

Oklahoma Rural Water Association

Who Are We



Orwa Mission Statement

- “ TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN RURAL OKLAHOMA, THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT AND DELIVERY OF SERVICES AND PROGRAMS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ORWA MEMBERS AND THE RURAL PEOPLE THEY SERVE”

ORWA SERVICES

- On-site technical assistance- ORWA provides technical assistance to small rural water and wastewater utilities throughout the State of Oklahoma. This includes cities and towns with populations of 10,000 or less.
- Training- Operator certification, Lab certification, renewal, Management and Board member.
- Source Water protection- The ORWA Sourcewater Protection Program helps to protect drinking water supplies, and their customers by helping to locate, identify and manage both known and potential, sources of contamination within a water shed or well recharge area.
- Leak Detection- Orwa staff work with systems identified by ODEQ to train and identify water loss.

ORWA SERVICES cont.

- ORDFC- A short term, low interest loan program for ORWA members.
- ORWEF- The Oklahoma Rural Water Enrichment Foundation (ORWEF) scholarship program was organized for the purpose of promoting the higher education of students from rural Oklahoma, by granting scholarships for continuing educational opportunities to eligible participants.

ORWA SERVICES cont.

- ORWA Assurance Group- providing competitively priced Insurance to its member systems, since 1988. **Property Coverage, Inland Marine, General Liability, Directors & Officers Liability, Earth quake and Cyber.**
- Workers Compensation Program- Since 1985. the Oklahoma Rural Water Association has been providing Workers Compensation Insurance to its members through a group plan, and index policy with CompSource Oklahoma.

ORWA SERVICES cont.

- ORWA Awards Program- ORWA takes pride in honoring systems and individuals for outstanding accomplishments and professionalism in serving the needs of Rural Oklahomans thru excellence in managing, operating and maintaining water and wastewater facilities.
- SOONERWARN- Oklahoma's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (SOONERWARN) is the formalized system of “utilities helping utilities” with mutual aid during emergency situations.

ORWA SERVICES cont.

- Lobbying- ORWA lobbies, at both the State and Federal levels, for legislation and programs to benefit the rural systems of Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma Apprenticeship Program- ORWA has developed the Oklahoma standards of apprenticeship for the occupations of Water and Wastewater operations specialist to be approved by the Oklahoma Department of Labor.

ORWA SERVICES cont.

- Sustainability Services – Establishes long range sustainability planning for Oklahoma Rural Water and Wastewater systems through coordination and planning with our alliance agreement partners. Components of the plan, depending on the type of system, include: Water Audit, Leak Detection, Capacity Development, Hydraulic Analysis, Rate Study, Asset Management, SOP's. Safety Programs, Optimization of Treatment Systems, Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Surveys, Sourcewater plan, Emergency Response Plan and Employee Incentive Programs. We can all work on pieces of the Sustainability Services and depending on the component working on, which program can be billed.

Strategic Alliance Signed

OKLAHOMA STRATEGIC ALLIANCE AGREEMENT



- Oklahoma SAA is a first in state history.
- Improves all organizations business model.
- It will add value for all of Oklahoma.
- Makes Oklahoma a leader in water & wastewater system sustainability.



Strategic Alliance Signed



Strategic Alliance Agreement

Between:

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality,
Oklahoma Water Resources Board,
Oklahoma Rural Water Association

This is a formal Strategic Alliance Agreement for the intended purpose of improving the sustainability of Oklahoma water and wastewater systems. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and the Oklahoma Rural Water Association will work together to accomplish the mission of each organization in a more efficient manner. By the terms of this agreement all three organizations are committing to work together toward promoting good business practices and developing solutions to aid and develop long range sustainability plans for rural water and wastewater districts and small community water and wastewater systems of the state of Oklahoma.

Background: Many rural and small community systems in Oklahoma are in need of infrastructure replacement. Some systems are over one hundred years old and some are nearing collapse. A number of systems have insufficient funds or borrowing capacity to repair or replace aging infrastructure. Many water systems are losing large amounts of potable water ranging from thirty percent to even ninety percent losses. This is mainly due to aged distribution system infrastructure. Many wastewater systems are also in a state of poor maintenance and as such are discharging poorly treated wastewater into Oklahoma rivers and streams. There are an estimated fourteen hundred or more water and wastewater systems in the state of Oklahoma.

This agreement focuses the synergy of the organizations with a goal of achieving results in a faster time frame. With over fourteen hundred systems, and most in urgent need of long range sustainability planning, it will take over fifty years to accomplish the task at the current rates of planning. The high number of at-risk systems that urgently need planning necessitates maximized collaboration between these organizations. It is estimated that without an improved rate of assistance a substantial number of Oklahoma's rural and small community water and wastewater systems will fail within the next twenty years.

Mutual Benefits: This agreement will allow the three organizations to join resources as a quality planning team to improve the rate and accuracy of long range sustainability planning for Oklahoma water systems. No one organization has the depth of services and expertise required to fulfill the needs in developing long range sustainability planning. By combining the abilities of all three organizations, a more comprehensive long range planning development process can be achieved. It will mutually benefit all three organizations by helping each fulfill their mission statements respectively.

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality mission statement: "The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality is to protect people through the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the land on which we thrive, helping to make Oklahoma an even better place to live."

Oklahoma Water Resources Board mission statement: "The mission of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is to protect and enhance the quality of life for Oklahomans by managing and improving the state's water resources to ensure clean and reliable water supplies, a strong economy, and a safe and healthy environment."

Oklahoma Rural Water Association mission statement: "To enhance the quality of life in rural Oklahoma through the development and delivery of services and programs for the benefit of ORWA members and the rural people they serve."

Agreement Process: This agreement commits the parties to work together to develop specific solutions to business and operational problems for rural water and wastewater districts and small community water and wastewater systems. ORWA, OKDEQ, and OWRB teams will meet as required and may seek outside resources to solve the issues and problems identified for Oklahoma's water and wastewater systems' sustainability. The agreement will remain in effect until mutual agreement of the majority of the parties for termination. Any party may withdraw upon at least thirty days' notice to the other parties.

Objective: The objective of this alliance is to improve the sustainability of Oklahoma's rural and small community water and wastewater systems over the next thirty to forty years. This will improve the lives and economic viability of all Oklahoma communities.

Agreement No. 001

Date: August 22, 2012

Julie Cunningham
Executive Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Scott Thompson
Executive Director
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

James Gammill
Chief Executive Officer
Oklahoma Rural Water Association

Kenneth Wagner
Secretary of Energy and Environment
State of Oklahoma

Kevin Stitt
Governor
State of Oklahoma



Strategic Alliance Signed



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Oklahoma Sets Industry Leading Precedence by Signing Strategic Alliance Agreement

Posted September 5, 2019 by [Kalli Forshee](#)

August 22nd of 2019 was a day that should be noted in Oklahoma history as the first Strategic Alliance Agreement was formally signed between the Oklahoma State Secretary of Energy and Environment, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, and the Oklahoma Rural Water Association, and was ratified by the Governor of Oklahoma Kevin Stitt.

The formal signing took place at the Oklahoma Rural Water Association's fall conference at Sequoyah State Park's Western Hills Lodge. The alliance agreement commits the organizations to work together to help meet the missions of the organizations and to improve the sustainability of Oklahoma rural and small community water and wastewater systems.

Some of Oklahoma's water and wastewater infrastructure systems exceed one hundred years old, and many of the systems are not prepared for the business challenges of the twenty-first century. Without enough potable clean water and wastewater system capacity the economic development of many Oklahoma communities will be a risk.



Strategic Alliance Signed

Four simple reasons for Strategic Alliance Business Agreements

- Combines the best of each organization
- Fills an organizations functional gaps
- Increases business efficiency
- Eliminates organization overlap

