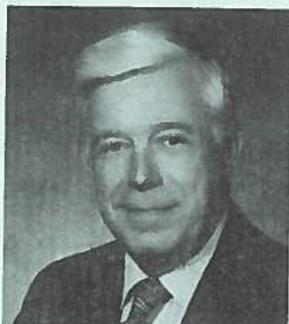


OK Water NEWS



Gov. George Nigh



J. W. "Jack" Morris

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

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On December 4 the Governor's Water Conference Takes a Look at Oklahoma's WATER

Who's Paying for It? Who's Saving It? Who's Got It? Is It Clean? Who'll Repair the Infrastructure?

Nationally known speakers step up to these and other issues as the sixth Conference gets underway at the Hilton Inn West in Oklahoma City next month.

The water meeting is coordinated by the OWRB and the Governor's office, backed by 30 other sponsors and attended by 600 or more Oklahomans with a lively interest in water.

Welcoming delegates and making the opening remarks will be Gerald E. Borelli, chairman of the OWRB. Gov. George Nigh will deliver the keynote address.

First on the agenda is Brig. Gen. Patrick J. Kelly, Deputy Director of Civil Works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who will discuss "National Water Policy."

Kelly holds a BS in civil engineering, MS in physics and PhD in philosophy.

"Privatization: Trend of the Future in Water Development?" will then be scrutinized by John W. Morris, who retired in 1980 after serving 32 years in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Gen. Morris served nationally as Division Engineer of the Missouri River Division, Director of Civil Works and Chief of Engineers. He also served in the Tulsa District of the Corps during development of the Cen-

tral Oklahoma Project.

Prior to lunch, members of Oklahoma's Congressional delegation have been invited to make remarks and field questions from conferees.

The luncheon program will feature an awards presentation by Gov. Nigh to recognize the contributions made by some unique Oklahoma "water people."

Lawrence J. Jensen, assistant administrator designate for the EPA's Office of Water, will then speak on "The Nation's Water Quality." Jensen, who began his career with the Department of Justice, also served as associate solicitor for the Department of the Interior.

The afternoon program is highlighted by a debate entitled "Is Cost-Sharing Leaving America's Infrastructure High and Dry?"

Later, Wayne Wyatt, manager of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District, will discuss "Ground Water Management." In addition to his work at the water district, Wyatt served 11 years at the Texas Department of Water Resources. He has gained wide recognition for his work in conservation and in applying secondary recovery techniques to ground water.

The OWRB's weather modification

Continued on page 2



Lawrence J. Jensen



A. Wayne Wyatt

Conference, continued from page 1

slide show, "Oklahoma's Reach to the Clouds," will follow the afternoon break and will precede the topic "Is Chloride Control in Oklahoma's Future?" with Glenn Sullivan of the Benham Group.

An hour has been reserved in the Hilton Inn's Gazebo immediately

following adjournment to give conferees an opportunity to meet and ask questions of the speakers.

Registration for the Conference costs \$20 in advance and \$25 on Conference day. For information, call Mary Whitlow or Brian Vance, OWRB Conference Coordinators, at (405) 271-2555.

REGISTRATION

Please clip and mail to:

**Governor's Water Conference, Oklahoma Water Resources Board
Post Office Box 53585 Oklahoma City, Okla. 73152**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I have enclosed my check for \$20.

I will attend the December 3 Early Bird Reception

Conference registration costs \$20 if paid in advance; \$25 on Conference day. Please make check or money order payable to the Governor's Water Conference.

Board Attorney Tom Lay Opts for Private Practice

"What will I remember most about the OWRB?" Lay wonders out loud. "Probably the good people."

ance program, interstate stream compacts, Tar Creek and several water quality programs," he reminisces.

Lay emphasized his sense of pride in the OWRB. "In my years here I have seen our staff's expertise grow immensely. The agency has continued to improve communications with the public and develop a greater awareness of matters concerning Oklahomans," he commented.

Although he has enjoyed his legal duties with the Board, Lay greatly anticipates managing his own law practice. He looks forward to the day when his new duties will enable him to interact with the OWRB once again.

"It will be interesting if I ever have the opportunity to present a case before, instead of for, the Board. The Board members have always been so supportive of my opinions on legal matters. I hope," he adds with a grin, "they will be as understanding when I'm on the other side of the table."

For almost seven years, R. Thomas Lay, OWRB general counsel, has been advising the Board on legal matters. On October 11, with mixed feelings, he bid farewell to his friends to establish himself in private practice.

Lay received his law degree from Oklahoma City University but graduated in 1970 from Oklahoma State University, which he considers his true alma mater. Lay will open his office at 4000 Classen Center in Oklahoma City.

Lay recalls the many OWRB programs and assignments he has helped along. "I have been fortunate to be involved in a number of significant OWRB projects—the financial assist-



Board Dispatches Water Mixes to Labs Seeking Certification in Testing Abilities

On October 1, OWRB Water Quality staff packaged and mailed 744 bottles containing interfused liquid contents to laboratories across the state and country. The contents of each pint sample are known only to Water Quality personnel.

The task: to play a complex constituent guessing game. The reward: certification by the state to analyze contaminants present in industrial wastewaters.

In actuality, this procedure is no game and there is no guesswork involved. The Board is currently conducting Oklahoma's Laboratory Certification program.

Twice a year, in the spring and fall, the OWRB carefully prepares mixed samples of minerals, nutrients, metals and toxic substances. These samples are then sent to participating labs in order to ascertain the lab's ability to correctly analyze the blended elements in their proper concentrations. If a lab accurately analyzes a specific element, or parameter, it will be granted a state certification to test for that parameter.

The program, which began in 1972, has 166 labs participating this semester. Analytical results of the samples must be sent to the OWRB by November 1.

"The objective of the program is to provide quality assurance on lab analyses which, in turn, benefits water quality in Oklahoma," said Laura Cook, senior environmental specialist and coordinator of the Lab Certification Program.

Oklahoma water quality standards specify that no industry may discharge untreated waste into a state stream. Four times a year, these waste dischargers must file a report with the Board noting effluent contamination levels. To ensure the reliability of these reports, the labs analyzing these waste components must be certified by the OWRB. In this way, the Board assures

the use of uniform methods of industrial wastewater analysis. These methods are determined by the American Public Health Association, American Society for Testing Materials, U.S. Geological Survey, EPA and the OWRB.

"Half of the participating labs are used by industries or by state agencies that don't maintain their own labs," said Cook. "Over two-thirds of the participating labs are in-state. And while most out-of-state labs are in this region, some are as far away as Michigan."

Two types of labs are certified by the Board: contract and industrial.

"Contract labs are independent and are simply private business operations in themselves. Many industrial dischargers, such as oil companies, run their own labs and concern themselves only with parameters that directly concern them. These industries are required to have federal, as well as state, waste disposal permits," Cook said.

According to Cook, labs seeking certification need not be exactly correct in their analyses. Nevertheless, they must be within two standard deviations of the group average based on results from all other labs seeking certification on that parameter. Also, if a lab submits an incorrect analysis for one specific parameter in two consecutive semesters, it will lose its certification for that element for the ensuing term.

There are four categories of certification. These include analytical tests for the determination of:

- physical and mineral characteristics;
- nutrient characteristics; and
- metals and toxic substances.

Once results are known and data are stored on a Board computer, labs are notified of the accuracy of their analyses.

"Only a limited number of states have a lab certification program,"



ABOVE: Laura Cook, lab certification coordinator, and Karen Dyrberg mail boxes containing mixed samples of elements known only to OWRB personnel. Results of analyses were returned to the OWRB November 1.

BELOW: Bart Gaskill and Jan Walstrom blend pint samples of minerals, nutrients, metals and toxic substances. The program, which is conducted twice yearly, has 166 labs participating this semester.



Cook points out. "Also, we're proud of the EPA's recent statement describing Oklahoma's program as being more advanced than most others."

All certified labs must employ qualified personnel and maintain adequate equipment and facilities. The OWRB retains the right to inspect these labs when and if it is deemed appropriate.

Continued on page 4

Labs, continued from page 3

Although the OWRB is given the power to revoke certification due to repeated inaccuracy, misrepresentation or non-cooperation, the Board seldom exercises that power.

"The program gives labs a chance to objectively discover how well they are doing. Therefore, most labs are very cooperative—after all, it is to their benefit," said Cook.

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**Pollution
 HOT LINE**
 1-800-522-0206
 in OKC 271-4468

**ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS
 AS OF OCTOBER 21, 1985**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY	PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY
SOUTHEAST			NORTHEAST		
Atoka	99,713	80.7	Eucha	78,600	98.8
Broken Bow	848,029	92.4	Grand	1,491,800	100.0
Pine Creek	77,700	100.0	Oologah	544,240	100.0
Hugo	138,450	87.8	Hulah	30,594	100.0
CENTRAL			Fort Gibson	365,200	100.0
Thunderbird	105,925	100.0	Heyburn	6,600	100.0
Hefner	76,773	100.0	Birch	19,200	100.0
Overholser	15,935	100.0	Hudson	200,300	100.0
Draper	78,145	78.0	Spavinaw	30,000	100.0
SOUTH CENTRAL			Copan	43,400	100.0
Arbuckle	62,571	100.0	Skiatook	—	1
Texoma	2,590,125	98.0	NORTH CENTRAL		
Waurika	203,100	100.0	Kaw	428,600	100.0
SOUTHWEST			Keystone	616,000	100.0
Altus	16,156	12.0	NORTHWEST		
Fort Cobb	64,947	82.8	Canton	82,414	84.5
Foss	134,819	55.3 ²	Optima	3,000	1
Tom Steed	75,581	84.5	Fort Supply	13,900	100.0
EAST CENTRAL			Great Salt Plains	31,400	100.0
Eufaula	2,329,700	100.0			
Tenkiller	627,500	100.0			
Wister	19,530	72.0			
Sardis	290,632	96.0			
			STATE TOTALS	11,837,579	93.8³

1. In initial filling stage
2. Temporarily lowered for maintenance
3. Conservation storage for Lake Optima not included in state total

Data courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma City Water Resources Department, and City of Tulsa Water Superintendent's Office.

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