Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD
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WATER CONSERVATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT AWARDS – 2025-26

Project Code	Organization	Project	Amount
1	Mission Creek Restoration Initiative (MCRI)	MCRI Restoration and Effectiveness Monitoring	$ 25,000.00
2	District of Summerland	Source water investigation at the Trout Creek Perpetual Slide	$ 30,000.00
3	Okanangan Nation Alliance	Assessing Flow Paths, and Water Sources of Summer Low Flows in McDougall Creek Following 2023 Wildfire	$ 30,000.00
4	Penticton Indian Band	nlux^{w}lux^{w}ɬcwix (lower Trout Creek) Restoration	$ 14,932.50
5	B.C. Wildlife Federation	Water, Water, Everywhere: Twin Lakes Wetland Restoration	$ 30,000.00
6	Okanagan Indian Band	Equesis Creek – groundwater connectivity assessment for source water protection	$ 30,000.00
7	RDNO	Creek Restoration Trial Sncematqtn Agricultural Park (Hog's Gulch)	$ 30,000.00
8	Chute Creek Stewardship Society	Lower Chute Creek Restoration and Reconstruction	$ 30,000.00
9	RDNO	Land Use & Water Quality Impact Assessment of the Coldstream Creek Watershed (Greater Vernon Water (GVW) Source Water Protection)	$ 25,000.00
10	Township of Spallumcheen	Source Water Protection and Water Quality Sampling in Deep Creek	$ 25,067.50
11	Town of Oliver	Town of Oliver's Pilot of the Use of a Source Protection Response Plan Living Table and Other Related Templates	$ 25,000.00
12	District of Coldstream	Lavington Wetland Risk Mitigation Plan	$ 25,000.00
13	City of Vernon	Polson Park Hydrogeology and Data Analysis Study	$ 10,000.00
14	City of West Kelowna	Rose Valley Reservoir - Source Water Manganese Treatment	$ 10,000.00
15	District of Lake Country	Kalamalka Wood Lake Basin - Technical Working Group	$ 10,000.00
			$350,000.00

Project Title:	MCRI Restoration and Effectiveness Monitoring
Organization:	Mission Creek Restoration Initiative
Project Summary:	This project continues MCRI's restoration and monitoring work guided by the Lower Mission Creek Habitat Conservation and Restoration Plan. It focuses on expanding the floodplain in Reach 4 to improve habitat, manage floodwaters, and enhance water quality. It also includes monitoring groundwater and surface water conditions to assess the effectiveness of past and upcoming restoration efforts. MCRI will also create design plans for future restoration projects in the lower 12 km of Mission Creek. The project supports the grant theme by helping improve water quality and supply in the central Okanagan.

Project Title:	Source water investigation at the Trout Creek Perpetual Slide
Organization:	District of Summerland
Project Summary:	The Paradise Flats Perpetual Slide has been contributing sediment to Trout Creek since the early 1900s, harming water quality and aquatic habitats in the creek and Okanagan Lake. The slide is linked to groundwater seepage, but its exact sources are still unknown. This project aims to identify those groundwater sources and understand how they relate to slide movement and water turbidity. Researchers will use environmental tracers, frequent sampling, and sediment loss estimates to gather data. The findings will help guide future monitoring and targeted solutions to reduce sediment in Trout Creek, a primary drinking water source for Summerland and one of the main feeders on the Okanagan Lake

Project Title:	Assessing Flow Paths, and Water Sources of Summer Low Flows in McDougall Creek Following 2023 Wildfire
Organization:	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Project Summary:	Summer low water flows, which are vital for agriculture, people, and ecosystems, are not well understood—especially after wildfires. This project studies McDougall Creek to see how wildfires affect these flows by monitoring river discharge and analyzing water samples. Findings will help determine the sources of summer water and how dam operations can help manage shortages. The goal is to support better water management in response to growing wildfire risks and climate change.

Project Title:	nlux^{w}lux^{w}ɬcwix (lower Trout Creek) Restoration
Organization:	Penticton Indian Band
Project Summary:	The water quality and habitats in nlux^{w}lux^{w}ɬcwix (lower Trout Creek) are harmed by channelization and a long-standing landslide near its mouth. To address this, the Trout Creek Restoration Steering Committee is working to restore 2 km of the creek's main channel and floodplain. Their goals are to reduce sediment entering the creek and Okanagan Lake and to bring back diverse, self-sustaining fish and wildlife habitats. These efforts support the District of Summerland's work to manage the slide and its sediment impact.
Project Title:	Water, Water, Everywhere: Twin Lakes Wetland Restoration
Organization:	BC Wildlife Federation
Project Summary:	This project will restore two hectares of wetland near Twin Lakes (Lot 280) to improve water retention, reduce erosion, and support local hydrology in the Okanagan-Similkameen region, where 84% of wetlands have been lost. By reconnecting the floodplain and restoring an eroded creek, the project will help manage water during both wet and dry seasons. Ongoing monitoring, invasive species removal, and community engagement activities like planting and education will support long-term success.

Project Title:	Equesis Creek – groundwater connectivity assessment for source water protection
Organization:	Okanagan Indian Band
Project Summary:	This project will study how Equesis Creek connects with groundwater to support sustainable water planning for the Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB). Evidence shows the creek's flow varies in ways that suggest a complex surface–groundwater relationship. Using geochemical, isotopic, and hydrometric methods, the project will map this connection from Pinaus Dam to Okanagan Lake. Findings will guide future assessments, source water protection, and holistic watershed planning. This builds on previous OBWB-funded research that identified Equesis Creek as a priority for groundwater-stream connectivity studies.

Project Title:	Creek Restoration Trial Sncematqtn Agricultural Park (Hog's Gulch)
Organization:	Regional District of North Okanagan
Project Summary:	Great Vernon Water aims to review water quality data, analyze trends, update its risk assessment, and act based on its Watershed Assessment Response Plan. The goal is to protect water quality and supply in the North Kalamalka Lake Intake and Coldstream Creek watershed, which provides drinking water for most GVW users. This project aligns with the 2025 OBWB grant theme of "Source Water Protection" by focusing on securing safe and healthy community water sources.

Project Title:	Lower Chute Creek Restoration and Reconstruction
Organization:	Chute Creek Stewardship Society
Project Summary:	The final 150 meters of Chute Creek were placed in a concrete channel in 1962, destroying fish habitat and leading to frequent flooding due to limited capacity. After a major channel failure in 2018, restoration efforts began. Phase 1, completed in 2024, replaced the bridge and naturalized the creek bed. Phase 2, set for 2025, will remove the concrete channel and rebuild the creek using nature-based engineering. The project aims to restore ecosystems, improve flood protection, enhance salmon habitat and water quality, and foster community and Indigenous collaboration through stewardship and traditional knowledge.

Project Title:	Land Use & Water Quality Impact Assessment of the Coldstream Creek Watershed (Greater Vernon Water (GVW) Source Water Protection)
Organization:	Regional District of North Okanagan
Project Summary:	An assessment of how land-use practices affect water quality, with recommendations for mitigation strategies. This project will restore 160 meters of Hog's Gulch in the sncəcmałqtn Agricultural Park to improve water quality, increase biodiversity, and build watershed resilience. It addresses past damage from agricultural drainage and supports the park's goals of education and regenerative farming. The 2025 phase includes creek restoration, community and Indigenous engagement, and public education through signs and media.

Project Title:	Source Water Protection and Water Quality Sampling in Deep Creek
Organization:	Township of Spallumcheen
Project Summary:	This project focuses on monitoring and restoring Deep Creek, the largest tributary flowing into the north end of Okanagan Lake. Water and aquatic macroinvertebrate samples will be collected in 2025 to assess stream health, especially during drought and fall conditions. The data will guide site-specific rehabilitation efforts, such as planting riparian buffers, as part of an ongoing 2022–2027 project. Results will be compared with past data to track improvements, evaluate ecosystem health, and demonstrate the success of previous restoration work.

Project Title:	Town of Oliver's Pilot of the Use of a Source Protection Response Plan Living Table and Other Related Templates
Organization:	Town of Oliver
Project Summary:	A pilot project to implement and evaluate a new source water protection plan for municipal drinking water. The Town of Oliver is piloting a new interactive Source Protection Plan tool to meet Interior Health requirements. Designed in Excel, it tracks actions and progress across key themes like public outreach and water monitoring. The project also includes creating templates and educational articles to support source water protection and will serve as a model for other water suppliers in the Okanagan.

Project Title:	Lavington Wetland Risk Mitigation Plan
Organization:	District of Coldstream
Project Summary:	A planning initiative to assess and mitigate risks to a wetland in Lavington. This project would allow for Coldstream to develop a plan to build resiliency into the Lavington Wetland, to reduce the consequences of lowland flooding, high freshets, or siltation of the Coldstream Creek causing avulsions, thereby continuing to provide source water protection to Kalamalka Lake

Project Title:	Polson Park Hydrogeology and Data Analysis Study
Organization:	City of Vernon
Project Summary:	Polson Park in Vernon has long struggled with high groundwater levels, especially during wet years, leading to flooding and closure of park amenities. A 2018 study found that concrete walls along Vernon Creek were blocking groundwater flow. In response, the City began a stream naturalization project, set to finish in fall 2025. Now, the City is launching a Revitalization Plan to add features like a spray park, but first needs to understand how naturalization has affected groundwater. Grant funding is being sought to support a groundwater monitoring project that will guide sustainable park improvements.

Project Title:	Rose Valley Reservoir - Source Water Manganese Treatment
Organization:	City of West Kelowna
Project Summary:	A project to improve drinking water quality by removing manganese from West Kelowna's source water. This project addresses elevated manganese levels in Rose Valley Reservoir, which supplies drinking water to nearly 20,000 people. Climate change, wildfire damage—especially from the 2023 McDougall Creek Wildfire—and lack of oxygenation have worsened water quality, raising health concerns. A successful 2024 trial of a pre-chlorination system to treat manganese will now lead to a permanent installation. Future phases include adding an aeration system, replanting the watershed in 2026, and replacing the intake screen after that. This phased approach will help ensure safe, clean drinking water amid ongoing wildfire impacts.

Project Title:	Kalamalka Wood Lake Basin - Technical Working Group
Organization:	District of Lake Country
Project Summary:	A governance project aimed at improving watershed planning and collaboration between stakeholders. A 25-year monitoring program on Kalamalka and Wood Lakes has shown that human activities are impacting water quality and availability. In response, the Kalamalka Wood Lake Basin - Technical Working Group (KWB-TWG) was formed in 2024, led by RDNO, DLC, and OKIB. This partnership focuses on protecting water resources, cultural heritage, and Syilx values through collaborative efforts and strengthened capacity.