

In a variation on the theme of economic development, speakers at the Seventh Annual Governor's Water Conference extolled the virtues—and the vices—of the new omnibus water resources development bill.

The meeting attracted hundreds of "water" people to the Lincoln Plaza Conference Center in Oklahoma City last month.



Conference Focuses on HR 6, Awards, Economic Development

Robert K. Dawson, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said that the recently passed House Resolution 6 is the most comprehensive omnibus water development act to be passed since 1970. He pointed out that the cost-sharing directed under the bill should lead to more efficient and cost-effective water development projects.

One of the most controversial issues addressed by HR 6 is local cost-sharing on federal feasibility studies and construction projects. Traditionally, the Corps of Engineers two-phase planning process was entirely funded by the federal government. Under HR 6, the more detailed feasibility phase will be funded on a 50/50 basis with non-federal sponsors.

Cost-sharing for water supply storage at federally constructed reservoirs has also undergone a substantial change. Previously, storage was repaid 100% by non-federal sponsors in a 50-year repayment contract at the interest rate at the time of construction. Under HR 6, water supply storage costs must be repaid within 30 years after project completion and at interest rates recalculated every 5 years. Construction costs allocated to flood control have also been significantly shifted to the states.

Sen. Don Nickles summarized the impact of HR 6 on Oklahoma during time reserved for the Congressional Delegation.

Rep. Mike Synar remarked that "one fatal flaw" exists in the omnibus bill.

On the subject of flood control provisions, he said, "We have abandoned our fundamental promise—that flood control projects will be based on need. Instead, these projects will be based on the ability to pay."

Rep. James R. Jones was also critical of federal water policy saying that states like Oklahoma do not benefit from it. "I believe that the Reagan Administration doesn't look on the projects as an investment, but rather as a form of welfare," he said.

John M. Campbell, EPA Deputy Assistant Administrator for Policy, Planning and Evaluation, discussed affordable water quality in the construction and maintenance of water resource projects. "Our mission," Campbell said of EPA, "is to bring about the safest, healthiest and most ecologically safe environment the American people are willing to pay for."

He added that today's problem lies with the small polluters and non-point source pollution and their cumulative effect on the environment. Campbell also emphasized the importance of the nation's wetlands, saying that they are vital to flood control, drinking water supplies and wildlife habitat.

Joseph Farrell, President of American Waterways Operators, found both positive and negative aspects in HR 6. Farrell said that although HR 6 unifies the interests of concerned groups, he is troubled because user taxes are not reviewed by the public.

The Conference luncheon featured

addresses by Gov. Nigh and gubernatorial candidates Henry Bellmon and David Walters. Saying there would be no economic development without water, Nigh looked with pride to the OWRB Financial Assistance Program and the Water Development Revolving Fund which became a reality under his administration. Conference sponsors recognize Nigh's efforts by presenting him with a colorful, framed collage commemorating the Governor's seven water conferences and his long-time advocacy of state water development.

Continued on page 4

Board Hosts Dam Safety Workshops Dec. 9-10

The OWRB will sponsor two separate, specialized workshops on dam safety next month—the one on December 9 geared to dam owners and operators; the December 10 session targeted to engineers and dam safety officials.

According to Harold Springer, Engineering Division chief, the workshops will be held at the Oklahoma City Marriott Hotel at 3233 Northwest Expressway beginning at 8:30 a.m. both days. Registration for each workshop costs \$25 and the fee includes lunch. Springer said all registrations must be paid in advance and received at OWRB offices by November 26.

Please call 271-2555 for more information or register by sending \$25 check or money order to Dam Safety Workshop, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Post Office Box 53585, Oklahoma City, 73105.

F. Gov. Nigh presents the certificate to Mrs. Orville B. [redacted] late husband as an Oklahoma Water Pioneer.

G. More than 300 Oklahoma "water people" attended the conference at Oklahoma City's Lincoln Plaza Conference C



A. OWRB Chairman Gerald Borelli, who presided over the conference, visits with Forrest Woodward during a break in the schedule.

B. Pat Hestand of the OWRB registers Mayor John Henry of Wynona.

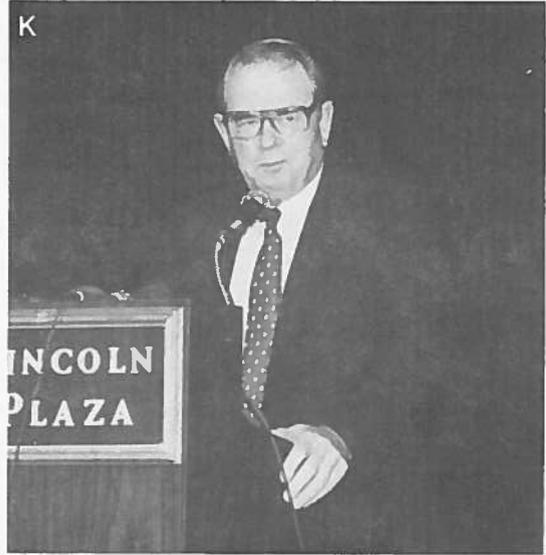
C. At luncheon ceremonies, Conference sponsors presented Gov. Nigh with a framed collage commemorating his long advocacy of water development and his founding of the Water Conference.

D. Jack Campbell of the EPA Office of Policy, Planning and Evaluation said Americans must decide how much money and energy they are willing to spend on a clean environment.

E. Suzanne Moore of ACOG visits with Tom Tobin, City Engineer of Bethany and Harry Gatewood.



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H. The Edmond High School Show Choir, Act II, under the direction of Terry Attebery, entertained conferees at the afternoon session.

I. Dr. George Reid, director of OU's Bureau of Water and Environmental Resources Research for 30 years, was honored by Gov. Nigh as an Oklahoma Water Pioneer.

J. Registrars Jacqueline Dudley and Susan Lutz of the OWRB prepare registration materials.

K. On the Tuesday preceding the election, gubernatorial candidates Henry Bellmon and David Walters took advantage of the opportunity to address the luncheon session.

L. OWRB member Ervin Mitchell and Patsy Hudson of the Department of Pollution Control greet Rep. Emil Grieser.

Sen. Bellmon suggested the creation of regional authorities to develop sewage treatment and water distribution facilities. He said that such authorities would help attract new industry. Bellmon was also concerned with the need to clean up the natural salt pollution in

the Red and Arkansas Rivers. He outlined the Corps' \$134 million plan to rechannel the rivers around the salt sources, stressing that good quality water is sorely needed in those areas.

Walters pointed to coordination as a way to avoid confusion among state

agencies. This unification would assist in water and sewer development, as well as improving the response to pollution complaints, Walters said.

As part of the luncheon program, 11 men were honored by Nigh as Oklahoma Water Pioneers.

**ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS
AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 1986**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY	PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY
SOUTHEAST			NORTHEAST		
Atoka	96,125	77.4	Eucha	63,550	79.7
Broken Bow	878,355	95.6	Grand	1,491,800	100.0
Pine Creek	77,700	100.0	Oologah	544,240	100.0
Hugo	153,705	97.5	Hulah	30,594	100.0
CENTRAL			Fort Gibson	365,200	100.0
Thunderbird	105,925	100.0	Heyburn	6,600	100.0
Hefner	75,355	100.0	Birch	19,200	100.0
Overholser	15,935	100.0	Hudson	200,300	100.0
Draper	83,565	83.5	Spavinaw	30,000	100.0
SOUTH CENTRAL			Copan	43,400	100.0
Arbuckle	61,133	97.7	Skiatook	—	— ¹
Texoma	2,637,700	100.0	NORTH CENTRAL		
Waurika	203,100	100.0	Kaw	428,600	100.0
SOUTHWEST			Keystone	616,000	100.0
Altus	132,886	100.0	NORTHWEST		
Fort Cobb	78,423	100.0	Canton	95,675	98.0
Foss	175,916	72.0 ²	Optima	3,000	— ¹
Tom Steed	88,971	100.0	Fort Supply	13,900	100.0
EAST CENTRAL			Great Salt Plains	31,400	100.0
Eufaula	2,329,700	100.0	STATE TOTALS		
Tenkiller	627,500	100.0		12,116,483	96.6³
Wister	27,100	100.0			
Sardis	286,930	95.0			

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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