



Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Mission

The mission of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is to protect and enhance the quality of life for Oklahomans by managing and improving the state's water resources to ensure clean and reliable water supplies, a strong economy, and a safe and healthy environment.

Goals

- Developing, implementing, and promoting sound water policies, programs, and plans to protect lives, property, and Oklahoma's water resources.
- Building partnerships and increasing public awareness to encourage responsible stewardship of Oklahoma's water resources.
- Improving service to the public by maximizing agency efficiency and innovation, and through promotion of a healthy, safe, productive, and inclusive working environment.

Vision

- Resolving Oklahoma's increasingly complex water issues through leadership, innovation, and sound science.
- Partnering with citizens and other stakeholders in planning and balancing multifaceted, long-range water needs.
- Being the recognized experts in our field and known for our exemplary service to the public.

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Rudolf Herrmann, Chairman
Linda Lambert, Vice Chairman
Tom Buchanan, Secretary
Bob Drake
Ford Drummond

Ed Fite
Marilyn Feaver
Jason Hitch
Richard Sevenoaks

Executive Director

J.D. Strong

Planning & Management

Administrative Services

Financial Assistance

Water Quality Programs



What We Do

The primary duties and responsibilities of the OWRB include water appropriation and permitting, water monitoring and standards of quality, financial assistance for water/wastewater systems, dam safety, floodplain management, water supply planning, technical studies, and water resource mapping.

Planning for Oklahoma's Water Future

- Ensuring the long-term reliability of water supplies through proactive studies and collaborating with water users, providers and other partners to develop and implement local and regional plans.
- Assisting in the "Water for 2060" statewide initiative to formulate water conservation practices, incentives, and programs to moderate Oklahoma's water usage while preserving growth and development goals.

Managing Water Use

- Allocating water rights through 12,944 permits for the beneficial use of more than 6.4 million acre-feet of surface and groundwater each year.
- Determining water availability and management options through hydrologic and special studies and a suite of modeling tools.
- Administering four federal stream water compacts to ensure the equitable sharing of water with neighboring states.
- Protecting Oklahomans from loss of life and property through regular maintenance and inspection of more than 4,500 dams and guiding intelligent land use consistent with local floodplain requirements.
- Preventing groundwater pollution through enforcement of regulations governing the responsible drilling, construction, and plugging of water wells.

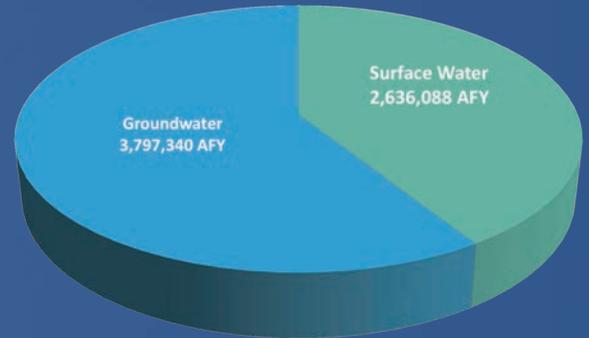
Monitoring & Protecting Water Quality

- Monitoring water quality at more than 600 lake and stream sites and overseeing Oklahoma's first comprehensive groundwater quality and quantity monitoring network that will eventually comprise as many as 2,000 wells covering every major aquifer in the state.
- Developing and establishing standards to ensure water quality protection across the state.
- Curbing pollution of lakes, rivers, and streams and restoring their water quality benefits.

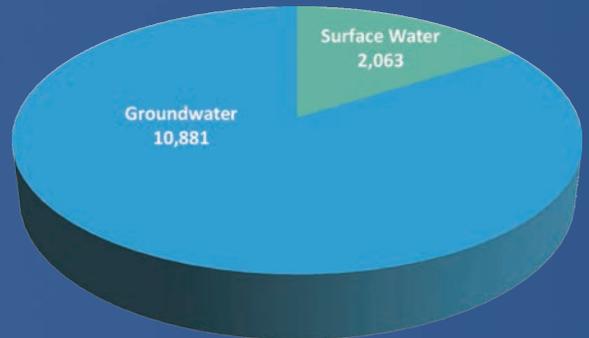
Financing Water & Wastewater Infrastructure

- Providing grants and low-interest loans for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.
- Providing more than \$3.2 billion in financial assistance to cities, towns, and rural water districts, saving them more than \$1.1 billion over conventional financing options.

Permitted Water Source & Amount
6,433,428 acre-feet/year



Active Regular Water Use Permits
12,944 total permits



Approved OWRB Loans & Grants

Type of Funding	Number	Amount
Financial Assistance Loan	365	\$935,065,000
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan	285	\$1,295,449,409
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan	172	\$913,358,300
Emergency Grant	568	\$33,822,821
Reap Grant	630	\$55,871,356
Drought Grant	10	\$1,543,848
Total Amount Approved	2,030	\$3,235,110,734

Total Estimated Savings: \$1,107,390,257

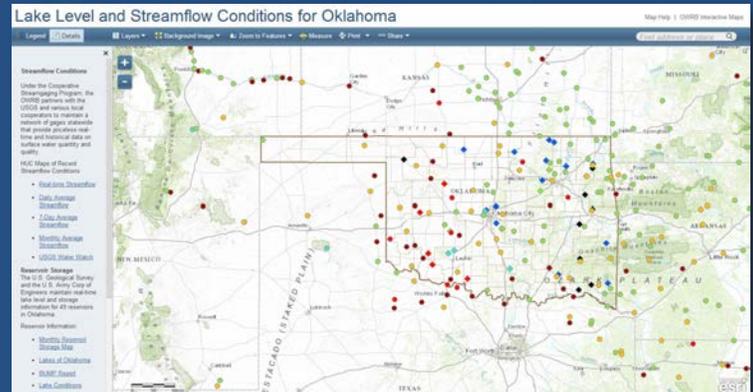


Customer Service & Efficiencies

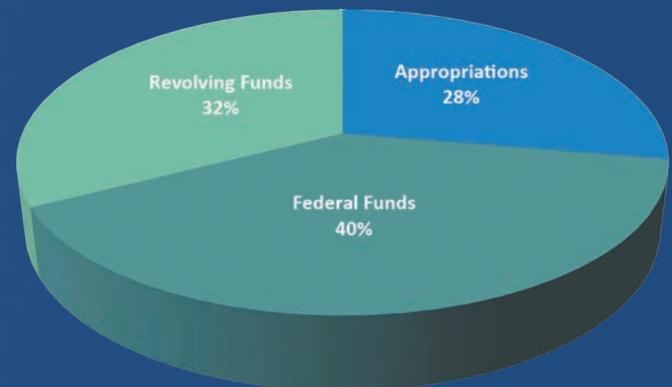
Through continued modernization and efficiency initiatives, the OWRB refines its business processes to reduce expenditures while maximizing transparency and improving service to citizens and the water user community.

- The OWRB's continuing document imaging initiative has greatly enhanced staff productivity through improved access to critical information, streamlining workflow, and providing significant savings of both time and money. Imaging also helps the agency provide the public with unprecedented access to current and archived agency records and documents through the OWRB's website.
- The OWRB and partners have developed the Oklahoma Advantages Assessment and Scoring for Infrastructure Solutions (OASIS) system, a computer-based model that quantifies the social, economic, and environmental benefits of a community's water and wastewater infrastructure investments. OASIS assists Oklahoma communities in making smarter choices regarding the services that they provide to citizens.
- The OWRB's web-based provisional temporary permit program provides enhanced convenience to Oklahoma water users, supporting the state's energy industry and saving a considerable amount of staff time. Provisional temporary permits, primarily utilized for oil and gas exploration activities, are the most common type of permit administered by the OWRB.
- The OWRB's Geographic Information System (GIS) department continues to advance its online mapping tools, including, to date, a dozen customized map viewers that allow customers to view the agency's wealth of state water resource information through a graphical interface and manipulate associated data for countless individual purposes.

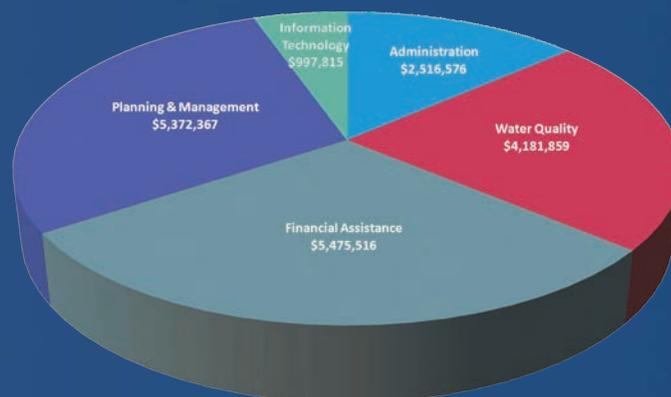
OWRB Online Mapping Tools



FY-15 Budgeted Funding Sources



FY-15 OWRB Budget Overview



2015 Goals

To facilitate implementation of the 2012 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP), the OWRB will continue during 2015 to focus on the OCWP's "priority" recommendations:

- Through the Water for 2060 initiative, promote the need for increased water conservation, reuse and recycling to make the most efficient use of limited water resources;
- Address Oklahoma's \$82 Billion water and wastewater infrastructure needs through continued leveraging of Financial Assistance Loan Programs, including leveraging the newly established Water Infrastructure Credit Enhancement Reserve Fund;
- Reduce the backlog of statutorily-required hydrologic studies, 20-year updates, and stream water allocation studies to more accurately manage requests for water;
- Continue to expand and refine agency surface and groundwater monitoring programs to better assess threats to water resources and identify waters not meeting uses;
- Work with local, state, tribal and federal stakeholders to execute an instream flow pilot study on the Illinois River;
- Coordinate with local and regional stakeholders to encourage long-range water planning at a regional level in an effort to develop more drought-proof communities across the state; and
- Provide assistance and support to the Governor and Legislature in addressing the water rights claims and needs of Oklahoma-based tribes.

Top Workplace Award

The OWRB received its second consecutive "Top Workplaces" award in 2014. The Top Workplaces program recognizes Oklahoma's best employers based purely on employee opinions gathered through anonymous surveys.



THE OKLAHOMAN

OWRB CONTACT:

Amanda D. Storck
Chief of Administration, CFO
405-530-8873

amanda.storck@owrb.ok.gov
www.owrb.ok.gov

Water for 2060

With the Legislature's passage of the Water for 2060 Act in 2012 (prompted by a priority recommendation of the OCWP), Oklahoma has become the first state in the nation to establish a statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than is consumed today. To meet this ambitious goal, the Water for 2060 Advisory Council was convened in 2013 to begin formulating conservation practices, incentives, and educational programs that could accordingly moderate statewide water usage. Chaired by OWRB Executive Director J.D. Strong, the Council includes 15 members appointed by the Governor, Speaker, and President Pro-Tempore.

In 2013-14, the Council met five times to review current information and discuss future strategies for meeting the goals of the Water for 2060 Act. In the first quarter of 2015, the Council will focus its efforts on further developing recommendations and documenting findings for inclusion in a final report to the Legislature and the Governor.

For more information, visit www.owrb.ok.gov/2060.

