

Municipal Water

40th Annual Oklahoma Governor's Water
Conference and Research Symposium



The Unified Voice of Oklahoma Cities and Towns

Infrastructure (Rural Focus)

- Rural city/district rate planning/CIP development
 - Reuse – Needs to be considered in the planning process
- It's not always about new construction.
 - ORWA is working with our local communities under the Strategic Alliance they have with DEQ and OWRB.
 - Leak Assessment and Sustainability
 - 18 Cities Saving them more than \$1Million annually
- New Technologies (more efficient/less expensive process) for water treatment and delivery
 - Tribes
 - Reuse
 - EAR

Success!

- City of Altus – During the worst drought of record the city was in crisis. They created a water task force made up of Farmers, the Air Force Base, the City and water experts. They restored well fields and restructured a dam at Lake Tom Stead using grant money and loans from OWRB.
- OKC – The historic agreement they reach with the Choctaws and Chickasaws has created water capacity for Central Oklahoma for the next 50 years of or more.
- Enid - The Kaw Lake project will ensure the long-term availability of water to Enid residents, Vance Air Force Base, Woodring Regional Airport, local and outlying industry, neighboring municipalities and rural water customers. With the majority of funds coming through the OWRB Loan Program.
- Ada - Enhanced Aquifer Recharge (EAR) represents a practical solution to the Nation's need for additional water resources, and aquifer sustainability. Ground water levels are continuing to decline across the nation from decades of aquifer over withdrawal. Augmenting drinking water supplies through recharge into aquifers represents a cost-effective way of increasing the availability of water, due to seasonal scarcity and climate driven uncertainty.

Sustainability of cities/towns

- Impact to economic development and growth
- Protection of environment
- Identification & protection of non-consumptive uses
- Protecting municipal assets
- Work Force Development



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Support Regional Planning

- Regionalization (capitalize on economies of scale and sustainable water delivery)
- Think outside of the normal. Need to look at affordable regionalization. How are other states doing it?
 - Jones
- Regional Planning begins with the State



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Roadblocks

- Financing – The truth is that if we don't find a solution our small communities are going away
- Clarity in Water Rights – Don't make it more difficult
 - Administrative Rights
 - Accessibility to water
 - Infrastructure to the end user
- Timely permits (protests can take up to and longer than a year)
- Establish Water as the Economic Driver



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Final Thought

Collaboration with the end users should be paramount to develop solutions for everyone. Setting policy first then asking others to support without engagement raises frustrations and slows down the overall process.



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