

# OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

*Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board*



*from  
the desk  
of the  
Director*

**Duane A. Smith**

I was well pleased that the Oklahoma Legislature demonstrated strong confidence in the Water Board by appropriating \$8.5 million in new funding for the agency's programs. However, it was disappointing that the \$20 million for the discounted buyout of Sardis Reservoir was not included in the list of 11 specific projects listed for funding in the Capital Improvements Bond Issue this year. Perhaps the next Session will revisit the Sardis issue, one that we would very much like to see resolved.

Appropriations totaling \$8.5 million from the Constitutional Reserve Fund (Rainy Day Fund) included the \$3.5 million match for EPA's grant for the Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Loan Program. This is a cooperative initiative with the DEQ in which the Board's Financial Assistance Division administers funding for water treatment projects recommended and prioritized by DEQ.

An additional \$3.5 million was appropriated to the Water Resources Board as seed money for the development of a Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Revolving Loan Program. Other appropriations from the Rainy Day Fund included \$500,000 for Rainfall Enhancement/Hail Suppression (Weather Modification) Activities and \$1 million for the development of a Statewide Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Program.

OWRB received \$4.5 million in REAP funding for sewer and water projects in needy communities.

*Continued on page 3*

## 19th Governor's Water Conference Convenes in Muskogee Sept. 29-30

*Always wanted to tour the navigation system on a barge? Big topics and speakers, half-day barge tour on agenda*

The Governor's Water Conference will take to the road September 29-30 for a day-long meeting (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at the Muskogee Civic Assembly Center. That evening, the Ports will host a fish fry at the Muskogee Country Club. Early on September 30, a barge tour of the Arkansas River Navigation System leaves from the Port of Muskogee. The Tulsa District Corps of Engineers will provide the barge for the navigation tour. Conferees will be provided bus transportation back to the Port of Muskogee.

The theme of the 19th Annual Water Conference will be "Rollin' on the River Toward Changin' Times."

Governor Frank Keating will be the featured luncheon speaker; Attorney General Drew Edmondson, the featured afternoon speaker. Other invited speakers include members of the Okla-

homa Congressional Delegation, Col. Leonardo V. Flor, District Engineer, Tulsa District Corps of Engineers; Dr. Joe W. Westphal, former Oklahoman who recently was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Secretary of Environment Brian Griffin and key members of the Oklahoma Legislature.

Panels and speakers will address topics such as scenic rivers, Montgomery Point Lock & Dam construction, new regulations on hog and poultry operations, competing water uses/instreamflows, nonpoint source studies, waste by pollution, Corps of Engineers studies, interstate stream compacts and Native American water rights and water quality standards.

The Conference is coordinated by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board

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**Governor's Water Conference**  
3800 N. Classen Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Please enclose \$30 check or purchase order payable to **Governor's Water Conference.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check appropriate spaces:**

I will attend the September 29 Fish Fry \_\_\_\_\_

I will take the September 30 Barge Tour \_\_\_\_\_

Conference, continued from page 1

and sponsored by 30 other water-related organizations.

Registration costs \$30 and includes the Governor's Water Conference and evening fish fry on September 29; barge tour from 7 a.m. to 12 noon on September 30. Registration is requested in advance with payment included (check, purchase order etc.) Please check appropriate spaces if you will attend the fish fry and/or barge tour. Make check or purchase order payable to the Governor's Water Conference.

Overnight accommodations are available at the Muskogee Ramada Inn, 800 S. 32nd Street, by calling 918-682-4341 by **September 15. Specify conference rate of \$60** (single or double.)

For information on the Governor's Water Conference, call the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at 405-530-8800 or visit the OWRB website at <http://www.state.ok.us/~owrb>. □



## Water Board Elects Officers

J. Ross Kirtley, Kingfisher, was re-elected to a fourth term as chairman of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at the regular monthly meeting of the Board on June 9.

In the annual election, members voted Lonnie Farmer of Davidson vice-chair and Richard Sevenoaks of Tulsa secretary.

Kirtley is a certified public accountant, owns a floor systems company and oil and livestock interests. He was named to the Board in May 1992.

Farmer is the president of First State Bank and former mayor of Davidson and a founder and board member of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association. He was appointed to the OWRB in 1993.

Sevenoaks, named to the Board in 1997, is owner of Leake Auction Company of Tulsa and a member of the Tulsa Metropolitan Utility Authority, Tulsa Utility Board and Regional Metro Utility Authority.

## Staff Join July 4 Secchi Dip-In

Members of the Clean Lakes Section recruited 16 volunteers from OWRB ranks to participate in the Annual Great American Secchi Dip-In over the July 4th weekend. It is a nationwide effort

# Board Schedules Dam Safety Workshop

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board, in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Association of State Dam Safety Officials (ASDSO) will present the 1998 Dam Safety Training Course on October 28-29 at Lake Murray Lodge, near Ardmore. The course is designed to teach dam owners, operators engineers and geologists dam safety technology and inspection techniques.

Cecil Bearden, P.E., coordinator of the OWRB Dam Safety Program, points out that there are 80,000 dams in use in the nation; 4,500 of them in Oklahoma. "Like any engineering works, these dams require continual care and maintenance to ensure they remain operational and protect lives and property downstream," he said. "Although the safety of dams is of considerable local, state and national concern, responsibility for maintain-

ing a safe dam rests with the owner," Bearden said.

Oklahoma requires that all dams classified as high hazard potential be inspected annually by a competent engineer, he pointed out. This workshop will be taught by facilitators who are engineers and geologists with 15 to 25 years of dam design and inspection experience. It will include classroom sessions on October 28 and an inspection of Lake Murray Dam on October 29.

Advance registration is required and will be accepted until October 22. The \$65 registration fee includes all course materials, meals and breaks, workshop discussions and field trip.

For information or advance registration, call Cecil Bearden or Nathan Kuhnert at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, 405-530-8800. □



Julie Cunningham, left, and Melanie Foster of the Water Quality Programs Division explain the use of a secchi disk to Harold Springer.

in which volunteers check clarity of the nation's waters, providing the Environmental Protection Agency with a snapshot of water quality.

Cunningham reported an additional 70 Oklahoma Water Watch volunteer monitors participated at state lake and stream sites. Volunteers recorded information on data sheets which become part of a national data base.

## Tulsa District Welcomes Flor

The Tulsa District Corps of Engineers announces the July 15 installation of Col. Leonardo V. Flor as district commander.

At change-of-command ceremonies held at Corps offices in Tulsa, Flor

assumed command from Col. Timothy L. Sanford, district chief since July 1995.

Col. Flor was commissioned in the Corps of Engineers in 1975, upon his graduation from the U.S. Military Academy. He earned a Masters in Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Masters in Military Arts and Science from the US Army Command and Staff College. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Virginia.

He has held many posts including project engineer with the Alaska District, exchange officer to the Peruvian Army, and Engineer Team Chief of the Fort Lewis Readiness Group. He comes to the Tulsa District from the US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was an instructor and senior service college fellow at the School for Advanced Military Studies.

Col. Flor has attended the Airborne School, Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses, Infantry Advanced Course, the Peruvian Army Combat Divers' Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Command and General Staff Course, Advanced Operational Arts

Studies Fellowship. He has been awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

### Check Driller's State License

Reports have come to the Water Resources Board that a few unlicensed water well drillers are operating in southwest Oklahoma in violation of state law.

According to Gary Glover, who oversees the Board's drillers and pump contractors licensing program, customers for well drilling services should check the credentials of the driller they employ. Glover pointed out that Oklahoma Statutes require all drillers of water wells, observation wells, heat exchange wells and test holes to be examined and licensed by the OWRB and comply with standards set out by the Board.

The Board's minimum standards are a product of the OWRB and the drilling industry's cooperation in developing criteria to protect the state's groundwater resources from pollution. "A poorly constructed well has the potential for contaminating the water supply of the owner as well as all others using water from that groundwater basin," Glover emphasized.

A licensed water well driller carries an operator's certificate, displays a license decal on the windshield of the drilling rig vehicle and provides the customer with a multipurpose completion report on forms provided by the OWRB, said Glover.

For information on the minimum standards or to obtain a list of licensed drillers/pump contractors, call Gary Glover at the Water Resources Board, 405-530-8800.

### Connie Ziegelgruber Honored

Connie Ziegelgruber, an OWRB employee since 1982, was honored in June as Employee of the Quarter.

Executive Director Duane Smith pointed out that Ziegelgruber has worked in nearly every division of the Water Board, presently serving in the Permitting Section of the Planning and Management Division. Smith said, "When the Board recently implemented a new rule to streamline the permitting process, she developed all the necessary forms to administer the new rule efficiently.

Ziegelgruber is the mother of two adult sons and has four granddaughters and three grandsons, the youngest of whom is Brent, born July 18. She and her husband Al, a longtime manager

at the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, enjoy fishing, hunting and vacationing in their travel trailer.



Director, continued from page 1

Bills that impact the OWRB included SB 1175, spelling out rules for protecting watersheds and groundwaters from pollution from Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). It requires leak detection or monitoring wells at licensed facilities and the OWRB to adopt appropriate well plugging specifications. The legislation also prohibits the location of CAFOs in areas of Outstanding Resource Waters.

SB 1170 created the Oklahoma Registered Poultry Feeding Operations Act, which requires soil testing and lake monitoring, and encourages transport of poultry waste out of sensitive watersheds.

Overall, the session was successful in answering some long-term hog and poultry concerns and addressing potential water quality issues. □

### Temporaries Make Summer Programs Hum

The tasks of the Water Resources Board would be ever so much more difficult without the willing hands of seasonal and temporary employees and Carl Albert Executive Fellows. Their talents are diverse; some assist in important water quality studies at lake and stream sites; others fill positions in the various divisions of OWRB.

It's a win-win situation -- the students get on-the-job training and ex-

perience, while the OWRB gets talented and willing helpers at affordable wages. □

Right: Jalisha Booth, UCO biology major; Ray Hardy, Carl Albert Executive Fellow working toward a Master's in geography; Standing: Michael McGuire, graduate in psychology, Master's in human relations; Cory Gralapp, OU meteorology student; Jason Conover, OU senior geography major.



Lower right: Suzanne Dudding, Melody Drummond, OSU graduates in environmental science; Melanie Foster, National Merit Scholar majoring in environmental science at OU.

Standing: Jason Post, OU graduate in environmental science; Wick Warden and Tim Vermillion, OSU forestry majors; Joe Carson, OSU student in environmental science.



# THE FLOOD CURRENT

## National Floodplain Managers Effective in Promoting Safety

by Ken Morris, Oklahoma NFIP Coordinator

My responsibilities as secretary of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) have kept me extremely busy this spring. I've traveled to Tampa, Florida, for a meeting involving the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and National Emergency Managers Association (NEMA.) Then, I flew to San Antonio, Texas, to plan development of the ASFPM certification program and, finally, I attended a meeting of our Administrative Council in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, to make preparations for ASFPM's 22nd Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, held in May.

The Tampa trip allowed the ASFPM Executive Board and others to voice their concerns directly to Mike Armstrong, FEMA's Associate Director of Mitigation, and other agency staff members. Major topics included the public assistance eligibility of non-participating NFIP communities and FEMA's ongoing efforts to update and modernize flood insurance rate maps. As many of you know, some areas of Oklahoma are represented by floodplain maps which date back to 1980, or even earlier. Since that time, intense development in many watersheds has increased stormwater runoff, or communities have annexed or deannexed lands that contained flood hazard areas. Unfortunately, revising these maps is a costly and time-intensive procedure and FEMA has been allocated insufficient funds to pursue a coordinated update effort. Nevertheless, FEMA officials have pledged to make mapping a priority. I strongly encourage Oklahoma community floodplain managers to contact FEMA's regional office in Denton if your community's flood map shows incorrect flood hazard areas. Be prepared to supply FEMA with detailed information about the stream reach, length of stream affected and why the area needs a restudy. If annexations were involved, FEMA will also require a copy of those ordinances.

At the ASFPM meetings in Texas, the Professional Development Committee continued to refine the floodplain managers certification program. The first pilot exam was administered during the Association's Milwaukee meeting in May. Participant comments will allow the Certification Board of Regents to fine tune the program so it is fully operational by next year's annual conference in Portland, Oregon, or possibly sooner. The Professional Development Committee is comprised of Diane Calhoun, Joe Remondini, Pat Hoggard, Larry Larson, Bill Lesser, Bill Tingle, Wally Wilson and I and co-chairs Roy Sedwick and John Ivey. Oklahoma's certification program, developed by the OFMA under the leadership of co-chair T.J. Davis, has already certified 44 floodplain managers.

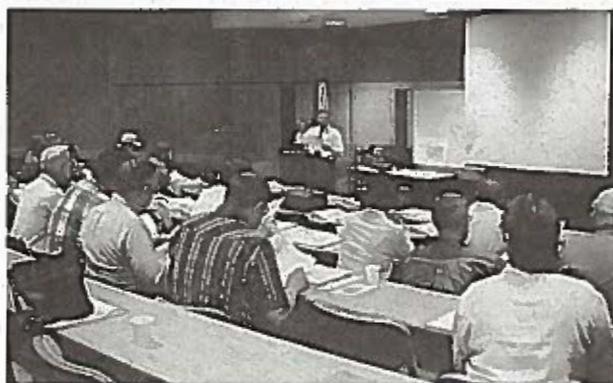
Speaking at the ASFPM Annual Conference, JoAnn Howard, Director of the Federal Insurance Agency, indicated that FIA will be accountable for flood insurance premiums and ensure that every penny is spent wisely. She also advocated a healthy respect for intelligent land use and emphasized the need to build wisely. Howard stressed the many benefits of the National Flood Insurance Program and encouraged communities to enforce local ordinances so that they can maintain their eligibility in the program. Larry Larson, ASFPM Executive Director, echoed Howard's comments regarding community compliance. He pointed out that many floodplain violations occur due to ignorance or inadequate training of community officials and local floodplain administrators. Despite this, Larson emphasized that when adequate training is finally supplied to these officials, program probation and suspension are in order for willful and/or repeat

violators. His bottom line message -- NFIP communities should enforce their local ordinances.

I also recently attended the State Coordinator's and State Hazard Mitigation Officers' Workshop at the Emergency Management Institute in Emmitsburg, Maryland. In addition to obtaining valuable information on the latest emergency/floodplain management issues, the workshop allowed participants to voice their concerns about federal flood programs and visit with high-level FEMA staff, including Mike Armstrong, Associate Director of Mitigation. Some of the more interesting subjects included introduction of software that assists floodplain/emergency managers in determining if a structure has been substantially damaged and state management of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), a designation which allows qualified states to dramatically decrease the time frame required for mitigation project approval.

Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association members, please reserve September 16-18, 1998, for the Eighth Annual OFMA Annual Conference/Workshop to be held at Shangri-La Lodge, on Grand Lake. The theme is "Unified Pre-Disaster Mitigation Opportunities." The meeting will feature a certification training session and exam. Also, we will discuss potential establishment of a state mitigation revolving fund.

Finally, on June 3, at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., the City of Tulsa was named by FEMA Director James Lee Witt one of the 50 national Project Impact communities. (See the related article in this issue.) The Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management will work closely with Tulsa on this unique effort between government and the private sector to develop "disaster resistant" communities. □



Ken Morris of the OWRB instructs Floodplain Administrators at Workshop held in Midwest City May 5.

## Come to OFMA Conference Sept. 16-18

The Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association announces the OFMA Eighth Annual Fall Training Conference at Shangri-La at Grand Lake September 16-18.

According to Neill Pulliam, Jr., OFMA secretary, OFMA members and staff of communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program are invited to attend the conference entitled "Unified Pre-Hazard Mitigation Opportunities." Pulliam said informative sessions will feature key speakers representing private, local, state and federal interests. Emphasis will be on reducing losses in future disasters through zoning, flood proofing and removal of flood-prone structures.

Participants will have an opportunity to qualify as a Certified Flood-

plain Manager. To date, OFMA has approved 44 applicants as Certified Floodplain Managers.

In addition to seminars, the conference will offer a cookout September 16, awards breakfast September 17 and entertainment aboard the Cherokee Queen the evening of September 17.

Registration by the August 15 deadline costs \$125 for OFMA members, \$135 for non-members, an additional \$10 for registrations after deadline.

Hotel accommodations are not included in registration fees, but may be arranged by calling Shangri-La at 1-800-331-4060.

For more information on registration or the conference, please call Carolyn Schultz at 918-669-4919 or Neill Pulliam at 918-491-9995. □

## Don't Drive Through Water

A recipient of Subaru's *Drive* magazine, upset by an article depicting a vehicle fording a river, wrote a letter to the editor that appeared in the Summer 1998 edition.

He wrote, "Crossing flooded streambeds costs hundreds of lives each year. People have no conception of the power of moving water and the force it exerts against a car when it gets in above the floorboards. First, the previously air-filled car floats slightly, since it weighs less than the water it is displacing. Next, the driver loses traction, then the car goes wherever the water wants to take it. Usually, the engine stalls, so the driver becomes helpless.

"The weight of the water prevents the passengers from opening the doors. If the car has electric windows, well, by now the electrical system is shorted out and those don't work either. Safety glass makes it even harder to break out a window or windshield and escape a vehicle that has now become a deathtrap.

"States mount massive education programs to try and prevent drivers from doing exactly what your article depicts. Your magazine is for Subaru owners, not professional drivers or stunt men. Worst of all, you work for a company which markets its vehicles primarily on their outstanding safety features. Please include a warning in the next issue and make every effort possible to prevent readers of your magazine from attempting this stunt."

The editor of *Drive* responds: "Rather than try to paddle out of this one, I'll let your well written letter do the talking! Thank you for your explanation and warning to *Drive* readers."

## Never Underestimate the River

Undoubtedly home owners at Twin Lakes near Crescent chose the banks of the Cimarron River for the scenic beauty of the site, heedless of potential danger.



On March 18, the rainswollen river cut away 100 feet of bank, plunging five homes, including this one, into the river. Owners were denied flood insurance claims because gages measuring flow on the Cimarron indicated the river did not reach flood stage.



## Tulsa to be "Disaster Resistant"

On June 3, Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) Director James L. Witt named the City of Tulsa as one of 50 cities and counties in the nation to participate in Project Impact, a new federal initiative to reduce disaster costs.

"Natural disasters cost this country too much in dollars, infrastructure loss and in ... emotional and community well-being," Director Witt explained. "We must put an end to the damage-repair-damage-repair cycle. Project Impact represents a new vision for the way America deals with disasters."

Project Impact will challenge communities across the nation to build local partnerships, assess vulnerabilities to natural hazards and implement actions that protect families, businesses and communities by preparing for and reducing the damaging effects of natural disasters. In each of the 50 "disaster resistant" communities, a local coalition of government leaders, representatives of business and individuals will be asked to provide funding, in-kind services, technical support and labor to undertake disaster-resistant activities. FEMA will provide administrative support through technical assistance and funds.

As many homes as possible were moved; only those which could not be moved or whose owners could not be contacted were lost to the river. Residents and heavy machinery worked through the night to move homes from harm's way.

## At the July 14 Board Meeting:

Executive Director Duane Smith updated the Board on preliminary plans for the Governor's Water Conference to be held in Muskogee in cooperation with the ports on September 29-30. Smith said conference activities will include a day of meetings at the Muskogee Civic Center, a reception and a navigation tour from the Port of Muskogee.

In the portion of the meeting devoted to the agenda of the Financial Assistance Division, Chief Joe Freeman asked and received approval of a \$33,150 emergency grant to Pawnee RWD #4. The Board approved loans to the Bixby PWA, Tulsa County, \$4,938,787; and Wagoner County RWGSSWMD #4, \$4,405,000. Freeman asked approval of REAP grants to Okfuskee Co. RWD #1, \$56,000; Dewey Co. RWSSWMD #3, \$83,731; Kenefic UA, Bryan Co., \$59,900; Roff PWA, Pontotoc Co., \$51,000; Ralston PWA, Pawnee Co., \$47,979; and RWD #20, Osage Co., \$44,000.

The Board approved two temporary permits and four regular permits for the use of groundwater and amended two regular groundwater permits. The Board approved Drillers/Pump Contractors' licenses for Thomas A. Collins, Jr., A&L Underground, Inc., Robert Bruce Bolin, Woodward Clyde Consultants; David Gilbert, Gilbert's Hardrock Drilling; Tim Elston; Mark Fuchs, Crystal Creek Environmental Solutions, Inc.; and William R. Cole, Bentley Environmental Engineering.

Brian Vance of the Planning and Management Division presented a video on the Oklahoma Weather Modification program administered by the OWRB. Division Chief Mike Mathis discussed evaluation of the program and efforts in other states.

Executive Director Smith discussed the issue of waste by pollution and asked input from Board members. He said with their approval, additional information would be solicited by staff from applicants for groundwater permits in an effort to determine that the use of water will not cause waste by pollution. □

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE Approved at June and July 1998 Board Meetings

FAP Loans	
4.222% 1997 Bonds, 29-year maximum term	
Bryan Co. RW,S&SW #2 .....	\$ 460,000.00
Wagoner Co. RWD #5 .....	\$ 1,845,000.00
Muskogee MA .....	\$ 10,150,000.00
CWSRF Loans	
Bromide PWA .....	\$ 103,575.00
Perry MA .....	\$ 950,000.00
Tishomingo MA .....	\$ 1,353,726.70
Muskogee MA .....	\$ 5,644,800.00
Bixby PWA .....	\$ 5,011,774.00
Wagoner Co. RW,S,G&SWMD #44 .....	\$ 4,405,000.00
DWSRF Loans	
Holdenville PWA .....	\$ 4,177,000.00
Hardship Grants	
Bromide PWA .....	\$ 500,925.00
Emergency Grants	
School Dist. #34(Moseley) .....	\$ 46,750.00
Beckham Co. RWD #3 .....	\$ 71,400.00
Bromide PWA .....	\$ 86,000.00
Pawnee Co. RWD #4 .....	\$ 33,150.00
REAP Grants	
Billings PWA .....	\$ 73,000.00
Osage Co. RWD #20 .....	\$ 44,000.00
Gaddo PWA .....	\$ 80,000.00
Gimatron City .....	\$ 72,605.03
Okfuskee Co. RWD #1 .....	\$ 56,000.00
Dewey Co. RWS & SWMD #3 .....	\$ 83,731.00
Roff PWA .....	\$ 51,000.00
Kenefic .....	\$ 59,900.00

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