

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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 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.

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.

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.



Dissolved oxygen injection system at Lake Thunderbird



OWRB staff collecting samples for probabilistic monitoring

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 Tahihina. 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.

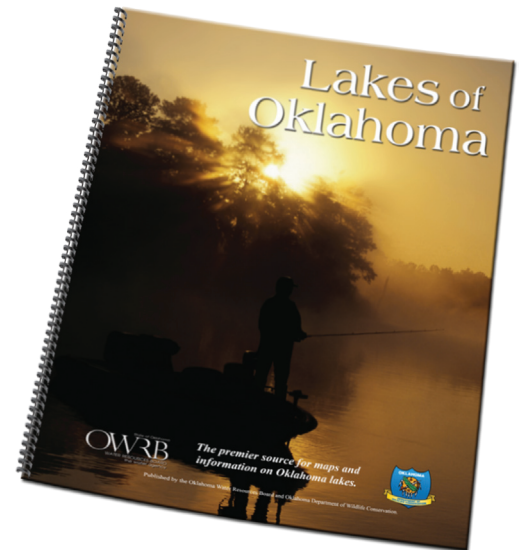


Sardis Agreement

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.

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.



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
Totals	\$17,808,392	\$30,252,370
Fund Name		
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
Totals	\$17,808,392	\$30,252,370