

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD
OFFICIAL MINUTES
December 16, 2014

1. Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board was called to order by Chairman Rudy Herrmann at 9:30 a.m., on December 16, 2014, in the second floor meeting room of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, 3800 N. Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting was conducted pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Law with due and proper notice provided pursuant to Sections 303 and 311 thereof. The agenda was posted on December 12, 2014, at 5:00 p.m. at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board's offices at 3800 N. Classen Boulevard, and provided on the agency's website.

Chairman Herrmann welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked for the roll call of members. He asked Mr. Drake to serve as assistant secretary in Mr. Buchanan's absence.

A. Roll Call

Board Members Present

Rudy Herrmann, Chairman
Linda Lambert, Vice Chairman
Bob Drake
Marilyn Feaver
Ed Fite
Jason Hitch
Richard Sevenoaks

Board Members Absent

Tom Buchanan, Secretary
Ford Drummond

Staff Members Present

J.D. Strong, Executive Director
Rob Singletary, General Counsel
Amanda Storck, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Joe Freeman, Chief, Financial Assistance Division
Julie Cunningham, Chief, Planning and Management Division
Derek Smithee, Water Quality Programs Division
Lauren Sturgeon, Director of External Affairs
Mary Schooley, Executive Secretary

Others Present

Russ Dougherty, Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy
Charles Swinton, BancFirst, Oklahoma City, OK
Jerry Dunn, Garvin County, Rural Water District #4, Pauls Valley, OK
Jack Justice, Garvin County, Rural Water District #4, Pauls Valley, OK
Noel Clonts, Kaw City, OK
Jeff Everett, Oklahoma Gas & Electric, Oklahoma City, OK
George Tipton, Communities Resources Group (CRG)
Charlie Davis, Rogers County Rural Water District #16
Ben Cochran, eCapitol, Oklahoma City, OK
Kevan Parker, ADS
Scott Roberson, OWRB
Vicki Eggers, NODA
Bud Ground, OKOGA/EFO, Oklahoma City, OK

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Herrmann stated the draft minutes of the November 18, 2014, Regular Meeting had been electronically distributed.

Ms. Lambert moved to approve the November 18, 2014, minutes, as presented and Mr. Sevenoaks seconded. There were no comments or corrections, and Chairman Herrmann called for the vote.

AYE: Fite, Lambert, Sevenoaks, Drake, Herrmann
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Hitch, Feaver
ABSENT: Buchanan, Drummond

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. J.D. Strong, Executive Director, addressed the members and introduced the agency's new General Counsel, Mr. Rob Singletary. Mr. Singletary expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the OWRB. Mr. Strong announced that Ms. Lauren Sturgeon will present her final legislative report as she is returning to work in Washington, D.C. with the Environment and Public Works Committee staff with Senator Inhofe who is now the Committee Chairman. Ms. Sturgeon stated that there is not much activity at the State level, but information in the prepared report included committee chairs and legislative deadlines. At the Federal level, she said the House and Senate reached an agreement on the Omnibus bill and she noted in the report the impacts to the OWRB, EPA, Fish and Wildlife and other federal agencies. The measure will fund the government for the next year, containing 11 of 12 appropriation measures which had not been acted on. Chairman Herrmann asked and she responded the funding levels that impact the OWRB are maintained.

Mr. Strong continued the legislative report by reviewing the State committees of the new Legislature. The OWRB subcommittee for appropriations is the House Appropriations and Budget Natural Resources and Regulatory Services Subcommittee chaired by Representative Leslie Osborn. He said there is an Energy and Natural Resources Committee where OWRB non-appropriations legislation is usually reviewed; however, there is a new Environmental Law Committee chaired by

Representative Kevin Calvey. He said meetings are beginning to be scheduled with legislators about issues.

Mr. Strong continued the report stating that mediation and technical committee meetings continue on the Chickasaw/Choctaw/Oklahoma City/OWRB litigation. The Arbuckle Simpson litigation hearing was scheduled but continued to January 9; there are no substantive issues at this point. That action is in Oklahoma County District Court. Mr. Drake asked and Mr. Strong responded there had not been any new filings in that case. He said the Water for 2060 Council met following the November Board meeting and will meet again in February. In the meantime, the Council will be developing the final report which is due November 2015. He spoke at The Natural Conservancy's Global Water Summit on November 19 in Chicago; Chairman Herrmann was also in attendance as a member of the Oklahoma Chapter. There were speakers from all over the world and he spoke on a panel with an Australian about water shortages for farmers and ranchers. He met November 20 with Oklahoma Ag groups regarding water planning issues, and also met with Cabinet Secretaries Reese and Teague, NRCS and Panhandle Irrigators. Mr. Strong will be speaking at the Legislative Ag Chairs Summit on January 3 in Clearwater, Florida, to talk about water conservation initiatives and Oklahoma's Water for 2060 effort. He will be meeting with Oklahoma's Rural Caucus on January 6.

Mr. Strong concluded his report with the announcement of the agency's award of "Top Work Places for 2014" in Oklahoma—80% of employees participated in an anonymous survey. Last year, the OWRB was the only state agency; this year the Department of Labor was also recognized. The next OWRB meeting is Tuesday, January 20, 2015, in Oklahoma City, and is scheduled for the public hearing and presentation of the proposed rules. There are no proposed rules from the Planning and Management Division, the Financial Assistance Division has mostly housekeeping changes, and Water Quality does have several proposals regarding Water Quality Standards, including proposed rules that concern wetlands. Chairman Herrmann added that it is planned that formal action (on the rules) will be taken at the February meeting.

D. Monthly Budget Report

Ms. Amanda Storck, Chief, Administrative Services Division, stated to the members that the monthly budget report for November 2014 had been provided. She said the agency has 74% of total funding available with 58% of the fiscal year remaining. She is currently working on getting the budget entered into the new Hyperion system and working with the Office of Management and Enterprise Services in regard to some concerns with data entered from the previous system. The computer program performed the transfer of data and issues such as personnel assigned to wrong areas occurred. This totally new system (Hyperion) is a budget work program and budget request system; the system the agency had issues with previously was PeopleSoft and concerned grants and contracts. She will be working with Mr. Strong on the legislative front this year as the agency will not be replacing Ms. Sturgeon at this point.

Ms. Storck concluded her report. There were no questions by members.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

A. Consideration of and Possible Action on a Proposed Order Approving Clean Water Funding Application for Caddo Public Works Authority, Bryan County. Recommended for Approval. Mr. Joe Freeman, Chief, Financial Assistance Division, stated to the members that this first item is a \$915,000.00 loan request from the Caddo Public Works Authority located in Bryan County. He said the Authority is requesting the loan to go along with \$25,414.00 in local funds to refinance two Rural

Development loans for waste water treatment improvements, including 4,800 feet of 8-inch force main, construction of a total retention lagoon system, and a 400 gpm lift station. He said the loan will be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program with a fixed interest rate, and he noted provisions of the loan agreement. He said that by refinancing the loan, Caddo PWA will be able to reduce its debt amortization by 8-9 years to 13 years, and saving approximately one-half million dollars in overall interest expense. Caddo's debt coverage ratio stands at approximately 1.88-times.

Mr. Alan Brooks, Caddo's Bond Counsel, was present in support of the loan request.

Chairman Herrmann asked if the loan is all refinancing, or was there a project component. Mr. Brooks responded it is all refinancing. Chairman Herrmann asked and Mr. Freeman responded that is an acceptable use of Clean Water SRF funding, as long as it is an eligible expense. Mr. Hitch asked the term of the original loans, and Mr. Brooks answered those were 40 year-loans, from 2005 with an interest rate of 4.25%. The new loan is at 2.05% for 12.75 years, dramatically reducing its repayment term. Caddo has managed its money wisely and was able to provide the cash to bring the loan amount down.

There were no other questions, and Chairman Herrmann stated staff recommended approval. Mr. Sevenoaks moved to approve the Clean Water SRF loan to the Caddo PWA, and Mr. Hitch seconded.

AYE: Fite, Lambert, Sevenoaks, Hitch, Feaver, Drake, Herrmann
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Buchanan, Drummond

B. Consideration of and Possible Action on a Proposed Order Approving Drinking Water Funding Application for Rural Water District #4, Garvin County. Recommended for Approval. Mr. Freeman stated that this item is a \$2 million dollar loan request from Garvin County Rural Water District #4. The District is requesting the loan for the construction of a 280,000 gallon water storage tank, a booster pump station, 11,000 feet of 8-inch water line, 6,000 feet of 6-inch line and 6,000 feet of 2-inch line. Mr. Freeman said the loan will be funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program, and he noted provisions of the loan agreement. He said the District had no other outstanding debt and it is estimated it will save \$700,000.00 in interest expense by borrowing through the Drinking Water SRF program. The debt coverage ratio stands at approximately 1.27-times, and staff recommended approval.

Mr. Jack Justice, District Chairman and Jerry Dunn, District Manager were present in support of the loan request.

Mr. Sevenoaks asked about the 1.27-debt coverage rate, and Mr. Freeman said the District will meet to see if rates needed to be adjusted, but it will be above the 1.25 required.

Mr. Drake moved to approve the DWSRF loan to the Garvin county RWD #4, and Ms. Feaver seconded. Chairman Herrmann asked if there were questions; there were none, and he called for the vote.

AYE: Fite, Lambert, Sevenoaks, Hitch, Feaver, Drake, Herrmann
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Buchanan, Drummond

3. SUMMARY DISPOSITION AGENDA ITEMS

Any item listed under this Summary Disposition Agenda may, at the requested of any member of the Board, the Board's staff, or any other person attending this meeting, may be transferred to the Special

Consideration Agenda. Under the Special Consideration Agenda, separate discussion and vote or other action may be taken on any items already listed under that agenda or items transferred to that agenda from this Summary Disposition Agenda.

A. Requests to Transfer Items from Summary Disposition Agenda to the Special Consideration Agenda, and Action on Whether to Transfer Such Items.

Chairman Herrmann read the statement above and asked if there were requests to transfer items from the Summary Disposition Agenda to the Special Consideration Agenda. There were no requests to transfer items.

B. Discussion, Questions, and Responses Pertaining to Any Items Remaining on Summary Disposition Agenda and Action on Items and Approval of Items listed.

Chairman Herrmann asked if there any changes to the Summary Disposition Agenda. Ms. Cunningham asked that item E.3., application for temporary permit to use groundwater for Thomas Scott and Brandi Don Phelps, #2014-583, be withdrawn from the Board’s consideration. There were no other changes, nor any questions by Board members. Chairman Herrmann stated he would entertain a motion to approve the Summary Disposition Agenda.

Mr. Hitch moved to approve the Summary Disposition Agenda as amended, and Ms. Lambert seconded. There being no further questions regarding items listed, Chairman Herrmann called for the vote.

- AYE: Fite, Lambert, Sevenoaks, Hitch, Feaver, Herrmann
- NAY: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Buchanan, Drummond, Drake

(Mr. Drake left the meeting room prior to the vote, and returned following the vote.)

The following items were approved:

C. Consideration of and Possible Action on Financial Assistance Division Items:

1. Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grant Applications:

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Application No.</u>	<u>Entity Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount Recommended</u>
EODD				
a.	FAP-14-0012-R	Porum Public Works Authority	Muskogee	\$99,999.00
GGEDA				
b.	FAP-11-0007-R	Rural Water District #16	Rogers	69,999.00
NODA				
c.	FAP-14-0006-R	Kaw City Municipal Authority	Kay	99,684.00
OEDA				
d.	FAP-14-0007-R	Fort Supply Public Works Authority	Woodward	99,750.00
SODA				
e.	FAP-14-0001-R	Stringtown Public Works Authority	Atoka	99,990.00

- D. Consideration of and Possible Action on Contracts and Agreements:
1. Agreement with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to collaborate to provide water quality data in support of technical studies related to ongoing fish kills in the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River.
 2. Intergovernmental Agreement with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to purchase and install monitoring equipment to provide water quality data in support of technical studies related to ongoing fish kills in the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River.
 3. Intergovernmental Agreement with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to purchase and install monitoring equipment to provide water quality data in support of technical studies related to ongoing fish kills in the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River.
 4. Professional Service Agreement with the Tarigma Corporation for support service for the computer loan and grant tracking software used by the Financial Assistance Division.
 5. Amendment of Joint Funding Agreement for water resources investigations of the Hydrologic Surveys and Groundwater-Flow Models of the Beaver-North Canadian River Alluvial Aquifer.
- E. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications for Temporary Permits to Use Groundwater:
1. David Lynn Rohrer, Harper County, #2014-538
 2. Clay A. & Jennifer Muegge and Bonnie M. Muegge, Grant County, #2014-545
 3. *Thomas Scott & Brandi Don Phelps, Jefferson County, #2014-583* **Withdrawn**
 4. James Brian & Monica Lea Thompson, Jackson County, #2014-613
- F. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications to Amend Temporary Permits to Use Groundwater:
1. Jana Williams, Harmon County, #2011-573
- G. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications for Regular Permits to Use Groundwater:
1. Richard D. Wilds, Max L. Wilds, and Billie L. Wilds, Canadian County, #2014-515
- H. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications to Amend Regular Permits to Use Groundwater:
1. Link Raney 2000 Trust, Beckham County, #1984-615
 2. Roy & Shirley Mobbs, Atoka County, #2001-578
- I. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications to Amend Prior Rights to Use Groundwater:
- None
- J. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications for Regular Permits to Use Stream Water:
1. Robert Stilwell, Pawnee County, #2014-040
- K. Consideration of and Possible Action on Dam and Reservoir Construction:
- None
- L. Consideration of and Possible Action on Well Driller and Pump Installer Licensing:
1. New Licenses:
 - a. Licensee: Wyoming Casing Service

	DPC-0922
1. Operator: Keven Randol	OP-2066
2. Operator: Jeremy Caldwell	OP-2067
 2. New Operators to Existing Licenses:
 - a. Licensee: Hinderliter Geotechnical Engineering LLC

	DPC-0754
1. Operator: Benjamin Harmening	OP-2068

3. Proposed Consent Order In the Matter of Driller License No. DPC-0640 of Pendergraft and Sons Windmill and Operator Certification No. OP-1289 of Jimmy Pendergraft.

M. Consideration of and Possible Action on Permit applications for Proposed Development on State Owned or Operated Property within Floodplain Areas:

1. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Rogers Mills County, #FP-14-27
2. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Kay County, #FP-14-28
3. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Logan County, #FP-14-29
4. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Woods County, #FP-14-30
5. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Pittsburg County, #FP-14-31
6. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Cherokee County, #FP-14-32
7. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Garvin County, #FP-14-33
8. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Noble County, #FP-14-34
9. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Kay County, #FP-14-35
10. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Garvin County, #FP-14-36
11. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Garvin County, #FP-14-37
12. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Garvin County, #FP-14-38
13. Oklahoma Department of Transportation, Choctaw County, #FP-14-39
14. City of Edmond, Oklahoma County, #FP-14-40

N. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications for Accreditation of Floodplain Administrators:
None

4. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION ABOUT AGENCY MATTERS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A. Presentation and Discussion about OWRB Funding Mechanisms for Green or Conservation-Focused Projects. Chairman Herrmann introduced this item noting that there is more information available now about the role of green infrastructure to add robustness to water and wastewater systems to improve energy cost performance. He had asked Mr. Freeman to make a presentation about what is happening in Oklahoma relative the green infrastructure initiative. He added if members were interested in a presentation by staff on a particular area of interest, they should inform Mr. Strong for it to be placed on a future agenda.

Mr. Freeman addressed the Board members and stated he appreciated the opportunity to discuss with the Board funding mechanisms for green or conservation-focused projects. He introduced division staff members who would be making certain portions of the presentation: Ms. Jennifer Wasinger, Assistant Division Chief; Mr. Tony Mensah, Engineering Manager; Lori Johnson, Project Officer; and Owen Mills, Environmental Programs Manager. He said that staff would be reviewing the current funding mechanisms and several case studies regarding conservation-focused projects, as well as changes the Board will be making in order to fund Water for 2060-focused projects that will be coming in the future.

Mr. Freeman said that the agency will soon be surpassing \$3.2 billion in financing throughout Oklahoma, easily saving over \$1 billion in interest expense for water users in all 77 counties to date. There are seven funding programs: emergency grant (funding source is from interest earnings on reserve funds), emergency drought grants which become active when the Governor declares an emergency situation based upon drought (\$300,000.00), REAP grants assist communities with a population of less than 1,750 people, Water for 2060 drought grants will be available in January 2015 from a \$1.5 million appropriation in 2014 receiving 58 applications in excess of \$17 million. Available loan programs include Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program (DWSRF) administered with the Department of Environmental Quality to meet water infrastructure needs of the

state while focusing on regionalization and consolidation, and the Financial Assistance Loan Program (FAP) which is used for refinancing loans and projects which do not qualify for SRF financing or is more advantageous for a program, and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (CWSRF).

Mr. Tony Mensah addressed the members and spoke about the engineering reviews on all projects which are based upon FACT (Funding Agencies Coordinating Team) guidelines and ODEQ standards for water and wastewater, looking for cost effectiveness (selecting one that is reasonable and feasible), and green and sustainable components: opportunity for water efficiency projects (i.e. augmented meter readers and potable and nonpotable reuse); energy-efficient projects such as high efficiency pumps, and lower and variable frequency drives; green infrastructure projects including green streets, bioretention and rain gardens; and environmentally innovative green projects such as stream bank restoration and floating wetlands.

Mr. Owen Mills stated he is involved in outreach with communities and has been developing an online tool, OASIS or Oklahoma Advantages Assessment & Scoring for Infrastructure Solutions associated with the Clean Water SRF to aid borrowers in quantifying their investment in regard to environmental, social, and economic benefits; to make well informed decisions; and to articulate benefits of the investment to constituents. The tool allows the entity to enter information in 8 sections regarding master planning – 4 of which include green infrastructure efficiencies--including Planning Methodology, Planning and Design, Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, Water Efficiency, Efficient Use of Resources, Creating a Livable Community, and Community Involvement. Following a request to be placed on the priority list, the Board then utilizes an integrated priority ranking system to evaluate and rank proposed projects. Projects within the range of available funds shall be eligible to receive financial assistance.

Ms. Lori Johnson spoke to the members about the requests for CWSRF funding process and prioritization system. She explained that entities submit a questionnaire about the project and staff reviews the information for green infrastructure categories. If any of the categories are implemented in the project, then the project is ranked through the integrated priority ranking system which includes programmatic priorities --and if included--allow entities to receive up to an additional 100 bonus if the priorities set forth by EPA and the OWRB, and 40 additional bonus points if green infrastructure priorities are incorporated.

Ms. Johnson said that staff will discuss some of the projects which have been funded through this process. The first project utilized ARRA funding, along with other funding partners such as (CREP) through the Farm Services agencies and EPA 319 grant monies, and concerned a stream bank stabilization project with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission on the Illinois River/Eucha-Spavinaw watershed; it was an environmentally innovative project to improve water quality at 11 stream sites and the downstream reservoirs.

Mr. Mensah discussed projects including the City of Moore water efficient wastewater treatment plant, the City of Bixby rain gardens to address intersection flooding issues, and the City of Hennessey change from total retention to use of effluent on a farm and groundwater recharge. Mr. Mills discussed the conservation easement projects with the Tulsa Municipal Utilities Authority, OWRB and Land Legacy; agreements with landowners and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission regarding 14 properties which resulted in the protection of 2,400 acres by reducing phosphorous in Beatty Creek and Eucha and Spavinaw Creeks. Mr. Sevenoaks spoke to the TMUA involvement with 319 funding the project in regard to riparian way work. Chairman Herrmann added the recent TNC Water Summit presentations pointed to a source water protection theme, and Mr. Fite and Mr. Strong talked about conservation efforts on a per acre basis and initiatives through negotiation and compensation to landowners.

Ms. Jennifer Wasinger addressed the members to discuss rule changes. She said the case studies described today have always been eligible under the CWSRF; however, over the past several years

eligibility has been clarified and staff believes that what is done in the CWSRF program is green because it is ensuring that pollutants do not enter the waterway. With ARRA funding in 2009, the program was taken “up a notch” and added to what the program was already doing. Now, adding the program priority factor allows staff flexibility if there are OWRB priorities i.e., regarding the Water Plan and reaching small communities, and also keeping in line with the ODEQ in regard to potable and non-potable reuse, and the OWRB will be ready to fund those programs. She said that WRRDA reauthorized the State’s programs and the Board will present changes in the rules which call out even further specific green eligibilities, and that the system needs to certify it is looking at water conservation and efficiencies. Additionally, EPA is encouraging additional subsidy -- principal forgiveness – which can be provided based on affordability or water/energy efficiency, storm water runoff, or sustainable planning/design, and is in line with the Water for 2060 project. As an enhancement to the engineering review, staff will also ensure that entities are, to the extent practicable, maximizing the potential for efficient water use, reuse, recapture, conservation, and energy conservation.

Mr. Freeman concluded the report, and the members asked questions and shared information about the project specifics, funding sources, methane recovery as an energy source, Water for 2060 Council advancing incentives for recycling, and reuse of water and utilities wastewater stream. Chairman Herrmann complimented the Financial Assistance Division staff on their involvement and commitment to the communities.

(Mr. Hitch departed the meeting between 10:23 a.m. and 10:27 a.m.)

5. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

A. Discussion, Consideration of and Possible Action on Memorandum of Agreement with U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Mountain Park Master Conservancy District and Lugert-Altus Irrigation District to study the Upper Red River Basin as part of the Water SMART Basin Studies Program. Recommended for Approval. Ms. Julie Cunningham stated to the members that staff wanted to highlight this project involving the Upper Red River basin which is located in the southwest part of the State and is the most drought stricken area of the state. The region contains six of the 12 hot spot basins identified as the most significant water quantity challenges by 2060 and the Lugert Altus Reservoir lake level is at the lowest since construction. Despite aggressive conservation efforts, the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) estimates shortages by 2016 if drought conditions continue; reservoirs are also experiences shortages due to sedimentation issues, as well as an aging delivery infrastructure at Lugert which is contributing to conveyance losses and operational inefficiencies estimated to be about 35% indicating there are other issues in the area in addition to the sheer lack of water.

Ms. Cunningham said the project will complement efforts implementing the Water Plan water supply availability recommendations to conduct hydrologic investigations for all basins statewide – 32 groundwater basins, 42 stream water basins – quantifying the amount of water in the basins, utilizing \$1.1 million annually through the technical assistance program, and Gross Production Tax funding provides the OWRB match. A local effort is involved through the South West Water Supply Action Plan which hired Carollo Engineering to conduct assessments using the Water Plan, the Regional Report and identifying near-mid-long term supply options.

Ms. Cunningham discussed the background of the Upper Red River watershed stating the system covers 4,000 square miles in Oklahoma and Texas (Bureau owns the dam and structures) and the Conservancy and Irrigation Districts are responsible for operation and maintenance. The entire southwest planning region includes the Red River, North Fork, Salt Fork and Elm Fork, and two reservoirs – Tom Steed and Lugert Altus-- providing water to nearly 45,000 people and irrigation for

48,000 acres of land. The study identified nearly 95% of water in the area is used for irrigation, and 5% for public water supply.

Ms. Cunningham discussed the study objectives: quantity for future and present water supply and demand, hydrologic investigations, surface water modeling, water management, climate, operational and infrastructure needs, and evaluation of alternatives.

Mr. Sevenoaks said there had been comments about the possibility of a pipeline from Grand Lake to this area, and Mr. Strong responded that is not a part of this study, but it is to look at the water resources in this area and how to best utilize those resources.

Ms. Cunningham said the study will conduct hydrologic investigations and develop groundwater flow models and a maximum annual yield for the North Fork of the Red River Alluvium Terrace; surface water models for the North Fork of the Red River system (Elm and Salt Fork) to determine surface water availability, evaluate project management and use options regarding protection of future supplies, assess impact of climate variability and future water needs, assess operational and infrastructure needs associated with the two reservoirs to better manage water and potentially add water, and to evaluate alternatives to address water supply and infrastructure issues facing the study area both now and in the future.

Ms. Cunningham described the study partners through which the agency is able to leverage dollars to expand the study; in the groundwater and stream water studies the OWRB partners with the USGS; other partners are the Bureau of Reclamation, Mountain Park Master Conservancy District (4 entities), Lugert-Altus Irrigation District (2 entities), and AMEC Environmental. Nearly one-half of funding goes to the USGS participation in basin studies.

Ms. Lambert asked if additional staff were needed, and Ms. Cunningham responded that the funding and staffing has been prioritized for future efforts for the next three years in that area. Ms. Feaver asked and Ms. Cunningham answered it is a three-year study. Chairman Herrmann commented the total budget amount for basin studies is about 25% of the legislative appropriation, and Ms. Cunningham answered it is about one-half, but there are several three-to four-year studies ongoing, and no additional funding is required. Mr. Strong added that 2012 appropriations for the OCWP was shifted to Planning and Management to get through the backlog of groundwater basin studies and stream water allocations, and staff is taking what was planned for the southwest part of the state and integrating it with the Bureau of Reclamation grant to do a holistic look at surface water and groundwater and BOR infrastructure that supplies water. Chairman Herrmann asked about groundwater/stream water interaction and Ms. Cunningham said that will be the Bureau's work to look at supply, management and policy options, the OWRB will strictly conduct the studies planned. The members talked about staff time devoted to conduct the studies, the final product in three years (maximum annual yield, groundwater flow model and stream water models--OCWP, and water supply options and management strategies), looking in more detail at hot spots identified in the Water Plan and how to meet the challenges for secure long-term water, the Hackberry Flats project. Ms. Cunningham concluded her remarks stating the importance of interaction with the local citizenry, and that the basin studies are anticipated to be completed concurrently by October of 2017. Staff recommended approval of the memorandum of agreement.

Mr. Drake moved to approve the memorandum of agreement, and Mr. Fite seconded.

There were no other questions. Chairman Herrmann and Mr. Hitch commented about whether part of the equation from the analytical review and study results would be to address the crops grown and impact to the economics of the area. Mr. Strong recommended the Board not discuss crop systems during this item.

There being no further questions, Chairman Herrmann called for the vote.

AYE: Fite, Lambert, Sevenoaks, Hitch, Feaver, Drake, Herrmann

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Buchanan, Drummond

(Mr. Sevenoaks departed the meeting at the beginning of the presentation at 10:32 a.m., and returned at 10:35 a.m. Mr. Drake departed the meeting at 10:45 a.m. and returned at 10:47 a.m.)

- B. Consideration of and Possible Action on Items Transferred from Summary Disposition Agenda, if any. There were no items transferred from the Summary Disposition Agenda.

6. NEW BUSINESS

Under the Open Meeting Act, this agenda item is authorized only for matters not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda or any revised agenda. Chairman Herrmann stated there were no New Business items for the Board's consideration. He reminded the members the next meeting is January 20, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in Oklahoma City, and will be chaired by Vice Chairman Linda Lambert as he will be traveling.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Herrmann adjourned the meeting of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at 10:55 a.m. on December 16, 2014.

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

_____/Absent_____
Rudolf J. Herrmann, Chairman

_____/s/_____
Linda P. Lambert, Vice Chairman

_____/s/_____
Edward H. Fite

_____/s/_____
F. Ford Drummond

_____/s/_____
Marilyn Feaver

_____/Absent_____
Richard Sevenoaks

_____/s/_____
Bob Drake

_____/s/_____
Jason W. Hitch

ATTEST:

_____/s/_____
Tom Buchanan, Secretary (SEAL)