

# OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*from  
the desk  
of the  
Director...*

Citizens in every state in the nation seem convinced that government is too large and should be downsized.

Vice President Gore has generated considerable excitement all across the country with his recent "reinventing government" initiative.

Oklahomans can be pleased that their political leaders -- Governor Walters and the House and Senate appropriation chairmen -- are not just talking about these issues, but are taking action to improve the quality and to reduce the cost of state government operations.

At the OWRB we have also addressed these issues, and as part of our redesigned program, will institute small, new user fees to support the most essential portions of our water management program.

I previously reported on the efforts of Assistant Director Duane Smith and the OWRB division chiefs to enhance the operations and improve customer service. They recommended statute changes to simplify procedures and suggested privatization of programs to achieve efficiencies.

In addition, throughout the agency, we have reduced our work force, restructured our management, redefined our goals and reordered our work program. It has been difficult, but it is what citizens expect.

*Continued on page 2*

## Stream Water Use Reports Require Fee

After a series of public hearings and meetings, changes to the OWRB Rules and Regulations became effective June 25. Holders of rights to use stream water will now be charged an annual fee to defray part of the cost of administration of their water use reporting. In Oklahoma law, surface waters of the state are considered to be publicly owned.

J.A. Wood, chief of the OWRB Water Management Division, said state law requires annual reporting of water use. Water use reports are used by the OWRB to assure that water rights holders are using the amounts of water allowed by their permits. He pointed out that water use reports assist the OWRB in maintaining accurate records of the amount of water available for allocation to other applicants.

Invoices for the fees will be enclosed with annual water use reports mailed early in January. Wood said that the fees vary according to the amount of water authorized for use on the permit.

Fees for permitted stream water use are as follows:

<b>1-320 acre-feet .....</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>321-640 acre-feet .....</b>	<b>\$15</b>
<b>641-1500 acre-feet .....</b>	<b>\$20</b>
<b>More than 1500 acre-feet ...</b>	<b>\$25</b>

Wood said failure to report water use or to enclose the appropriate fee could be considered nonuse and result in reduction or cancellation of the stream water right. If the water use report is not returned to the OWRB within 30 days, a \$30 late charge will be added to the filing fee.

## Court Forbids Agrawal Drilling Until Decision

On September 2, the Oklahoma County District Court denied a request by General Minerals Corporation and its president, Kris K. Agrawal, to allow the firm to drill pending a ruling on revocation of its license.

The well drilling license of General Minerals Corporation and the operator certificates of Agrawal and another employee had been revoked on February 9 by the Water Resources Board. The Board had noted 80 violations of Oklahoma well drilling regulations by Agrawal as a drilling contractor and by his firm, General

Minerals of Oklahoma City.

In July, the Board had refused a request for rehearing. Agrawal's attorney appealed the Board Order to District Court, and also asked for a stay which would have allowed General Minerals to resume drilling activities until the appeal is decided.

The Board's scrutiny had focused on 28 monitoring wells drilled in 1991 and 1992 at sites in Ardmore, Checotah, Oklahoma City, Apache and Medford.

According to the Board's records, the wells lacked cement grout and

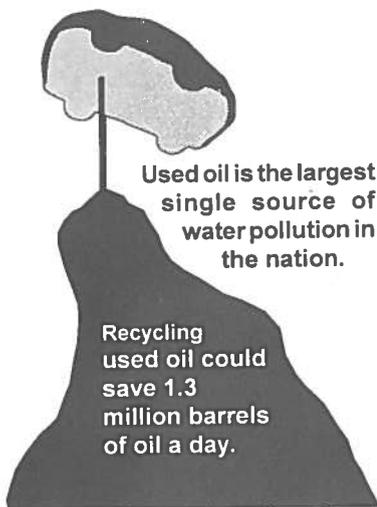
*Continued on page 5*

Director, continued from page 1

In FY 1993, agency budgets were cut and cut again by 10 percent in FY 1994. Now we face an additional challenge. In FY 1995, another 10 percent cut is projected. These cuts weigh heavily on the state natural resource management programs which represent a tiny portion of state expenditures.

The Kerr Foundation and the Grayce B. Kerr Fund, Inc. publish a report each year on state finances. The most recent study shows that natural resource management expenditures declined as a percentage of the total budget from six percent in 1983 to only four percent in 1993. Of that small amount, less than one quarter goes to fund water and land conservation activities.

The argument has been made that water will soon become more precious than oil. As state revenues decline, some additional fees paid by water users are necessary. The investment needed to preserve and protect the precious commodity is small, but the benefits are beyond calculation.



❑ Crankcase oil drainings account for 40% of all oil pollution in harbors and waterways.

❑ Oil from a single oil change can contaminate a million gallons of fresh water -- a year's supply for 50 people.

--Project ROSE, University of Alabama

## mainstream

### OWRB Promotes Joe Freeman

Patty Eaton, executive director of the Water Resources Board, announced the promotion last month of Joe S. Freeman to division chief of the Financial Assistance Division. Freeman joined the OWRB in March 1990 to supervise financial analysts in technical and credit reviews and servicing water and wastewater facility loans.

The Financial Assistance Division makes loans and grants to qualified cities, towns and rural water and wastewater districts for the construction and renovation of water and wastewater projects.



Joe S. Freeman

Freeman joined the OWRB from Exchange National Bank in Del City, where he was vice president and manager of the commercial loan department. Earlier, he had served as assistant comptroller and financial planning officer for the First National Bank in Ponca City.

He is a graduate of Oklahoma State University, where he earned a BS degree in Business Administration with a double major in finance and economics and was named to the Dean's Honor Roll. Freeman also holds a Master of Business Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma, where he was also a member of the President's and Dean's Honor Roll.

Freeman currently serves on the Governor's Oklahoma Rural Enterprise Team and the Oklahoma Funding Coordinating Task Force.

### Coalgate Water Pioneer Dies

George B. Hill, honored as Oklahoma Water Pioneer at the 1990 Governor's Water Conference, died August 11. Hill, 78, was the owner and publisher of the "Coalgate Record Register" from 1948-1988.

He was a tireless promoter of water development in southeast Oklahoma, advocated a statewide water plan and worked for upstream flood control. Hill assisted in the drafting and passage of legislation which authorized the SCS to participate in the planning and construction of municipal water projects. He was also instrumental in creating one of the nation's first upstream flood control districts in Johnston County. He served on the board and as secretary-treasurer of Oklahoma Water Inc., for 14 years and was named Waternaut of the Year by OWI.

Hill was a longtime member, board member and president of the Oklahoma Press Association and he was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 1978.

Services for Hill were held in Coalgate on August 14.

### D/PC Seminar December 20-21

Gary Glover, OWRB coordinator of the water well drillers/pump contractors program announced that the Water Resources Board will host an educational seminar at Metro-Tech in Oklahoma City December 20-21.

Glover said the OWRB will mail all licensed drillers and pump contractors more information nearer the seminar date. The seminar is free, but it is important that all attendees register to ensure a place at the seminar.

Metro Tech is at 1900 Springlake Drive in Oklahoma City. For more information, call (405) 231-2516.

### Martin Named to Compact

Edwin L. Martin, Sallisaw business man, was recently appointed by Gov. Walters to a 4-year term as commissioner on the Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact. Martin succeeds Cookson resident Jacob Miller on the Commission.

The Arkansas River Compact Commission promotes good will between the states by fairly apportioning the water of the Arkansas River, cooperating in the development of the river and promoting pollution abatement activities in the area. Other Oklahoma members are J. Denny Moffett of Tulsa and Patricia P. Eaton, OWRB executive director, who is an ex-officio member.

Martin is a graduate of Sallisaw High School and Northeastern State University and serves on the board of Sequoyah County Rural Water District and Central Rural Fire District.

### Six Hurricanes in 1993?

This year's tropical storm and hurricane activity can be expected to be heavier than that of 1992 but within the historical average.

This is the forecast of William Gray of the Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University. Gray has been very accurate the last 10 years in forecasting Atlantic hurricane activity.

He also predicts 10 named storms and 25 hurricane days in the coming season. Gray points out that in 43 years of records, the average is 5.7 hurricanes (including two highly destructive, Class 3,4,5 hurricanes) and 23.3 days of hurricane activity. That is a near match to his 1993 forecast. For the sake of comparison, Hurricane Andrew was a Class 4 hurricane.

### R. L. Young to FEMA Region VI

Raymond Lloyd Young, a former head of security for President Clinton when he was Arkansas governor, has been appointed to the post of regional director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Denton, Texas office.

He replaces Acting Director James E. McClanahan who will resume his former position as deputy director for Region VI, encompassing Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Young is a veteran of 25 years of service in state and local law enforcement, including a stint with the Arkansas State Highway Patrol and Arkansas State Police. Most recently, since 1983,

he directed security operations for Gov. Clinton and was responsible for protecting the former governor during his daily activities. In that position, he also worked with the Arkansas Office of Emergency Services on related planning and preparedness issues. With FEMA, Young will be in charge of administering a variety of emergency planning, preparedness, response and recovery activities associated with natural and man-induced disasters that occur in the region.

### Water Walking Good Exercise

Water walking for fitness is coming of age, with swimming pool walkers now outnumbering lap swimmers. According to the U.S. Water Fitness Association, based in Florida, only about six percent of Americans can swim laps, but 98 percent can walk in the water.

Fans of the exercise regimen say people of all ages and abilities are discovering the benefits of water resistance, which is 12 to 14 percent greater than air. At the YMCA in Norman, more than 2500 people are enrolled in weekly water-walking classes.

### Do You Have Flood Insurance?

Oklahoma has 352 communities, representing a population of 2.8 million, now participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Ken Morris, of the OWRB Planning Division who coordinates the NFIP in the state, points out that 11,685 Oklahomans own flood insurance policies and pay more than \$3 million annually in premiums for \$770 million in flood insurance coverage. Morris says the average policy to cover property and possessions costs only about \$284 a year.

For more information about eligibility or the National Flood Insurance Program, call (405) 231-2533.

### Attend Solid Waste Seminar

County commissioners, city managers, elected officials, economic developers, chamber of commerce

managers and all others interested in exploring solutions to the solid waste dilemma are invited to attend workshops in southeast and northeast Oklahoma.

The Southeast Oklahoma Solid Waste Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn in McAlester on November 18; the Northeast Workshop will be in Wagoner at Western Hills Lodge on November 19.

The workshops are sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, OSU Cooperative Extension, Solid Waste Research Institute of Northeast Oklahoma and Oklahoma Association of Regional Councils.

Registration costs \$25. For more information, call Joe Fitzgibbon at (405) 271-7177 or Gerald Doeksen at (405) 744-6081.

### Spiser Retires from OWRB

Dannie Spiser, OWRB hydrologist supervisor, retired from the Water Management Division on August 31. His 41-year career of state service



Dannie Spiser cuts cake at a farewell party in the OWRB Water Management Division on August 31.

began in 1952 at the Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, the precedent state water agency.

A specialist in groundwater, Spiser participated for 41 years in the cooperative USGS-OWRB program that collected water level data in a statewide well network. During his tenure, he also participated in programs that gaged stream flow and collected

## Clean Lakes Rep Visits OWRB Projects

Water Quality Division Chief Shon Simpson and staff who work in EPA Clean Lakes projects hosted a lake tour for Mike Bira, EPA Region VI Clean Lakes Coordinator August 23-25.

OWRB staff on the tour included



Paul Koenig and Shon Simpson of the Water Resources Board watch Mike Bira (kneeling) examine aquatic plants that overgrow Newkirk Lake. Aquatic macrophytes and sediments constitute much of the problem that OWRB Clean Lakes staff have identified at the lake.

Paul Koenig, Bill Cauthron, Keith Owen and Juli Watterson.

First on the itinerary was a stop at the University of Oklahoma, where Daphne Nickish of the OWRB and Dr. Baxter Vieux explained how

Geographic Information System (GIS) data were used to model runoff in the watershed of Newkirk Country Club Lake to estimate sediment and nutrient loadings.

The next stop for Bira and the OWRB Clean Lakes people was Enid and a tour of Meadow Lake, where a volunteer monitoring program is underway. Bira visited with Enid High School science teacher Terry Sackett, who supervises his students in a citizens monitoring effort that is an extension of Sackett's classroom curriculum. Bira and Water Board staff also visited with Enid city officials Sheila DeMetro and Craig Stephenson.

From Enid, they went to Newkirk, where they toured the Newkirk Country Club Lake and visited Gary Bilger, mayor of Newkirk. Bilger and Bira discussed the possibility of a restoration project on the lake.

Grand Lake O'the Cherokees, the site of the OWRB's first volunteer monitoring program, was the next stop. Bira and the Water Board group met with Jan Norman, executive director, and members of the Grand Lake Association. In his keynote speech to their quarterly meeting, Bira emphasized the value of volunteer monitoring and the importance of quality assurance and quality control to the program.

The final stop on the Clean Lakes tour was Lake Tenkiller, where water sampling activities are conducted by OSU graduate students under the direction of Dr. Sterling (Bud) Burks.



Mike Bira, EPA Region VI Clean Lakes Program Coordinator, and Paul Koenig of the OWRB Water Quality Programs Division examine rooted macrophytes that contribute to the water quality problems of Newkirk Country Club Lake.

amples of stream water and groundwater for water quality studies.

In his long association with the Board, he became a booster of western Oklahoma and the Panhandle, and made countless friends who expected his presence at their well sites every January. Data gathering begins in the Oklahoma region early in January, moves through the state, and by March 31, some 1200 wells have been measured.

Spiser, a Tonkawa native, joined the Planning and Resources Board just after his discharge from the U.S. Army, in which he served in the 45th Division. He remains active in the Oklahoma organization composed of 45th Infantry Division veterans.

In retirement, Spiser will continue to enjoy working in his yard, traveling and camping with his family and collecting antiques and memorabilia. In his travels throughout the state, Spiser has collected antique bricks, many bearing Indian Territory (IT) and Oklahoma Territory (OT) marks of manufacture.

### For Your Trivia File...

Bernice Crockett of Shawnee, water resources enthusiast and Oklahoma Water Pioneer at the 1985 Governor's Water Conference, points out this interesting water fact: "Unleashed, the Great Lakes would cover the entire continental United States in 9 1/2 feet of water."

She credits the May 1993 issue of National Geographic's "Traveler" magazine.

### Attention, Subscribers

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board wants to stay in touch, but postage is precious. If your interests have changed and you no longer wish to receive the "Oklahoma Water News," please let us know by calling (405) 231-2500 or notifying us by FAX (405) 231-2600.

If we need to correct your present mailing label, let us know that also. Please be sure to include zip codes in all address information.

## Big Paybacks Result from Water Conservation

Households often bypass opportunities to install high-efficiency showerheads and faucets, thereby wasting 5,600 to 15,000 gallons of water annually and draining away savings on their utility bills. However, potential savings for cities are almost too attractive to pass by. With the installation of conservation devices, a city of 75,000 could save nearly a thousand acre-feet of water every year, points out the Rocky Mountain Institute.

The Institute, a non-profit corporation researching water and energy conservation, says the effort offers cities bountiful new supplies of water at little expense. With 33 percent of residential water use and 1.5 percent of the electricity (to heat water) going to faucets and showers, savings can be big and paybacks come fast. Many utilities and communities are working on incentives to get water and energy conservation hardware in place throughout their service areas.

Eager to "get their feet wet" in new entrepreneurial opportunities, innovative "water service companies" are springing up in many areas, says a recent issue of "U.S. Water News."

Water conservation entrepreneurs are using the power of the marketplace to accomplish conservation. Water service companies use private funding to purchase, install and maintain water-efficient technologies for

schools, apartments, hotels and other institutions. They earn profits and are paid with the dollar savings from resulting water conservation.

"U.S. Water News" reports that water service companies in California, Arizona, Virginia, Florida and Colorado are signing contracts with apartment building owners, housing developments and schools to retrofit living areas with low-flush toilets, high-efficiency showerheads and faucet aerators for no cost to the building owners. After installing the devices, the companies compare the resulting lower water use with baseline data. Then they take 50 to 80 percent of the metered water savings over several years to pay back their capital investment and make a profit. The rest of the savings (profit) goes to the customer.

Other innovative companies are encouraging the "shared savings" concept, whereby their profits are tied to long-term performance. Such contracts provide greater incentives to the company to fix leaks, preventing the company's money from going down the drain.

It's hard to understand why individual homeowners, apartment building owners, schools and hotels don't use their own capital to retrofit their own buildings with the same equipment and reap 100 percent of the profit.

High-efficiency showerheads and retrofit faucets are easier to find

and cheaper as a result of widespread interest in water conservation programs, says the Rocky Mountain Institute. Copies of the Institute's report, "High Efficiency Showerheads and Faucets," and a catalog are available by writing the Rocky Mountain Institute, 1739 Snowmass Road, Snowmass CO 81654-9199.

*Agrawal, continued from page 1*  
bentonite to plug and seal them. In some instances, plastic bags were placed in the hole outside the casing and little or no sealing material was installed.

However, in filing the required multipurpose completion reports, the Board found that Agrawal had reported false and identical information on most of the 28 wells. The reports require licensed drillers to provide specific information concerning the location and construction of each well.

Inspection of these wells by Board staff revealed that the wells were not constructed as certified by Agrawal on the multipurpose completion reports he officially filed with the Board. The Board also found that the drilling firm failed to follow the most basic minimum construction standards for wells. In considering the stay request, the Court determined that the potential harm that could result from allowing Agrawal and General Minerals to continue drilling wells during the appeal was too great. The Court, therefore, denied Agrawal's request to stay the Board's order.

### Mark Your Calendar to Attend the Fourteenth Annual Governor's Water Conference

#### "Infrastructures Under Pressure MANDATES WITHOUT MONEY"

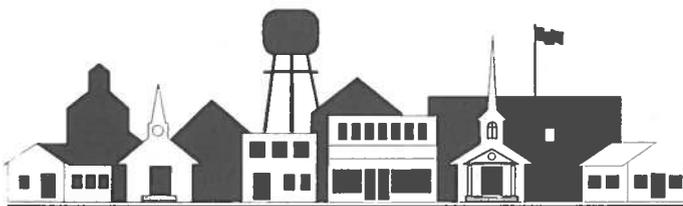
Registration \$25

For information or to register: (405) 231-2521

Wednesday, November 17

8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Marriott Hotel, Oklahoma City



#### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Approved at September Board Meeting

Loans (3.072%; 30-year maximum term)	
Canton PWA	\$ 280,000
Wilburton PWA	\$ 300,000
Spencer UA	\$ 475,000
Langston PWA	\$ 385,000

SRF Loans	
Ponca City UA	\$ 4,397,700

Totals as of 9/14/93

	FAP LOANS	FAP GRANTS	SRF LOANS
APPROVED	132	304	15
AMOUNT	\$147,005,000	\$17,480,829	\$76,556,029.03
FUNDED	115	282	12
AMOUNT	\$125,935,000	\$16,091,105.15	\$56,410,729.03

**STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES & RESERVOIRS  
AS OF SEPTEMBER 21, 1993**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (acre-feet)	PRESENT STORAGE (acre-feet)	PERCENT OF STORAGE		PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (acre-feet)	PRESENT STORAGE (acre-feet)	PERCENT OF STORAGE	
			conservation	flood				conservation	flood
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>					<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>				
Atoka	124,100	103,900	83.7	N/A	Eufaula	2,314,600	2,314,600	100.0	16.8
Broken Bow	918,070	783,399	85.3	0.0	Tenkiller	654,100	654,100	100.0	5.2
Hugo <sup>1</sup>	187,603	174,276	92.9	0.0	Wister <sup>1</sup>	58,601	58,601	100.0	5.2
McGee Creek	113,930	113,930	100.0	1.1	<b>NORTHEAST</b>				
Pine Creek <sup>1</sup>	73,346	71,241	97.1	0.0	Birch	19,200	16,705	87.0	0.0
Sardis	274,330	274,330	100.0	0.1	Copan	43,400	43,400	100.0	0.7
<b>CENTRAL</b>					Eucha	79,600	79,600	100.0	N/A
Arcadia	27,520	27,520	100.0	1.0	Fort Gibson	365,200	365,200	100.0	2.1
Hefner	75,400	66,640	88.4	N/A	Grand	1,672,000	1,644,860	98.4	0.0
Overholser	15,900	15,629	98.3	N/A	Heyburn	7,105	7,105	100.0	3.2
Stanley Draper	100,000	88,200	88.2	N/A	Hudson	200,300	200,300	100.0	0.4
Thunderbird	119,600	116,060	97.0	0.0	Hulah	31,160	31,160	100.0	1.0
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>					Oologah	553,400	553,400	100.0	3.2
Arbuckle	72,400	72,400	100.0	12.1	Skiatook	322,700	304,519	94.4	0.0
Texoma <sup>1</sup>	2,740,000	2,740,000	100.0	2.4	Spavinaw	30,590	30,590	100.0	N/A
Waurika	203,100	193,518	95.3	0.0	<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>				
<b>SOUTHWEST</b>					Kaw	428,600	428,600	100.0	3.0
Altus	132,830	78,771	59.3	0.0	Keystone	557,600	548,102	98.3	0.0
Ellsworth	72,490	57,825	79.8	N/A	<b>NORTHWEST</b>				
Fort Cobb	80,010	80,010	100.0	0.0	Canton	111,310	103,090	92.6	0.0
Foss	178,410	163,862	91.9	0.0	Fort Supply	13,900	13,158	94.7	0.0
Lawtonka	58,327	46,913	80.4	N/A	Great Salt Plains	31,420	31,420	100.0	1.4
Tom Steed	88,970	79,510	89.4	0.0	<b>STATE TOTALS</b>	<b>13,151,122</b>	<b>12,776,444</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>1.9</b>

<sup>1</sup>Seasonal pool operation

N/A -- not applicable; no flood storage allocation.

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

**Mary E. Whitlow, Editor**

**Barry Fogerty, Photographer**

**Brad Nesom, Layout Artist**

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