

OKLAHOMA Water News

3rd Quarter 2009

Inside

OWRB Approves Innovative "Green" Stimulus Projects

OWRB Co-hosts Southwest Water Tour for Legislators

Governor's Water Conference Agenda

OCWP Update

Taron Appointed to OWRB

Glennon to Keynote Water Conference

OWRRI Solicits Proposals

OWRB Imaging Increases Efficiency and Saves Space

Drought Update

OWRB Approves Innovative "Green" Stimulus Projects

On September 8, the OWRB approved the state's first Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) "green" projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The innovative proposals were funded through the OWRB's traditional low-interest CWSRF program.

The total cost of the projects is \$3,275,768, but all principal funding for the three recipients will be forgiven.

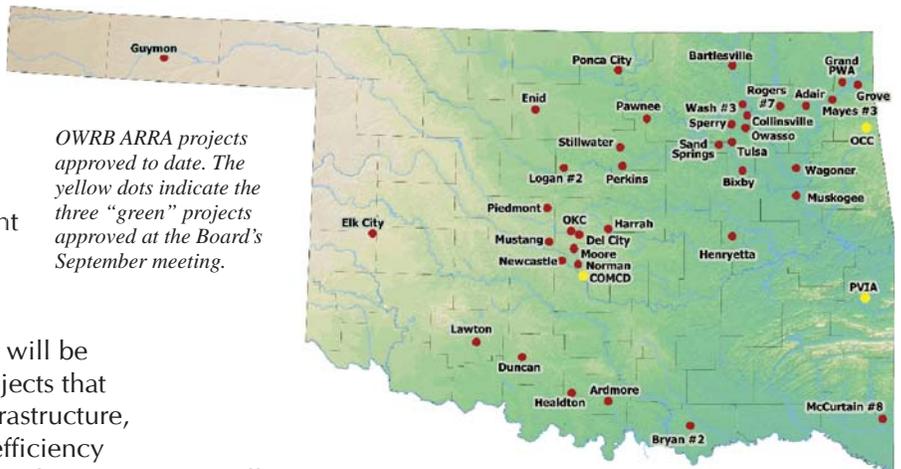
At least 20 percent (approximately \$6.3 million) of the OWRB's

total ARRA funds will be expended for projects that address green infrastructure, water or energy efficiency improvements, or other environmentally innovative activities.

Seven project proposals were received by the OWRB; four remaining proposals will be considered by the OWRB at its October meeting. Each project has been approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Two of the approved projects will seek to improve oxygen levels in major water supply lakes. Poteau Valley Improvement Authority, which obtains supply for its customers from eastern Oklahoma's Lake Wister, plans to install a flow routing system to discharge anoxic water from the lake's deeper areas. The total project cost is \$582,995. Central Oklahoma Master

(continued on page 2)



OWRB ARRA projects approved to date. The yellow dots indicate the three "green" projects approved at the Board's September meeting.

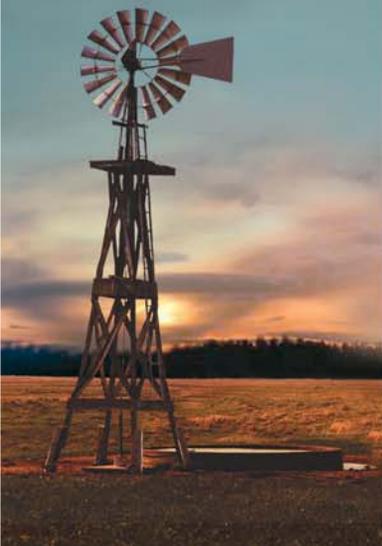
From the Director

It was encouraging to see more than 400 interested citizens turn out for a public meeting on the Arbuckle-Simpson Hydrology Study, which was held August 18 at the Pontotoc Technology Center in Ada. The informal meeting provided an opportunity for state and federal water experts to present study results and educate Oklahomans on hydrological and permitting concepts. It also served as a vital forum through which the OWRB could obtain input on management strategies that will guide future use of the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer while protecting the integrity of springs and streams that provide numerous economic, recreational, and environmental benefits to the area.

(continued on page 2)



Duane A. Smith, Executive Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Board



Water Board Approves Green Projects (continued)

Conservancy District, which oversees Lake Thunderbird near Norman, will use ARRA funds to implement a system, estimated at \$692,773, to oxygenate lake water.

The third project, approved for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, commits \$2 million to implement streambank stabilization and erosion control measures for identified sites in the Illinois River and Eucha/Spavinaw Creek

watersheds. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation will assist in the effort, which seeks to reduce the amount of nutrients, sediment, and bacteria contributed to those waters.

To date, the OWRB has approved 48 water and wastewater projects that have been at least partially funded through ARRA funds for a total of more than \$266 million. ♦

From the Director (continued)

OWRB and U.S. Geological Survey staff presented detailed information on the aquifer's hydrogeology, including its unique and variable recharge and storage characteristics. The audience learned how varying flows impact the health of aquatic organisms. Related to this discussion, the Surface Water Technical Advisory Group findings were presented, including the recommendation that future groundwater management strategies should target a 10 to 25 percent maximum reduction in base streamflow.

A considerable amount of time was spent explaining the USGS's groundwater flow model, which simulates underground flow and discharge and allows researchers to estimate how large-scale groundwater withdrawals could affect streamflow. Utilizing this flexible and informative tool, we can run countless scenarios with an unprecedented degree of confidence, assuming various flows, water use regimes, and related criteria, and then view results of hypothetical water management schemes.

A lengthy session followed where local citizens and others in attendance had a chance to contribute their personal viewpoints and opinions on possible water management and protection plans. It was pleasing to see sensible and positive input, especially considering the controversy surrounding the aquifer and the size of the crowd. Everyone appeared to have left the meeting room believing they received a fair opportunity to speak out.

Never before has the state dedicated such resources to the study of one specific water resource. Through staunch support from our Congressional delegation and state legislative leaders, Oklahoma secured millions in federal Bureau of Reclamation funds, along with matching money, to conduct this detailed, multi-year study and complete it on time and in budget. On the technical side, the Chickasaw Nation funded stream gages in the aquifer region, and the USGS, state universities, and others lent us their expert staff to help collect and analyze mountains of data on the Arbuckle-Simpson and its complex hydrogeology.

But despite all the efforts of so many to fund and conduct this impressive work, this study is not about dollars, statistics, models, or numbers. It's about grassroots water management and people coming together to voice their collective concerns over use of a treasured resource they utilize every day of their lives.

However, this level of concern is not unique to the Arbuckle-Simpson area. The State Legislature continues to provide a great deal of attention to water resource issues, as evidenced by September's Water Needs in Southwestern Oklahoma interim study, co-hosted by the OWRB and House of Representatives. Dozens of state and federal officials accompanied our state leaders on an informative tour of Lake Waurika, Cache Creek, Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area, Lugert-Altus Irrigation District, Elm Fork of the Red River, and other water-related sites of interest in the southwest region of our state.

Clearly, we're seeing a distinct shift in attitudes about water's importance. People are taking more responsibility for their surface and groundwaters and they are more knowledgeable than ever, which not only makes our jobs as water managers easier, but also much more rewarding. ♦



More than 400 Oklahomans attended the Arbuckle-Simpson Hydrology Study public meeting on August 18 at Ada's Pontotoc Technology Center. Meeting presentations, comments, and related informational materials are available on the OWRB's website at www.owrb.ok.gov.

OWRB Co-hosts Southwest Water Tour for Legislators

On September 17-18, the OWRB teamed up with other state and federal agencies to host a bus tour of southwest Oklahoma for legislators as part of an interim study to examine area water needs.

Legislators attending the tour included House Speaker Chris Benge and Representatives Dale Dewitt, Don Armes, Jerry Shoemake, Eddie Fields, Phil Richardson, Steve Kouplen, Charles Ortega, Lewis Moore, Purcy Walker, Leslie Osborn, Shane Jett, Brian Renegar, Skye McNiell, Joe Dorman, Corey Holland, and Dennis Johnson. About 50 additional individuals joined the tour, including representatives from Oklahoma's congressional delegation, the Secretary of Environment's office, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers, the USGS, and various state agencies.

The first tour stop was at Lake Humphreys near Duncan, where Mike Thralls, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, and Clay Pope, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts, discussed



Rep. Richardson, Rep. Shoemake, Rep. Renegar, ODEQ Exec. Director Steve Thompson, USDA Rural Dev. Director Ryan McMullen, and Rep. Walker at Lake Humphreys

the importance of Oklahoma's 129 Natural Resources Conservation Service assisted watershed projects, which provide flood control and address a myriad of natural resource issues such as water quality and water management.

At Waurika Lake, David Taylor, District Manager of the Waurika Lake Master Conservancy District, discussed upcoming issues regarding the reservoir, which provides water for about 200,000 area residents. During lunch, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Southwest Division Commander with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, updated legislators on the Corps' ongoing water-related programs and projects in the region.

The next stop was Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area, a 7,120-acre wetland that provides refuge for more than 100 bird species as well as recreational benefits for visitors from around the nation. Discussion was led by Rod Smith, Southwest Region Supervisor with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and Kelvin Schoonover, Hackberry Flat WMA Biologist.

At the Elm Fork of the Red River stream gage site near Granite, OWRB staff members, including Derek Smithee, Bill Cauthron, Monty Porter, Josh Bailey, and Lance Phillips, with assistance from USGS staff, gave demonstrations of stream gaging and water quality and biological sampling



Legislators and guests aboard tour bus provided by Western Oklahoma State College

at the site, presenting the tour group with specimens from the watershed and discussing issues surrounding high conductivity and chloride concentrations in the Elm Fork and its tributaries.

The day ended at Quartz Mountain Resort, where the group was joined by Mike Ryan, Great Plains Region Director for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Discussion centered on Red River chloride control, as well as local agricultural and related issues.

Day two began with a tour of the W.C. Austin Dam, which was led by Tom Buchanan, Manager of Lugert-Altus Irrigation

District. This was followed by a stop at Medicine Park for a luncheon discussion with local officials regarding Lawton area water issues. The tour was wrapped up by OWRB



Tom Buchanan, Lugert-Altus Irrigation District Manager, at W.C. Austin Dam

Executive Director Duane Smith's update on Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan activities.

Several legislators in attendance noted the importance of the interim study tour, which provided a meaningful first-hand look at the area's water resources.

"Water is one of the most pressing needs of our state, and this tour has allowed us to see firsthand the trials southwest Oklahoma is facing," commented House Speaker Chris Benge. "The water needs of our state will continue to be an issue in the Legislature, so it is critical to hear all sides of the debate so we can make educated decisions in the future." ♦



House Speaker Chris Benge at Hackberry Flat

GOVERNOR'S WATER CONFERENCE AGENDA

November 3

- 7:45 Registration
- 8:15 Welcome
Rudy Herrmann, OWRB Chairman
Duane Smith, OWRB Executive Director
Lt. Gov. Jari Askins
- 9:00 America's Water Crisis
Robert Glennon, Law Professor, Author
- 10:00 Break/Book Signing (Mr. Glennon)
- 10:30 Nonpoint Source Challenges
*Peter Silva, Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Water
- 10:50 National Water Policy
Steve Stockton, Director of Civil Works, USACE
- 11:10 Reclamation Activities
Mike Ryan, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation
- 11:30 Rural Development Stimulus Funding
Ryan McMullen, State Director, USDA Rural Development
- Noon Luncheon
Oklahoma Water Pioneer Awards
Water Outlook from Washington DC
*Oklahoma's Congressional Delegation
The Nation's New Water Quality Initiatives
*Lisa Jackson, EPA Administrator
- 2:00 Legal Update
*Drew Edmondson, OK Attorney General
- 2:20 Water Quality Monitoring
Derek Smith, OWRB Water Quality Division Chief
- 2:40 Stimulus Funding/Regionalization
*Steve Thompson, ODEQ Executive Director
- 3:00 Break
- 3:30 Legislative Water Perspective
*Susan Paddock, OK State Senate
- 3:50 Arbuckle Study Results & Management Options
Duane Smith
- 4:10 Garber-Wellington Aquifer Study
Scott Christenson, USGS
- 4:30 OCWP Tribal Issues
Lindsay Robertson, Professor, OU College of Law
- 4:50 Adjourn to Reception

**invited but unconfirmed*

November 4

- 7:45 Registration & Poster Viewing
- 8:15 Welcome & Introductions
Rudy Herrmann
*Gov. Brad Henry
- 8:40 Oklahoma's Water Supply & Demand Issues
Duane Smith
- 9:00 OCWP Overview & Update
Kyle Arthur, OWRB Director of Planning
- 9:20 OCWP Water Supply & Demand Study Results
John Rehring, Engineer, CDM
- 9:40 OCWP Public Participation Process Update
Will Focht, OWRRI Director
- 10:00 Break
- 10:30 Oklahoma Water: Leading the Way
Glenn Coffee, President ProTempore, OK State Senate
- 11:00 GRDA Water Planning
Kevin Easley, CEO, Grand River Dam Authority
- 11:20 Interstate Stream Compacts
Chuck Dumars, Attorney
- 11:40 OCS Water Planning Research
Renee McPherson, Acting Director, OK Climatological Survey
- Noon Luncheon
4-H Club Speech Contest Winners
J.D. Strong, Secretary of the Environment

OWRRI WATER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

November 4

- 1:30 Session 1: Updates and New Developments
- 3:05 Break & Poster Viewing
- 3:30 Session 2: Garber-Wellington Aquifer in Central Oklahoma
- 5:00 Adjourn/Poster Viewing

November 5

- 8:15 Welcome & Introductions
- 8:30 Session 3: Surface Water
- 10:00 Break & Poster Viewing
- 10:30 Session 4: Evaporation, ET, and Soil Water
- Noon Luncheon
- 1:30 Session 5: Field Techniques in Water Research
- 3:00 Break
- 3:30 Session 6: Monitoring & Modeling Nutrient Transport Processes
- 5:00 Adjourn

30th Annual Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference & 7th Annual OWRRI Water Research Symposium

 \$275 Nov. 3-5 (3 days)--Governor's Water Conference & OWRRI Research Symposium

 \$225 Nov. 3-4 (2 days)--Governor's Water Conference

 \$225 Nov. 4-5 (2 days)--OWRRI Research Symposium

Student registration is available online at <http://environ.okstate.edu/OKWATER/>.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

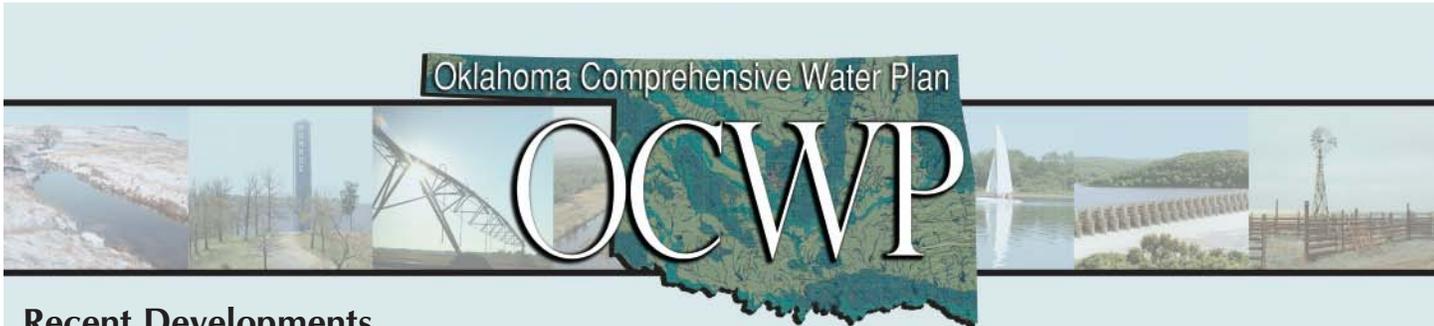
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check all that apply:

- I am a Regional Input Meeting (RIM) discussant/alternate.
- I prefer a vegetarian plate at the luncheons.
- I will attend the Nov. 3 reception (4:50 pm).

Register online at <http://environ.okstate.edu/OKWATER/>.

To register by mail, please complete this form and enclose with a check, money order, or purchase order payable to OWRRI, 003 Life Sciences East, Stillwater, OK 74078.



Recent Developments

- The goal of the second Planning Workshop, which was held on August 14, was to further refine the strategies discussed and developed at the June 4 workshop. To view workshop results, go to http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri/waterplan/planning_workshop_results.asp.
- The OCWP Artificial Recharge Technical Work Group Meeting was held on September 22 to finalize the evaluation criteria for potential recharge sites, which was discussed during the group’s initial work meetings, and to discuss sources of data in light of those criteria.

Upcoming

- The third and final Planning Workshop will be held on October 22 at Metrotech Springlake Campus in Oklahoma City. The Workshop will be divided into two sessions: a morning session (8 a.m. to noon) and an afternoon session (2-6 p.m.). Both sessions are open to the public; however, seating will be limited. Participants will finalize proposed strategies and develop additional research and policy questions, which will be compiled into a background document for Town Hall meeting participants.
- The Town Hall Meeting will be held May 18-21, 2010, in Norman. The Oklahoma Academy will conduct the Town Hall, with 150 attendees selected from current Planning Workshop participants. Town Hall participants will be involved in discussion and possible revision of each OCWP water policy strategy. On the final day, participants will discuss and vote on final strategies for submittal to the OWRB.
- Eleven Feedback Meetings will be held in early 2011 to discuss the draft Water Plan. Suggestions will be forwarded to the OWRB for inclusion in the final Water Plan document, submitted first to the nine-member Board for approval, then to the Oklahoma State Legislature and Governor during the 2012 legislative session.



Goals of the OCWP Update

- To provide safe and dependable water supply for all Oklahomans while improving the economy and protecting the environment.
- To provide information so that water providers, policy-makers, and water users can make informed decisions concerning the use and management of Oklahoma’s water resources.

For more information on the OCWP, visit the OWRB’s website at www.owrb.ok.gov. For questions and comments concerning policy development and public meetings, contact the OWRRRI at 405-744-9994, by e-mail at waterplan@okstate.edu, or go to <http://okwaterplan.info>.

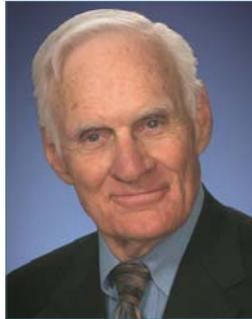
Water Plan Objectives

1. Characterize demands by water use sector.
2. Identify reliable supplies to meet forecasted demands.
3. Perform technical studies in support of the evaluation of emerging water management issues.
4. Engage comprehensive stakeholder involvement to make recommendations regarding the management of Oklahoma’s water resources.
5. Make “implementable” recommendations regarding the future of water management in Oklahoma based upon technical evaluations and stakeholder input.

Taron Appointed to OWRB

Joseph E. Taron has been appointed by Governor Brad Henry as the newest member of the OWRB. He replaces Lonnie Farmer, who passed away in May. Dr. Taron's term runs through May 14, 2011.

A retired dentist from Shawnee, Taron became directly involved in water issues after his domestic water well went bad. This event sparked his interest in seeking an additional water source for Pottawatomie County, which in turn led to creation of the Bethel Water System and eventual construction of Wes Watkins Reservoir in 1997. Taron was a founding member of the Pottawatomie County Development Authority, an organization he served for nearly 40 years; he served as chairman for more than 30 years. He was awarded the Oklahoma Water Pioneer Award in 2004. ♦



Glennon to Keynote Water Conference

Critically acclaimed author Robert Glennon will once again address Governor's Water Conference attendees to discuss his latest book, *Unquenchable: America's Water Crisis and What To Do About It*. (At the 2005 Conference, Glennon discussed groundwater issues and his book, *Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters*.)

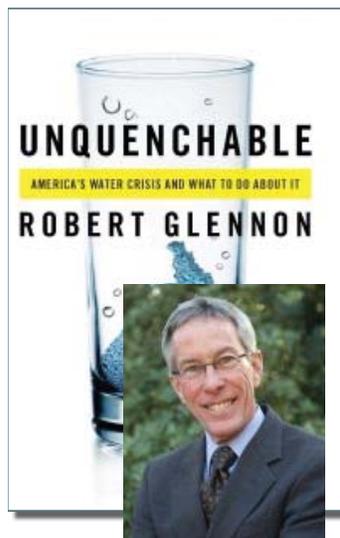
His latest book captures the irony and tragedy of America's water crisis, revealing the extravagances and everyday inefficiencies that are exhausting the nation's water supply.

According to Glennon, major problems remain hidden as government diverts supplies from one area to another to keep water flowing from the tap; however, shortages will soon threaten not only the environment, but every aspect of American life. He proposes market-based solutions that value water as both a commodity and a fundamental human right.

Glennon emphasizes throughout the book that only when we recognize water's worth will we begin to conserve it.

Glennon is scheduled to speak on Nov. 3 at 9 a.m., followed by a book signing at 10 a.m. Copies of the book will be available for purchase during the Conference while supplies last. ♦

Robert Glennon is the Morris K. Udall Professor of Law and Public Policy in the Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona.



OWRRI Solicits Proposals

The Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute (OWRRI) is formally inviting proposals for water research from any Oklahoma research university. The focus again this year is research in support of strategic water planning; however, proposals on any water-related topic are welcome.

Individual funding is typically \$50,000, which will be matched equally by the OWRB through its Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan effort. Therefore, the applicant needs to provide only a 1:2 match. For example, a research grant totaling \$75,000 would be funded with \$25,000 from OWRRI, \$25,000 from OWRB, and \$25,000 match. Indirect costs must be waived but are credited toward the match. Uncompensated investigator time may also be counted toward the match.

Grants will be awarded to support one-year projects. Longer projects must be divided into discrete one-year proposals with distinct deliverables. Projects will start March 1, 2010 and should be completed by February 28, 2011. The deadline for proposals is October 25.

For more information, including a prioritized list of research topics and application guidelines, visit http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri/project_funding.asp or contact Mike Langston, OWRRI Assistant Director, at 405-744-9994 or OWRRI@okstate.edu. ♦

OWRB Imaging Increases Efficiency and Saves Space

Continuing the agency's implementation of document imaging, which is the process of scanning paper documents and converting them to electronic, or digital, images for storage, the OWRB disposed of 16 recycle bins full of obsolete paper files in June. Approximately 3,627 pounds of old documents comprising 145 boxes occupying about 170 cubic feet of office space were imaged, electronically verified, indexed, and destroyed.

The files supported numerous OWRB programs, including water use permitting, dam safety, and financial assistance

(loans and grants).

More than 1600 National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps were also converted to digital images and disposed of; both PDF versions and digitized NWI boundary data are now available through the OWRB's website at www.owrb.ok.gov. ♦



The OWRB document imaging team, shown above with recycling bins and Meadows Recycling Center employees, included (from right) Jann Hook, Claressa Bailey, Michelle Reeves, Lenora James, and Jeff Green (third from left).

Drought Update

Reservoir Storage

As of September 15, 18 reservoirs (of 31 selected major federal reservoirs across Oklahoma, see right) are operating at less than full capacity, according to information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Tulsa District); 15 reservoirs have experienced lake level decreases since August 19.

Palmer Drought Severity Index

According to the latest Palmer Drought Severity Index (September 12, bottom), no climate divisions in Oklahoma are currently experiencing drought conditions.

Standardized Precipitation Index

The latest monthly Standardized Precipitation Index (through August, bottom) indicates near long-term dryness in two climate divisions -- the Northwest and Southwest regions.



Storage in Selected Oklahoma Lakes & Reservoirs (September 15, 2009)

LAKE	Change in Elevation (feet) 8/19/09-9/15/09	Current Flood Control Storage (acre-feet)
North Central (2)		
Fort Supply	-0.20	-2,116
Great Salt Plains	0.62	10,673
Kaw	0.67	19,500
Northeast (3)		
Birch	-0.98	-126
Copan	1.47	9,760
Fort Gibson	1.77	80,504
Grand	4.00	261,000
Hudson	2.93	45,946
Hulah	0.12	1,048
Keystone	3.71	73,209
Oologah	7.56	267,822
Skiatook	-0.22	-10,189
West Central (4)		
Canton	-0.18	-6,538
Foss	-0.02	-6,479
Central (5)		
Arcadia	0.20	1,376
Heyburn	0.27	-513
Thunderbird	-0.07	-3,900
East Central (6)		
Eufaula	-0.03	-12,983
Tenkiller	2.84	29,082
Southwest (7)		
Fort Cobb	0.78	2,647
Lugert-Altus	-6.65	-104,540
Tom Steed	0.43	-23,656
South Central (8)		
Arbuckle	-0.21	-441
McGee Creek	-0.14	-727
Texoma	-1.29	-30,943
Waurika	-0.27	-6,286
Southeast (9)		
Broken Bow	-1.64	-54,224
Hugo	-0.43	-42,721
Pine Creek	-0.08	558
Sardis	0.00	-2,009
Wister	0.22	-879

CLIMATE DIVISION	Standardized Precipitation Index (through August 2009)				Palmer Drought Severity Index
	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month	September 12, 2009
Northwest (1)	Near Normal	Moderately Dry	Moderately Dry	Near Normal	Near Normal
North Central (2)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Very Moist Spell
Northeast (3)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Unusual Moist Spell
West Central (4)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Unusual Moist Spell
Central (5)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Moist Spell
East Central (6)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Moist Spell
Southwest (7)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Moderately Dry	Moist Spell
South Central (8)	Near Normal	Moderately Wet	Near Normal	Near Normal	Incipient Moist Spell
Southeast (9)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Near Normal	Moist Spell

For more drought information, and to obtain updated information on Oklahoma's drought and moisture conditions, go to www.owrb.ok.gov/supply/drought/drought_index.php.

www.owrb.ok.gov

*Rudy Herrmann, Chairman • Mark Nichols, Vice Chairman • Linda Lambert, Secretary
Ford Drummond • Ed Fite • Jack W. Keeley • Kenneth K. Knowles • Richard Sevenoaks • Joe Taron*

The mission of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is to manage and protect the water resources of the state and plan for Oklahoma's long-range water needs in a responsive, innovative, and professional manner to ensure that all Oklahomans have adequate quantities of good water.



3rd Quarter 2009

Darla Whitley, Editor

Staff Writers:

Brian Vance & Darla Whitley

Photography:

Barry Fogerty

*E-mail comments, questions,
or article submissions to
pubinfo@owrb.ok.gov
or call us at (405) 530-8800*

The Oklahoma Water News is published by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board as authorized by Duane A. Smith, Executive Director. Eighty-eight hundred copies have been printed by University Printing Services at an approximate cost of 38 cents each. Copies have been deposited at the Publications Clearinghouse of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Loans & Grants Approved as of September 8, 2009

FAP Loans—321 totaling \$629,750,000

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 very competitive interest rates, averaging approximately 4.762 percent since 1986.

CWSRF Loans—214 totaling \$790,212,234

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—111 totaling \$565,342,268

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—530 totaling \$46,866,667

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—549 totaling \$32,568,466

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

Drought Response Program Grants—2 totaling \$200,000

Through the OWRB's Drought Response Program, funding is available for communities in most dire need during state drought emergencies declared by the Governor. A maximum of \$300,000 is diverted from existing OWRB Emergency Grant funds to establish the Program.

**American Recovery & Reinvestment Act
Funding—\$51,152,732**

Through the OWRB's conventional CWSRF and DWSRF loan programs, ARRA funds are utilized to provide additional subsidization to Oklahoma communities for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements as well as to provide benefits to the state's environment and create jobs for Oklahoma workers.

**Total Loans/Grants: 1,727 totaling \$2,064,939,635
Estimated Savings: \$650,081,982**

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.

**For more information, call 405-530-8800
or go to www.owrb.ok.gov/financing.**