely at 250-469-6270 or james.littlely@obwb.ca.

Sincerely,

James Littlely
Operations and Grants Manager