



## OKLAHOMA

## water news

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA  
WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Gerald E. Borelli, Chairman

Earl Walker • L.L. Males • John B. Jarboe • Ralph G. McPherson • Gary W. Smith • Ernest R. Tucker • Robert S. Kerr, Jr. • R.G. Johnson

## Board Hosts ICWP this Month, Welcomes NWRA October 24-27, Governor's Conference the 25th

Responding to invitations issued by Gov. Nigh to meet in Oklahoma, the next 60 days will see a greater influx of water dignitaries than ever has visited the state before.

Occasions for the parade of luminaries are the annual meetings of the Interstate Conference on Water Problems in Oklahoma City on September 19-22 and the 52nd Annual Convention of the National Water Resources Association in Tulsa October 24-27. Sandwiched in with the stars of the NWRA Convention will be several hundred Oklahomans gathered for the fourth Annual Governor's Water Conference to be held concurrently.

The Board will host 100 or more top water administrators from across the nation when the ICWP convenes at Oklahoma City's Skirvin Plaza Hotel. The topic of water will be addressed from all angles during the four-day meet — from delineation of the Federal Government's role in water development to the management of water shortages and an update on weather modification efforts.



Commissioner of Reclamation Robert M. Broadbent will address ICWP conferees in September, then return to Oklahoma in October when NWRA convenes in Tulsa.



Lt. Gen. Joseph K. Bratton

Other subjects on the agenda will include prospects for federal water legislation; financing water projects; research and problems concerning ground water; conservation efforts in the High Plains; and new strategies of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Registration and ICWP board and committee meetings will fill all of Monday, then on Tuesday, ICWP Chairman Henry Silbermann will welcome delegates to the first general session and introduce Commissioner Robert M. Broadbent of the Bureau of Reclamation. Broadbent will sketch the BOR's role; and Maj. Gen. John Wall, Jr., Civil Works Director of the Corps of Engineers; Dr. Dallas Peck, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey; and Clive Walker, water policy specialist of the Soil Conservation Service, will present similar assessments of their organizations' role in water development.

At noon on Tuesday, OWRB Executive Director James R. Barnett will introduce Gov. George Nigh, who will discuss Oklahoma's water future.

Highlighting Wednesday's agenda will be a luncheon address entitled, "EPA — What Happens Now?" by Dick Whittington, P.E., Regional Administrator of the EPA.

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The closing half-day activities on Thursday will consist of panelists representing many states in discussions of coping with water shortages and new strategies in weather modification.

Barnett said a Tuesday evening dinner and tour of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and a Wednesday afternoon tour of construction at the Arcadia Lake site are planned to give ICWP delegates a glimpse of Oklahoma's past and present.

The 700-800 Oklahomans who gather annually for the Governor's Water Conference will have the added bonus this year of hearing a lineup of nationally famous speakers recruited for a joint meeting with the National Water Resources Association in Tulsa.

More than 1000 delegates from 18 western states will converge on Tulsa October 24-27 for NWRA's 52nd Annual Convention and Seminar. Pat O'Meara, NWRA executive vice-president, said Oklahomans are invited to come on Monday for the all-day Water Management Seminar planned by NWRA and stay through for the entire program which concludes late Wednesday. An address by Rep. Wes Watkins will keynote the Monday seminar.

The first General Session of the NWRA Convention which opens Tuesday morning will feature as keynote speaker Secretary of Energy Donald Hodel, followed by Sen. Don Nickles.

Gov. George Nigh will address delegates at a joint luncheon on Tuesday at the Tulsa Assembly Center, site of both meetings. No sessions of NWRA are planned for Tuesday afternoon, so that the membership can participate in the Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference.

Headlining Wednesday's NWRA agenda will be Robert M. Broadbent, Commissioner of Reclamation; Lt. Gen. Joseph K. Bratton, Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Gov. Allen Olson, North Dakota; and newspaperman Wilfred Woods, Wenatchee, Washington, who will recap 50 years of reclamation in the Columbia River Basin.

As well as attracting delegates from 18 western states, the NWRA Convention will feature exhibits sponsored by commercial firms and state and federal agencies with an interest in water.

On Thursday, following adjournment on Wednesday evening, delegates to both meetings and their spouses will have opportunities to visit cultural, historical and scenic points of interest including Philbrook Art Center, Oral Roberts University and the City of Faith Hospital in Tulsa, and the Will Rogers Memorial and J.M. Davis Gun Museum in Claremore.

A tour of Frankoma Pottery, a luncheon fashion show of contemporary native American designs and shopping along downtown Tulsa's Main Mall will be offered to spouses of the NWRA and Governor's Water Conference.

Information on registration for the Interstate Conference on Water Problems, the 52nd Annual Convention of the National Water Resources Association and the Fourth Annual Governor's Water Conference is available

by calling the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at (405) 271-2555.

## Boynton and Optima Receive First Grants in Board Program

Ceremonies at the State Capitol August 17 marked the award of the first OWRB grants from the state's financial assistance program. Both grants were made from the \$1.5 million which had accrued as interest on the \$25 million water development fund.

Gov. George Nigh presented the City of Optima a check for \$49,500 and the Town of Boynton \$27,695 to relieve water supply situations judged by the Board to be emergencies.

Optima will use its grant to drill a new water well and connect it to the city's distribution system. An emergency situation arose when the gravel pack around the city's well shifted, causing the well to collapse. Rick Smith, coordinator of the OWRB financial assistance program, said residents are without fire protection and only the barest domestic and sanitary needs can be met by a small capacity well pressed into service during the emergency.

"The 39 families previously provided 25,000 gallons of water a day from the failed well now receive only minimum amounts from a small well at the school," said Smith. "The summer's dry spell posed an extreme danger of fire, and there is no water available for firefighting. The Board's grant program was their only alternative," he pointed out, since the town could not raise the money on its own."

Boynton, recipient of \$27,695 from the grant program, has been on "boil order" since August, 1982 — requiring residents to boil all drinking water to make it safe for consumption. The town had been plagued with costly repairs to its water treatment plant, the most recent caused by a faulty chlorinator which inflicted heavy damage to pumps. The flocculator was completely overhauled, but the town still faces extensive repairs on filters, clarifiers and virtually all mechanical parts.



Mayor Guy W. Papay of Optima and Mayor Albert J. Cherry of Boynton thank Governor Nigh for the checks issued through the OWRB grant program that will relieve emergency water supply situations in their towns.

Grant money from the OWRB will supplement funds provided by the Department of Economic and Community Affairs to tap the water line from the town of Haskell, seven miles distant. Smith said the new line will deliver treated water from the City of Muskogee through Haskell to Boynton's storage tank.

Board Executive Director James R. Barnett said that to qualify for grant assistance, the applicant must demonstrate that an emergency situation exists.

"Emergency is defined in the regulations governing the program as a situation where the life, health or property of the people served by the entity is endangered," Barnett explained.

Although the water development fund was created in 1982, uncertainty regarding some aspects of the program targeted it for a ruling by the State Attorney General, received only recently.

When word of the favorable opinion reached the Board, the Governor encouraged the OWRB to move ahead as rapidly as possible in implementing the grant program. He pointed out that some 400 Oklahoma communities are in need of financial assistance, many of them in the keen emergency straits that would qualify them for grant assistance.

Loans from the \$25 million water development fund and grants from the interest earned on that fund are intended to help Oklahoma cities, towns and rural water or sewer districts finance construction or improvements to water and sewer facilities.

Projects eligible for loan or grant assistance from the OWRB program include reservoirs, water distribution systems, storage tanks, wells and water and wastewater treatment systems.

Entities interested in more information on the financial assistance program may obtain it by calling Rick A. Smith or Walid Maher at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (405) 271-2555.



### New Stream Compact Commissioners Named

Recent announcements by President Reagan and Governor Nigh named three new federal commissioners, two alternates and one state commissioner to interstate stream compacts in which Oklahoma is involved.

The president announced the appointment of Richard W. Soudriette, Tulsa, and John Heinemann, Garden City, Kansas, as U.S. Commissioner and Alternate, respectively, on the Kansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River compact. Also named by the president were Sharon L. Shipley, Ft. Smith, Arkansas, and Baren Healey, Davis, as Commissioner and Alternate on the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact; and R. Joe Hershey, Texline, Texas, as Commissioner on the Canadian River Compact.

Gov. Nigh announced the reappointment of Jacques Cunningham, Tulsa, as Oklahoma Commissioner to the

### ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS AS OF AUGUST 23, 1983

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>		
Atoka	113,147	91.6
Broken Bow	820,750	89.4
Pine Creek	76,357	98.3
Hugo	149,610	95.0
<b>CENTRAL</b>		
Thunderbird	105,925	100.0
Hefner	75,355	100.0
Overholser	15,935	100.0
Draper	69,245	69.2
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>		
Arbuckle	61,667	98.5
Texoma	2,382,400	90.3
Waurika	193,948	95.5
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>		
Altus	59,889	45.0
Fort Cobb	67,757	86.4
Foss	155,000	63.7 <sup>1</sup>
Tom Steed	77,988	87.7
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>		
Eufaula	2,322,256	100.0
Tenkiller	555,170	88.5
Wister	25,700	94.8
Sardis	283,062	93.6
<b>NORTHEAST</b>		
Eucha	68,000	85.5
Grand	1,212,000	81.2
Oologah	518,940	95.4
Hulah	27,448	89.7
Fort Gibson	357,907	98.0
Heyburn	5,628	85.3
Birch	17,659	92.0
Hudson	200,300	100.0
Spavinaw	30,000	100.0
Copan	37,793	77.9
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>		
Kaw	428,600	100.0
Keystone	585,893	95.1
<b>NORTHWEST</b>		
Canton	94,172	96.6
Optima	844	— <sup>1</sup>
Fort Supply	13,176	94.8
Great Salt Plains	28,063	89.4
<b>STATE TOTALS</b>	<b>11,233,584<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>91.3<sup>1</sup></b>

1. In initial filling stage
2. Temporarily lowered for maintenance
3. Conservation storage for Lake Optima not included in state total

Data courtesy of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma City Water Resources Department, and City of Tulsa Water Superintendent's Office.

### Kansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission.

Stream compacts are agreements between neighboring states which apportion interstate waters equitably defining precisely how much water may be used by each party of the compact. A federal appointee chairs each commission, and the governor of each participating state appoints state representatives.

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James R. Barnett, OWRB executive director, serves as Oklahoma Commissioner on three of the four compacts in which Oklahoma is a party, and the Board staff provides legal, engineering and other background information to Oklahoma members of interstate stream compact commissions.

### Salt Water Used in Well Drilling Tests

Experiments reported by the High Plains Water Conservation District Number One in Lubbock, Texas, suggest that use of fresh water as a drilling fluid may cause swelling in certain clay soils, inhibiting the well yield.

A new test well was drilled in the Ogallala Formation, just 90 feet from a well drilled in 1980. The new well used a weighted brine solution (323,000 ppm total dissolved solids; 303,000 ppm sodium chloride). During the drilling process, an additional 400 pounds of granulated salt was added to the drill pit.

The well in which brine was used produced 400 percent more water, due, geologists said, to the undisturbed geological formations which allowed a free flow of water. Pumping was curtailed when disposal of the salt-contaminated drilling and flushing water became a problem.

### Congress Names Ground Water Study Panel

The Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress is launching a study to examine the nature and dimensions of ground water issues facing the nation.

Named to serve on the study panel to date are: Prof. Thomas Maddock III, University of Arizona; Harvey Banks, Belmont, California; Prof. Robert Harris, Princeton University; Dr. Allen V. Kneese, Washington,

D.C.; Dr. Jay H. Lehr, Worthington, Ohio; Prof. Perry McCarty, Stanford University; Dr. James Mercer, Reston, Virginia, David W. Miller, Syosset, New York; Dr. Lawrence Swanson, University of Nebraska; and James T.B. Tripp, New York.

The panel will identify contamination issues, synthesize and appraise the growing technical knowledge in addressing the issues, and make recommendations concerning national policy.

### AUGUST CROP AND WEATHER SUMMARY

Remnants of Hurricane Alicia brought substantial rains to central Oklahoma farmers, while eastern and western areas remained dry and hot. Moderate to heavy rainfall missed the major cotton, soybean, sorghum and corn-producing areas so the dryland acreages of those crops remain in poor condition. Due to poor crop prospects, many soybean producers in the northeast baled their crops.

Western Oklahoma pastures and ranges are severely burned by the intense heat and moisture shortage. Some cattlemen began feeding stock due to poor range conditions.

Temperatures ranged from one degree above normal in north central Oklahoma to seven degrees above in the southwest. Panhandle, northeast and east central areas received no significant moisture; south central and central areas averaged near two inches, with 5.75 inches reported at El Reno, 4.26 at Tinker AFB, and 2.92 at Pauls Valley.

Oklahoma Crop and Livestock Reporting Service

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