Fiscal Year 2020 Operational Sources and Uses of Funds

The OWRB obtains funding from a variety of sources to meet statutory requirements and accomplish its mission of managing and monitoring the state's water resources and planning for water infrastructure needs for long-term water resiliency. Federal and local funding partnerships for state programs are leveraged to continue implementation of Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan recommendations.

Sources and Uses of Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Expenditure in Millions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal Funding</td>
<td>$5.6 (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Production Tax</td>
<td>$3.4 (14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forfeits/Contraband</td>
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<td>State Appropriations</td>
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<td>Salary &amp; Benefits</td>
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With passage of the Water for 2060 Act in 2012, Oklahoma established a statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than was consumed in 2010. An Advisory Council was created in 2013 by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President Pro Tempore to make recommendations for meeting the Water for 2060 goal. The Advisory Council’s final report was published in 2015. Learn more at www.owrb.ok.gov/2060.

Water Means Business

The OWRB permits water and provides essential services to support the following industries in every corner of the state.*

**Agriculture Production**

2.9 billion gallons of water per day are permitted to grow nearly $7.5 billion worth of products each year.

**Oil and Gas Production**

356 million gallons of water per day are permitted for the production of an estimated $15.4 billion in products each year, employing nearly 150,000 Oklahomans.

**Tourism and Recreation**

1,400 square miles of surface water provide the foundation for Oklahoma’s $8.6 billion per year tourism and recreation industry.

**Navigation**

10 million tons of products valuing over $3.65 billion per year are shipped on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

**Municipal Development**

2.3 billion gallons of water per day are permitted to fuel and sustain local population and economic growth, and provide water supply for more than 3.7 million Oklahomans.

**Hydropower**

584 megawatts of hydropower produced by Oklahoma dams provides electricity for more than 2 million users in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

*Sources include the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry (2019); Oklahoma State Chamber (2016); Oklahoma Department of Transportation Waterways Branch (2015); US Army Corps of Engineers; and Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation (2015).

March 2020
**Modernization and Technology Priorities**

The OWRB prioritizes its efforts to improve agency services by updating technology, streamlining application processes, and increasing partnerships for customer outreach.

**DOCUMENT IMAGING**

Nearly 100% of agency documents have been digitized and stored in an electronic filing system, improving staff productivity by streamlining workflows, and saving money by minimizing equipment needs and office space requirements.

**PERMITTING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

An online application system allows the OWRB to expedite temporary water use permits for energy production and other short-term uses. Web-based applications are under development that will allow well drillers and pump installers to apply for or renew their licenses and water rights holders to file annual water use reports.

**INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING SOFTWARE**

The Oklahoma Advantages Assessment and Scoring for Infrastructure Solutions (OASIS) tool helps municipalities plan and communicate their community’s future infrastructure investment needs to constituents and decision-makers. Infrastructure Financing Software (IFS) tracks the agency’s complex funding system, including more than $4.1 billion in approved projects to date.

**GIS-BASED DATA COLLECTION**

Field personnel are able to perform investigations more efficiently and accurately with GIS-based applications and tools.

**WATER QUALITY DATABASES**

The Ambient Water Quality Management System (AWQMS) and Aquarius databases allow the OWRB to provide accurate historical water quality and quantity data. Direct public access to the data is under development, which will reduce staff time and provide greater transparency. The databases are used by several other environmental agencies, which saves money and facilitates exchange of data while potentially reducing duplicative data collection efforts.

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Numerous focus groups and public meetings held by the OWRB through partnerships with public and private interest groups have improved customer service.

**SAVINGS THROUGH WEB-BASED TRAINING**

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**LEVERAGING FUNDS**

The OWRB leverages federal and local funding partnerships for state programs to continue implementation of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan recommendations. Funding partners include EPA, USGS, USDA NRCS, Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, FEMA, Groundwater Protection Council (GWPC), Conservation Commission, Grand River Dam Authority, multiple Tribal partners, and many others.

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**OWRB Programs**

**WATER RIGHTS ADMINISTRATION**

Appropriation of Oklahoma’s fresh water resources is administered by the OWRB as directed by Oklahoma statutes. Currently, there are more than 13,000 active permits for over 6,100 million gallons per day. Approximately 1,500 provisional temporary permits are also issued each year for oil and gas producers and others in need of a temporary source of water. Additionally, the agency conducts surface water allocation modeling and availability analyses, coordinates statewide water use reporting, and responds to public complaints.

**WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEM FINANCING**

As the State’s primary water and wastewater infrastructure financing agency, the OWRB has provided over $4.4 billion in financing to Oklahoma communities, rural water districts, schools, and other authorities at an estimated savings of $1.4 billion over conventional bond financing. This is due, in part, to the continued achievement of AAA bond ratings, an extremely strong loss coverage score, management and oversight of the program, and a long history of borrower repayment. The programs protect the health and safety of Oklahomans by providing funding to meet the critical need for safe drinking water supplies and adequate wastewater treatment.

**HYDROLOGIC INVESTIGATIONS**

Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to conduct hydrologic investigations to determine the amount of fresh groundwater available for appropriation. Staff hydrogeologists, modelers, engineering consultants, and federal agencies assist in characterizing hydrologic properties of aquifers such as recharge, effects of pumping, and water demand.

**DAM SAFETY**

The Oklahoma Dam Safety Act directs the OWRB to ensure the safety of more than 4,700 dams across the state. OWRB staff maintain Oklahoma’s portion of the National Inventory of Dams, oversee approval for construction or modification of structures, coordinate breach inundation mapping, inspect low hazard-potential dams, and provide public outreach and training.

**FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT**

Through the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act, the OWRB is directed to act as the State Floodplain Board and the National Flood Insurance Program coordinating agency. The agency assists communities in reducing costly flooding risks to life and property by updating flood maps through FEMA programs and providing opportunities for training and accreditation of local floodplain administrators.

**WELL DRILLER & PUMP INSTALLER LICENSING**

Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to protect Oklahoma’s groundwater from contamination by ensuring the integrity of well water construction through the licensing of well drillers and pump installers. The OWRB also assists drillers with required well log reporting. More than 190,000 well logs are available to the public on the OWRB’s website.

**INTERSTATE STREAM COMPACT COMMISSIONS**

The OWRB represents Oklahoma’s interests on four separate interstate stream compact commissions regarding all the surface waters that flow into or out of the state. The compacts are written agreements among or between Oklahoma’s neighboring states that have been approved by the US Congress, enacted in Federal statutes, and enacted in the statutes of each state.

**WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

The OWRB is designated by Oklahoma statute as the agency responsible for promulgating Oklahoma’s Water Quality Standards (WQS), which have been developed in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act. The OWRB is also charged with assisting in the implementation of the WQS in other state agencies.

**WATER MONITORING & LAKE RESTORATION**

Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to implement a statewide beneficial use monitoring program for waters of the state and designate the OWRB as the lead agency for administering a statewide program for assessing, monitoring, studying, and restoring Oklahoma lakes. The OWRB is further directed to submit a biennial report to the Oklahoma Legislature discussing the status of water quality monitoring in Oklahoma. Monitoring is currently conducted on 40 Oklahoma lakes, 84 stream sites, and more than 1,000 groundwater wells across the state. The OWRB partners with the US Geological Survey to manage Oklahoma’s Cooperative Stream Gaging program; these data are used to meet compliance with four federal interstate stream compact agreements and to guide the management of local and regional public water suppliers, including flood and drought planning, early warnings, and emergency operations.
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## Sources and Uses of Funds

### FY2020 OWRB Budgeted Funding Sources in Millions

- Federal Funding: $6.8 (39%)
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- Gross Production Tax: $2.4 (14%)

### FY2020 OWRB Budgeted Expenditure in Millions

- General Operations: $1.9 (22%)
- Professional Services: $4.0 (23%)
- Salary & Benefits: $9.6 (55%)

### Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

**Planning for Future Water Needs**

Oklahoma statutes direct the OWRB to forecast long-term water needs through decennial updates to the OCWP, providing local planners and lawmakers with the data critical to ensure safe and reliable water for all Oklahomans. In addition to supply/demand studies across 82 basins, the 2012 update employed an unprecedented multi-year citizen engagement effort to identify diverse issues and solutions. Eight priority policy recommendations emerged from 83 public meetings across the state resulting in over 2,300 public comments.

Implementation of the following OCWP recommendations is funded through a portion of state Gross Production Tax revenues:

- Completing groundwater basin yield studies required by statute to measure and determine water available for allocation;
- Saving fresh water resources through the development of rules for the use of untapped marginal sources of water, such as reclaimed treated municipal wastewater and brackish groundwater sources;
- Leveraging over $3 million in matching federal funding for specific investigations through partnerships with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey, Department of Interior, and Department of Energy, including the following study areas:
  - Regional water planning and drought contingency planning;
  - Implementation of Water for 2060 Advisory Council recommendations to expand conservation efforts;
  - Produced water recycling assessment and feasibility analyses; and
  - Water availability analyses for small municipal water supply lakes.

With passage of the Water for 2060 Act in 2012, Oklahoma established a state-wide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than was consumed in 2010. An Advisory Council was created in 2013 by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President Pro Tempore to make recommendations for meeting the Water for 2060 goal. The Advisory Council’s final report was published in 2015. Learn more at www.owrb.ok.gov/2060.

### Water Means Business

The mission of the OWRB 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. Since 1957, the OWRB has focused on fair water appropriation, water infrastructure financing, long-range water planning, and robust technical data collection to inform state and local policy and planning.

#### Agriculture Production

2.9 billion gallons of water per day are permitted to grow nearly $7.5 billion worth of products each year.

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356 million gallons of water per day are permitted for the production of an estimated $15.4 billion in products each year, employing nearly 150,000 Oklahomans.

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December 2019