

OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

I extend a personal invitation to each of you to attend the Governor's Water Conference on November 15 in Oklahoma City. This is the sixteenth annual water conference, making it the oldest and best attended of the state conferences and an event popular with four governors.

Again this year, we are fortunate in featuring the remarks of Gov. Frank Keating. The agenda will explore the extent of federal budget cuts and the implications the Congress' crusade holds for water and environmental programs. That's the down side. On the brighter side, the retreat of the federal government may return power and resources to the states and allow Oklahomans options in deciding their future.

The Governor's Water Conference will bring to the podium the assembly of insightful speakers that has distinguished our agenda since 1980. We have invited authoritative speakers from national and state levels, the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and members of the Oklahoma Legislature.

In addition, conferees will premiere the Water Board's new slide show on the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, an updated strategy that will project water supply and demand and guide water development and policy to 2050. The Water Conference will provide citizens the

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How Will Federal Budget Cuts Impact State's Water Programs?

Nov. 15 Governor's Water Conference will examine "Oklahoma's Opportunity to Redefine Water Policies"

The Sixteenth Annual Governor's Water Conference to be held at the Oklahoma City Marriott Hotel on November 15 will examine the impact of federal budget cuts and downsizing on Oklahoma's water and environmental programs.

The theme is "The Shifting Federal Role — Oklahoma's Opportunity to Redefine Water Policies." Conferees will hear about the feds' retreat in funding state and local programs as Congress drives relentlessly toward a balanced budget. However, returning power and resources to the states as means to control the federal budget could present Oklahoma opportunities in shaping its own destiny. Predicting the policy outcome will be the focus of the Governor's Water Conference.

Registration opens at 8 a.m.; the program begins at 8:30 a.m. with welcome and opening remarks by J. Ross Kirtley, OWRB chairman.

The keynote will be delivered by Craig Bell, an attorney and executive director of the Western States Water Council headquartered in Midvale, Utah. Bell guides water resource administrators in 16 western states concerning water policy issues and pending legislation. He regularly addresses the U.S. Congress, the National and Western Governors' Associations, and the Western Legislative Conference. Bell writes amicus

briefs in water cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and has written widely on evolution of water laws in the West, federal and Indian water rights; the impacts of federal environmental laws on water rights, compacts, water rights and conservation; and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Bell serves on many advisory committees, among them the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Western Water Management, which authored a 1992 report entitled "Water Transfers in the West — Efficiency, Equity and the Environment."

Following Bell's address, representatives of federal agencies will discuss options in altering missions, shifting responsibilities and "work-

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Governor Frank Keating

Director, continued from page 1

opportunity to survey significant water issues, meet policymakers and visit with members of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

I invite you to call today to reserve your spot at the Governor's Water Conference on November 15 at the Oklahoma City Marriott. If you have an interest in the state's water resources and programs, I promise a memorable day. □

Conference, continued from page 1

ing smart" in a future of limited budgets. The panel entitled "The Downsizing Dilemma" will be moderated by Christopher J. Brescia, executive director of Midwest Area River Coalition (MARC 2000) based in St. Louis. Panelists include Col. Timothy L. Sanford, commander, Tulsa District Corps of Engineers; Charles Rainbolt, state director, Rural Economic and Community Development; A. Stanley Meiburg, deputy regional administrator, EPA Region 6; and Larry L. Todd, area manager, Bureau of Reclamation.

At mid-morning, Gov. Frank Keating will address the conference and project the opportunities open to Oklahoma in charting its own destiny in water and environmental programs. Governor Keating addressed the 1994 Governor's Water Conference as one of three gubernatorial candidates in a race he subsequently won by a margin of 17 percentage points. He is a

Tulsa, a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Keating served as Assistant District Attorney in Tulsa, in the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma Senate. In Washington, D.C., he was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Associate Attorney General and Acting Deputy Secretary and General Counsel of HUD.

Following the Governor's address, OWRB Member Dick Seybolt will oversee a discussion entitled "New Directions, New Destinies." Panelists representing state organizations will consider the impact, implications and opportunities in choosing new directions. Panelists are Bill Moyer, executive director, Oklahoma Municipal League; Ronn Cupp, vice-president of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Rob Johnson, chief executive officer of the National Rural Water Association, Scott Robinson, president, Arkansas Basin Development Association; and Jarold Callahan, executive director, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

As part of the luncheon program, Water Resources Board Executive Director Gary L. Sherrer will introduce a 20-minute slide presentation updating the 1980 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. The show discusses water issues of concern to Oklahomans, recommends necessary legislation, projects water supply and demand, guides water

development and policy to the year 2050, and sets out regional plans of development.

The noon program will also feature the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and State Legislators, including Speaker Glen Johnson and Rep. Mike Mass, and close with presentation of Oklahoma Water Pioneer awards.

The Water Pioneer award was introduced at the 1985 Governor's Water Conference and continues to recognize lifelong achievements in the development, conservation and protection of Oklahoma's precious water resources.

The Governor's Water Conference, one of the oldest and best attended state meetings, is coordinated by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and sponsored by 28 water-related organizations.

Registration costs \$30 and includes lunch. The Marriott Hotel, 3233 N.W. Expressway offers a special Conference room rate of \$70, single or double, through November 6. Please make room reservations by calling the Marriott Hotel at (405) 842-6633.

For further information on the Conference or to register, please call the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, (405) 525-4700. To register by mail, please complete the form below, enclose check or purchase order made out to Governor's Water Conference, and mail to P.O. Box 150, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150. □

Please mail completed form with your \$30 check or purchase order to: **Governor's Water Conference**

Registration includes luncheon.

No refunds considered after November 10

Please make checks payable to : **Governor's Water Conference**

P.O. Box 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Water Board Pitches in for "Day of Caring"

The volunteers who pledged a day of work to the United Way "Day of Caring" on September 8 swarmed on Celebrations Preschool like junebugs. It was the first cool day of the season and the last Friday of vacation for the children who would arrive on Monday.

The bilingual preschool for Hispanic children at 431 S.W. 11th Street was one of 57 facilities in Oklahoma City assisted by United Way funding and the project targeted for OWRB efforts. The spirited crew was 34-strong and armed with rollers, brushes, buckets, spades, rakes and hoes. Water Board engineer Cecil Bearden crawled a Bobcat skid-steer loader through a mountain of 50 railroad ties and 26 tons of sand.

By day's end, the Water Board folks had restructured the playground by creating sand safety areas around

climbing toys and swings, then bordered the play areas with railroad ties. They weeded flowerbeds, cleaned the grounds and trimmed trees. Inside, volunteers applied two coats of fresh white paint to walls and trim of two big playrooms.

The Water Resources Board offices, across the street from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, had been heavily damaged by the April 19 bombing, and some of the volunteers had been injured in the blast. Gary Sherrer, OWRB executive director, said volunteers appreciated the opportunity to help the community that had helped them so much following the tragedy.

"It was our opportunity to give something back to the city and help the children," Sherrer said.

Shelly Bacon of the Financial Assistance Division coordinated the

Water Resources Board Day of Caring. Other volunteers were Brent Riley, Brenda Maxey, Reese Daugherty, Marc Hullinger, Paul Hodge, Laura Oak, Karen Yuan, and Tiger Feng of the Financial Assistance Division; J.D. Strong, Juli Cunningham, Keith Owen, Bill Cauthron, Jennifer Ezell, Shanon Haraughty, Christy Hobbs, Juli Watterson, Angela Brewer and Paul Koenig of the Water Quality Programs Division; Harold Springer, Cecil Bearden, Terri Sparks, Ing Yang and Dave Goughnour of the Planning Division; Gene Doussett and Barry Fogerty of the Water Management Division; Mary Whitlow, Mike McGaugh, Jim Schuelein, Brad Nesom, Kelley Bailes and Mike Melton of the Administration Division; Sylvia Ritzky, Kelley Smith and Leslie Nance of the Office of the Secretary of Environment. □



Terri Sparks helps with the first of two coats of paint.



Engineers Reese Daugherty and Mike Melton raise the tire swings before laying a cushion of sand.



Juli Cunningham and Angela Brewer pour paint in Shanon Haraughty's roller pan.



Brenda Maxey weeds flower beds as part of the OWRB effort to beautify Celebrations Preschool.

***Safer playground, brighter rooms
all in a day's work***



Cecil Bearden moves sand with the Bobcat loaned without charge by A&B Rental.



Brent Riley spreads sand in the area beneath the tire swings.



Dave Goughnour struggles with a dead branch on the elm tree that shades the playground.



Gene Doussett and Mike McGaugh begin rolling first coat of paint over dark stripes on playroom walls.



When the paint job was finished, playrooms were clean and bright.



Volunteers placed 50 railroad ties and 26 tons of sand to create safer, more inviting play areas.



Former Water Pioneer Dies

Heber Finch, Jr., Sapulpa, honored as an Oklahoma Water Pioneer at the 1991 Governor's Water Conference, died August 25 at the age of 88.

Finch served 20 years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, representing House District 30 from 1954 to 1974. He earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma, then entered the Sapulpa law firm founded by his father. The Water Conference honored him as a Water Pioneer for his long advocacy for water development.

He is survived by his wife, Clorene, three daughters, a stepdaughter, two stepsons, a brother, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. □

FA Division Welcomes Three

Joe Freeman, chief of the OWRB Financial Assistance Division, announces the addition of three employees, Karen Yuan, Angela Roberson and Bill Botsford.

Yuan is a Carl Albert Executive Fellow who works in the Engineering Analysis Section. She is a student at OU in

Applied Math and Computer Science. Yuan holds a BS degree in Environmental Engineering from Chongqing Institute of Architecture and Engineering in China, a diploma in Chinese literature from Humanity University in Beijing and a MS in Environmental Engineering from the University of Connecticut at New Haven.

Roberson, a financial analyst trainee, is a graduate of Langston University with a BA in Business Administration in Accounting. She has four years experience in public accounting.

Botsford, an intern in the Financial Analysis Section, is a University of Central Oklahoma student working on a degree in Finance. □

John Pearson Named to Compact

Governor Frank Keating recently announced the appointment of John C. Pearson of Guthrie to the Oklahoma-Kansas Arkansas River Compact Commission.

Pearson is president and chairman of the board of the Guthrie Corporation, a grain storage and handling facility and supplier of agricultural products. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and the Harvard Graduate School of Business. Pearson is president of the Mid-South Grain Shippers Association, chairman of the Waterways Advisory Board of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and an officer in many other professional organizations. He has served as mayor of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and worked in city and county economic development organizations and the Chamber of Commerce.

Pearson replaces Lew Meibergen as commissioner on the Oklahoma-Kansas Arkansas River Compact. □

Bernice Crockett Died Oct. 8

Water activist, writer, educator and Water Pioneer Bernice Norman Crockett died October 8 in Norman at the age of 87. She was a resident of Shawnee.

She was born in Davis, Oklahoma, and married James Henry Crockett,

Jr., who preceded her in death.

Crockett, a longtime proponent of water development, had been an enthusiastic booster in Oklahoma Water Incorporated. She was named Oklahoma Water Pioneer at the 1985 Governor's Water Conference, one of only two women ever to receive the prestigious award. She served on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Crockett is survived by Lynn and Sid Clarke of Shawnee, Chloe and Trent Baulch of Norman and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Durant on October 10. Memorials may be made to the Oklahoma Historical Society 2100 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, 73105. □

Sardis Meeting Well Attended

More than 90 southeast Oklahomans attended the October 5 meeting at Clayton to voice opinions concerning the marketing of Sardis Lake water. It is the first of four public meetings scheduled in the region.

Gary Sherrer, OWRB executive director who facilitated the meeting, said "It was very productive, and that's important because it sets the stage for our next three meetings."

The second meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. October 19 at Oliver's Inn in Antlers, will feature a presentation by Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick on the city's proposal to use Sardis/Kiamichi water to augment its existing supplies.

The third and fourth meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on November 2 at the High School Cafeteria in Hugo, and November 16 at the Clayton High School Auditorium. At the Hugo meeting, Carl Riehn, director of the North Texas Municipal Water District, will outline the district's interest in utilizing the basin's water resources. The final meeting will address any other water marketing proposals.

Sherrer assured residents that any plan must address future water needs, lake levels, tourism/recreation, economic development and Native American claims. □



New employees Angela Roberson, Bill Botsford and Karen Yuan

At the October Board Meeting:

In his report to the Board, Executive Director Gary Sherrer reviewed the OWRB budget and assured the members that the FY 1997 budget is extremely conservative and includes no new money.

Assistant Director Duane Smith commended members of the Canton Lake Task Force for working diligently to reach an agreement concerning releases of water from Canton Lake. He recognized the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, City of Oklahoma City, Canton Lake Association and recreational interests for their steadfast efforts in seeking a satisfactory solution.

Joe Freeman, chief of the Financial Assistance Division, reported that the OWRB will close the \$50 million 1995 bond issue in New York on October 18. He said Standard and Poor's had assigned a "AA" rating to the new issue and allowed the "AA" rating on current outstanding bonds. In further business on the FA Division agenda, the Board approved the following emergency grants for sewer/water improvements: \$50,000 to Atoka RWD #3 (Atoka Co.), \$100,000 to Broken Bow PWA (McCurtain Co.) and \$50,000 to Hooker MA (Texas Co.); and the following loans: \$235,000 to Hooker MA, \$3,790,000 to Marlow MA (Stephens Co.), \$285,000 to Wagoner County RWD #2, and \$6,428,000 to Duncan PUA (Stephens Co.) The Board approved an increase in the loan amount and extension of time for Wilburton PWA and an extension of time for Longtown RWSD #1.

In the Water Management agenda, the Board approved 10 temporary and five regular permits for the use of groundwater and amended one temporary and one regular groundwater permit. The Board approved six regular

permits for use of stream water.

New D/PC operators licenses were approved for Larry Brown of Brown's Water Well Service and Mark Grantham and Craig Tucker of A.W. Pool, Inc. □

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Approved at September and October 1995 Board Meetings

FAP Loans
(4.622%; 28.5 year maximum term)

Bethany-Warr Acres PWA	\$ 6,335,000.00
Duncan PUA	\$ 4,075,000.00
Hooker MA	\$ 235,000.00
Wagoner Co. RWD #2	\$ 285,000.00
Increase Wilburton PWA by	\$ 105,000.00

FAP Grants

Murray Co. RWD #1	\$ 15,200.00
Osage Co. RWD #15	\$ 30,000.00
Valliant PWA	\$ 50,000.00
Douglas PWA	\$ 60,000.00
Atoka Co. RWD #3	\$ 50,000.00
Broken Bow PWA	\$ 100,000.00
Hooker MA	\$ 50,000.00

SRF Loans

Broken Arrow MA	\$ 3,925,000.00
Bethany-Warr Acres PWA	\$ 3,749,940.00
Increase Kiefer PWA by	\$ 50,000.00
Marlow MA	\$ 4,000,000.00
Duncan PUA	\$ 2,353,000.00

TOTALS AS OF 10/10/95

	FAP Loans	FAP Grants	SRF Loans
APPROVED	171	371	31
Amount	\$204,721,000.00	\$20,720,709.00	\$137,407,666.48
FUNDED	149	338	25
Amount	\$178,825,000.00	\$18,529,834.41	\$119,035,726.48

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This bimonthly newsletter, printed by the Department of Central Services, Central Printing Division, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is published by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board as authorized by Gary L. Sherrer, executive director. Ten thousand copies are printed and mailed bimonthly at an approximate cost of 28 cents each. Copies have been deposited at the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

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Oklahoma Water Resources Board
P.O. Box 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150

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Oklahoma City, OK
Permit No. 310

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Printed on recycled
paper in black/gradable
oil-based soybean ink