

## In This Issue

**Celebrate Water at the October 9  
Governor's Water Conference  
-Conference Agenda**

**Water Quality Improving in Lake  
Thunderbird**

### FLOOD CURRENT:

**National, State Organizations Stay  
on Top of Floodplain Issues  
OFMA Conference at a Glance  
Flanagan Honored with Walking Trail  
Workshop Success Due to Staff  
FEMA Flood Map Store**

**James Leewright Retires**

**Glenn Sharp Appointed to Board**

**Koon Receives Employee Award**

### WATER RESOURCES UPDATE:

**Reservoir Storage/Drought Indices  
Financial Assistance Program Update**

# OKLAHOMA Water News

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*Duane A. Smith  
OWRB Executive Director*

## From the Director

On behalf of the nine members of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, I want to extend a personal invitation to all partners and customers of the Water Resources Board to join us for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Governor's Water Conference on October 9 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Tulsa. The conference will focus on this very special year as we celebrate 30 years of accomplishments through the federal Clean Water Act as well as the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bureau of Reclamation. I urge you to register as soon as possible and also plan on attending the associated tour of the Arkansas River Navigation System on the morning of October 8. A registration form is included in this issue of the Water News.

On August 13, the OWRB and Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission hosted a tour of the Illinois River Basin in an effort to educate stakeholders and government officials on critical water quality issues impacting the

*See From the Director, Page 2*

## "Celebrate Water" at the Governor's Water Conference, October 9

On October 9, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and 30 other water-related organizations will host the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Governor's Water Conference at the Adams Mark Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

The 2002 Water Conference, entitled "Celebrating Water: Past Successes, Future Challenges," will feature addresses by state and national water officials and viewpoints on an assortment of water issues from Oklahoma's gubernatorial candidates, Congressional representatives, and state legislative leaders.

Allan Stokes, Chief Operations Officer of America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF), and Larry Walkoviak, Oklahoma-Texas Area Manager for the Bureau of Reclamation, will treat conferees to a historical perspective on water development and protection as well as a vision of future water issues on the horizon. ACWF was created in 1989 to build public interest and understanding of clean water issues and to promote personal stewardship of water resources. This year, ACWF is participating with many state and federal water organizations, including the OWRB, to promote



the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Year of Clean Water," which recognizes the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the federal Clean Water Act. The Bureau of Reclamation has directed much of the water development in the western U.S., including Hoover Dam and other large-scale projects, and is currently commemorating its 100-year anniversary with a year-long celebration.

*See Water Conference, Page 2*

**From the Director . . . Continued from page 1**

watershed. We not only had excellent representation from both Oklahoma and Arkansas, as the two states continue talks to implement phosphorus reduction measures, we were honored to have Congressmen John Sullivan (Oklahoma) and John Boozman (Arkansas) attend the tour. Reps. Sullivan and Boozman vowed to do all in their power to minimize potential economic impacts of the



*Phil Moershel explains the OWRB's biological monitoring procedures to Congressman John Sullivan at a tour stop on Flint Creek.*

new phosphorus standard in our Scenic River areas, especially to the poultry industry and small farming operations who are so valuable to the state's economy, while improving water quality in the two states. I believe that both men are now uniquely equipped to share this critically

important message with their colleagues in Washington D.C. as other states who share water resources also wrestle with shared water quality and quantity issues.

The tour also presented an excellent opportunity for the OWRB to demonstrate sampling procedures, as part of our statewide Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP), and associated methods of stream health assessment. At stops along Barren Fork and Flint Creeks, agency staff gave our "tourists" a firsthand view of how we collect and analyze chemical, physical, and biological data at a typical BUMP site with emphasis on the impacts of excess phosphorus and algae production on water quality. I want to personally express my gratitude to Ed Fite, Director of the Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission, and his staff who guided our large contingent throughout the beautiful and invaluable Illinois River watershed. Both the OSRC and Water Board are committed to preserving the economic and aesthetic benefits of Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers, but finding solutions to escalating water quality problems in many of those watersheds is contingent upon cooperation with our Arkansas neighbors. Only through open and honest negotiations that confront this problem at its source can we make a difference.

**Water Conference . . . Continued from page 1**

Other topics addressed during the one-day Conference will include interstate water quality concerns, such as elevated phosphorus levels in Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers, and Native American water rights and water quality administration. The 2005 update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, with an emphasis on citizen-based planning efforts, will also be outlined as will the legal ramifications of water transfer. The Conference luncheon will feature presentation of Oklahoma Water Pioneer Awards for 2002. Since 1985, the award has honored those individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the use, management, and protection of Oklahoma's water resources.

Preceding the Conference, on October 8, state navigation interests will host a complimentary barge ride/tour of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. The tour will depart from Tulsa's Port of Catoosa

at noon. The Water Conference reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. at the Adams Mark.

Conference registration, including the complimentary barge tour, is \$40. Overnight accommodations are available at the Adams Mark, 100 East Second Street. Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-444-2326. A block of rooms and special room rate of \$55 has been reserved for conferees until September 17. After that date, the Hotel's standard rate will apply. The government room rate is available for government employees (with appropriate identification).

For more information on the Governor's Water Conference, call Barry Fogerty at 405-530-8800 or email Mary Nell Brueggen at [mnbrueggen@owrb.state.ok.us](mailto:mnbrueggen@owrb.state.ok.us). For advance registration, please complete the registration form below and mail it to the address indicated on the form along with your \$40 check, money order, or purchase order.

## Governor's Water Conference Registration

**Clip and mail to:**

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

**Please enclose \$40 check, money order, or purchase order payable to Oklahoma Water Resources Board.**

**No refunds after October 2.**

For more information, call (405) 530-8800  
or e-mail [mnbrueggen@owrb.state.ok.us](mailto:mnbrueggen@owrb.state.ok.us).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_ I will attend the Barge Tour on October 8

\_\_\_\_ Number of guests for Barge Tour (please submit guest names)

## Water Conference Agenda

October 9, 2002

Adams Mark Hotel & Conference Center  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

8:a.m. Registration

8:30 Welcome

Grady Grandstaff, Chairman  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
Bill LaFortune, Mayor  
City of Tulsa

8:50 Governor's Address

Frank Keating, Governor of Oklahoma

9:05 Celebrating 30 Years of Clean Water

Allan Stokes, Chief Operations Officer  
America's Clean Water Foundation

9:20 A Century of Water for the West: The Bureau of

Reclamation's Centennial Celebration  
Larry Walkoviak, Manager  
Oklahoma-Texas Area Office

9:35 Tribal Water Rights and Water Quality  
Administration

Taiawagi Helton, Professor  
University of Oklahoma College of Law

Lindsay G. Robertson, Associate Professor  
University of Oklahoma College of Law

Michael Brophy, Attorney  
Ryley, Carlock & Applegate

10:20 Coffee/Exhibits

10:40 Addressing Interstate Water Quality Issues  
Marcus C. Devine, Director  
Arkansas Dept. of Environmental Quality

Brian Griffin, Secretary of Environment  
State of Oklahoma

11:10 The Legal Ramifications of Water Transfer

Drew L. Kershen, Earl Sneed Professor  
University of Oklahoma

Gary Allison, Professor

University of Tulsa College of Law

11:40 2005 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive  
Water Plan

Duane A. Smith, Executive Director  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board

*Noon Luncheon Program*

Oklahoma Water Pioneer Awards

The Outlook from Washington D.C.  
Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation

State Legislative Outlook

Senator Rick Littlefield  
Senator James Dunlap  
Representative Larry Adair  
Representative M.C. Leist

Oklahoma's Gubernatorial Candidates

2:30 Adjournment

## Water Quality Improving in Lake Thunderbird

A new Water Board report indicates that water quality in Lake Thunderbird, near Norman, is improving. The report reveals that chlorophyll concentrations fell significantly last year, an indication of the reduction of algae and overall improvements in water quality, water clarity, and habitat. While it is common for aging lakes to undergo eutrophication, a process associated with relatively high levels of algae productivity, data gathered from the recently concluded study report show that Thunderbird is suffering from excess productivity of the aquatic organism.

"Chlorophyll-a concentrations above 20 micrograms per liter (mg/L) indicate that algal productivity has reached an excessive stage and must be reduced before the lake's water quality deteriorates to a critical level," says Paul Koenig, an OWRB water quality specialist.

Prompted by these water quality concerns, the OWRB initiated a cooperative study in July 2000 with the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District (COMCD), which manages Lake Thunderbird and oversees the delivery of the lake's water to Norman, Del City, and Midwest City. Throughout the next two years, OWRB staff collected and analyzed water quality data from the lake, resulting in a series of water quality improvement recommendations to COMCD. Subsequent management decisions by the District resulted in almost immediate impacts, as well as improvements in the water's taste and odor, Koenig said.

"In 2001, 20 percent fewer water samples had chlorophyll concentrations above 20 mg/L, and the average concentration decreased from 23 mg/L in 2000 to 15 mg/L in 2001," he pointed out. The Thunderbird study also included a lake capacity determination to determine proper sizing for a new aeration device to replace the older, inadequate system.



*Board employees Nathan Kuhnert (middle) and Phil Moershel (right) assist staff of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in reestablishing shoreline vegetation at Lake Thunderbird in early July. This is the second year the agencies have cooperated in the effort to enhance fish and wildlife habitat in and around the lake..*

# FLOOD CURRENT



## National, State Organizations Stay on Top of Floodplain Issues

W. Kenneth Morris, CFM

State Floodplain Manager, OWRB



Ken Morris

In late June, I was fortunate to attend the 26<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) in Phoenix, Arizona. At this extremely interesting and educational event, the nation's leading flood hazard management professionals—including planners, engineers, consultants, insurance professionals, and community floodplain managers from virtually every state—were afforded a rare opportunity to share floodplain protection strategies. The ASFPM represents some 4,500 floodplain managers from across the country.

This year's theme "*Breaking the Cycle of Repetitive Flood Loss*", inspired almost 700 government and private professionals to attend. A major topic of discussion was President Bush's proposed increase of \$300 million for floodplain mapping and modernization, including increased accessibility through the Internet, within the nation's 20,000 flood-prone communities. Flood maps serve many purposes and accurate maps have a direct influence on the magnitude and costs of flooding events. The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimates that local regulation of flood hazard areas, predicated on FEMA's flood maps, saves the nation about \$1 billion each year in flood-related property losses.

In early August, the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management hosted a three-day training session entitled "Disaster Response & Recovery Operations." The course covered the basic concepts and procedures involved in responding to major disasters. It addressed federal, state and local roles and responsibilities in major disaster recovery work. The workshop also included an overview of preliminary damage assessment, disaster recovery centers, and special needs of victims and disaster workers is also included. All who attended left with stronger perspectives of this vital issue, especially important in light of the events last September, and are now better prepared to serve citizens who are impacted by virtually

any manner of disaster or emergency.

I want to encourage all state floodplain managers and partners of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association to attend OFMA's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held September 21-24 at Quartz Mountain Resort. Consistent with the recent push to balance structural and non-structural flooding solutions in a manner that will not cause additional flood damage on other properties, the conference theme is "No Adverse Impact: Taking Ownership at the Local Level." The meeting will feature local hazard mitigation success stories, provide extensive information on floodplain mapping, and review the latest floodplain management techniques. Plan on taking a couple extra days, arrive Saturday and enjoy some of the special attractions at Quartz Mountain Lodge and the adjacent area in southwest Oklahoma. OFMA will host a golf tournament on Sunday as well as a Sunday evening social. Rooms have been reserved at a special rate of \$55 per night. Please register early by calling the OWRB at 405-530-8800.

A related aspect of the No Adverse Impact initiative, and a top priority of Oklahoma's floodplain management program, is adequate training of insurance agents in writing flood insurance policies as well as familiarity with general principles of the National Flood Insurance Program. I am continually frustrated and disturbed by the relative lack of knowledge possessed by insurance agents in this area, especially since flood insurance policies are so closely tied to home insurance policies. OFMA leaders have pledged to intensify their efforts and provide more training opportunities to educate insurance agents about flood policies and the NFIP. It will require a very intense effort to get the attention of the insurance industry and improve service to property owners and businesses in Oklahoma. But working together, we can get it done.

## Conference at a Glance

“No Adverse Impact: Taking Ownership at the Local Level”

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association  
Quartz Mountain Resort Park  
September 21-26, 2002

### Saturday, September 21

OFMA Board Meeting

### Sunday, September 22

Golf Tournament or Local Tour/Recreation  
Social

### Monday, September 23

Registration  
OFMA Committee Meetings  
Opening Plenary Session  
Cookout

### Tuesday, September 24

Annual Business Meeting  
Breakout Sessions  
Hazard Mitigation  
Natural/Beneficial Uses Of The Floodplain  
Floodplain Mapping

Awards Banquet

### Wednesday, September 25

Past Chairs' Breakfast  
Closing Plenary Session  
Adjourn Regular Conference  
Board Of Directors Meeting  
Floodplain Management 101

### Thursday, September 26

Floodplain 101 (continued)  
OFMA Certified Floodplain Manager Exam

## Flanagan Honored with Walking Trail

Ron Flanagan, Tulsa planning consultant and prominent member of the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association, has been honored by the City of Tulsa through designation of Flanagan's Way, a four-mile walking trail along the city's Mingo Creek. Flanagan has been intimately involved in local flood awareness, mitigation, and planning for more than three decades.

Around the time of Flanagan's brief service as zoning administrator for the Tulsa planning commission, the city was considered one of the nation's major disaster-prone areas. The infamous 1984 Memorial Day flood caused 14 deaths and \$183 million in property damage. Today, due in part to Flanagan's push for a non-structural approach to floodplain management, Tulsa serves as a model for municipal floodplain management.

## Workshop Success Due to Board Staff

The work of OWRB employees Rhonda Kouba (pictured below), Virginia Roy, and James Leewright

was critical to the success of the OWRB's recent Floodplain Management 101 workshops. Kouba, assisted by Roy, organized the workshop and lesson materials while Leewright contributed graphics and developed workshop certificates awarded to those who successfully completed the one-day course. The workshops—held this May in Norman, Tulsa, Woodward, Lawton, and McAlester to coincide with Flood Awareness Month in Oklahoma—trained some 124 local floodplain officials and related individuals from throughout the state on the latest floodplain management procedures.



Accessibility

**MSC**  
MAP SERVICE CENTER

**The FEMA Flood Map Store**

[mso home | fema home | feedback | library | privacy policy | search | site help | site index]

OPEN Welcome

MAP Catalog

Map Search

Quick Order

My Account

Cart

Checkout

**Customer Log In**

User ID:

Password:

[Lagon](#)  
[Logoff](#)

**Flood Map Store News**

Store Catalog Last Updated  
06/21/2002.

**New Map Search Unveiled / Comments Requested** A [new map search](#) tool is unveiled that aids customers in finding NFIP products for a specific address or area of interest...[more info](#)

**Three Ways to Shop**

**Catalog** [Catalog](#) allows you to find products by their type and the state, county or community they are associated with. This search is designed for the customer who desires all the products of a certain type for a specific jurisdiction.

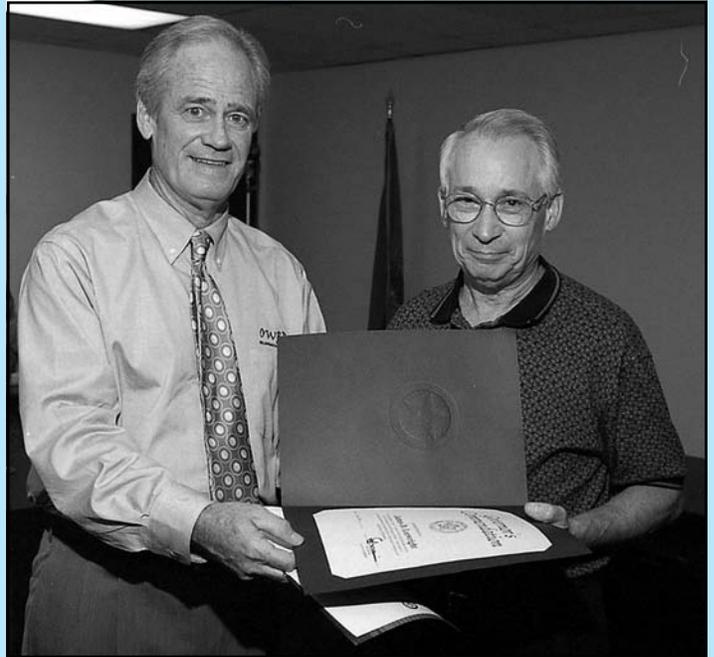
The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Map Store is now accessible at [www.msc.fema.gov](http://www.msc.fema.gov). The site, maintained by FEMA's Map Service Center, offers online Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) to its wide range of customers, including the public.

## James Leewright Retires

Long-time Water Board draftsman and graphic artist James Leewright has retired following 34 years of exceptional service to the agency. Leewright was honored by OWRB staff and friends at a brief reception held July 30 at Board offices in Oklahoma City.

“James’ career is characterized by the individual mark of quality that distinguishes his work,” says OWRB Executive Director Duane Smith. “And while his mapping and drafting skills and eye for detail are virtually unparalleled, we especially appreciate James as a person and for his willingness to always lend a helping hand to those in need.”

Some of the more notable publications on which Leewright lent his expertise include the *Appraisals of Water and Related Land Resources of Oklahoma*, 11 reports that served as precursors to the 1980 *Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan*, and the subsequent update of the Water Plan in 1995. However, Leewright’s work may be best exemplified through the enormously popular *Oklahoma Water Atlas* and its two revisions. He was also instrumental in creation of *Rural Water Systems in Oklahoma*, a compendium of state rural water system maps and related information.



*James Leewright receives a Governor's Commendation for his service to the OWRB and citizens of Oklahoma at the OWRB's monthly staff meeting in July.*

## Glenn Sharp Appointed to Board

Glenn A. Sharp, a civic leader and public relations/marketing specialist with Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative, has been appointed to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board by Governor Frank Keating.



*Glenn Sharp*

Sharp is past president of the Grand Lake Association and has served on the Boards of the Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and South Grand Chamber of Commerce. He is a past member of the Oklahoma City and Oklahoma State Chambers of Commerce. From 1984 to 1992, Sharp served on the Governor's Economic Development Team.

A resident of Grove, Sharp graduated from Tulsa Central High School and the University of Tulsa with a B.A. in History and Political Science. He worked 29 years for Southwestern Bell Telephone Company before retiring in 1992; more recently, he was Vice President of Grand Lake Bank. Sharp and his wife Polly are the parents of four daughters and the grandparents of eight children.

Sharp, who replaces long-time Board member Dick Seybolt, represents recreational water use interests and Congressional District 2. He will serve a seven-year term officially ending in 2008.

## Koon Receives Employee Award

Kevin Koon, of the Board's Information Services Section, is the agency's Employee of the Quarter. Koon was recognized for the honor at the OWRB's monthly meeting in August.



Originally from Iowa, Koon earned his Bachelors Degree in Geography in 1995 from Northwest Missouri State University in Marysville, Missouri. He received his Masters in Geography from Oklahoma State in 1997 and that same year accepted an appointment as a Carl Albert Executive Fellow with the OWRB.

Koon is known for his exceptional customer service skills and a consistent positive attitude toward his job and co-workers along with a willingness to lend a hand with virtually any task. These traits are especially valuable in perhaps the most critically important aspect of Koon's job—i.e., assisting users with highly technical aspects of the agency's geographic information system (GIS).

The Employee of the Quarter is awarded four times each year to those staff members who excel in their relative positions at the Water Board. Honorees are selected by a committee of peers.

# Water Resources Update

## Reservoir Storage

Reservoir storage levels in Oklahoma remain generally good, although they continue to drop in some areas. As of August 21, the combined normal conservation pools of 31 selected major federal reservoirs across Oklahoma (see below) are approximately 93.6 percent full, a 1.3 percent decrease from that recorded on August 5, according to information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Tulsa District). Twenty-six reservoirs have experienced lake level decreases since that time. Twenty-two reservoirs are currently operating at less than full capacity (compared to 20 two weeks ago). Two reservoirs (Lugert-Altus, only 22.6 percent; and Tom Steed, 58 percent) remain below 80 percent capacity.

### Storage in Selected Oklahoma Lakes & Reservoirs

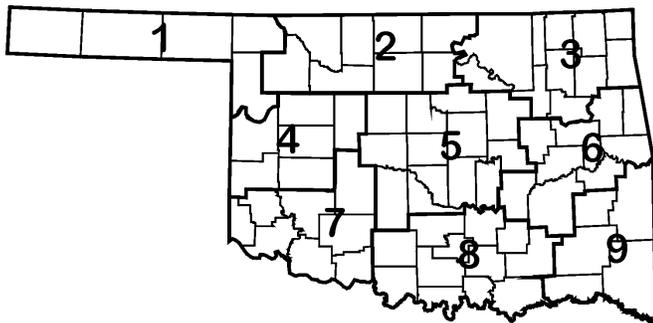
As of August 21, 2002

Climate Division	Conservation Storage (acre-feet)	Present Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Storage	
			Conservation	Flood
North Central	428,325	423,079	98.8	1.11
Northeast	3,768,642	3,479,979	92.3	0.65
West Central	276,790	251,726	90.9	0.00
Central	154,225	148,755	96.5	0.13
East Central	2,915,043	2,720,968	93.3	0.83
Southwest	301,810	159,249	52.8	0.00
South Central	2,956,916	2,944,424	99.6	1.05
Southeast	1,512,859	1,393,846	92.1	0.07
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>12,314,610</b>	<b>11,522,026</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>0.51</b>

## Drought Indices

According to the latest Palmer Drought Severity Index (August 17, below), drought conditions have generally improved in many areas of Oklahoma. However, four climate divisions are still in various drought categories. The Panhandle/Northwest region remains in the "extreme" drought category while the West Central climate division has been downgraded to "severe" drought. Only two of Oklahoma's nine climate divisions have undergone PDSI moisture decreases since August 3.

The latest monthly Standardized Precipitation Index (through July, below) continues to indicate long-term dry-



ness throughout the past year in northwest Oklahoma. Also, north central and west central Oklahoma have experienced an extended, moderately dry period. Among the *selected* time periods (3-, 6-, 9- and 12-month SPIs), the Northwest/Panhandle climate division reports "extremely dry" conditions throughout the last 12-month period and "very dry" conditions during the last 6 and 9 months. Among periods beyond one year, the 15-, 18-, and 24-month SPIs also report particularly dry conditions for much of northern and western Oklahoma.

### Palmer Drought Severity Index

Climate Division (#)	Current Status 8/17/2002
NORTHWEST (1)	<b>Extreme Drought</b>
NORTH CENTRAL (2)	<b>Mild Drought</b>
NORTHEAST (3)	Near Normal
WEST CENTRAL (4)	<b>Severe Drought</b>
CENTRAL (5)	Incipient Drought
EAST CENTRAL (6)	Incipient Drought
SOUTHWEST (7)	<b>Mild Drought</b>
SOUTH CENTRAL (8)	Near Normal
SOUTHEAST (9)	Incipient Drought

### Standardized Precipitation Index

Through July 2002

	3-Month	6-Month	9-Month	12-Month
NORTHWEST (1)	MODERATELY DRY	VERY DRY	VERY DRY	EXTREMELY DRY
NORTH CENTRAL (2)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY DRY
NORTHEAST (3)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
WEST CENTRAL (4)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY DRY
CENTRAL (5)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
EAST CENTRAL (6)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
SOUTHWEST (7)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
SOUTH CENTRAL (8)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
SOUTHEAST (9)	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY WET	MODERATELY WET	VERY WET

# Financial Assistance Program Update

## *Loans/Grants Approved as of August 13, 2002*

### **FAP Loans—264 totaling \$416,570,000**

The OWRB's Financial Assistance Program (FAP), created by the State Legislature in 1979, provides loans for water and wastewater system improvements in Oklahoma. The tremendous popularity of the bond loan program is due, in part, to extended payoff periods of up to 30 years at extremely competitive low-interest rates, averaging approximately 4.762 percent since 1986.

### **CWSRF Loans—130 totaling \$447,616,443**

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program was created in 1988 to provide a renewable financing source for communities to draw upon for their wastewater infrastructure needs. The CWSRF program is Oklahoma's largest self-supporting wastewater financing effort, providing low-interest loans to communities in need.

### **DWSRF Loans—23 totaling \$73,856,433**

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program is an initiative of the OWRB and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to assist municipalities and rural water districts in the construction and improvement of drinking water systems. These projects are often mandated for communities to obtain compliance with increasingly stringent federal standards related to the treatment of drinking water.

*More information about the OWRB's Financial Assistance Program can be obtained by calling the OWRB at (405) 530-8800.*

### **REAP Grants—340 totaling \$28,904,595**

The Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Program was created by the State Legislature in 1996. REAP grants, used for water/wastewater system improvements, target primarily rural communities with populations of 7,000 or less, but priority is afforded to those with fewer than 1,500 inhabitants.

### **Emergency Grants—488 totaling \$28,659,670**

OWRB emergency grants, limited to \$100,000, are awarded to correct situations constituting a threat to life, health, and/or property and are an indispensable component of the agency's financial assistance strategy.

*Applicants eligible for water/wastewater project financial assistance vary according to the specific program's purpose and requirements, but include towns and other municipalities with proper legal authority, various districts established under Title 82 of Oklahoma Statutes (rural water, master/water conservancy, rural sewage, and irrigation districts), counties, public works authorities, and/or school districts. Applications for agency financial assistance programs are evaluated individually by agency staff. Those meeting specific program requirements are recommended by staff for approval at monthly meetings of the nine-member Water Board.*

Grady Grandstaff, *Chairman*; Richard C. Sevenoaks, *Vice Chairman*; Ervin Mitchell, *Secretary*  
Lonnie L. Farmer, Richard McDonald, Bill Secrest, Wendell Thomasson, Harry Currie, Glenn A. Sharp

Brian Vance, *Writer/Editor* • Darla Whitley, *Writer/Layout* • Barry Fogerty, *Photography* • James Leewright, *Graphics*

This bimonthly newsletter, printed by Oklahoma University Printing Services, Norman, Oklahoma, is published by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board as authorized by Duane A. Smith, Executive Director. Eighty-eight hundred copies have been printed and mailed bimonthly at an approximate cost of 29 cents each. Copies have been deposited at the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

**OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD**  
3800 N. Classen Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
[www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)

*Bimonthly Newsletter of the*

**Water News**  
OKLAHOMA

STANDARD PRESORTED  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Oklahoma City, OK  
Permit No. 310