

# OKLAHOMA Water News

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board

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## From the Director



*Duane A. Smith  
OWRB Executive Director*

The Oklahoma State Legislature officially convened for business on February 6. In all, 2,240 bills and resolutions have been filed by both the Senate and House. Of these, 1,087 remain alive, including a few already signed and enacted by Governor Henry. All legislation must be considered by May 26. As always, the Legislature has a big job in front of them.

Of course, of primary concern to the Water Board are specific initiatives related to much-needed financial assistance for water and wastewater facility construction and water planning. The Legislature has proposed lifting the existing cap on the state's Gross Production REAP funds to replenish the heavily-utilized

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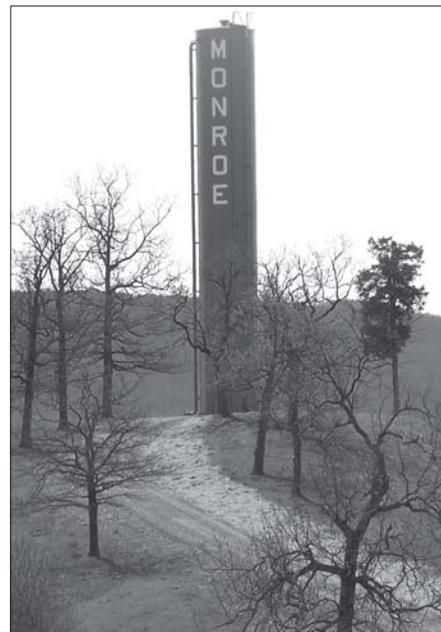
## Proposed Legislation Emphasizes Water's Importance

*Below is a list of selected bills introduced during the Second Session of the 50th State Legislature that could impact the Water Resources Board and state water users.*

**HB2618: Gross Production Tax REAP Water Projects Fund**—Takes the OWRB Rural Economic Action Plan Water Projects Fund and the County Bridge and Road Improvement Fund out from under the \$150 million annual cap. Monies over the cap go back into the General Revenue Fund. Possible vehicle for providing gross production tax funds to OWRB for water planning and financial assistance and to Oklahoma Conservation Commission for their watershed cost share programs.

**HB2804: Citizens Lake Committees and Hydro-Power Task Force**—Replaces a proposed legislative referendum on water sales outside the state with a new law that creates nine-member citizen lake committees—representing recreation, tourism, rural and municipal water supplies, agriculture, fish, wildlife, hydroelectric power generation, marinas and other crucial water-related

**See Legislation, Page 2**



*Water supply problems experienced by the community of Monroe, which is served by LeFlore County Rural Water District #9, were resolved through construction of a water storage tank and water distribution system up-grades funded through a \$60,000 OWRB REAP grant and a \$246,701 Drinking Water State Revolving Loan. Much-needed*

*additional monies would be available to those two programs, as well as the other three loan/grant programs administered by the Water Board, if the existing cap is removed from the state's REAP Water Projects and County Bridge/Road Improvement Fund, as currently proposed by the Legislature.*

## **From the Director . . .** *Continued from page 1*

Statewide Water Development Revolving Fund so that it can address the estimated \$5.4 billion funding need for those projects through 2025. Those additional funds would also be used to update the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan and assist the Conservation Commission with its watershed program cost-share. We remain hopeful that the groundswell of support from such organizations as the Oklahoma Municipal League, Rural Water Association, Independent Petroleum Association, Farm Bureau, Environmental Federation of Oklahoma, and others will carry this initiative to a successful conclusion.

If anything emphasizes the importance of efficient water treatment and distribution, as well as planning for Oklahoma's water future, it is the extended drought episode we are currently facing. Since last September, state averaged rainfall stands at around six inches, which is almost 8 inches below normal. Many of Oklahoma's climate regions have received less than one-half of their expected precipitation totals over that period. As a result of these widespread rainfall deficits, the entire state has been under a Burn Ban and dangerous wildfires have become a regular occurrence. Many pastures remain brown and ponds are drying up. Spring crops have been hit hard, as will our agricultural economy when harvest rolls around. And if we don't receive at least a few rounds of gentle, soaking rainfall before the typical summer dry period, water systems will experience supply shortages and

## **Legislation . . .** *Continued from page 1*

economic interests—on Corps of Engineers reservoirs as well as a state task force on hydropower. Each lake committee would have oversight for monitoring acceptable lake levels, roads, and other conditions affecting the reservoir and would make recommendations to the appropriate state or federal agency on issues regarding lake management. The 13-member hydropower task force would hold public meetings and make recommendations on the overall impact of the use of water for electricity generation, required studies, and assessment of a fee for the use of water for power generation. The task force would include a member of the Senate, House of Representatives, and Corporation Commission and appointees from the OWRB, Tourism and Recreation Department, Grand River Dam Authority, and representatives of the Oklahoma Municipal League, rural electric cooperative, lake associations, OSU Water Research Institute, and permitted lake users.

**HB3020: OWRB Membership**—Committee Substitute deviates from the introduced language that would have added an additional Board member representing oil and gas production to the 9 member Board. It replaces geographical representation from the current five congressional districts to 4 county based districts (basically the four quadrants of the state). The remaining 5 board members would be appointed at large with no more than 3 members appointed from one of the districts. It also adds independent oil and gas production and thermal electrical generation to the list of water interests that

many—especially aging systems—will collapse due to sudden and significant increases in demand.

While we are truly experiencing a drought situation, the hardships we are dealing with are amplified because most Oklahomans have become used to having water supply generally whenever and wherever they need it. While much of the \$1.4 billion provided to Oklahoma communities and rural water districts through the Board's Financial Assistance Program has helped improve their resistance to drought episodes, the fact remains that we have been fortunate in experiencing a relatively wet climatic period since about 1980. In reviewing Oklahoma's long-term precipitation data recently obtained from the Okla. Climatological Survey, it becomes obvious that we've been on the peak of precipitation. And we could be headed to the valley.

Now is the time to strengthen our water systems, identify all feasible sources of water supply, and sharpen our management schemes through update of the Water Plan. But local planning will be key to the Plan's success; communities and rural systems must work together and in concert with state and federal partners in providing affordable and dependable supply to customers. And when infrastructure fails, as it occasionally will during this statewide drought, the Water Board's loan and grant programs must be well-equipped to fund needed repairs. I encourage the State Legislature to help the Water Board help Oklahomans.

must be represented on the Board. Members representing these interests must be engaged in these activities, not just well versed as currently required.

**HB3023: Gross Production Tax REAP Water Projects Fund**—Would amend current law apportioning the tax levied on gross production of ores, natural gas and oil. The bill would remove the OWRB REAP Water Projects Fund from the current \$150 million annual deposit cap. It directs the funds to be divided into 3 revolving funds as follows: Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department Capital Expenditure Revolving Fund to be expended by the Tourism and Recreation Department for one-time capital expenditures at state lodges and parks; Watershed Dam and Conservation Cost Share Program Revolving Fund to be expended by the Conservation Commission for rehabilitation of watershed dams, Conservation Cost Share Program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program; and Rural Community Water Infrastructure Development Fund Revolving Fund to be expended by the OWRB for the purpose of establishing and maintaining critical water infrastructure in rural areas of the state. Last year, due to continued rising oil prices, the cap was exceeded and the overage diverted to the General Revenue Fund. The OWRB REAP Water Projects Fund received approximately \$7 million of the cap. The Fund was originally authorized for OWRB REAP grants, but only \$2.6 million REAP project grants

*(continued on page 3)*

## Legislation . . . Continued from page 2

were approved the first year. The Legislature then began redirecting the funds to various agencies, including the OWRB for other purposes, some not related to water.

**HB3024: Drilling Rig Impoundment**—Provides for monetary fines and in some cases, impoundment of drilling rigs for water well drillers breaking the law. This is a request bill from the Oklahoma Groundwater Association and the OWRB Well Drillers Advisory Council, to boost the OWRB's regulatory authority on well drillers in limited instances of extreme violations that threaten public health.

**SB1019: Scenic Blue River**—Designation of the Blue River and its tributaries located in Pontotoc and Johnston counties as a scenic river area.

**SB1353: Lake Eufaula Basin Permit Moratorium**—Amends out-of-state water sales moratorium statutes to include a moratorium on approval of water permits authorizing the transfer of water, both groundwater and stream water, from the watershed area surrounding Lake Eufaula. This area is approximately 1/3 of the state. Pending permits are also included in the moratorium.

**SB1572: Municipal and Rural Water District Disputes**—Provides and encourages municipalities to enter into contracts or cooperative agreements with rural water districts for customer allocation, territory and revenues which relate to providing water supply to rural residents. Such agreements would not be deemed to be anticompetitive or otherwise contrary to antitrust laws.

**SB1574: Groundwater Waste Violations**—Committee Substitute amends the waste provisions of the groundwater statutes by increasing steps taken by the OWRB to assure the waste ceases. Currently the law specifies that the OWRB must gather evidence and file a complaint with the district court. This measure would require the OWRB to first pursue voluntary compliance, issue cease and desist orders by the Executive Director, pursue suspension of permits and other administrative remedies, before going to the district attorney.

**SB1677: Citizens Local Lake Committee**—This legislation directs the Secretary of Environment to create an initial five person oversight committee for each U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's lakes (27 Corps Lakes) and promulgate rules to administer the Act. The Governor has until September 1, 2006 to formally appoint these members. The Committees will have active oversight for monitoring lake levels, roads and other lake conditions.

**SB1719: Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer Mining Activities**—Prohibits the OWRB from issuing water permits relating to mining within the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer until the OWRB has determined that the use of such water would not diminish or reduce the natural flow of water from springs or streams emanating from the aquifer or involve the use of water from an associated

mining pit. If the OWRB determines that these conditions cannot be met, then it will establish a zone of influence for the mining activity. The applicant must then submit a hydrogeological analysis and plan for OWRB approval, showing how the applicant will replace the water supply within the zone of influence affected by the permitted use. The plan must provide alternative sources of water to existing users impacted within the zone of influence at no cost to the impacted users. Guidelines are provided as to what constitutes adequate replacement of the water supply, which may include damages to real and personal property. Finally, the measure amends the Department of Mines statutes to require receipt of an OWRB water permit before a mining permit can be issued.

**SB0418: Oklahoma Environmental Protection Bond Program Act**—This new law would create a Natural Resources Protection Revolving Fund to provide state match funding for conservation and watershed protection practices. It authorizes the OWRB to be the banker for the program through its financial assistance program. It specifies that 15-year bonds generating up to \$30 million can be loaned to the Fund, with the proceeds being divided equally (\$10 million each) for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program projects, upstream flood control structure rehabilitation projects, and invasive species eradication projects. Revenue from the Gross Production Tax REAP Water Projects Fund is intended to be used for debt retirement on the bonds. Oklahoma Supreme Court approval is also required on the issuance of the bonds.

## La Niña's Return May Spell Doom for Drought Relief

*By Gary McManus, Climatologist  
Oklahoma Climatological Survey*

The drought began in the fall and lasted through the following spring, decimating the state's winter wheat crop. The loss of forage for cattle necessitated mass sell-offs which depressed prices. Losses to the agricultural industry alone were well over \$1 billion. Farm bankruptcies soared. Wildfires ran rampant, burning more than 633,000 acres – nearly 1,000 square miles – prompting a FEMA disaster declaration. Hopes were dashed as the spring rains stayed away. Instead, the state was met with blowing dust and summer-like heat. Some meteorologists blamed the intensity of the drought that year on La Niña, the periodic cooling of the equatorial Pacific waters. The year was 1996, and the similarities to 2006 are frightening.

Previous data have shown a tendency for warmer and drier conditions in Oklahoma during La Niña events, and experts at the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) are once

*(continued on page 4)*

## La Niña . . . Continued from page 3

again predicting a visit by El Niño's less famous sister, La Niña:

*"However, current conditions (stronger-than-average easterly winds over the central equatorial Pacific) and recent cooling trends in observed oceanic conditions support continuation of La Niña conditions in the tropical Pacific during the next 3-6 months."*

It is important to note that while the La Niña of 1995-96 was considered very strong, the forecast for the 2006 La Niña is relatively much weaker. Given the existing drought conditions the state currently faces, however, any tendency towards drier weather is significant.

### 2006 vs. 1996

The 1996 La Niña event occurred in the midst of an existing drought, just as the current La Niña event. Statistically, Oklahoma is entering this spring season in worse condition than during the 1996 drought. From October 1995 through January 1996, the statewide-averaged precipitation total was 4.38 inches, more than 5 inches below normal and the 10th driest October-January on record. For the same period in 2005-06, the statewide-averaged precipitation was only 3.31 inches, the 5th driest on record at more than 6 inches below normal. Oklahoma's wheat belt, where the majority of the winter wheat crop is grown, runs from southwestern through north central Oklahoma. Within that belt, the rainfall statistics are very similar during the two time periods

with deficits of nearly 5 inches.

There was some relief for the southeast corner of the state during the 1996 event. That is encouraging news, since that area is currently in the throes of what the National Drought Mitigation Center terms an "exceptional drought," the worst designation they prescribe. The latest Seasonal Drought Outlook released by CPC predicts some improvement for southeastern Oklahoma, but also notes that "with 12-month rainfall deficits exceeding 20 inches in the northeast Texas-southeast Oklahoma region, drought-ending rains are unlikely anytime soon."

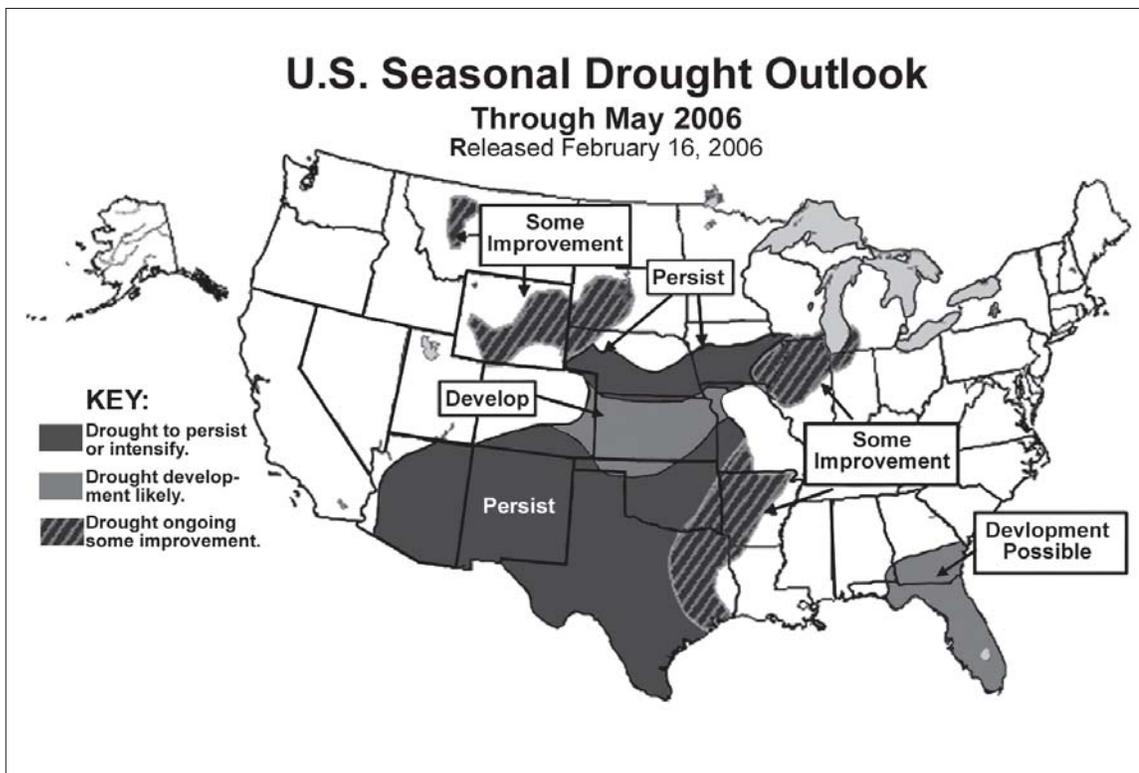
The drought outlook predicts persistence or intensification of the dry weather in most of the state, with drought development likely in the northwest. Unfortunately, the drought is expected to persist or intensify in the wheat belt region, enhancing the risk for economic damages to Oklahoma's agricultural industry.

There is some residual moisture remaining in the soil in both north central and southeastern Oklahoma. Once the weather begins to warm up, however, moisture demand by plants, especially the winter wheat crop, will increase dramatically.

### La Niña

The weather patterns associated with La Niña favor warm and dry weather for Oklahoma due to a northern shift in the jet stream, which helps to create a large blocking ridge of high pressure in the desert southwest. This diverts storm systems from the Pacific farther to the north, increasing rainfall in the Pacific Northwest and

decreasing rainfall in the southwestern U.S. The sinking air and lack of precipitation can contribute to above-normal temperatures for Oklahoma. However, it must be noted that the effects of La Niña are described in broad-based weather patterns. So while the dry and warm conditions might generally affect the southern half of the U.S., local impacts might be quite different than the large-scale patterns.



The drought outlook for Oklahoma indicates some improvement for southeastern Oklahoma, but persistence or intensification of drought throughout much of the state. Information courtesy National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center:

[http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/seasonal\\_drought.html](http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/seasonal_drought.html)

## First "Water Day" Set for April 19

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board will host the inaugural Capitol Water Day on April 19, 2006, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Capitol's 4th floor rotunda. Water Day will present a unique opportunity for groups to demonstrate the importance of Oklahoma's water resources and provide information on their water management, conservation, and educational programs for state legislators and other government officials.

The OWRB hopes that this diverse assembly of water interests will not only attract the attention of Governor Henry and Legislative leadership, but also establish the annual Capitol Water Day as the state's premier event celebrating water and those who strive to protect Oklahoma's most precious natural resource.

Numerous agencies and organizations with water interests—including public water supply, agriculture, tourism and recreation, environmental protection, wildlife conservation, soil conservation, energy, and industry, as well as occupations such as well drillers, floodplain managers, environmental engineers and

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board cordially invites you to join us in the Capitol's 4th floor rotunda for

# WATER DAY

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
APRIL 19, 2006

Water Day presents a unique opportunity for over 25 state, federal, and local organizations to gather and demonstrate the importance of Oklahoma's water resources and provide information on their water management, conservation, and educational programs.

others—have been invited to showcase how they individually and collectively protect the state's surface and groundwaters.

For more information call Mike Melton at 405-530-8800 or e-mail the OWRB at [pubinfo@owrb.state.ok.us](mailto:pubinfo@owrb.state.ok.us).

## Senator Kerr Remembered

Sen. Robert M. Kerr passed away on January 25. A Democrat, Sen. Kerr was first elected to the state Senate in 1986 and was assistant majority leader and vice-chairman of appropriations at the time of his death.

According to OWRB Executive Director Duane Smith, "Sen. Kerr was one of our truly great senators as well as a great Oklahoman who worked tirelessly for rural Oklahoma and the state's water interests. We will miss him tremendously."

The following is a written tribute to Sen. Kerr from Rep. Ryan McMullen:

*I join so many across our state in mourning the loss of one of Oklahoma's finest statesmen: Senator Robert M. Kerr. He embarked to go Home to our heavenly Father early on the morning of Wednesday, January 25, 2006.*

*Veteran lawmakers will tell you that from the day he stepped foot on the floor of the State Senate in 1986, he fought relentlessly for the people and interests of Western Oklahoma. His life on the farm made Senator Kerr one of our state's best agricultural policy leaders.*

*My friendship with Senator Kerr began as an agriculture student at Oklahoma State University while serving as the Agriculture Committee's legislative intern. Having similar backgrounds to many of the students,*

*Senator Kerr particularly enjoyed mentoring the young ag students as we passed through this program. Senator Kerr loved the thought of helping develop the next generation of leaders for Rural Oklahoma.*

*His mentoring quickly developed into a strong bond of friendship. Those of us who were blessed to call Bob a friend knew that this bond was far greater than politics or any issue of the day.*

*Senator Kerr continued to serve as that friend and mentor as I found my own way to the Oklahoma Legislature in a freshman class of unprecedented size. Senator Kerr found additional purpose at the Capitol; besides mentoring those young ag interns each year, Senator Kerr now had a large group of young freshmen lawmakers to guide.*

*Each of us is better for having the opportunity, even if brief, to learn from such an honorable statesman. I believe his lengthy list of legislative accomplishments will one day pale to his legacy of mentoring young leaders and providing a model for what every lawmaker should strive to become.*



*In this archived photo, Sen. Kerr (standing, right), a long-time supporter of cloud seeding, is briefed by weather modification experts hired by the state to conduct Oklahoma's weather modification program.*

# Water on the State Level

(Adapted from "Our View," *Shawnee News Star*, Feb. 5, 2006)

The governor has revealed a significant portion of his agenda and what he hopes to see achieved this legislative session. Republican and Democratic leaders have also offered what they see as among the most pressing topics. While there are a number of issues that are vitally important, there is none that is more critical than ensuring this state has an adequate water supply.

Some might say that it's not as important as education, workers' compensation or tort reform, or providing funding for corrections, roads and bridges, and other infrastructure. Other observers might be inclined to believe that the water situation this state faces today will fix itself once it begins raining and the drought goes away.

But if we don't have a sufficient water supply in Oklahoma, we will be in huge trouble. There is no immediate relief in sight, at least not according to the forecasts that have been published and televised.

Look at some of the lake levels. Broken Bow lake in far southeastern Oklahoma is more than 161 feet below normal, and Lake Eufaula is 12 feet below normal.

Without major rainfall, the conditions will only worsen. The last six months of 2005 were the driest since



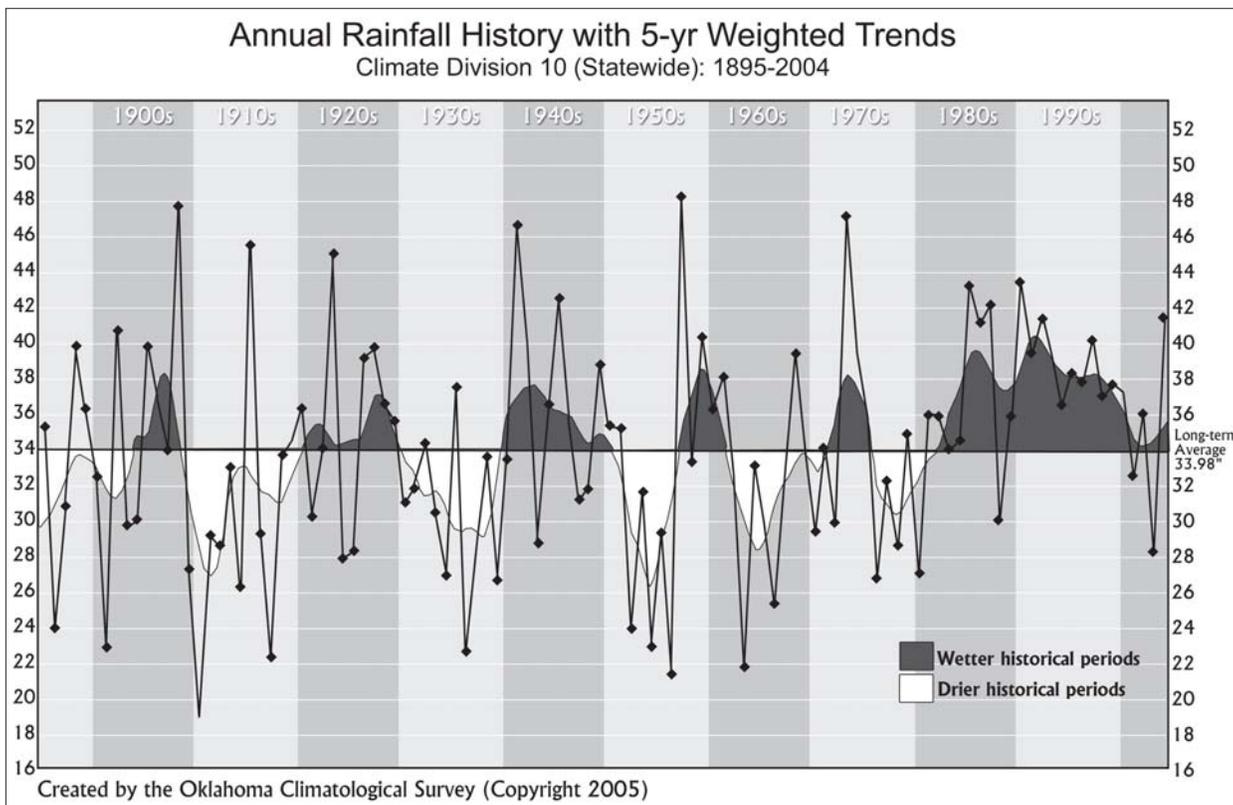
Water level at dock and boat ramp at Shawnee Twin Lakes in late February

1921. The last 90 days ranked within the top five of the driest periods in state history.

Despite the seriousness of the water woes Oklahoma faces, we haven't seen any visionary ideas laid out for addressing this critical issue by the governor or leaders of the state Democratic and Republican parties. They have been consumed with the traditional issues that are much more popular and they seem much more comfortable with talking about them.

We would highly suggest that legislators move the water concerns much higher on the political agenda

because water is critical to Oklahoma's future and it impacts each of us in our daily lives, both at business and at home. We can't exist without it.



# Oklahoma Drought Monitor

## Reservoir Storage

As of February 27, the combined normal conservation pools of 31 selected major federal reservoirs across Oklahoma (see below) are approximately 86 percent full, a 0.1 percent decrease from that recorded on February 13, according to information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Tulsa District). Twenty-one reservoirs have experienced lake level decreases since that time; 27 reservoirs are currently operating at less than full capacity. Eleven reservoirs are now below 80 percent capacity.

### Storage in Selected Oklahoma Lakes & Reservoirs

As of February 27, 2006

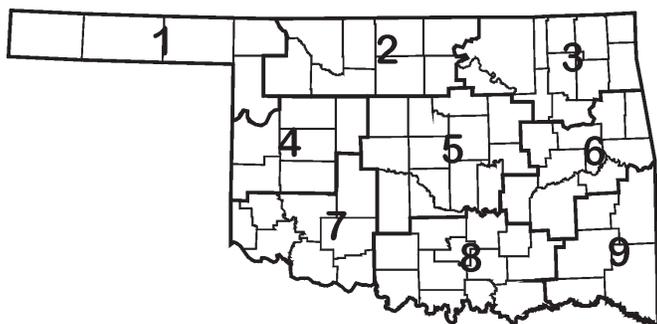
Climate Division	Conservation Storage (acre-feet)	Present Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Conservation Storage
North Central	426,756	426,756	100.0
Northeast	3,698,902	3,306,538	89.4
West Central	276,790	253,938	91.7
Central	154,225	129,757	84.1
<b>East Central</b>	<b>2,968,683</b>	<b>2,248,749</b>	<b>75.7</b>
<b>Southwest</b>	<b>301,810</b>	<b>193,512</b>	<b>64.1</b>
South Central	2,795,156	2,683,002	96.0
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>1,464,929</b>	<b>1,158,049</b>	<b>79.1</b>
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>12,087,251</b>	<b>10,400,301</b>	<b>86.0</b>

## Drought Indices

According to the latest Palmer Drought Severity Index (February 25, below), **state drought conditions continue to worsen as all regions report various stages of drought.** Both the Southeast and East Central climate divisions are in “extreme drought” while the Northeast now reports “severe drought.” All of Oklahoma’s nine climate divisions

have undergone PDSI moisture decreases since February 11.

The latest monthly Standardized Precipitation Index (through January, below) reflects increasingly dry conditions throughout much of Oklahoma. Among the *selected* time periods (3-, 6-, 9- and 12-month SPIs), **“extremely” and/or “very” dry conditions are present in all climate divisions at various times within the past 12 months.**



### Palmer Drought Severity Index

### Standardized Precipitation Index

Through January 2006

Climate Division (#)	Current Status 2/23/2006	Value		Change In Value				
		2/25	2/11		3-Month	6-Month	9-Month	12-Month
<b>NORTHWEST (1)</b>	MILD DROUGHT	-1.10	-1.01	-0.09	VERY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
<b>NORTH CENTRAL (2)</b>	MILD DROUGHT	-1.49	-1.35	-0.14	VERY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
<b>NORTHEAST (3)</b>	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.25	-2.99	-0.26	EXTREMELY DRY	MODERATELY DRY	MODERATELY DRY	VERY DRY
<b>WEST CENTRAL (4)</b>	MILD DROUGHT	-1.39	-1.14	-0.25	VERY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL
<b>CENTRAL (5)</b>	MODERATE DROUGHT	-2.27	-2.16	-0.11	EXTREMELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY DRY
<b>EAST CENTRAL (6)</b>	EXTREME DROUGHT	-4.00	-3.81	-0.19	EXTREMELY DRY	EXTREMELY DRY	EXTREMELY DRY	EXTREMELY DRY
<b>SOUTHWEST (7)</b>	MODERATE DROUGHT	-2.11	-1.97	-0.14	EXTREMELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY DRY
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL (8)</b>	MODERATE DROUGHT	-2.41	-2.37	-0.04	EXTREMELY DRY	MODERATELY DRY	MODERATELY DRY	VERY DRY
<b>SOUTHEAST (9)</b>	EXTREME DROUGHT	-4.14	-4.22	0.08	VERY DRY	EXTREMELY DRY	EXTREMELY DRY	EXTREMELY DRY

# Financial Assistance Program Update

*Loans/Grants Approved as of February 14, 2006*

## **FAP Loans—317 totaling \$566,955,000**

The OWRB's Financial Assistance Program (FAP), created by the State Legislature in 1979, provides loans for water and wastewater system improvements in Oklahoma. The tremendous popularity of the bond loan program is due, in part, to extended payoff periods of up to 30 years at extremely competitive interest rates, averaging approximately 4.762 percent since 1986.

## **CWSRF Loans—172 totaling \$582,619,915**

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program was created in 1988 to provide a renewable financing source for communities to draw upon for their wastewater infrastructure needs. The CWSRF program is Oklahoma's largest self-supporting wastewater financing effort, providing low-interest loans to communities in need.

## **DWSRF Loans—56 totaling \$212,898,185**

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program is an initiative of the OWRB and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality to assist municipalities and rural water districts in the construction and improvement of drinking water systems. These projects are often mandated for communities to obtain compliance with increasingly stringent federal standards related to the treatment of drinking water.

## **REAP Grants—439 totaling \$38,358,016**

The Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Program was created by the State Legislature in 1996. REAP grants, used for water/wastewater system improvements, target primarily rural communities with populations of 7,000 or less, but priority is afforded to those with fewer than 1,750 inhabitants.

## **Emergency Grants—520 totaling \$30,538,145**

Emergency grants, limited to \$100,000, are awarded to correct situations constituting a threat to life, health, or property and are an indispensable component of the agency's financial assistance strategy.

## **Total Loans/Grants—1,504 totaling \$1,431,369,262**

## **Estimated Savings—\$451,618,536**

*Applicants eligible for water/wastewater project financial assistance vary according to the specific program's purpose and requirements, but include towns and other municipalities with proper legal authority, various districts established under Title 82 of Oklahoma Statutes (rural water, master/water conservancy, rural sewage, and irrigation districts), counties, public works authorities, and/or school districts. Applications for agency financial assistance programs are evaluated individually by agency staff. Those meeting specific program requirements are recommended by staff for approval at monthly meetings of the nine-member Water Board.*

*More information about the OWRB's Financial Assistance Program can be obtained by calling the OWRB at (405)530-8800.*

Rudy Herrmann, *Chairman*; Mark Nichols, *Vice Chairman*; Bill Secrest, *Secretary*  
Harry Currie, Lonnie L. Farmer, Ed Fite, Jack Keeley, Kenneth K. Knowles, Richard C. Sevenoaks

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