

The OWRB defines policy and conducts the state's water business through a nine-member Board appointed by the Governor. The Board meets monthly to make decisions regarding the appropriation, allocation, distribution, and management of Oklahoma's water resources.

The mission of the OWRB is to enhance the quality of life for Oklahomans by managing, protecting, and improving the state's water resources to ensure clean, safe, and reliable water supplies, a strong economy, and a healthy environment.

This mission is accomplished through the following agency programs:

Water Use Permitting

As the state's designated water management agency, the OWRB allocates surface water and groundwater supplies for beneficial uses including agriculture, fish and wildlife propagation, hydroelectric power generation, irrigation, municipal and industrial use, navigation, and recreation.

Data and Mapping

The OWRB provides water-related information through the interpretation of spatial data using standard and customized GIS applications.

Financing

The OWRB manages a AAA-rated financial assistance program that provides low-interest loans and grants for public water and wastewater system improvements as well as stormwater management and green infrastructure projects.

Water Quality Standards

The OWRB promulgates Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards by designating beneficial uses and developing water quality criteria to protect these uses, developing antidegradation policies, and developing and implementing rules, including use support protocols.

Monitoring

The OWRB conducts statewide surface water and groundwater quality and quantity monitoring to determine the availability of water supplies and assess how well waters are meeting the quality criteria for their designated beneficial uses.

Planning

The OWRB forecasts long-term water needs through the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, providing information for water management and implementation of policy that ensures reliable supplies of water for the future.

Technical Studies

The OWRB provides in-depth analysis of water yield and quality in the state's aquifers, lakes, and streams, including maximum annual yield studies, stream water allocation modeling, bathymetric surveys, lake yield analysis, and lake restoration assessment.

Well Driller Licensing

The OWRB is responsible for ensuring responsible well construction that protects the state's groundwater quality and provides information to the public through the agency's well log database.

Dam Safety

As the coordinating state agency for Oklahoma's dam safety program, the OWRB ensures the safety of more than 4,700 state dams, requiring inspections for all jurisdictional size dams based on downstream development.

Floodplain Management

As the coordinating state agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the OWRB provides education and certification, promoting sensible floodplain development.



With passage of the Water For 2060 Act in 2012, Oklahoma became the first state in the nation to establish a bold, statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than was consumed in 2010. Water for 2060 emphasizes the use of education and incentives, rather than mandates, to achieve this ambitious goal without limiting Oklahoma's future growth.

An advisory council was created in 2013 to study appropriate water conservation practices, incentives, and educational programs to moderate statewide water usage while preserving Oklahoma's population growth and economic development goals. The council's recommendations will be submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President Pro Tempore by late 2015.

For more information on Water for 2060, including Advisory Council membership and meeting information, please visit www.owrb.ok.gov/2060.