

Oklahoma

Water
News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

**Who's Who in Water Sign Up
to Speak at Dec. 16 Conference*****"New Era" theme explores who owns rights to water,
new ways to pay for it, new quality expectations***

"Water—a New Era" will be the theme of the 1987 Water Conference on December 16 hosted by Gov. Henry Bellmon at the Marriott Hotel in Oklahoma City. The theme reflects a new administration in Oklahoma, new policies in Washington, D.C., new directions for some agencies, new expectations in groundwater and surface water quality standards, innovative financing programs, new faces, new competition for water and the courtroom as the new battleground for water rights.

A welcome by OWRB Chairman Gerald Borelli will open the Governor's Water Conference at 9 a.m. Glenn Sullivan, Secretary of Natural Resources, will preside as conference chairman and introduce the morning agenda.

First to the podium will be Robert E. Layton, Jr., EPA Region VI Administrator, who will predict the impacts of the pivotal 1986 amendments to the Clean Water Act. Layton is a professional engineer with a background in municipal government. Prior to his EPA appointment, he operated an engineering firm in Tyler, Texas. His background as Tyler mayor and city council member provides Layton with insight into water and wastewater problems faced by

municipalities. As a member of the National Council of Engineering Examiners, he chaired the committee which wrote the law enforcement manual still used by engineering licensing boards of all 50 states.

A new appointment to deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, Joe D. Hall, will discuss the "New Direction for the Bureau of Reclamation." Hall, a former Oklahoman, serves as chief operating officer of the newly reorganized 8000-employee Bureau which soon will be moved from Washington, D.C., to Denver. Hall, a registered professional civil engineer, has served the Bureau as Oklahoma reclamation representative and southwest regional director, then the Western Area Power Administration as assistant administrator.

Also on the morning agenda is Col. Frank M. Patete, Tulsa district engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who will address implications for Oklahoma of the new Water Resources Development Act. Patete oversees all Corps water resources and military construction for Army and Air Force installations in this district. He has an engineering degree from Colorado School of Mines and a master's degree in business administration from

George Washington University. Harry N. Cook, president of the National Waterways Conference, Inc., Washington, D.C., will follow Patete

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Gov. Henry Bellmon



Robert E. Layton, Jr.

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to the podium with his "Outlook for Navigation." Cook was formerly administrative assistant to the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Development Authority.

In the Conference segment preceding lunch, members of the Oklahoma



Col. Frank M. Patete

Congressional delegation will interpret the implications of water legislation pending before the Congress.

Gov. Henry Bellmon will be the featured luncheon speaker, then present 1987 Water Pioneer Awards. The award was initiated by sponsors of the 1985 Governor's Water Conference to recognize the men and women who have made exceptional contributions to the development of water resources and the protection of water quality.

A highlight of the Governor's Water Conference will be the unveiling of a 20" x 34" bronze plaque engraved with the names of 1985, 1986 and 1987 Oklahoma Water Pioneers. As of conference day on December 16, 39 men and women will have been honored for their "wisdom in developing Oklahoma's great rivers and groundwaters, and for preserving the integrity and beauty of the state's water for future generations."

Robert Johnson, chief staff officer of the National Rural Water Association, will open the afternoon session with "Is the Government Selling Rural Water Short?" Johnson oversees rural water interests in the federal government's 3-phase program to sell off

billions of dollars in FmHA loans on the private market. Prior to 10 years' service with the NRWA, Johnson was an instructor at Southeastern Missouri State University.

An innovative program that has focused national attention on Tulsa will be described by its founder, Stan Williams, director of Tulsa's Department of Stormwater Management. Earlier this year, the 2-year-old program to make Tulsa a stormsafe city was recognized with the first place 1987 National Award for Excellence in Local Flood Hazard Management by the Association of State Floodplain Managers. DSM Director Williams has a law degree, a master's degree in planning and a background with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

Rounding out the conference will be



Harry N. Cook

a unique "Water Magazine" panel presentation which will recap controversial and timely water issues. Attorney and Water Law Advisory Committee member, Charles Huddleston, will discuss the Franco-American water rights case. The litigation, which is pending appeal in the U.S. Supreme Court, limits the use of water by entities outside the originating stream basin.

Marshall Hawkins, a Norman financial consultant, follows with "Water Development Financing and the State Financial Assistance Program." Like many areas of infrastructure, financial responsibility for water and sewer improvements is evolving from a federal to a state role.

A tri-state, 5-year compact dispute over Canadian River water rights will be explored by former OWRB General Counsel R. Thomas Lay. Lay is assisting Oklahoma and Texas officials in the upcoming U.S. Supreme Court case triggered by expansion of New Mexico's Ute Reservoir.

A recent State Supreme Court landmark decision exempting the oil and gas industry from state Water Quality Standards will be the subject of a talk by Myron Knudson, Director of Water Management for EPA Region VI. Discussion of the four panel topics and other related water subjects will close the session.

Registration for the Governor's Water Conference costs \$25. For more information, please call Mary Whitlow or Brian Vance at (405) 271-2523.

REGISTRATION

Please clip and return this form with your \$25 check, money order or purchase order to:

**Governor's Water Conference
Post Office Box 53585, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73152
Please make checks payable to Governor's Water Conference.**

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Midland's Jessica McClure Fell Down an Abandoned Well With a Diameter No Larger than the Circle on this Page

The near tragedy in mid-October in Midland is a reminder that open or poorly covered water wells sometimes are rediscovered only by a heart-wrenching accident. The OWRB requires abandoned wells to be sealed with soil, then 10 feet of concrete. Questions? Call (405) 271-2576.

Fall Flood Anniversary Bitter Reminder That Most Counties Lack Flood Insurance

One year ago, as Oklahomans cleaned up after the worst deluge in state history, many would have scoffed at the prospect of something beneficial rising from turbid floodwaters which ravaged both large cities and small towns and entombed fertile farmland in tons of silt.

A full week of torrential rains—in some areas, 19 inches—forced evacuations of Guthrie and Kingfisher as notorious tributaries of the Cimarron River spilled over their banks. But severe storms buffeted virtually the entire state as flood damage was reported in 54 Oklahoma counties.

Final estimates tallied losses at \$300 million with 500 homes destroyed and an additional 4,800 damaged. As a result, more than 100,000 of the homeless turned to American Red Cross evacuation centers. Three million acres of crops—an area of about 4,500 square miles—washed away, along with the hopes of the year's fruitful harvest.

But if this cloud has a silver lining, it is that many counties which previously had no financial buffer against severe flood damage have now enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program. The NFIP makes affordable flood insurance available to owners and renters of flood-prone property—but only if they live in a participating county or township.

"Only 17 Oklahoma counties were enrolled in the National Flood Insurance Program before the floods of last September and October," said Harold Springer, OWRB Engineering Division chief and state coordinator of the NFIP. "Since then, 10 more counties—many of those hit hardest by the 1986 floods—have signed up for the program. Now these local gov-

ernments also have protection from future flood damages."

Over the past year, according to Springer, interest in the NFIP has been the keenest since its inception. Nevertheless, 50 Oklahoma counties have chosen not to enroll in the federal program.

"Our goal is to sign up at least the eastern two-thirds of the state and those isolated western counties which are susceptible to significant flooding damages.

"Of course, the NFIP can't stop floodwaters from inundating cities and rural areas. But it does require counties to adopt and enforce floodplain management requirements which can directly help reduce or avoid damages within flood-prone areas," Springer pointed out.

To discover if your community is eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program, call the OWRB in Oklahoma City at (405) 271-2555, in Tulsa at (918) 581-2925, in McAlester at (918) 426-5435, and in Lawton at (405) 248-7762.

Meanwhile, even if you've never experienced a major flood:

- make an itemized list of personal property and take photographs of your home (inside and out) to assist claim settling;
- keep your flood insurance policy and other important papers in a safe place, such as a safety-deposit box;
- learn the shortest, safest route from your home or place of business to high ground;
- keep a portable radio, emergency cooking equipment and flashlights in working order;

- if you live in a frequently flooded area, stock materials (sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber) which can be used to protect property.



Hydrogeologic Training Offered

In an effort to retrain thousands of geologists suffering from the depleted oil market, Oklahoma State University Vo-Tech in Oklahoma City is offering courses in the rapidly growing field of hydrogeology. Classwork will begin November 9 and conclude June 30.

The hydrogeologic training program, which is free to those who qualify as underemployed or unemployed, will be offered three hours per night, three nights a week. Courses will be taught by OSU professors and professionals from private industry.

For further information on the program, contact Gary Royal, Coordinator of the Dislocated Worker Program at Vo-tech District 22, at (405) 524-2319.

EPA Awards Cleanup Grants

EPA Region VI awarded \$2 million in grants last month to assist member states in cleaning up leaking underground storage tanks.

Oklahoma received \$250,000 of the grant money authorized through the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986. Ten to 30 percent of the region's estimated 225,000 underground tanks are thought to be leaking.

Region VI includes Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Texas.

Dam Safety Workshop Nov. 20

"Stability and Erosion Control of Dams and Spillways" will be the topic of the Sixth Annual Dam Safety Conference to be held on November 20 at the Oklahoma State University Student Union in Stillwater.

The OWRB's Engineering Division

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will host the meeting in conjunction with the Association of State Dam Safety Officials and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Scheduled speakers will represent the USDA Soil Conservation Service,

Bureau of Reclamation, private engineering firms and the OWRB.

According to Cecil Bearden, conference coordinator, advance registration is free but seating is limited. Pre-registration is by written confirmation only and must be received by Novem-

ber 13. On conference day, registration will cost \$25 if seating is available.

For more information on the Dam Safety Conference, call Bearden at (405) 271-2531 or write the OWRB at P.O. Box 53585, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73152.

**ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS
AS OF OCTOBER 23, 1987**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY	PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY
SOUTHEAST			NORTHEAST		
Atoka	100,226	80.7	Eucha	77,000	96.7
Broken Bow	811,252	88.7	Grand	1,279,780	85.7
Pine Creek	77,700	96.0	Oologah	531,015	97.5
Hugo	157,600	90.0	Hulah	29,142	95.2
CENTRAL			Fort Gibson	350,614	96.0
Thunderbird	105,925	100.0	Heyburn	5,957	90.0
Hefner	67,839	89.9	Birch	18,952	98.7
Overholser	15,475	97.3	Hudson	200,300	100.0
Draper	73,780	73.7	Spavinaw	27,000	90.0
SOUTH CENTRAL			Copan	39,874	91.8
Arbuckle	61,875	98.8	Skiatook	317,500	99.0
Texoma	2,429,080	92.0	NORTH CENTRAL		
Waurika	193,741	95.4	Kaw	428,600	100.0
SOUTHWEST			Keystone	585,221	95.0
Altus	111,809	84.0	NORTHWEST		
Fort Cobb	78,423	100.0	Canton	97,500	100.0
Foss	178,614	73.3	Optima	3,000	1
Tom Steed	80,312	90.0	Fort Supply	13,738	98.8
EAST CENTRAL			Great Salt Plains	31,400	100.0
Eufaula	2,212,898	95.0	STATE TOTALS		
Tenkiller	601,116	95.8		11,710,234	92.7³
Wister	24,510	90.0			
Sardis	294,466	97.3			

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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