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# OKLAHOMA Water News

*Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board*

## From the Director



*Duane A. Smith  
OWRB Executive Director*

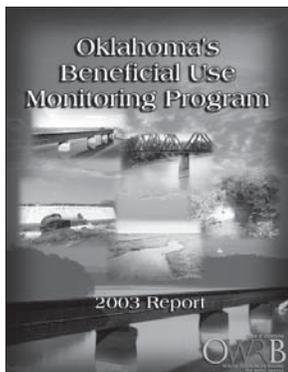
A record 1,750 bills were introduced as the second session of Oklahoma's 49<sup>th</sup> Legislature convened on February 2. While many bills dealing with various aspects of water management have already fallen by the wayside, our state leaders continue to wrestle with how to get water to those Oklahomans most in need, especially in rural areas. Legislation relating to the state's water sale moratorium, floodplain management, and of course, the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer, are all still under consideration at the State Capitol. At least two water planning bills remain alive, including Senate Bill 903, a critically important piece of legislation that directs establishment of 11 regional planning entities to create plans detailing each area's unique water issues and water needs throughout the next 50 years. The Water Board

*See From the Director, Page 2*

## 2002-2003 Bump Report Available

The 2002-2003 Report of the Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP) is now available for the public on the OWRB Web site ([www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us)). Citizens may also call the OWRB at 405-530-8800 to request a copy of the Report on compact disc.

The BUMP report is an annual summary of physical, chemical, and biological data collected from 130 designated lakes, each with at least four monitoring sites, and 99 stream sites. Providing data to help identify waters experiencing impairments, as well as the cause of declining water quality, is a primary role of BUMP. By determining whether the beneficial uses assigned to a water body are being supported, the BUMP report is also extremely valuable to the development and refinement of Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards.



For the first time, this year's report will include bathymetric maps for thirteen lakes: Atoka, Eucha, Frederick, Hefner, Hugo, McGee Creek, Murray, Overholser, Sardis, Spavinaw, Stanley Draper, Thunderbird, and Wister. The OWRB's bathymetric mapping team is currently working on projects at Grand, Walters, Lawtonka, and Ellsworth Lakes.



*OWRB staff member Allyson Childress navigates the OWRB's survey vessel at Grand Lake using GPS technology to collect preliminary bathymetric mapping data.*

would then compile these plans into a statewide plan outlining the state's future water requirements, public policy concerns, community infrastructure needs, and various other strategies to get water where it is needed most. As is evident through Senate Bill 903 and other recent legislation, water concerns now closely rival those related to education, transportation, and other issues in the eyes of Oklahoma citizens.

At its March meeting, the nine-member Water Board considered revised agency rules dealing with dam safety, licensing of water well drillers and pump installers, and groundwater use. Our legal and permitting staff have done an excellent and meticulous job of integrating provisions of Senate Bill 288, passed last year to protect springs and streams in the Arbuckle-Simpson region, into the OWRB's groundwater rights administration process. More than ever before, the agency is taking a proactive stance in how we interpret evolving water laws and implement those laws through our rule-making procedures. Through public meetings, forums, and other lines of communication, we have established a system through which citizens can bring their concerns to the Water Board. We have an obligation to involve the public in the rulemaking process and we will never employ the "it's the law--live with it" approach. For this reason, our proposed rule that would allow aquifer recharge to be considered in the future maximum annual yield calculation of the

Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer has been withdrawn to allow more time to meet with local citizens and resolve differences surrounding the issue. Similarly, a proposed rule amendment that would remove protection for "culturally significant waters" from Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards will be delayed and reassessed as a result of intense public interest.

I want to publicly welcome Mark Nichols, appointed in January by Gov. Henry to the OWRB. As a cotton farmer from Altus and member of the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District, Mark is understandably a proponent of the wise use and protection of Oklahoma's water resources. Unfortunately, we must say goodbye to Richard McDonald, who has opted to leave the Board and concentrate entirely on business ventures in and around Walters. Richard was a dedicated representative of his southwest Oklahoma constituents and his advanced knowledge of water issues will be hard to replace.

Finally, it is with great sadness that I, members of the Board, and agency staff acknowledge the passing of former OWRB Chairman Bob Kerr. One of Oklahoma's exemplary "water people," Mr. Kerr's tenacious support of water issues, especially establishment of financial assistance for community water/wastewater infrastructure needs, belied his kind and gentle demeanor. He will be greatly missed, both personally and professionally.

## EPA Approves Phosphorus Standard for Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers

On December 29, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency formally approved Oklahoma's 2002 Water Quality Standards, including the new 0.037 milligram per liter criteria for phosphorus in northeast Oklahoma's Illinois River and the other five designated Scenic Rivers in the state.

In a letter to OWRB Executive Director Duane Smith, Miguel Flores, EPA Region 6 Director of Water Quality Protection, commended the efforts of the OWRB in revising standards to protect Oklahoma's water quality. The EPA also determined that the total phosphorus criterion of 0.037 mg/L is sufficient to protect the designated uses of the affected rivers and is consistent with the requirements for water quality standards established by the federal Clean Water Act.

In addition to its review of Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards justification documents, the EPA independently considered other sources of data and information related to the OWRB's determination of the recommended phosphorus limit. Citing one such source, a report published last year by the U.S. Geological Survey, EPA stated that "reported

[phosphorus] values corroborate that Oklahoma's adopted criterion is scientifically defensible and protective."

The EPA also commended the Board's provision allowing point source dischargers 10 years (until June 30, 2012) to come into compliance with effluent

*(continued)*



*Flint Creek, one of Oklahoma's six scenic rivers.*

limitations based on the phosphorus criterion: “Given the complexity of the issue, the amount of data yet to be gathered and the costs involved, EPA believes the compliance schedule provision... augments rather than undercuts the 0.037 mg/L standard by allowing dischargers the additional time to comply if it is needed.”

Specifically, the compliance schedule incorporates a “tiered approach” that requires the larger municipal dischargers in the Illinois River watershed to obtain federal discharge permits with an initial 1 milligram per liter phosphorus limit. Five



*Mountain Fork at Smithville*

municipalities in northwest Arkansas—Rogers, Springdale, Siloam Springs, Fayetteville, and Bentonville—are responsible for a large share of the phosphorus contributed to the basin. The compliance schedule allows the OWRB to work with the cities, rather than against them, which is vital to achieving long-term health for the Illinois River.

In late December, environmental officials from Oklahoma and Arkansas entered into an agreement that directs both states to work together to coordinate watershed monitoring and develop joint watershed plans, including both voluntary and mandatory measures, to substantially reduce phosphorus and achieve other water quality goals in the Illinois watershed by 2012. The pact hinges upon anticipated formal agreements with the five northwest Arkansas cities, which alone is expected to result in a 75-percent reduction in point-source phosphorus contributions. Officials also hope to develop similar nutrient reduction agreements with poultry integrators and smaller cities in Arkansas who reside and do business in the basin.

Although the agreement is a vital and necessary step, the OWRB is prepared for the next phase—comprehensive and persistent monitoring of the water quality in the Illinois River to ascertain our progress and identify areas needing additional attention.

## ***Nichols Joins Board***

On January 26, Governor Brad Henry announced the appointment of Jess Mark Nichols to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to replace resigning member Richard McDonald. Senate confirmation is required. Nichols is a cotton farmer from Altus and a member of the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District.

Nichols currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Boll Weevil Eradication Organization, Producers Oil Mill, and Southwest Technology Center. He is also Chairman of the Altus Metropolitan Area Planning Commission.

Nichols earned a B.A. in Business Administration from the University of Devonshire in 2000. A farmer since 1976, he currently serves as President of Mark Nichols Farms, which has operations focused primarily on irrigated and dry-land cotton, wheat, and cattle.



*Board members at the February 10 meeting: (bottom row left to right) Jess Mark Nichols, Glenn Sharp, Grady Grandstaff, Ervin Mitchell, Harry Currie, (top row left to right) Bill Secrest, Lonnie Farmer, Richard Sevenoaks, Jack Keeley, Executive Director Duane Smith, Executive Secretary Mary Schooley*

## Science Group Asks for Cloud Seeding Research

Concluding its assessment of the future viability of weather modification research in the U.S., the National Research Council has recommended a sustained coordinated national effort to verify the technology's potential for both augmenting water supplies and reducing severe weather hazards.

The NRC report, "Critical Issues in Weather Modification Research," was released last October following two years of intensive review of past and present cloud seeding research programs. The timely report bolsters the ongoing efforts of government and university officials in Oklahoma, Texas, North Dakota and other western states who are preparing to launch a cooperative regional program to verify the effectiveness of cloud seeding. The

primary goal of the Weather Damage Mitigation Program, funded through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is to evaluate the potential value of weather modification in mitigating weather-related disasters.

"The timing and conclusions of this report certainly facilitates our efforts to get this program off the ground as well as bring public attention to the need for additional research in the area of weather modification and its numerous potential benefits," states Mike Mathis, chief of the OWRB's Planning and Management Division.

The NRC report recommends that a "coordinated national program be developed to conduct a sustained research effort in the areas of cloud and precipitation microphysics, cloud dynamics, cloud modeling, and cloud seeding" The report further states that research "should be implemented using a balanced approach of modeling, laboratory studies, and field measurements designed to reduce key uncertainties."

Mathis points out the Weather Damage Mitigation Program will rely heavily upon researchers from the University of Oklahoma's National Weather Center, including meteorologists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. While several states—including Texas, North Dakota, and Kansas—currently employ operational cloud seeding programs, recent technological advances in atmospheric science have created an opportunity for researchers to seriously investigate the extent to which mankind can influence the weather. Although Oklahoma's recent cloud seeding program, initiated in 1996, was discontinued in 2001 due to lack of funding, the absence of credible research supporting the technology likely contributed to the decision.

"Previously, scientists lacked the necessary tools to conduct truly effective research programs. But over the last 10 years or so, we've experienced tremendous advances in weather and climate forecasting, modeling, and remote sensing so that such research efforts are for the first time within our grasp," Mathis emphasizes. "Results from this multi-year investigation will provide us with the information to better determine the effectiveness of current operational weather modification programs, allow us to further develop this very exciting technology, and most importantly, provide measures through which we can better safeguard citizens from the often devastating effects of severe weather events."

### *Former OWRB Chairman Kerr Memorialized*

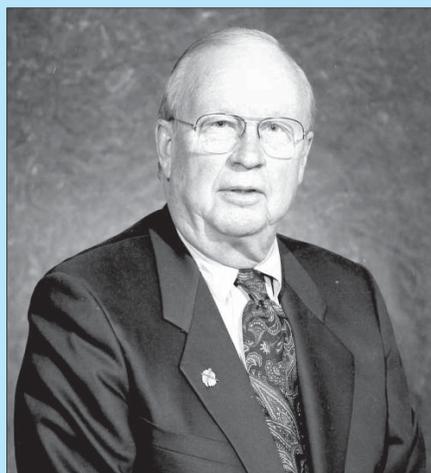
At a memorial service on February 4 in Oklahoma City, hundreds gathered to celebrate the life of former Board Chairman Robert S. Kerr, Jr. A great advocate of the OWRB and water development in Oklahoma, Mr. Kerr served as OWRB Chairman from 1988 to 1994, providing leadership and direction during critical years of development of the Board's financial assistance programs.

Kerr was named an Oklahoma Water Pioneer, was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, and received a Citation from Governor David Walters in 1994 noting his leadership and service to the citizens of Oklahoma as a steward of our most precious natural resource, water.

As president of the Water Development Foundation of Oklahoma, Mr. Kerr campaigned for the Central Oklahoma Project, a plan that envisioned navigation up the Deep Fork River and worked for fresh water for the growing central Oklahoma counties. As president of Oklahoma Water Inc., Kerr pressed for a statewide water development plan. Phase 1 for the state's southern 33 counties was completed in 1975, and Phase II was released in 1980.

He served as a trustee of the Kerr Foundation at its inception in 1963 and later served as chief executive and president. The Kerr Foundation has supported many educational and cultural institutions, and Mr. Kerr was responsible for more than \$27 million in grants for projects in education, health, cultural activities, human services, and the arts.

The Kerr family suggests that memorials be made to the Robert S. Kerr Jr. Chair in Environmental Law at Oklahoma City University and the Robert S. Kerr Jr. Chair in Cancer Research at the Oklahoma Medical Research



*Robert S. Kerr, Jr.*

## OWRB Asks Landowners to Watch for Staff in Field

Field crews from the OWRB will visit rivers and streams throughout western Oklahoma over the next several months as part of the final phase of a statewide water quality assessment effort. The agency's water quality specialists will conduct biological assessments (bioassessments) of state surface waters as part of a statewide effort involving collection of biological samples and evaluation of individual stream characteristics.



*OWRB staff collecting fish for Use Attainability Analysis from Boley Creek in Okfuskee County*

Biological assessments are crucial tools for measuring the health of water bodies and protecting aquatic life. The condition of a water body can be evaluated using surveys and other direct measurements of aquatic life—aquatic vegetation and algae, fish, insects, and other organisms. Resulting data are used by the OWRB and other state environmental agencies to develop criteria for defining the desired biological condition of a water body and establishing narrative and numerical standards integral to the maintenance and restoration of water quality.

Typically, Board crews will access targeted streams near highway bridge crossings, and assessments and collection of biological and water samples will be conducted on the immediate banks and within 300 yards of the road. Field staff are at all times required to wear marked clothing and carry appropriate credentials. OWRB vehicles also are marked with the agency's logo on both sides.

Landowners or other citizens encountering OWRB staff in the field should ask for identification and an explanation of what they are doing. If for any reason landowners wish to deny OWRB staff access to their property, staff will promptly leave the premises.

The OWRB is always looking for prime sampling locations. Landowners should contact the agency if they know about an accessible site that is inundated or wet during the spring season for possible inclusion in future sampling efforts. The OWRB's ongoing bioassessment effort will conclude next year in western Oklahoma, including the Panhandle region.

## ***Thunderbird and Hefner Set for Oklahoma Lake Sweep***

Volunteers will comb the shores of two Oklahoma City lakes this spring as part of Oklahoma Lake Sweep, a volunteer-driven beautification effort aimed at various state lakes of particular recreational importance. Local citizens are encouraged to attend the two weekend events, which will be held at Lake Thunderbird on March 27 and at Lake Hefner on April 24. Both will begin at 9 a.m.

Each year, more than 100 volunteers respond to Lake Sweep's appeal for beautification in the metropolitan Oklahoma City area. Oklahoma Lake Sweep fosters citizen pride and public awareness while accentuating the recreational and related benefits of Oklahoma's reservoirs and municipal lakes. The effort is a component of Oklahoma Water Watch, a community-based volunteer water quality monitoring program directed by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

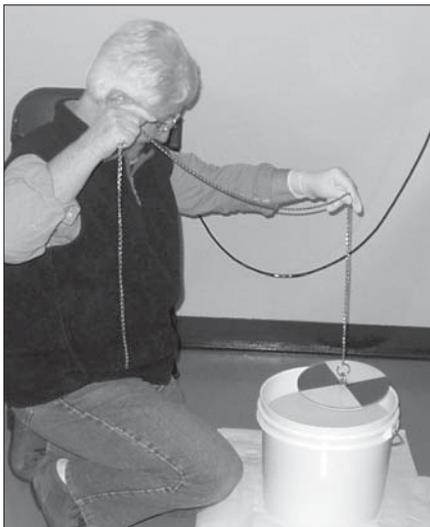
The Thunderbird Lake Sweep will kick off at the Thunderbird Boat House and wrap up by noon with a hot dog lunch provided by Country Boy Market. Volunteers from the University of Oklahoma's annual "Big Event" will be on hand to assist with the clean up. Big Event is Oklahoma University's official day of community service, where volunteers including students, faculty, and staff disperse to hundreds of job sites in central Oklahoma to perform various types of community service. Official sponsors of Thunderbird Lake Sweep include the OWRB, Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association (OCLWA), Thunderbird Sailing Club, and Thunderbird State Park.

In addition to picking up litter and other refuse, the Hefner Lake Sweep will feature a fishing clinic for both adults and children, a water-based obstacle course, and a short-course on boating safety provided by the Oklahoma City Police Department's Lake Patrol. In addition, door prizes will be given away courtesy of Tracker Marine and Bass Pro Shops. The event will culminate at 1 p.m. with a hot dog lunch provided by local sponsors, which include the OWRB, OCLWA, City of Oklahoma City Parks, Water and Public Works Departments, Oklahoma City Beautiful, Tracker Marine, and Bass Pro Shops.

All Oklahoma Lake Sweep participants should wear sturdy shoes and bring work gloves, a trash pick-up stick, insect repellent, sunscreen, and bottled water. For more information or to volunteer for either Oklahoma Lake Sweep event, contact Juli Ridgway, OCLWA President and Lake Sweep Coordinator, at 405-530-8800.

## Oklahoma Water Watch Implements QCA Plus! Sessions

In order to retain certification, Oklahoma Water Watch (OWW) volunteer monitors must attend and pass at least one QCA (Quality Control Assessment) Session per year. Currently, OWW staff offer two QCA Sessions per year for each chapter. During a QCA session, volunteers run four repetitions on spikes of known values, record



*A GLA volunteer practices using a Secchi Disc, a round, flat disc with alternating black and white quadrants that can be lowered into the lake to measure water clarity.*

the results on a datasheet, and return the results to OWW staff to check for accuracy and precision.

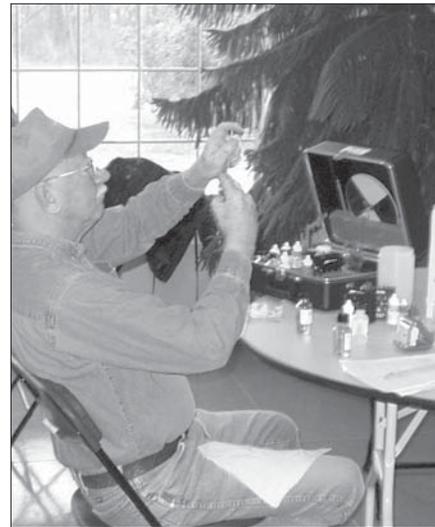
Successful completion of the yearly session validates volunteer-collected data by accounting for accuracy, precision, and usability of all data. Accuracy measurements for pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrate nitrogen, ammonia nitrogen and ortho-phosphate are obtained using spike

samples provided by the OWRB lab. Precision analyses are performed using pH and nutrient spike samples in the same manner and at the same time as accuracy analyses. Monitor precision is calculated by comparing the standard deviation between replicate samples to an acceptable deviation.

To supplement the QCA Sessions, QCA Plus! Sessions will now be held every other year for each chapter (unless more sessions are needed). During a QCA Plus! Session, volunteers are trained to clean all field equipment before proceeding with the QCA session. The equipment is decontaminated by a series of acid baths using a 10% Hydrochloric Acid solution and then put through a series of rinses with tap water and distilled water.

On December 4, 2003, OWW staff held the first implemented QCA Plus! Session for the Grand Lake OWW Chapter. After receiving positive feedback from volunteers, OWW staff now look forward to conducting routine QCA Plus! Sessions for all OWW chapters. Please visit the OWW Web page on the OWRB Web site for more information about the program.

[www.owrb.state.ok.us/oww](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us/oww)



*GLA volunteer Don Roderick performs a Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.) test.*

## Howard Named Employee of the Quarter

Scott Howard, Environmental Programs Specialist in the Water Quality Programs Division, was selected as OWRB/OSE Employee of the Quarter in December. A May 2003 graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelors Degree in Biology, Howard was nominated for his exceptional work ethic and dedication to his job and fellow employees. Howard consistently meets division goals and time deadlines, even if it means arriving early, staying late, or working on weekends. He has also demonstrated an uncommon level of devotion and concern for his fellow employees, whether it is assisting with purchasing paperwork, equipment maintenance, and field work, or offering moral and financial support. Scott has earned a reputation as one of the agency's most generous employees.



*Scott Howard assisting the Oklahoma Water Watch program by using Hydrochloric acid to wash all glass and plastic containers used for sampling*

# Oklahoma Drought Monitor

## Reservoir Storage

Although lakes in southwest Oklahoma continue to suffer from very low levels, lake storage elsewhere remains generally good. As of February 24, the combined normal conservation pools of 31 selected major federal reservoirs across Oklahoma (see below) are approximately 92.8 percent full, a 1.4 percent increase from that recorded on January 26, according to information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Tulsa District). Seventeen reservoirs have experienced lake level decreases since that time. Fourteen reservoirs are currently operating at less than full capacity (compared to 15 four weeks ago). Two reservoirs—Lugert-Altus, only 22.1 percent full; and Tom Steed, 51.5 percent—remain below 80 percent capacity.

### Storage in Selected Oklahoma Lakes & Reservoirs

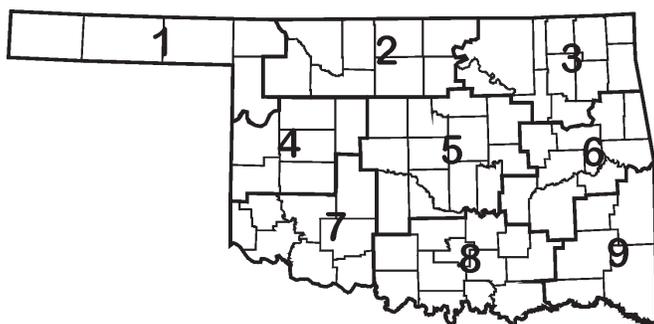
As of February 24, 2004

Climate Division	Conservation Storage (acre-feet)	Present Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Conservation Storage
North Central	420,480	420,463	100.0
Northeast	3,710,194	3,621,291	97.6
West Central	276,790	261,575	94.5
Central	154,225	139,840	90.7
East Central	2,968,683	2,687,280	90.5
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>301,810</b>	<b>149,842</b>	<b>49.6</b>
South Central	2,795,156	2,470,886	88.4
Southeast	1,464,929	1,464,929	100.0
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>12,092,267</b>	<b>11,216,106</b>	<b>92.8</b>

## Drought Indices

According to the latest Palmer Drought Severity Index (January 24, below), no region in Oklahoma is currently experiencing drought conditions and only three of Oklahoma's nine climate divisions have undergone a PDSI moisture decrease since January 24. The greatest decrease occurred in the Northeast climate division.

The latest monthly Standardized Precipitation Index (through January, below) continues to indicate some long-term dryness in southern and eastern Oklahoma, although conditions have recently improved. Among the *selected* time periods (3-, 6-, 9- and 12-month SPIs), only "moderately dry" conditions are indicated in the South Central and Southeast climate divisions throughout the last 12-month period. Considering longer periods (through six years), southern and eastern Oklahoma regions indicate dryness at various periods over the past 36 months. In particular, the Southeast is "very dry" over the past 15 and 18 months.



### Palmer Drought Severity Index

Climate Division (#)	Current Status 2/21/2004	Value		Change In Value
		2/21	1/24	
NORTHWEST (1)	NEAR NORMAL	-0.14	0.20	-0.34
NORTH CENTRAL (2)	MOIST SPELL	1.51	1.40	0.11
NORTHEAST (3)	MOIST SPELL	1.43	1.88	-0.45
WEST CENTRAL (4)	INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL	0.77	0.86	-0.09
CENTRAL (5)	INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL	0.59	0.57	0.02
EAST CENTRAL (6)	INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL	0.69	0.47	0.22
SOUTHWEST (7)	INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL	0.65	0.38	0.27
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL (8)</b>	<b>INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL</b>	<b>0.60</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>0.47</b>
<b>SOUTHEAST (9)</b>	<b>INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.15</b>

### Standardized Precipitation Index

Through January 2004

	3-Month	6-Month	9-Month	12-Month
NORTHWEST (1)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
NORTH CENTRAL (2)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
NORTHEAST (3)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
WEST CENTRAL (4)	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
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
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL (8)</b>	<b>NEAR NORMAL</b>	<b>NEAR NORMAL</b>	<b>NEAR NORMAL</b>	<b>MODERATELY DRY</b>
<b>SOUTHEAST (9)</b>	<b>NEAR NORMAL</b>	<b>NEAR NORMAL</b>	<b>NEAR NORMAL</b>	<b>MODERATELY DRY</b>

# Financial Assistance Program Update

*Loans/Grants Approved as of February 10, 2004*

## **FAP Loans—292 totaling \$504,055,000**

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—153 totaling \$514,153,717**

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—36 totaling \$136,383,789**

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.

## **REAP Grants—390 totaling \$33,767,263**

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 1,750 inhabitants.

## **Emergency Grants—504 totaling \$29,513,702**

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.

## **Total Loans/Grants—1,375 totaling \$1,217,873,471**

*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.*

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

Grady Grandstaff, *Chairman*; Glenn A. Sharp, *Vice Chairman*; Ervin Mitchell, *Secretary*

Harry Currie, Lonnie L. Farmer, Jack W. Keeley, Jess Mark Nichols, Bill Secrest, Richard C. Sevenoaks

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