

Report of OWRB Activities for 2015

Throughout 2015, the OWRB fulfilled its mission of 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.

Since inception, OWRB financial assistance programs have provided funding for 2,067 loans and grants totaling more than \$3.3 billion and saving communities across Oklahoma nearly \$1.5 billion over traditional financing options. In 2015, 19 loans were funded totaling \$128,945,156, and 17 grants totaling \$1,388,546 were approved by the Board.

As the state’s designated water management agency, in 2015, the OWRB issued 146 regular permits and 1,260 provisional temporary permits for 92,014 acre-feet and 94,014 acre-feet, respectively. OWRB staff currently track water use and maintain more than 13,000 permits for approximately 2.7 million acre-feet of surface water per year and 3.8 million acre-feet of groundwater per year.

OWRB FY15 Expenditures and FY16 Budget		
Activity Name	FY15 Expended	FY16 Budgeted
Administration	\$2,403,114	\$2,814,242
Water Quality	4,041,951	3,675,103
Financial Assistance	2,972,468	5,119,700
Planning & Management	4,078,810	4,068,743
Information Technology	789,442	1,103,169
Totals	\$14,285,785	\$16,780,957
Fund Name		
General Appropriations	\$5,340,878	\$4,855,770
Drillers & Installers Indemnity Fund	-	50,000
OWRB Revolving Fund	1,809,445	2,536,440
Water Resources Revolving Fund	1,067,214	1,219,255
Drillers & Installers Regulation Fund	31,774	25,000
Water Infrastructure Development Fund	1,349,260	1,695,559
Federal Funds - OWRB	1,903,618	1,249,416
USGS Cooperative Agreement	275,275	312,275
DW Loan Administration Fund	456,357	2,418,229
CW Loan Administration Fund	2,051,964	2,019,013
CW Loan Fund	-	400,000
Totals	\$14,285,785	\$16,780,957

Consistent with state law, the OWRB continued several ongoing hydrologic studies during 2015 to determine amounts of water that may be withdrawn from Oklahoma’s groundwater basins by permitted water users. The Rush Springs aquifer study, initiated in 2011 in support of the Upper Washita River Basin project, is scheduled to be completed by mid 2016. A 20-year update of the Enid Isolated Terrace aquifer hydrologic investigation is nearing completion as well. Hydrologic investigations of the Elk City Sandstone and Gerty Sand aquifers are now underway. Through a contract with the US Geological Survey (USGS), the OWRB is also conducting hydrologic investigations on the North Canadian River, Canadian River, North Fork of the Red River, and Salt Fork of the Red River aquifers.

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The OWRB continued its work during 2015 on the Upper Washita Basin Study, an ongoing project conducted in collaboration with the Bureau of Reclamation, Foss Reservoir Master Conservancy District, and Fort Cobb Master Conservancy District.

OWRB staff are currently working with the Waurika Lake Master Conservancy District to conduct a bathymetric survey of the water intake area of the lake. OWRB staff are collecting data on multiple waterbodies that serve as sole source water supplies to update firm yield estimates.

The OWRB continued its joint participation in a study of phosphorus levels in Oklahoma's scenic rivers to determine the total phosphorus threshold response level at which algae production results in undesirable or harmful conditions. Several public meetings were held in 2015, and the next meeting is scheduled for the spring of 2016.

OWRB staff are receiving input and finalizing the 2015-16 proposed amendments to Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards, including creation of a new antidegradation classification called Sensitive Water Supply-Reuse (SWS-R), revisions to the numeric aquatic life criteria for certain priority pollutants listed in Appendix G, revisions to several waterbodies listed in Appendix A and their designated uses and revisions to Appendix B, Tables 1 and 2.

OWRB staff continued to work cooperatively with Oklahoma City and the Department of Wildlife Conservation at Lake Stanley Draper to develop beneficial aquatic plants and control the invasive plant, *Phragmites*.

Staff continued to work cooperatively with the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District (COMCD) to monitor and improve water quality in Lake Thunderbird, where an innovative system to oxygenate lake water has been installed.

Through the Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP), lake sampling was conducted quarterly at 37 lakes across Oklahoma in 2015 (as part of a five-year rotation for the 130 lakes included in the program). Stream sampling was conducted at 84 stations on a 6-week rotation. The physical, chemical, and biological data collected at these sites are used to identify water quality trends, document impairments to beneficial uses, and identify sources of pollution.

Sampling has been completed for year three of the Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment Program (GMAP), the OWRB's statewide groundwater quality and quantity monitoring program. Staff visited more than 140 quality monitoring sites during the year and collected data from more than 1,000 sites for water-level measurements.

In 2015, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department began managing a pilot project to map water, wastewater, storm water, and water reuse infrastructure for small public water and wastewater systems. The data will be incorporated into the OWRB's public water supply systems dataset and map viewer. It also will be made available to the systems at a more detailed level via a separate, secure map viewer. The project goal is to provide systems with a tool to help them operate and manage their infrastructure more efficiently and to plan

for the future. GIS staff also created a new GMAP viewer and refreshed existing map viewers with additional layers and an updated format.

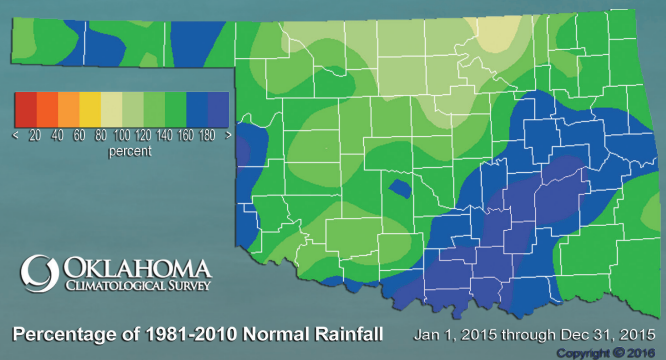
OWRB staff licensed 34 new Well Drilling and Pump Installer firms and 53 new operators in 2015. The OWRB received more than 7,706 well completion, boring, geothermal, and plugging reports for the year. There are currently more than 170,706 records in the OWRB's well log database, accessible to the public via the OWRB website.

The OWRB continues to train and accredit floodplain administrators in Oklahoma's 398 participating National Flood Insurance Program member communities. OWRB floodplain management staff conducted 18 Community Assistance Visits and 43 Community Assistance Contacts and enrolled 4 communities into the NFIP during the year.

In 2015, OWRB staff completed 25 low hazard-potential dam inspections and provided inspection reports with breach inundation maps to dam owners at no cost. Staff are conducting more detailed analyses for several dams that have potential to be reclassified. Breach inundation maps of 13 high hazard-potential dams were developed, provided to dam owners at no cost, and integrated into site-specific Emergency Action Plans to assist emergency managers in the event of dam failure. 💧

Drought Update

As of December 31, the U.S. Drought Monitor indicated that no climate regions in Oklahoma were experiencing abnormally dry conditions or drought.



According to the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, 2015 was ranked the 1st wettest year on record for Oklahoma with an average of 52.96 in. across the state. The year was ranked 3rd wettest on record for the contiguous United States, according to NOAA, averaging 34.47 in. across all climate regions.

To obtain up-to-date information on Oklahoma's drought and moisture conditions, visit
www.drought.ok.gov