

OK

Water

NEWS

First Loan!

Funds to finance storage tank, new water lines near Leedey

Residents near Leedey in northwest Oklahoma marked a "first" last month. May 14, OWRB and water district officials closed the first loan in the state financial assistance program administered by the OWRB.

The \$165,000 loan, an earlier \$100,000 grant from the Board, and district funds will be used to improve the water supply of Roger Mills Rural Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Management District #2. Customers of the district, which serves northeast Roger Mills and southwest Dewey Counties, had long been plagued by water shortages and pressure problems.

District chairman Carl A. Dean, Jr.,

said the district will construct 14 miles of new water lines to loop the present system and install a 72,000-gallon storage tank.

R. G. Johnson, OWRB member from Clinton, staff attorney Lou Klaver and water development fund manager Keith McDonald represented the Board at the closing. Also present was former Board member L. L. Males, who presently serves as Oklahoma Commissioner to the Red River Compact and president of Cheyenne's Security State Bank.

Johnson pointed out that the Leedey loan is from a portion of the Board's 1985 bond issue set aside to assist "non-rated" communities. According to Johnson, some are too small to be rated by a national agency that rates the towns according to their ability to repay. Loans to non-rated communi-

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Looking for Oil?

Be legal! It's easy to get a short-term permit from OWRB

If your water use is strictly domestic—that is, for your household, watering farm or domestic animals or irrigating a garden or orchard of three acres or less—chances are, your water use is legal. But if you're using water for oil and gas operations, irrigation, a construction project or another non-domestic use, you need a permit from the Board.

James R. Barnett, OWRB executive director, says, "Some water users simply are unaware of the permitting law. But we know there are cases of intentional illegal water use, and we have notified those users of the Board's intention to prosecute."

According to Groundwater Division chief Duane Smith, those most often out of compliance are oil and gas operators who drill a water well at the rig

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Shown signing documents that closed the first loan May 14 are, seated from left, Keith McDonald, OWRB fund manager; R. G. Johnson, Board member; Carl A. Dean, Jr., chairman of Roger Mills RWS&SWMD #2. Standing, William L. Thompson of City National Bank and Trust Company, Guymon; Wayne Barber, Roger Mills RWS&SWMD #2; Terry L. Hawkins of Fagin, Brown, Bush, Tinney, Kiser & Rogers; Ralph Neighbors, First National Bank, Oklahoma City; and Ira M. Farris, Jr., Roger Mills RWS&SWMD #2.



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ties are backed by collateral from the \$25 million Water Development Revolving Fund created by the Legislature in 1982.

"The Board has received 25 loan applications totaling \$17.5 million," said Johnson.

Only a day before the Leedey closing, the Board had approved two more loans at its monthly meeting. The Board had also instructed its bond consultants to advertise a new bond sale, with a bid opening scheduled for the June 10 meeting. When the Board receives a successful bid and the documents are reviewed and approved, the Board hopes to issue new bonds that will make loans available at about 7.4 percent. Borrowers under the existing program pay 8.9 percent interest, but their loans possibly could be shifted to the new program to take advantage of the lower rate.

On May 13, applications were approved for loans to Noble Utilities Authority in Cleveland County and to the Guymon Utilities Authority. Noble asks \$105,000 to relocate water mains and lines for highway construction. The Guymon loan for \$3.2 million will provide part of the financing for a new sewage treatment facility.

Walid Maher, chief of the Board's Planning and Development Division that administers the financial assistance program, said it has been very successful in filling the urgent water financing needs of Oklahoma cities, towns and rural water districts. "So far, 93 communities have received OWRB grants totaling \$7 million," Maher concluded.

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site. "We've been successful in using the computer to compare the legal descriptions of intents to drill with the Board's list of provisional temporary permits. That's the permit most frequently issued to oil and gas operators allowing 60-day water use," Smith pointed out.

"If no permit is on file, we check our file of regular groundwater permits to see if the landowner is selling water to

the company," he said. "If we still can't trace the water use, we visit the rig site."

The form is a card, and helpful OWRB people will assist you.

Unpermitted water use is a problem shared by the OWRB Stream Water Division. J. A. Wood, chief of that division, says there has been a continuous enforcement program. Wood pointed out that the term of a provisional temporary permit to use stream water is 90 days, compared to the 60-day term of the similar groundwater permit. Wood added that the Board's branch offices in Lawton, McAlester and Tulsa have been helpful in spotting illegal users and bringing them into compliance.

A dozen or more helpful staff members are available to help applicants in the Board's Oklahoma City office or answer questions by phone (405) 271-2555. Application forms and assistance are also available in Lawton, (405) 248-7762; Tulsa, (918) 581-2925; or McAlester, (918) 426-5435. County Extension Agents and staff of the field offices of the USDA Soil Conservation Service also provide application forms and assistance.

An applicant needs to know the legal description of the property on which he intends to drill a well (or the stream or lake from which he will take water); the permission of landowners whose property a stream water diversion may cross; the amount of water needed; and the duration of water use. If all those things are in order, the permit may be issued the same day.

The fee for a provisional temporary permit for 60-day groundwater use or 90-day stream water use is \$75.



Board Lands New Pump

The Groundwater Division of the OWRB was the recipient of a submersible water well pump last month. The demonstrator pump was donated by Jay Jackson, owner of Jackson Pump and Supply in Oklahoma City.

Board hydrologist Gary Glover said

that the OWRB plans to use the new pump and its accompanying equipment (PVC pipe, conductor wire, nylon rope, clamps, fittings, etc.) this summer in the annual groundwater sampling program.

"In the past, we have had to borrow pumps for sampling or sample only those wells with pumps," Glover explained.

He added that the donated pump can sample water wells with a minimum diameter of four inches and to a maximum static water level of 180 feet.

Jackson is a member of the Oklahoma Water Well Association and volunteers time on the drillers committee, an advisory group to the water board.

Sewage Put to Good Use

Researchers in southern California have developed a new process that turns useless sewage waste into two valuable products—clean water and concrete.

Clay and small portions of coagulating chemicals form a heavy sludge when added to sewage in a process called "coordinate chemical bonding adsorption." The water separated from this mixture is relatively clean and considered safe for irrigation and recreation. Remaining solids are heated to form lightweight pellets bonded by the conversion of heavy metals into silicates while organic materials in the sewage burn off. The pellets can be used as garden cover or as aggregate in concrete, say researchers.

A California treatment plant has used the process experimentally for two years. The sludge sells for about \$100 a ton.

The procedure leaves nothing to pollute the environment and could cost one-fourth as much as present treatment techniques.

Corps, Tulsa Strike Bargain

The City of Tulsa was faced with \$10 million in improvements to its northside sewage treatment plant to dilute effluents in the summer when flows are low in Bird Creek. The city had been given a 1988 deadline to complete the plant that would bring

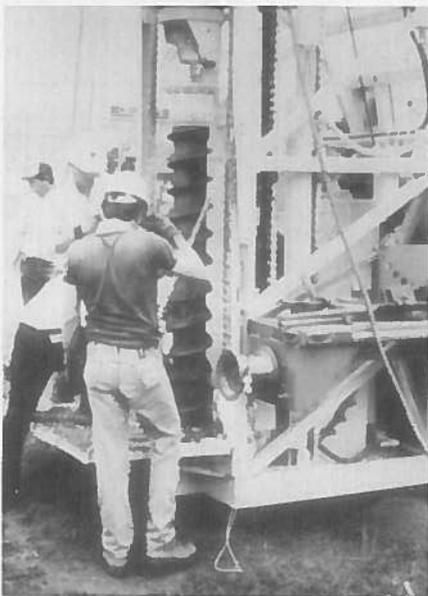
the creek up to federal water standards.

That's when Tulsa began discussing augmentation of the flow of the creek with releases from the water quality storage at Skiatook Lake, 20 miles distant. Since "water quality" had been among the authorized purposes of the Corps-constructed lake, it was logical to look to Skiatook.

According to Col. Franklin T. Tilton of the Tulsa District, the Corps agreed to release 62 million gallons of water a day upon the request and concurrence of the OWRB during the critical summer months for the next 20 years.

100 Attend OWWA Workshop

On May 10 the Oklahoma Water Well Association hosted a free workshop and lunch in Oklahoma City to instruct drillers in safe procedures for drilling a hazardous waste monitoring well. The day-long workshop was taught by Murray R. McComas, PhD, OWWA technical director and owner of a Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, engineering firm. It was sponsored by the George E. Failing Company, an Enid manufacturer of specialized drilling equipment.



Drillers of the George E. Failing Company prepare the auger drill at the workshop site.

This EPA "Level B" protective clothing, complete with gloves, boots, hood, helmet and breathing gear, is required for workmen drilling through hazardous zones. Weight of the clothing and air tank limit shifts of the drillers to 20 minutes or less.

Failing drillers constructed a well at the workshop site, the Westside Lions Club. Throughout the well construction, McComas stressed safety measures appropriate for dealing with toxic materials and demonstrated the use of protective clothing and breathing gear.

The OWWA had hoped to present a producing water well completed at the workshop to the Westside Lions as a gesture of appreciation for the use of their facility. Instead, the drilling produced a dry hole, sealed and cemented at day's end.

Run from Floods, Says NWS

Heavy rains can rapidly fill underpasses, roadways and lowlands with floodwaters. According to statistics gathered by the National Weather Service, 376 lives were lost to various meteorological hazards last year. Those weather events included tornadoes, lightning, severe thunderstorms, wind storms, hurricanes, floods and flash floods.

The biggest killers were floods and flash floods that resulted in 166 deaths. Forty-eight percent of them were vehicle-related; most resulting from victims driving into flooded waterways. Thirty-seven percent of the fatalities occurred in permanent homes, and three percent in mobile homes. Many of those who were killed had advance warning, but would not leave their homes. Sixty-one percent of the victims were male, 39 percent female.

More than half of the 94 tornado



deaths were persons over the age of 60, and 32 of the 52 elderly victims were women.

Seventy-four were killed by lightning, two of them in separate metal beds inside of houses. One man, after being struck by lightning outside, was killed when he was struck again in the ambulance that was transporting him to the hospital.

Spring Rains Above Normal

Only the Panhandle and north central regions fell short of normal rainfall during the week ending May 27. Some southeast and east central areas recorded up to five inches, boosting cumulative rainfall since March 1 to 123 and 124 percent of normal.

Other wet areas included 116 percent of normal in the northeast; 114 percent of normal in central and south central regions; 102 percent of normal in the southwest; and 101 percent in the west central. The Panhandle recorded 67 percent of normal; the north central, 88 percent of normal.

Conference Set July 9

The 1986 Oklahoma Conference on Environmental Quality, focusing this year on "The Environment and Economic Development," will be held in Oklahoma City on July 9. The annual meeting, sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Pollution Control, will look at the controversial issue of economic development versus environmental restraints.

Welcoming conferees to the Hilton Inn West will be Governor George Nigh. Following the Governor on the agenda will be Dr. Gary L. Thompson, from the OU Department of Geography and Commissioner Garry Mauro, of the Texas General Land Office. The remainder of the day-long meeting will be highlighted by four panel discussions. The first, entitled "Development and Promoting Oklahoma's Resources," will begin at 10:15 a.m.

Governor Nigh, along with Congressman Jim Jones and Senator Don Nickles, will speak at the conference luncheon.

Following the luncheon address, a

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Conference, continued from page 3
 panel of officials representing air quality, waste management, water quality and soils management will discuss and debate the issue of "Economic Growth and Environmental Planning."
 Two more afternoon panels—

"Emergency Response and Preparedness" and "Protecting and Preserving Oklahoma's Resources"—round out the conference agenda.
 The pre-registration cost is \$20 through July 7; registration at the door is \$22.50. Both the luncheon and

reception are included in the registration fee. Guest rooms are available at a special conference rate.
 Checks should be made payable to: Oklahoma Conference on Environmental Quality. For information, call Mary L. Schooley at (405) 271-4468.

**ACTIVE CONSERVATION STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES AND RESERVOIRS
 AS OF MAY 27, 1986**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY	PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (AF)	PERCENT OF CAPACITY
SOUTHEAST			NORTHEAST		
Atoka	123,475	100.0	Eucha	79,567	100.0
Broken Bow	918,200	100.0	Grand	1,401,700	100.0
Pine Creek	77,700	100.0	Oologah	544,240	100.0
Hugo	157,600	100.0	Hulah	30,594	100.0
CENTRAL			Fort Gibson	365,200	100.0
Thunderbird	105,925	100.0	Heyburn	6,600	100.0
Hefner	75,355	100.0	Birch	19,200	100.0
Overholser	15,935	100.0	Hudson	200,300	100.0
Draper	74,300	74.3	Spavinaw	30,000	100.0
SOUTH CENTRAL			Copan	43,400	100.0
Arbuckle	62,571	100.0	Skiatook	—	1
Texoma	2,637,700	100.0	NORTH CENTRAL		
Waurika	203,100	100.0	Kaw	428,600	100.0
SOUTHWEST			Keystone	616,000	100.0
Altus	43,775	32.9	NORTHWEST		
Fort Cobb	78,423	100.0	Canton	97,500	100.0
Foss	130,385	53.5 ²	Optima	3,000	1
Tom Steed	68,834	77.4	Fort Supply	13,792	99.0
EAST CENTRAL			Great Salt Plains	31,400	100.0
Eufaula	2,329,700	100.0	STATE TOTALS		
Tenkiller	627,500	100.0		11,968,171.00	95.9³
Wister	27,100	100.0			
Sardis	302,500	100.0			

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.

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