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**TOP WORKPLACES 2013-16**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
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**OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD**
Linda Lambert, Chairman
Ford Drummond, Vice Chairman
Jason Hitch, Secretary
Stephen Allen
Tom Buchanan
Charles Darby
Bob Drake
Robert L. Melton
Robert Stallings

**Executive Director**
Julie Cunningham

**Administrative Services**
Julie Cunningham

**Planning & Management**

**Financial Assistance**

**Water Quality Programs**

**Efficiency • Innovation • Collaboration • Sound Science • Customer Service**
Planning for Oklahoma’s Future

Ensuring the long-term reliability of water supplies through implementation of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP), including proactive studies and collaboration with water users, providers, and other partners to develop and implement local and regional plans.

Supporting Oklahoma’s Water for 2060 Act, the statewide goal of using no more fresh water in 2060 than was used in 2010.

Assisting communities with drought planning and providing current information through Oklahoma’s Drought Portal at drought.ok.gov.

Appropriating Water for Economic Use

Appropriating fresh water for drinking, agriculture, municipal, industrial and power generation, recreation, and oil and gas drilling through 13,000 permits for 6.5 million acre-feet* of water per year.

Determining the amount of water available for appropriation and the hydraulic properties of Oklahoma’s groundwater systems through statutorily required hydrologic investigations.

Protecting Oklahoma’s groundwater by ensuring the integrity of water well construction through the licensing of well drillers and pump installers.

Ensuring equitable sharing of water with neighboring states through four stream compacts.

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Costly flooding risks to life and property.

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Oklahoma’s 34 largest reservoirs provide 13 million

Loss of Life and Property

Protecting Oklahomans from Loss of Life and Property

Oklahoma’s 34 largest reservoirs provide 13 million acre-feet of water storage capacity, essential during times of drought AND flooding. The OWRB coordinates the Oklahoma Dam Safety Program to ensure the safety of more than 4,700 dams and the Floodplain Management Program to accommodate and minimize risks to life and property.

Building Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Capacity

Providing more than $3.6 billion to cities and rural districts to finance essential water and wastewater infrastructure needed to assure safe water supplies and clean rivers.

monitoring Water Quality and Quantity

Tracking the quality and quantity of Oklahoma’s streams, lakes, and groundwater basins to identify areas that are impaired, and improving understanding of the effects of drought and usage patterns.

This information aids water resource planners and managers in making informed decisions to ensure reliable water supplies.

The water quality information collected at these sites is also utilized to develop and refine Oklahoma’s Water Quality Standards.

Modernization and Efficiency Efforts

New Infrastructure Bond Loan Improvements

In 2016 the OWRB unveiled a new Bond Resolution, which provides potential borrowers with more options in order to satisfy local debt service reserve requirements. In addition to a cash reserve, the resolution now allows borrowers to maintain a slightly increased debt coverage ratio, provide a surety policy with a AA rated provider, or maintain their own bond rating of A. Newly proposed agency rules also delete antiquated requirements currently in place for the loan application process.

Improved Fieldwork through Technology

Staff use state-of-the-art technology to conduct fieldwork activities and minimize travel costs associated with inspections, complaint response, geo-location of dam sites and water wells, and other required tasks. Field personnel use GIS-based collection applications to perform investigations in a more efficient and accurate manner.

Document Imaging Initiative

The OWRB’s document imaging system has improved access to records and critical information, streamlining workflow and providing significant savings. Projects have been consolidated between agency divisions to improve efficiency and minimize equipment and office space requirements.

Partnerships to Leverage Available Dollars and Expelde Projects

The OWRB actively seeks out collaborative funding and technical assistance arrangements with federal, state, tribal, local, and private partners for basin-scale technical studies and regional planning efforts to leverage contributed state funds and maximize product outputs.

Web-based Permitting and Reporting Initiative

The OWRB has developed web-based applications to provide better service to the public, improve efficiency, expedite permit applications and reporting, and improve accuracy of data. The provisional temporary permit program provides convenience to Oklahoma water users, especially supporting the energy industry (the primary user of this permit type), and saves a considerable amount of staff time. Applications for well driller and pump installer licensing and well completion and water use reporting are currently scheduled for development as well.

GIS and Mapping Capabilities

The OWRB’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) department continues to improve the agency’s online mapping tools, including, to date, more than a dozen interactive map viewers with state water resource information that can be customized through a user-friendly graphical interface.

[Diagram showing water use by sector (acre-feet) and monitoring water quality and quantity]

[Table showing OWRB Loans & Grants, Total Estimated Savings, and Financial Assistance Loans]

[Diagram showing planning for Oklahoma’s future and implementation of the OCWP]

[Map showing jurisdictional dams by hazard classification]
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Oklahoma’s four federal stream compacts include the Arkansas River (AR/OK and KS/AR), Canadian River (NM/OK/TX), and Red River (AR/LA/OK/TX).

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OywP Implementation
The OWRB will continue to focus on “drought-proofing” Oklahoma through implementation of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP).

Water Project & Infrastructure Financing
Meeting Oklahoma’s $82 billion future water infrastructure need by assisting water providers in identifying the best financing option through the OWRB and other financing institutions, providing below-market interest rates by maintaining a strong bond credit rating and leveraging federal grants and Oklahoma’s Water Infrastructure Credit Enhancement Reserve, and encouraging water system regionalization to increase reliability, public safety, and savings on operating costs.

Regional Water Planning
Assisting local stakeholders in developing long-term, regional water security strategies that meet diverse water needs and foster economic growth.

Water Conservation, Efficiency, Recycling & Reuse
Meeting the statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than was consumed in 2010 by promoting widespread adoption of water conservation, establishing rules allowing large-scale water reuse and increased storage capacity through aquifer storage and recovery, and finding uses for oil and gas-produced waters.

Water Supply Reliability
Completing statutorily required groundwater studies and stream water allocation models to accurately allocate and manage water resources for economically beneficial uses.

Comprehensive Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring Network
Assessing groundwater and surface water conditions to protect public health, determine the appropriate level of water treatment, and allow water users to make informed decisions based on drought and usage patterns.

Instream/Environmental Flows
Considering tourism, recreation, and ecological water needs within Oklahoma’s overall water management framework through lessons learned from the Illinois River Instream Flow Pilot Study.

State/Tribal Water Consultation & Resolution
Supporting the Governor and Legislature in working to resolve water rights and needs of Oklahoma-based tribal nations. In 2016, the Top Workplaces program recognizes Oklahoma’s best employers based entirely on employee opinions gathered through anonymous surveys. The OWRB was also given its second certified healthy business award for its efforts to keep employees active and healthy.

OYWBP FY17 Funding by Source

The OWRB received its fourth consecutive “Top Workplaces” award in 2016. The Top Workplaces program recognizes Oklahoma’s best employers based entirely on employee opinions gathered through anonymous surveys. The OWRB was also given its second certified healthy business award for its efforts to keep employees active and healthy.

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