OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD
OFFICIAL MINUTES
April 19, 2016

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board was called to order by Chairman Linda Lambert at 9:35 a.m., on April 19, 2016, in the second floor meeting room of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, 3800 N. Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK.

The meeting was conducted pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Law with due and proper notice provided pursuant to Sections 303 and 311 thereof. The agenda was posted on April 15, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board’s offices at 3800 N. Classen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and provided on the agency’s website.

Chairman Lambert welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that earlier there had been a remembrance of the two OWRB lives lost twenty-one years ago on April 19, 1995, Ms. Trudy Rigney and Mr. Bob Chipman. She said before beginning the meeting, there would be a moment of silence to remember those two family members, as well as others that were lost, survived, and those whose lives were changed forever; and, would pray that the “Oklahoma Standard” of care and compassion, strength, service, and hope would be alive, not just in Oklahoma but in the world today.

Chairman Lambert then called for the roll call of members.

A. Roll Call

Board Members Present
Linda Lambert, Chairman
Ford Drummond, Vice Chairman
Jason Hitch, Secretary
Stephen Allen
Tom Buchanan
Bob Drake
Marilyn Feaver
Ed Fite
Richard Sevenoaks

Board Members Absent
None

Staff Members Present
J.D. Strong, Executive Director
Robert Singletary, General Counsel
Amanda Storck, Chief, Administrative Services Division
Joe Freeman, Chief, Financial Assistance Division
Julie Cunningham, Chief, Planning and Management Division
Derek Smithee, Chief, Water Quality Programs Division
Mary Schooley, Executive Secretary
Others Present
Pat Clark, Quinlan Community Rural Water District #1, Mooreland, OK
Verlaine Clark, Quinlan Community Rural Water District #1, Mooreland, OK
Dustin Rowe, City of Tishomingo, OK
Mike Mathis, Continental Resources, Oklahoma City, OK
Russ Doughty, Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy, Broken Bow, OK
Jeff Everett, Oklahoma Gas & Electric, Oklahoma City, OK
Mike Wofford, Doerner Saunders Daniels Anderson, Oklahoma City, OK

B. Discussion, Amendments, and Vote to Approve Official Minutes of the March 15, 2016, Regular Meeting.

Chairman Lambert asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the March 15, 2016, meeting. There were none, and Mr. Buchanan moved to approve the minutes, and Mr. Hitch seconded. Chairman Lambert called for the vote.

AYE: Hitch, Allen, Buchanan, Sevenoaks, Feaver, Fite, Drummond, Lambert
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Drake
ABSENT: None

C. Executive Director’s Report

Mr. J.D. Strong, OWRB Executive Director brought the members up to date regarding legislative activities approaching the last month of the legislative session. He noted the materials included the federal report containing information about the state budget process and appropriations markups and hearings and said there is no indication at this point the agency will receive budget cuts from the federal level. He noted, however, the discussion about the White House Water Summit—which he attended along with the Western States Water Council meetings in Washington, D.C.—and the Oklahoma Water for 2060 initiative was highlighted along with other drought resiliency initiatives across the country. In Ms. Preston’s addendum to the report, she highlighted the President’s Action Plan Summary outlining six goals and activities to fulfill the goals using existing authorities to further work in state, regional, tribal, and local partners to respond to drought. He said the Administration is anxious the plan is not “put on a shelf” during these last ten months, and staff is evaluating projects where there is already “action on the ground” that could benefit, i.e., in Altus where a regional water action plan exercise has been conducted identifying projects to build drought resiliency in that part of the state, and use some of the federal dollars available in other areas of the state as well. He said the President’s Action Plan recognizes the various agencies and their silos, or “pots of money,” that should be brought together to achieve one common purpose—to build drought resiliency in the United States. Chairman Lambert asked if the agencies open to breaking down the silos, and Mr. Strong said yes, following the announcement he attended several meetings with high level Administrators of the EPA, USDA, and COE, etc.

At the State level, Mr. Strong said this is a deadline week to get bills out of the opposite house or the measure will be dead. Yesterday, the Governor signed the bill to modify the OWRB statutes to allow flexibility in numbers of meetings each year, requiring at least nine meetings a year and not missing two consecutive months; the measure could be cost saving if there is no business to conduct. The measure authorizing the OWRB to begin rulemaking on aquifer storage and recovery projects passed the Legislature last week and is on its way to the Governor; another tool for developing rules and regulations for those entities that want to store water underground. Mr. Buchanan asked if there were changes to the original measure, and Mr. Strong responded that originally the language was to be an amendment to the statutes also dealing with pit water, and to avoid opening that discussion, the
language was given a new section in groundwater law, and there were no other changes. Lastly, he noted the Senate passed the sunset extension on the Gross Production Tax funds to the agency (18% of the agency budget) and will be going to the Governor. The account where those funds are deposited also have a sunset and the measure to remove that sunset date is in the House. He also updated the members on the measure regarding “protection of water as a compelling state interest” and the right to farm state question on the ballot, which is on the agenda to be heard in the Senate. Mr. Drake asked if there was opposition to the bill; Mr. Strong said the opposition regarded whether the opinion the right to farm is a constitutional matter and declaring water a compelling state interest is statute, but there could be no harm in making a declaratory statement that water is a compelling state interest.

Mr. Sevenoaks asked Mr. Fite about SB 1388 terminating the Scenic Rivers Commission and transferring duties and functions to the Grand River Dam Authority. Mr. Fite stated the OSRC does not have funding, and Mr. Strong explained the GRDA is willing to take up the mantle. Mr. Fite said neither he nor the GRDA sought the merger, but it has come to that due to the lack of support and authority to support itself, and this is the only viable alternative.

There were no other questions about legislative matters and Mr. Strong informed the members about the activities of the past month including the WSWC/ICWP meetings in Washington, D.C., the ORWA annual meeting and water tasting contest, and the OWRB hosted the Tri State Water Summit. He noted upcoming events including the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, Red River Compact Commission in Austin, ScienceFest at State Fair Park, and the newly forming Water Supply Alliance in Kansas City concerning water supply issues in eastern states. Mr. Strong concluded his report noting that 29-year employee Lenora James is retiring, and Administrative Services Chief Amanda Storck is leaving at the end of May to accept the position of Vice President of Finance and Human Resources with the Oklahoma City YMCA. He reminded members their financial disclosure statements are due May 15 and the next OWRB Board meeting will be May 17 at 9:30 a.m. in Oklahoma City.

Mr. Drummond asked if there is news in regard to the budget. Mr. Strong responded the Governor’s revised budget proposal included a 4.5% cut for most agencies, in addition to the cuts which have already been taken. The proposal also included using revolving fund and other sources required by legislative action. There were no other questions.

D. **Monthly Budget Report.**

   Ms. Amanda Storck noted her departure schedule, and presented the budget report for March 2016. She stated the agency has 50% of funding available and 25% of the fiscal year remaining. She said the agency has tightened belts by delaying filling vacancies unsure if there will be another mid-year rescission. To date the agency has taken cuts totaling 12.5% and could expect 4.5% to 10% and staff is preparing accordingly. If the Governor signs the Gross Production Tax bill that will ensure at least 18% of the current budget is saved for next fiscal year. There were no questions, and Ms. Storck concluded her report.

**2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION**

   **A. No items.** There were no Financial Assistance items for the Board’s consideration.
3. SUMMARY DISPOSITION AGENDA ITEMS

Any item listed under this Summary Disposition Agenda may, at the requested of any member of the Board, the Board’s staff, or any other person attending this meeting, may be transferred to the Special Consideration Agenda. Under the Special Consideration Agenda, separate discussion and vote or other action may be taken on any items already listed under that agenda or items transferred to that agenda from this Summary Disposition Agenda.

A. Requests to Transfer Items from Summary Disposition Agenda to the Special Consideration Agenda, and Action on Whether to Transfer Such Items.

Chairman Lambert stated there are no requests for items to be deferred or withdrawn from the Summary Disposition Agenda.

B. Discussion, Questions, and Responses Pertaining to Any Items Remaining on Summary Disposition Agenda and Action on Items Listed.

Chairman Lambert stated if there were no questions, she would entertain a motion to approve the Summary Disposition Agenda.

Mr. Hitch moved to approve the Summary Disposition Agenda, and Mr. Fite seconded.

Prior to the vote, Mr. Fite stated there were representatives from Mooreland in attendance that are representing the Quinlan Community Rural Water District #1, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Clark. Mr. Fite said the Quinlan RWD was excited to receive the $80,000 grant, and the District had won the ORWA best water taste test four years in a row, and second place the past two years.

Chairman Lambert invited Mr. Clark to address the members. He said on behalf of the rural water system, he thanked the members for its consideration of the grant request. He said the OWRB assistance has a great impact on small water systems and without it, it would be difficult for small organizations like Quinlan Community Rural Water District #1 to achieve being able to provide the best quality water to its customers at a reasonable rate. He thanked the members for their consideration, and said the customers appreciated the Board’s assistance.

Mr. Sevenoaks asked how much water the Sardis Lake Water Authority (SLWA) takes from the lake. Mr. Russ Doughty, Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy, stated the Authority has a permit for 6,000 acre-feet and only the Authority knows what it is actually taking. Mr. Doughty added SLWA provides water to other districts as well as its own and is the only source of water in that portion of the Kiamichi basin.

There were no questions or comments, and Chairman Lambert called for the vote.

AYE: Hitch, Allen, Drake, Buchanan, Sevenoaks, Feaver, Fite, Drummond, Lambert
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

The following items were approved:

C. Consideration of and Possible Action on Financial Assistance Division Items:

Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grant Applications:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Application No.</th>
<th>Entity Name</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Amount Recommended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GGEDA a.</td>
<td>FAP-13-0014-R</td>
<td>Colcord Public Works Authority</td>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Change of Scope</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEDDO  

b. FAP-11-0040-R Sardis Lake Water Authority Pushmataha $99,999.00

OEDA  
c. FAP-16-0007-R Quinlan Community Rural Water District #1 Woodward 80,000.00

SODA  
d. FAP-16-0018-R Rural Water Sewer and Solid Waste Management District Bryan 99,999.00

D. Consideration of and Possible Action on Contracts and Agreements:
   1. Interagency Agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") for payment of shared office spaces located in McAlester and Woodward.

E. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications for Temporary Permits to Use Groundwater:
   1. Cecil E. Cales Jr. and Nona L. Cales Trust, Osage County, #2015-555
   2. White Oak, L.L.C., Kingfisher County, #2015-604

F. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications to Amend Temporary Permits to Use Groundwater:
   None

G. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications for Regular Permits to Use Groundwater:
   1. Keith R. Gray Trust, Johnston County, #2015-553

H. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications to Amend Regular Permits to Use Groundwater:
   1. Gary Nightengale, Blaine County, #1995-584

I. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications to Amend Prior Rights to Use Groundwater:
   None

J. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications for Regular Permits to Use Stream Water:
   1. Oka Hayaka Hunt Club, L.L.C., Pottawatomie County, #2015-036

K. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications to Amend Permits to Use Stream Water:
   None

L. Consideration of and Possible Action on Dam and Reservoir Construction:
   None

M. Consideration of and Possible Action on Well Driller and Pump Installer Licensing:
   1. New Operators, Licensee Name Change, and/or Activities for Existing Licenses:
      a. Licensee: Layne Christensen DPC-0123
      1. Operator: Cameron Holsclaw OP-2152
      b. Licensee: Aqua Well Drilling, Inc. DPC-0708
      1. Operator: Brandon Baker OP-2153
      c. License: Fire and Ice Geothermal, L.L.C. DPC-0432
      1. Operator: Thad Howard OP-2154
N. Consideration of and Possible Action on Permit applications for Proposed Development on State Owned or Operated Property within Floodplain Areas:
None

O. Consideration of and Possible Action on Applications for Accreditation of Floodplain Administrators:
1. Brock Moore, City of Barnsdall, #FPA-670
2. Matthew S. Ryan, Creek County, #FPA-671
3. Jeffrey S. Birch, Town of Gracemont, #FPA-672
4. Robert L. Stanekwitz, Town of Panama, #FPA-673
5. John O. Moore, City of Piedmont, #FPA-674
6. Tommy L. Arnold, Pottawatomie County, #FPA-675
7. Michael W. Beaty, City of Stillwater, #FPA-676
8. Jim L. Whisenant, City of Vinita, #FPA-677
9. Joy G. McKillip, City of Weatherford, #FPA-678
10. Kathryn N. Starkey, City of Weleetka, #FPA-679

4. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION ABOUT AGENCY MATTERS AND OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST
Chairman Lambert

A. No items. There were no items of discussion for the Members.

5. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

A. Consideration of and Possible Action on Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Board Order on Application for Permit to Use Stream Water No. 2012-007 filed January 31, 2012, James E. West, Johnston County:
1. Summary – Ms. Julie Cunningham, Chief, Planning and Management Division, stated to the members this item is an application for a regular permit to use stream water under the name of James West in Johnston County. She said the applicant has requested to divert a small quantity of 32 acre-feet of stream water from one point of diversion on Pennington Creek for the irrigation of 18 acres of land. Ms. Cunningham stated the record showed the applicant has met the five points of stream water law, and unappropriated water available was calculated at 17,622 acre feet per year available, and this request is for 32 acre feet. The City of Tishomingo protested the application and their witness testified the low flow potentially caused by the use of the stream water would increase turbidity, making it potentially more difficult to treat. Upon consideration of the evidence, the hearing examiner determined there is not sufficient evidence to determine that water quality would be diminished to a point where the protestant would not be able to put their right to use, even though it may require more treatment. She said staff received an exception late on Friday; the protestant requested the Board require metering on this application, and that diversion be disallowed when flow is less than 10 cubic feet per second (cfs). The hearing examiner concluded the permit should contain a condition prohibiting interference with domestic or existing senior appropriative uses – as is typical of stream water permits – and that such conditions are protective during dry years and other low flow times. Staff recommended approval of the proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law and Board order.

Chairman Lambert asked if staff included the two exceptions, and Ms. Cunningham answered the proposed order as it appears in the members’ packet, without the exceptions. Mr. Strong and Ms. Cunningham clarified the recommendation is the original proposed order, without the exceptions.

Mr. Hitch moved to approve staff recommendation.
2. Discussion and presentation by parties. Mr. Dustin Rowe, attorney for the City of Tishomingo, addressed the members and stated he appreciated the Board allowing the City’s participation in the proceedings, and he complimented the OWRB staff. He said Tishomingo is the county seat of Johnston County, the historic capitol of the Chickasaw Nation, and its sole source of water is Pennington Creek. The headwaters of the creek are at Reagan, Oklahoma, as well as an US Fish and Wildlife Service fish hatchery and a US Geological Survey meter that measures the outflow, which historically is about 30 cfs. In 2011-2012 the outflows were measured below 10 cfs, which he described as a trickle, and was alarming to the City since there is no other source. Mr. Rowe stated Mr. West’s diversion is upstream of the City’s intake, and he had filed an exception asking that when the outflow measurement is low that the permit be metered, and if there is any outflow below 10 cfs that no diversion be allowed. He said when the applicant will want to irrigate in times of drought and in June, July and August when there is no rain, he believed they would be competing with the diversion. Mr. Rowe asked for the Board’s consideration of the exceptions.

Mr. Hitch asked if the City of Tishomingo would be willing to pay for the maintenance of the metering. Mr. Rowe said that would have to be presented to the City Council; he did not have the authority to bind the city to pay for that; however, they would be willing to monitor the discharge and to notify Mr. West when the discharge is 10 cfs or below as that is monitored regularly.

There were no other questions of Mr. Rowe. There were no comments made on behalf of the applicant.

Mr. Drake asked about the recommendation and if staff would be doing what the City has requested. Ms. Cunningham responded the hearing examiner has suggested the application be treated as is done with any stream water application in that if there is a claim of interference there is a condition in the permit that staff would act as typically is done. Mr. Strong stated the proposed order from the hearing examiner suggests the condition be placed in the permit that says, “The use of stream water under this permit shall not interfere with domestic or existing appropriative uses” which is what the City is concerned about. The suggestion is that this condition be placed in the permit, which is already existing law but is stated clearly in the permit. Mr. Strong says there is often discussion regarding stream water permits before the Board about what measures should be taken to prevent interference versus preventing interference on the enforcement side – and like all prior appropriation states there is administration on the backside to protect interference against senior appropriators. The suggestion from the hearing examiner and staff is that if water is available to allow the permit for that amount of water and if interference does occur, we have the ability and the senior appropriators have the ability to enforce their own water right in a court of law as well.

Mr. Drummond asked where the City of Tishomingo stands on the list of senior appropriators, staff indicated that was unknown. Mr. Fite asked if this permit would be subjected to a temporary authorization in drought times of the year when they would be given authority to use the water such as on Barron Fork when the flow is below the minimum, authorization is given to use the water. Mr. Strong explained that is not the proposal here; Barron Fork has by OWRB rule a minimum threshold established and Pennington Creek does not. He said they are asking the Board to place a condition that requires a 10 cfs threshold by which the appropriator would be cut off. Staff recommendation is that condition not be placed in the permit and instead if there is interference, staff or the senior appropriators can enforce it. Mr. Fite commented Pennington Creek is a good fishery, and Mr. Strong responded the US Fish and Wildlife Service had a protest which was withdrawn.

Mr. Allen asked when determining interference, is stream flow in cfs one of the factors to consider. Ms. Cunningham responded there is not a set flow level, but staff will investigate and handle the situation on a case-by-case basis, depending upon the system and capability of taking water, whether cattle is involved, etc. Mr. Allen said it is possible staff could determine interference with this use even at a stream flow level higher than 10 cfs, and Ms. Cunningham answered that is possible.
Mr. Strong added it is possible to determine interference is not occurring at a stream flow less than 10 cfs.

Mr. Sevenoaks asked about upstream users, and Mr. Singletary referred to the order, paragraph 8. “water availability determination” stating there was over 17,000 acre-feet of water on an average annual basis, which this 32 acre-feet would be taken from. If there are upstream users, there is water available on an annual basis. He said the question is whether interference would occur and the OWRB rules state that if the provision recommended by the hearing examiner and staff against interference is included in the order, there is a presumption that interference is not going to occur. If a complaint is received the flow is too low and a senior water right holder is not able to take advantage of the water they have a right to, staff will initiate an investigation and the senior water right holder has the option to pursue injunctive relief. Mr. Sevenoaks asked if the parties have storage, and Mr. Strong replied, no, it is an unregulated stream. Mr. Rowe spoke to the issue stating there was a scare in 2011 when the holding pool on the creek was dry without reason (mentioned in the exceptions filed), something happened which has been undetermined. The City was at the point of having to shut down the water system but it replenished within 48 hours, and that is the reason the City believes the 10 cfs threshold would allow protection; the measurement is upstream of Mr. West.

3. Possible Executive Session; and 4. Return to open meeting and possible vote or action on any matter discussed in the Executive Session, if authorized. The Board did not vote to enter executive session.

5. Vote on whether to approve the Proposed Order as presented or as may be amended, or vote on any other action or decision relating to the Proposed Order.

Chairman Lambert asked if there were no other questions, she would entertain a motion. Mr. Hitch moved to approve the proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and Board order for stream water permit #2012-007, and Mr. Drummond seconded.

AYE: Hitch, Allen, Drake, Buchanan, Sevenoaks, Feaver, Fite, Drummond, Lambert
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

During the vote, Mr. Drake stated his vote is based upon the understanding that staff recommends it, and this will be covered under the Board’s normal rules as he is very familiar with the situation.

B. Consideration of and Possible Action on Items Transferred from Summary Disposition Agenda, if any. There were no items transferred from the Summary Disposition Agenda.

6. PROPOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

As authorized by the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act in Section 307(B)(4) of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, an executive session may be held for the purpose of confidential communications between a public body and its attorney concerning a pending investigation, claim, or action if the public body, with the advice of its attorney, determines that disclosure will seriously impair the ability of the public body to process the claim or conduct a pending investigation, litigation or proceeding in the public interest.
Pursuant to this provision, the Board proposes to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing Chickasaw Nation and Choctaw Nation v. Fallin, et al., and Oklahoma Water Resources Board v. United States on behalf of the Choctaw Nation et al.

Statement by legal counsel advising on whether disclosure of the discussion of the litigation will seriously impair the ability of the Board and State to conduct the present and proposed litigation in the public interest.

Chairman Lambert asked Mr. Singletary to make a statement. Mr. Robert Singletary, OWRB General Counsel, stated to the members that pursuant to Section 307(b)(4) of the Open Meetings Act, it is his advice as General Counsel that the disclosure of the communications and discussions that are referenced on proposed agenda item 6. related to the pending litigation referenced on the agenda, would seriously impair the ability of the Board to conduct the pending litigation in the public interest.

A. Vote on whether to hold Executive Session upon determination that disclosure of the discussion of the litigation will seriously impair the ability of the Board and State to conduct the present and proposed litigation in the public interest. Before it can be held, the Executive Session must be authorized by a majority vote of a quorum of members present and such vote must be recorded.

Chairman Lambert asked for a motion that the Board move into Executive Session, and to appoint Mary Schooley to keep written minutes.

Mr. Buchanan so moved to enter Executive Session, and Mr. Fite seconded. Chairman Lambert called for the vote.

AYE: Hitch, Allen, Drake, Buchanan, Sevenoaks, Feaver, Fite, Drummond, Lambert
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

B. Designation of person to keep written minutes of Executive Session, if authorized.

Executive Secretary Mary Schooley kept written minutes of the session.

C. Executive Session, if authorized.

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:22 a.m.

Return to open meeting and possible vote or action on any matter discussed in the Executive Session.

At 11:25 a.m., Chairman Lambert stated she would entertain a motion to return to Regular Session.

Mr. Sevenoaks moved to return to Regular Session, and Ms. Feaver seconded. Chairman Lambert called for the vote.

AYE: Hitch, Allen, Drake, Buchanan, Sevenoaks, Feaver, Fite, Drummond, Lambert
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

The Board did not vote or take action on any matter discussed in the Executive Session.
7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Under the Open Meeting Act, this agenda item is authorized only for matters not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting the agenda or any revised agenda.

There were no New Business items for the Board’s consideration.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Lambert adjourned the meeting of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at 11:25 a.m. on April 19, 2016.

**OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD**

/s/ Linda P. Lambert, Chairman  /s/ F. Ford Drummond, Vice Chairman
Edward H. Fite
/s/ Richard Sevenoaks  /s/ Bob Drake
Edward H. Fite
/s/ Marilyn Feaver
Richard Sevenoaks
/s/ Tom Buchanan  /s/ Stephen B. Allen

**ATTEST:**

/s/ Jason W. Hitch, Secretary (SEAL)