

# OKLAHOMA Water News

4th Quarter 2010

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## Annual Report of OWRB Activities for 2010

### Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

The OWRB and Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute (OWRRI) began culmination of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) public input phase in 2010. Citizen participants attended a strategy seminar in March, and the OCWP Town Hall, led by the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals, was held over three days last May in Norman. During the Town Hall, 172 participants generated a wide array of state water policy recommendations that address 11 specific categories varying from conservation and water sales to land use and the scientific nature and legal consequences of stream and groundwater interaction. In October, the Governor's Water Conference and Research Symposium featured six sessions focusing on policy topics relating to public water supply, agriculture, tribal, environment, commerce, and energy issues.

### Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

## OCWP

The OWRB, OWRRI, CDM, and other partners also began synthesizing OCWP public input recommendations with those developed during the Town Hall in preparation for thirteen regional feedback meetings beginning in April 2011 (see page 6). Initial drafts of the thirteen OCWP Watershed Planning Region reports, including eighty-two basin analyses, were developed during 2010 and will be presented during those meetings. These reports contain detailed information on Oklahoma's water supply and demand as well as current and future water use scenarios. The primary focus has been development of practical solutions that water managers and other stakeholders can use to address anticipated shortages and related issues.

OWRB employees spent the year focusing on streamlining and refining information to be included in the OCWP update. The OWRB continues to meet with other state water management agencies and various partners to solicit their invaluable input and suggestions.

### Financial Assistance

In January, a \$94 million Bond Issue to address water infrastructure needs in Oklahoma was closed. In 2010, the OWRB's Financial Assistance Program approved 53 grants and loans totaling \$269 million for Oklahoma communities and rural water/sewer districts to address water and wastewater infrastructure needs. Financing via the OWRB saved communities and rural water/sewer districts approximately \$83 million over traditional financing avenues.

*(continued on page 2)*

## From the Director

As the Water Resources Board contemplates news of an anticipated budget cut of ten percent or more, as well as continued talk of agency consolidation, we naturally reflect upon the efficiency and utility of our programs and expenditures.

An extremely diverse agency, especially for its moderate size, the OWRB is charged by the Legislature with considerable responsibilities. Through our water rights program, staff administer almost 13,000 permits making possible the fair and orderly use of more than 6 million acre-feet of stream and groundwater each year. Among many associated tasks, we help water users mitigate the devastating impacts associated with our state's frequent drought episodes, address frequent conflicts between diverse user groups

*(continued on page 2)*



J. D. Strong, Executive Director  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*Annual Report (continued)*

Under the direction of the OWRB, Oklahoma became the first state in EPA Region 6 and third state in the nation to have all American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds under contract. Approximately \$56.5 of the \$62 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds were invested in the state's water and wastewater infrastructure.

**2010 FAP Loans and Grants**

*In 2010, the OWRB's Financial Assistance Program approved 54 loans and grants totalling \$269,040,326, with an estimated savings to Oklahoma Communities of \$83,568,995. FAP options include REAP and Emergency grants and CWSRF, DWSRF, and FAP bond loans.*

**Water Rights**

In 2010, the OWRB's water rights/permitting staff issued 61 long-term groundwater permits and 24 long-term stream water permits for 22,730 and 10,071 acre-feet, respectively,

and amended 112 groundwater permits for an additional 4,556 acre-feet. Staff filed 314 groundwater and 1,006 stream water provisional temporary permits (allowing use for up to 90 days) for 3,331 and 10,450 acre-feet, respectively, most of which were sought by oil companies requiring water for the drilling of oil and gas wells. There were 198 groundwater and 24 stream water permit "change of ownerships" filed. Currently, the OWRB manages 12,647 total long-term permits for approximately 3.5 million acre-feet of groundwater and 2.6 million acre-feet of stream water.

**Technical Studies**

OWRB hydrologists, in cooperation with the USGS and other partners, completed the second year of the three-year Garber-Wellington Water Management Study in 2010. The intense investigation of this major aquifer, which supplies water for hundreds of thousands of central Oklahoma citizens, has included the detailed analysis of water use, development of the hydrogeologic framework of the aquifer, and continued outreach to the region's major water users.

Stream water hydrologic investigation studies and allocation models were completed for the Upper Canadian River, Cache Creek, and Beaver Creek stream systems.

*continued on page 3*

*From the Director (continued)*

and among individuals, and ensure compliance with federal compacts apportioning water between Oklahoma and our neighboring states.

We seek to avoid potential loss of life and property as staff ensure the integrity of some 4,500 dams across the state and guide land use in concert with floodplain requirements. To protect public health and optimize recreational opportunities, the OWRB monitors the quality of water in more than 600 streams and lakes, and we work with other agencies and communities to prevent and remediate pollution problems when they occur.

The OWRB's five loan and grant programs have generated more than \$2.4 billion and leveraged many billions more in the construction of water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Many of the communities and rural water districts receiving these funds would otherwise be forced into the private market to obtain financing at much higher rates or would not qualify at all. Our technical experts study Oklahoma's surface and groundwaters to determine amounts of water available for use. Their findings, backed by critically important data, provide information essential to sustainably manage water usage both for this generation and for those that follow.

This work is accomplished through a dedicated group of professionals – engineers, geologists, environmental specialists, attorneys, financial analysts, accountants, and information technology experts – who are uniquely qualified, many possessing advanced degrees. They are well-trained, experienced, and always working to improve their knowledge and skills.

The current update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan has provided a unique opportunity to discuss the state's water management programs with hundreds of Oklahomans. The message received is clear. Citizens want more, not less, protection for the state's water resources, including funding for critically important infrastructure, research and planning. Sound planning and management of our water resources requires accurate data of both the quantity and quality of our water, thus reinforcing the need for critical efforts such as stream gaging and water quality monitoring. As stress on supplies escalates and managing our water becomes more complex, funding such essential programs that enable us to find reasonable solutions becomes increasingly important.

This is a daunting challenge, especially in light of several consecutive years of OWRB budget reductions. Though difficult to balance increasing demands from the public with declining revenue, we continually strive to streamline our programs and accomplish our statutory mandates more efficiently. The OWRB is focused on improving the quality of life for all Oklahomans, which we understand means providing the highest level of public service at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers.

In closing, I want to welcome Gary Sherrer back to service as Oklahoma's Secretary of Environment, a position in which he served admirably during the Keating Administration. It has been my honor to serve in that role since 2008, yet I am excited now to devote all of my attention to the dedicated OWRB staff and Board members as we passionately serve Oklahoma's citizens by developing, managing and protecting our most valuable natural resource – water. ♦

## Sherrer Assumes Secretary of Environment Post

Governor Fallin has appointed Gary Sherrer to serve as Oklahoma Secretary of Environment. "Gary Sherrer brings with him to the job a wealth of experience and I know he's a tireless advocate for all of Oklahoma," commented Fallin. "I look forward to having Gary serve in my administration."

This is Sherrer's second appointment to the OSE post. He first served during the Keating administration while concurrently functioning as OWRB executive director, guiding the agency in the aftermath of the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in 1995. A former state representative from southeast Oklahoma, Sherrer was also the state's first secretary of agriculture under former Governor David Walters.

Sherrer currently holds the position of assistant vice president for external relations in Oklahoma State University's Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, where he will remain employed. He also serves on the board of directors at Rural Enterprises, Inc. ♦



Gary Sherrer

### Annual Report (continued)

#### Water Quality

The Federal Clean Water Act required triennial revision of the Oklahoma Water Quality Standards (OWQS) was approved by the Board in March. This included revised criteria for Phenol, new criteria for Acrolein, and site-specific minerals criteria for Nine Mile Creek that will enable continued reuse and subsequent discharge of treated water from the City of Lawton for use as power plant cooling water. A new revision of the OWQS and implementation rules was initiated with a focus on assessment of water quality and the designation of Saline and Little Saline Creeks as High Quality Waters.

Installation of a dissolved oxygen injection system was completed at Lake Thunderbird through cooperation with COMCD. This ARRA-funded project will help reduce algae growth and improve the taste and smell of drinking water for area residents.

As part of the OWRB's Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP), 36 lakes were sampled by water quality staff during the 2009-2010 period, and work continues on the EPA-funded Oklahoma Water Quality Monitoring Strategy Document. Lake sampling through the BUMP underwent a thorough evaluation and was modified to incorporate a probabilistic sampling approach to maximize benefits and efficiencies in the program while seeking to reduce expenses. Staff also completed work on a two-year probabilistic streams sampling program in the Illinois River basin.

Through an ongoing successful partnership with the Grand River Dam Authority, the OWRB continued dissolved oxygen monitoring on both Grand Lake and Lake Hudson to support Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) re-licensing.



Dissolved oxygen injection system at Lake Thunderbird



OWRB staff collecting samples for probabilistic monitoring

In addition to collecting water level measurements in the statewide Mass Measurement Program's statewide network of 505 wells, the OWRB's groundwater monitoring team assessed Swine Licensed Managed Feeding Operations compliance in an additional 550 wells. They also acquired a wealth of historical groundwater quality data in wells tapping the Garber-Wellington aquifer to support that study.

#### Lakes of Oklahoma

*Lakes of Oklahoma*, a comprehensive atlas containing maps and related data for 146 reservoirs, including 58 state and federal lakes and an additional 88 public lakes, was compiled by OWRB staff and published in December. The popular publication was funded through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with assistance from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Bathymetric surveys were conducted on nine municipal water supply lakes in 2010, including Healdton, Ponca, Carl Albert, Liberty, Guthrie, Pawnee, Lone Chimney, Claremore, and New Spiro lakes, bringing the total number of lakes mapped by the OWRB to 37.

continued on page 4

Annual Report (continued)

**Floodplain Management**

OWRB Floodplain Management staff assisted a record number of 175 communities with ordinance and regulation updates during the 2010 Risk Map Program. There are currently 380 Oklahoma communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.

**Dam Safety**

Five new publications were developed and published for the OWRB Dam Safety Program. Dam safety staff also reviewed 1,240 low hazard dams in 2010 and identified 202 dams that may need to be reclassified to significant or high hazard potential.

In a new community outreach effort, OWRB staff completed visits with leaders in five Oklahoma communities, including Guthrie, Ponca City, Pawnee, Healdton, and Talihina. While the visits afforded an opportunity to discuss ownership and specific operation and maintenance of municipal dams classified as high hazard, staff used the opportunity to review water rights, discuss water quality concerns of local lakes, and review funding opportunities available for water and/or sewer infrastructure improvements.



**Sardis Agreement**

In June, the OWRB approved an agreement with Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust (OCWUT) to transfer the State of Oklahoma's water storage rights at Sardis and the state's existing 36-year-old \$27 million water storage obligation to the federal government for construction of the lake. OCWUT also agreed to reimburse the state for past Sardis water storage payments and related costs. Local use of the storage, local water rights, and lake level management are protected. ♦

**OWRB FY 2010 Expenditures & FY 2011 Budget**

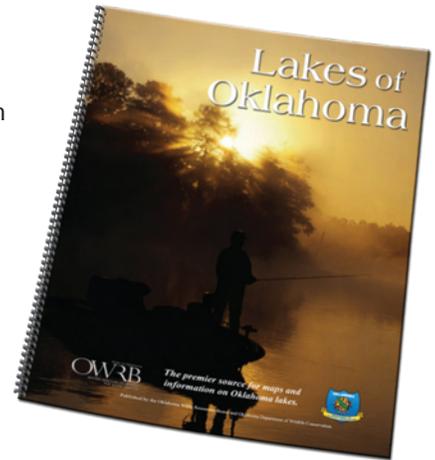
| Activity Name            | FY-10 Expended      | FY-11 Budgeted      |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Administration           | 2,317,689           | 3,089,776           |
| Water Quality            | 2,151,773           | 3,125,580           |
| Financial Assistance     | 2,285,781           | 3,943,692           |
| Planning & Management    | 3,185,501           | 3,494,703           |
| Secretary of Environment | 7,867,648           | 16,598,619          |
| <b>Totals</b>            | <b>\$17,808,392</b> | <b>\$30,252,370</b> |

| Fund Name                            | FY-10 Expended      | FY-11 Budgeted      |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| General Appropriations               | 2,935,831           | 3,947,962           |
| Drillers & Installers Indemnity Fund | 0                   | 50,000              |
| Rural Economic Action Plan Fund      | 9,920               | 73,000              |
| Water Resources Revolving Fund       | 338,913             | 683,229             |
| Drillers & Installers Reg. Fund      | 35,592              | 20,000              |
| Water Infrastructure Dev. Fund       | 1,926,647           | 1,313,850           |
| Federal Funds - OWRB                 | 1,273,408           | 1,919,537           |
| Federal Funds - OSE                  | 7,405,201           | 12,677,446          |
| Environmental Remediation Fund       | 0                   | 3,501,976           |
| USGS Cooperative Agreement           | 455,450             | 486,550             |
| Interagency Reimbursement Fund       | 1,140,071           | 1,811,047           |
| ARRA Fund                            | 832,663             | 1,026,077           |
| DW Loan Administration Fund          | 415,975             | 1,164,233           |
| CW Loan Administration Fund          | 1,014,415           | 766,850             |
| CW Loan Fund                         | 24,306              | 810,613             |
| <b>Totals</b>                        | <b>\$17,808,392</b> | <b>\$30,252,370</b> |

**State Lakes Featured in New Publication**

The OWRB and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation have teamed up to publish *Lakes of Oklahoma*, a new comprehensive atlas of maps and data for 146 state reservoirs. Free copies are available for pickup at the OWRB's Oklahoma City office (3800 North Classen Boulevard), ODWC headquarters in Oklahoma City (1801 North Lincoln Boulevard), or the ODWC's Jenks office (300 South Aquarium Drive). The OWRB will mail individual copies for \$10 to cover postage and handling.



Sportsmen helped fund the production of the new publication through the federal Sport Fish Restoration Program and an excise tax on the sale of fishing gear as well as a gasoline fuel tax from motorboats and small engines.

*Lakes of Oklahoma*, which differs from the *Oklahoma Water Atlas* in that it focuses solely on Oklahoma lakes and reservoirs, provides extensive lake data and special sections on water quality and aquatic nuisance species. Lake bottom contours for an additional 18 lakes have also been added. ♦

**Mussel Beach**

In November, OWRB water quality monitoring specialists visiting Lake Holway, in northeastern Oklahoma, witnessed a disturbing site. Reduced lake levels resulting from dry conditions exposed the infestation of hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of Zebra mussels on the shore. This species typically attaches to structures forming dense and prolific colonies, reducing the availability of plankton and causing major economic losses by clogging pipelines, locks, dams, and boat motors. A single female mussel can release up to a million eggs per season. ♦



*Zebra mussels at Lake Holway, November 2010*

# 31st Annual Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference

## A Shared Resource, A Shared Responsibility



The OWRB and OWRRI hosted a record number of attendees and dozens of exhibitors at the 2010 Governor's Water Conference and OWRRI Water Research Symposium on October 26-27 in Norman.

Six Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan discussion panels served as the centerpiece of the Conference, focusing on issues relating to public water supply, agriculture, tribal,



Above: Chairman Rudy Herrmann, Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, J. D. Strong, and Scott Huler.

environment, commerce, and energy. Moderators included Steve Thompson, ODEQ Executive Director; Terry Peach, OK Secretary of Agriculture; Bill Anoatubby, Chickasaw Nation Governor; Richard Hatcher, Executive Director of the Dept. of Wildlife Conservation; Natalie Shirley, OK Secretary of Commerce and Tourism; and Robert Wegener, OK Secretary of Energy.

The Conference was highlighted by addresses from author Scott Huler, Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, Congressman Tom Cole, Congresswoman Mary Fallin, Tulsa USACE District Engineer Col. Michael Teague, and other special guests, with OWRB Chairman Rudy Herrmann serving as emcee.

The OWRRI Water Research Symposium and several other concurrent sessions provided alternatives and opportunities for continuing education for attendees with particular areas of interest.



Above: General session and the OCWP Municipal/ Public Water Supply and Agriculture panels.



Tom Cole



Mary Fallin

### 2010 Oklahoma Water Pioneers

**Drew Edmondson** was elected Attorney General in 1994, and was re-elected in 1998, 2002, and 2006. He has fought vigorously to protect Oklahoma's water resources, both from a quality and quantity perspective.

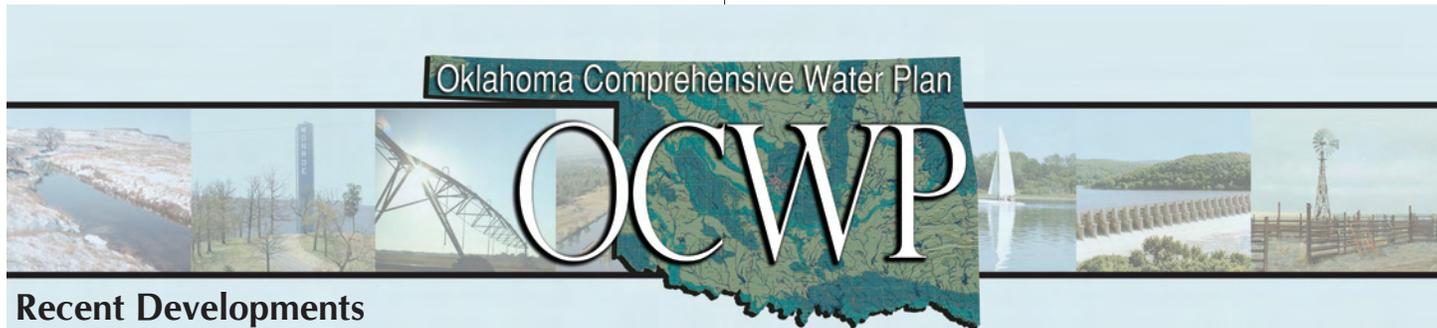


**Mike Melton** served the OWRB for 38 years as a field engineer, division chief, Legislative Liaison, and Assistant Director. He served as Chairman of the Planning Committee for the original Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan.



**Diane Pedicord** is General Counsel and Chief Officer for Corporate Affairs for the Oklahoma Municipal League. She is a long-time authority on the state's water law, also serving as a member of the OWRB's Water Law Advisory Committee.





## Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

# OCWP

### Recent Developments

- Two additional OCWP documents are now available on the OWRB website: “Physical Water Supply Availability Report” and “Conjunctive Water Management in Oklahoma and Other States.”
- Areas of the state expected to experience future water shortages, or “hot spots,” are being identified using the Oklahoma H2O tool. Scenarios of water challenges are being developed individually for the three primary OCWP water supply sources: surface water, alluvial groundwater, and bedrock groundwater in each of the 82 OCWP basins. Oklahoma H2O is a flexible GIS-based analysis tool created to compare projected water demands with physical supplies.

### Upcoming

- The OWRB and OWRRI will co-host 13 regional feedback and implementation meetings (dates/locations below), the final stage of the OCWP public input process, beginning April 19 in Beaver, Oklahoma. The purpose of the meetings is to give the public the opportunity to comment on the draft plan and provide implementation suggestions.

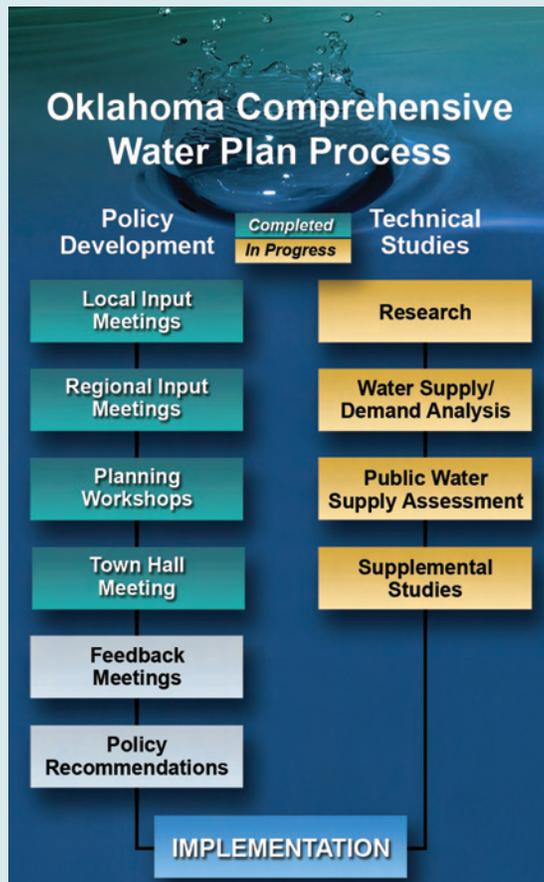


Each meeting, featuring an informal come-and-go format, will include an afternoon technical session followed by a public input (policy development) session in the evening. They will provide an important opportunity for public input participants and the general public to ask specific questions of OWRRI and OWRB staff as well as engineers responsible for much of the OCWP technical work. Relevant reports will be available for review on the OWRB’s website in advance of each meeting.

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • April 19, Beaver          | • May 17, McAlester     |
| • April 26, Quartz Mountain | • May 18, Antlers       |
| • April 27, Clinton         | • May 19, Coalgate      |
| • April 28, Enid            | • May 24, Sulphur       |
| • May 3, Tulsa              | • May 25, Lawton        |
| • May 4, Grove              | • May 26, Oklahoma City |
| • May 5, Stigler            |                         |

### 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.



### 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](http://www.owrb.ok.gov). For questions and comments concerning policy development and public meetings, contact the OWRRI at 405-744-9994, by e-mail at [waterplan@okstate.edu](mailto:waterplan@okstate.edu), or go to <http://okwaterplan.info>.

# Drought Update

## Reservoir Storage

As of December 20, twenty-six reservoirs (of thirty-one selected major federal reservoirs across Oklahoma, listed at right) are operating at less than full capacity, according to information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Tulsa District); twenty-four reservoirs have experienced lake level decreases since November 30.

## Palmer Drought Severity Index

According to the latest Palmer Drought Severity Index (see table below), only one climate division in Oklahoma is currently experiencing drought conditions. However, four additional regions are classified in “incipient drought.”

## Standardized Precipitation Index

The latest monthly Standardized Precipitation Index (see table below) indicates near long-term dryness in four of Oklahoma’s nine climate divisions. The Southeast region is going through a particularly extended dry period.



Storage in Selected Oklahoma Lakes & Reservoirs (December 20, 2010)

| LAKE                     | Change in Elevation (feet) 11/30-12/20/10 | Current Flood Control Storage (acre-feet) |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| <b>North Central (2)</b> |   |   |
| Fort Supply              | 0.36                                      | 544                                       |
| Great Salt Plains        | -0.16                                     | 2,098                                     |
| Kaw                      | 0.95                                      | 152                                       |
| <b>Northeast (3)</b>     |   |   |
| Birch                    | -0.30                                     | -2,249                                    |
| Copan                    | -0.27                                     | -4,561                                    |
| Fort Gibson              | 0.08                                      | -6,359                                    |
| Grand                    | 0.00                                      | 1,759                                     |
| Hudson                   | -0.44                                     | 12,759                                    |
| Hulah                    | -0.07                                     | -2,846                                    |
| Keystone                 | -0.64                                     | -43,548                                   |
| Oologah                  | -0.29                                     | -39,878                                   |
| Skiatook                 | -0.44                                     | -42,705                                   |
| <b>West Central (4)</b>  |   |   |
| Canton                   | 0.07                                      | -16,264                                   |
| Foss                     | -0.06                                     | -10,244                                   |
| <b>Central (5)</b>       |   |   |
| Arcadia                  | -0.10                                     | -801                                      |
| Heyburn                  | -0.07                                     | -769                                      |
| Thunderbird              | -0.23                                     | -14,275                                   |
| <b>East Central (6)</b>  |   |   |
| Eufaula                  | -0.76                                     | -244,320                                  |
| Tenkiller                | -1.66                                     | -65,958                                   |
| <b>Southwest (7)</b>     |   |   |
| Fort Cobb                | 0.09                                      | -2,753                                    |
| Lugert-Altus             | 0.54                                      | -81,648                                   |
| Tom Steed                | -0.25                                     | -10,819                                   |
| <b>South Central (8)</b> |   |   |
| Arbuckle                 | -0.29                                     | -2,250                                    |
| McGee Creek              | -0.11                                     | -7,275                                    |
| Texoma                   | -0.81                                     | -96,603                                   |
| Waurika                  | -0.28                                     | -8,322                                    |
| <b>Southeast (9)</b>     |   |   |
| Broken Bow               | -0.28                                     | -106,717                                  |
| Hugo                     | -0.15                                     | -68,864                                   |
| Pine Creek               | -0.32                                     | -7,363                                    |
| Sardis                   | -0.20                                     | -25,300                                   |
| Wister                   | -0.21                                     | -9,281                                    |

| CLIMATE DIVISION  | Standardized Precipitation Index (through December 2010) |             |                |                | Palmer Drought Severity Index |
|-------------------|--|-------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
|                   | 3-month  | 6-month     | 9-month        | 12-month       | December 18, 2010             |
| Northwest (1)     | Near Normal  | Near Normal | Near Normal    | Near Normal    | Incipient Moist Spell         |
| North Central (2) | Near Normal  | Near Normal | Near Normal    | Near Normal    | Moist Spell                   |
| Northeast (3)     | Moderately Dry   | Near Normal | Near Normal    | Near Normal    | Incipient Drought             |
| West Central (4)  | Near Normal  | Near Normal | Near Normal    | Near Normal    | Incipient Moist Spell         |
| Central (5)       | Moderately Dry   | Near Normal | Near Normal    | Near Normal    | Incipient Drought             |
| East Central (6)  | Near Normal  | Near Normal | Near Normal    | Near Normal    | Incipient Drought             |
| Southwest (7)     | Near Normal  | Near Normal | Near Normal    | Near Normal    | Near Normal                   |
| South Central (8) | Moderately Dry   | Near Normal | Near Normal    | Near Normal    | Incipient Drought             |
| Southeast (9)     | Moderately Dry   | Near Normal | Moderately Dry | Moderately Dry | Moderate Drought              |

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](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/supply/drought/drought_index.php).

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

*Enhancing the quality of life for Oklahomans by managing, protecting and improving the state's water resources to ensure clean, safe, and reliable water supplies, a strong economy, and a healthy environment.*



**4th Quarter 2010**

**Darla Whitley, Editor**

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## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

*Loans & Grants Approved as of January 13, 2011*

### **FAP Loans—326 for \$690,565,000**

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—238 for \$975,081,004**

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—126 for \$689,414,642**

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—550 for \$48,561,499**

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—562 for \$33,482,977**

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—\$60,617,376**

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: 1,804 for \$2,437,305,123**

### **Estimated Savings: \$854,888,566**

*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](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/financing).**