

MLA Thorpe treads into motocross access issue

By MARSHALL JONES
REPORTER

A possible resolution to an on-going dispute over use of lands around Lambly Creek might soon have a solution.

Rick Thorpe, MLA for Okanagan-Westside, says he hopes to find common ground among both the Lakeview Irrigation District and the Okanagan Trail Riders.

LID manager James Moller had asked Thorpe for help to protect the area, which is the drinking water source for some 13,000 residents. Moller said the watershed was being badly disturbed and laid most of

the blame on local motocross riders.

The OTR group says it has been trying to work with the LID to protect the area but hasn't been getting the cooperation it was hoping for.

Thorpe says he is trying to organize a meeting before the end of the month.

"I have been working with both the minister responsible for lands and the ministry of environment and they are well aware of the subject and (at the meeting) they want to make sure there are clear understandings of the issues and to assess how to mitigate," he said.

He is personally meet-

ing with Moller again and has plans to meet the trail riders and hopes to find a meeting point.

"I will be absolutely surprised if the trail riders association does not agree that protection of drinking water is something that everyone has to work together on," he said. "If we start from that basis that everyone wants to protect water quality then we will see how we do that together and how we make sure that happens. We can make reasonable accommodations."

He said the lands branch is considering funding an environmental assessment of the area.

mjones@kelownacapnews.com