

OKLAHOMA Water News

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board

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From the Director



*Duane A. Smith
OWRB Executive Director*

Another legislative session is in the books as the Legislature approved the final spending agreement for the OWRB on the last day of its special session on June 23. I am extremely pleased with the outcome as Gross Production Tax REAP Account funds have been pledged over the next five years to allow the Board to update the Comprehensive Water Plan and help recapitalize the Financial Assistance Program. We also received funds to continue the multi-year Arbuckle-Simpson Hydrology Study and other important cooperative water resource investigations.

The OWRB's legislative achievements are not only attributable to the hard work of our staff and Board, but also due to the commitment of many

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Oklahoma Drought Likely Far From Over

Despite recent precipitation in some parts of the state, only long-term and widespread rainfall can remediate the impacts of the ongoing yearlong drought in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Climatological Survey reports that while many areas of the state have benefited greatly from heavy rains in late April and early May, the drought of 2005-06 will not end until the state experiences a prolonged period of above-normal rainfall.

"The rain will delay the fire threat in some areas, pastures and lawns may benefit, and farm ponds may have a bit more water in them, but unless widespread heavy rains continue week after week, the drought will continue to worsen," says Derek Arndt, Acting State Climatologist with the Oklahoma Climatological Survey.

"The important thing to remember is that the building blocks of drought are often separated by rainy days or even rainy periods," Arndt points out. "One rainfall event may close a chapter of a drought, but it won't end the whole drought. Prolonged droughts end only with prolonged above-normal rainfall."

Data from the Oklahoma Mesonet and OCS archives indicate that the state is undergoing drought on multiple timescales: a short-term event, with a timescale of months,

that is worst in the western half of the state; and a historically-severe long-term drought (timescale of seasons to years) in the east. Central and southwest Oklahoma lie in the intersection of both timescales.

See Oklahoma Drought, Page 2



Aerial photo of Lake Carl Etling in far Western Oklahoma in mid June courtesy Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Water levels are only a few inches across the lake. Low water levels are the direct result of no appreciable rainfall in the watershed in the past 10 years. In Cimarron County, the annual precipitation is 22 inches while the evaporation rate is around 62 inches per year.

From the Director . . . Continued from page 1

influential support groups, such as the Oklahoma Rural Water Association and Municipal League, who championed our water initiatives with their constituents and at the Capitol. Strengthening our alliances with these organizations and communicating the state’s needs related to water planning, water/wastewater infrastructure, and hydrologic studies really made the difference.

The Water Board’s efficiency in implementing and extending key programs began last summer with identification of key agency initiatives during the agency’s Strategic Planning session. The three High Priority Opportunities (HPOs) conceived last year—Revolving

Oklahoma Drought . . . Continued from page 1

The southeast has experienced drought or near-drought conditions since 2002, with a distinct intensification in spring 2005. Summer and fall 2005 brought a northward expansion of drought to fill the state’s eastern third (which has experienced some relief in recent months). Severe drought impacts then advanced westward during the subsequent winter. Precipitation in April eased immediate problems, but a warm, dry May exacerbated long-term drought conditions in much of Oklahoma. The current U.S. Drought Monitor classifies a large portion of southwest Oklahoma as in extreme drought while much of the northwest and far west is in severe drought; the drought’s intensity generally diminishes from central to eastern areas.

The drought has already taken its toll on Oklahoma’s agricultural industry as the summer wheat harvest is expected to be its smallest since the 1950s. Fires remain a continuing threat, especially as conditions deteriorate.

June 2006 Statewide Statistics			
Temperature			
	<u>Average</u>	<u>Depart.</u>	<u>Rank (1892-2006)</u>
Month (June)	77.8°F	1.3°F	34th Warmest
Year-to-Date	59.2°F	3.9°F	1st Warmest
Precipitation			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Depart.</u>	<u>Rank (1892-2006)</u>
Month (June)	2.36 in.	1.90 in.	25th Driest
Year-to-Date	12.77 in.	-6.38 in.	16th Driest
Depart.= Departure from 30-year normal			

Information courtesy Oklahoma Climatological Survey http://climate.ocs.ou.edu/monthly_summary.html

From a water supply perspective, Oklahoma’s larger reservoirs remain generally below normal for this time of year but have yet to reach critically low levels. Streamflows and conditions in smaller municipal lakes and stock ponds are of greater concern, especially in relatively drier areas. While levels are dropping in water supply and irrigation wells in some areas of the state, the true groundwater impacts of the current drought will likely not be realized for months or years. Deep aquifers, in particular, typically respond very slowly to either dry or wet periods.

Some Oklahoma communities are beginning to report localized water supply problems and dozens of cities and

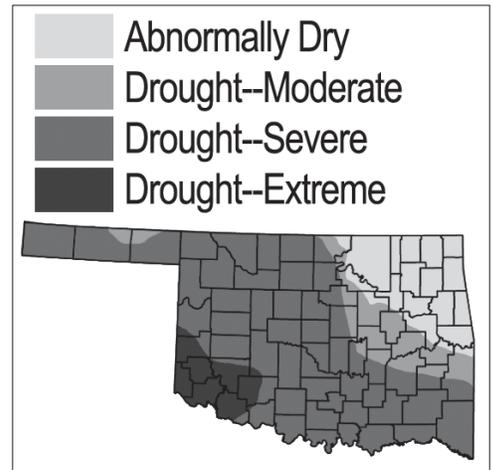
Fund (FAP) Recapitalization, Update of the Water Plan, and Special Studies—all received considerable attention from legislative members during 2006. Specific tasks and goals were outlined for each HPO and key support groups and individuals were identified to increase chances for success.

The upcoming fiscal year holds even greater promise for the OWRB as we strive to keep pace with ever evolving state and federal water policies while demonstrating responsibility, commitment, and efficiency in utilizing state appropriations. To the public and State Legislature, we want to demonstrate that when you invest in this agency and its staff, you get more bang for your buck than with any other agency of government.

towns have implemented various levels of water rationing. Wells supplying the Town of Colbert, in southern Oklahoma, recently started running dry, prompting the town to ban outdoor watering and implement other water restrictions. Water Board staff are assisting city

officials in their search for additional long-term water supply.

Because large-scale weather patterns typically move northward during the summer months, Oklahoma’s weather is more strongly influenced by local conditions. “Summer in Oklahoma is much more sensitive than other seasons to recent rainfall patterns. When late spring is dry in Oklahoma, the subsequent summers show a tendency toward warmer and drier conditions,” says Arndt, adding that NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center calls for drought to persist across western Oklahoma through August 2006.



Statewide drought conditions in mid-July. Source: U.S. Drought Monitor, www.drought.unl.edu/dm/monitor.html



Boathouse on Wewoka Lake (Seminole County) in early July. Lake levels are more than 50 inches below normal.

2006 OWRB Priority Legislation

The Oklahoma State Legislature adjourned its special session on June 23. The following three bills represent those having the greatest impact on state water management and future OWRB activities.

SB 1574: The legislation amends the waste provisions of the groundwater statutes by increasing steps taken by the OWRB to assure waste violations cease. Currently, the law specifies that the OWRB must gather evidence and file a complaint with the district court. The measure requires the OWRB first to pursue voluntary compliance, issue cease and desist orders by the Executive Director, and pursue suspension of permits and other administrative remedies before proceeding to the district attorney.

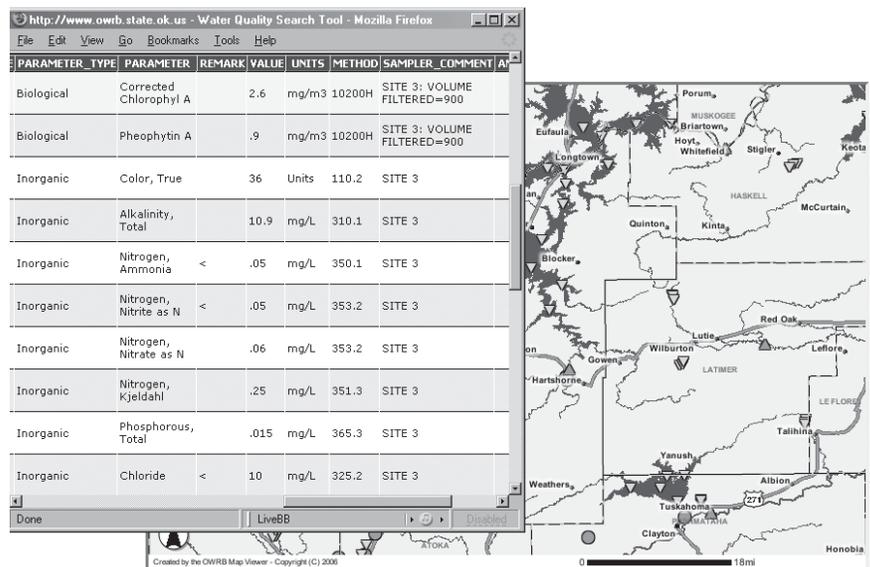
HB 1121: The OWRB appropriation bill provides last year's base appropriation plus some common adjustments for the 5% employee pay raise and overhead. It provides \$2.2 million in General Revenues Funds for the OWRB REAP Grant Program. It provides \$301,000 for contractual services with the Oklahoma Rural Water Association for technical assistance and training to rural water and wastewater system operators or board members. It also authorizes the expenditure of \$1,012,332 of carryover revenues from the Gross Production Tax REAP Water Projects Fund for continuation of the Arbuckle Simpson Study, Chloride Control Study activities, and additional Oklahoma Rural Water Association contractual services for training and other water projects.

HB 1173: The legislation dedicates one-third of the proceeds from the Gross Production Tax REAP Water Projects Fund to the OWRB for the update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan and OWRB Financial Assistance Programs. The remaining two-thirds is evenly split between the Oklahoma Conservation Commission for Conservation Cost Share Program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and rehabilitation of watershed dams; and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission for onetime capital expenditures. The measure provides for the deposit of Gross Production Tax REAP Water Project Fund revenues annually into a newly created Community Water Infrastructure Development Revolving Fund at the OWRB for a period of five years. It is estimated that \$2.14 million will be deposited annually into the revolving fund for comprehensive water planning and water infrastructure financing. The deposits to the revolving fund will cease effective July 1, 2011, and future deposits will go back to the original OWRB Reap Water Projects Fund.

Online Water Quality Data Viewer Wizard Launched

In early July, the OWRB launched a new addition to its online mapping application, WIMS (Water Information Mapping System). WIMS visitors are now able to use a water quality data viewer wizard to access data collected by OWRB staff for various water quality programs. First, the wizard prompts the viewer to select a county or statewide map and zoom into the particular area of interest, to display monitoring stations, and to click a site. A pop-up window will then display all water quality data for that site on a table that can be copied to a spreadsheet or other document.

Originally launched in January, WIMS has been very popular with Web site visitors, who use it to build and view custom-made maps containing water resource and related information. Approximately 44 layers are currently available, including surface and groundwater resources, permit locations (including areas of use and dedicated lands), political boundaries, rural water system lines, roads and highways, geology, and topography.



Other wizards available on the main WIMS page are the Wetlands Map viewer and the Reported Well Locator (also recently launched), which guides the visitor through steps necessary to create a map of a specific area and click on reported wells to obtain well data.

Visit WIMS at www.owrb.state.ok.us/maps/server/wims.php and launch the custom map viewer or try one of the three custom map wizards.

Guthrie Project Improves Drainage

Guthrie citizens and officials are fed up with dirty creeks, streams, and floodways. Concerns about one particular creek surfaced last summer when brush, garbage, and other large debris created a major impediment to the flood-carrying capacity of both the stream channel of Snake Creek, an important drainage outlet for area homeowners and businesses, and the surrounding floodplain.

In some locations, Snake Creek was found to be almost totally blocked, causing its waters to occasionally spill over into adjacent areas. Alerted to the problem, city leaders have commissioned a large-scale channel restoration project, which is about halfway complete.

“When we entered the stream channel, we not only found a good deal of both dead and live vegetation, we discovered a virtual junkyard containing hot water tanks, tires, refrigerators, bathtubs, grocery carts, and a host of other discarded items,” says Darryl Hughes, Director of Municipal Services.

“Snake Creek is somewhat isolated,” he adds, “making it easy for illegal dumping to occur. But in the future, the city’s commitment to increased monitoring and enforcement will all but eliminate this unsightly and potentially hazardous problem.”

Hughes and his staff have also rediscovered “lost” sanitary sewer manholes and have since inspected the area’s sewer system to identify much-needed improvements in how Guthrie, a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program, handles runoff from storm events.

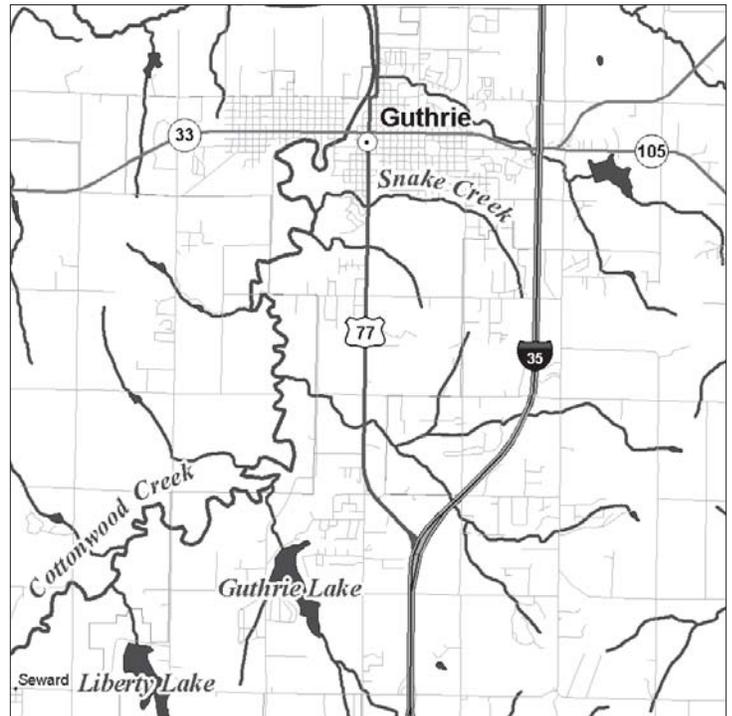
Historically, the community has experienced frequent flooding problems.

Local officials have received valuable assistance from the OWRB in establishing a channel maintenance program.

“We strongly encourage other Oklahoma communities to follow Guthrie’s example and provide required attention to maintaining the natural



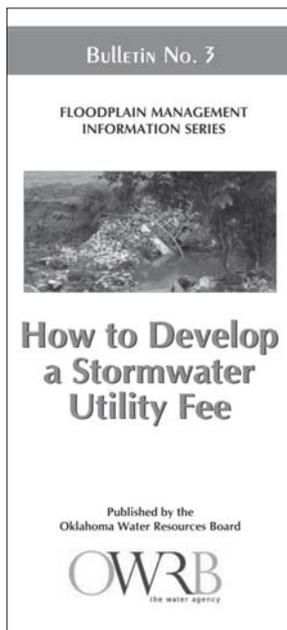
A large tin horn drainage pipe discovered during the project. The abandoned tin horn was later removed.



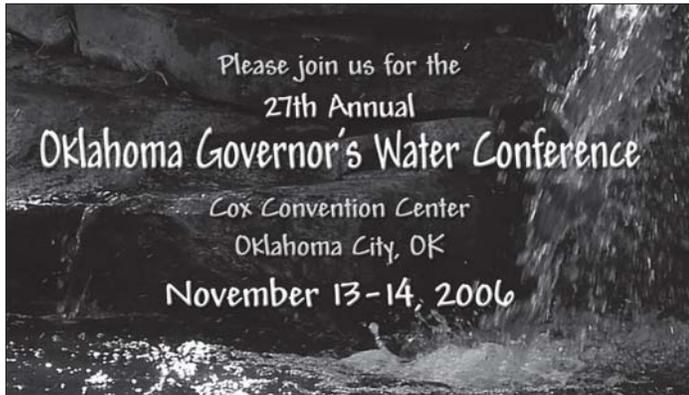
The cleanup of Snake Creek has been focused on restoring the ability of Snake Creek to safely accommodate potentially damaging floodwaters, but an additional benefit has been the beautification of a large portion of the historic area.

benefits of creeks, streams and channels,” says the OWRB’s Planning and Management Division Chief, Mike Mathis, who also serves as State NFIP Coordinator.

He reminds local floodplain administrators that a stormwater utility fee can provide invaluable financial assistance to communities in offsetting costs associated with annual channel maintenance. Contact the OWRB at (405) 530-8800 for a free copy of the informational bulletin, “How to Develop a Stormwater Utility Fee.”



“How to Develop a Stormwater Utility Fee” bulletin, published by the OWRB and available by request at (405) 530-8800



To register, go to www.owrb.state.ok.us or call (405) 530-8800. Reservations for overnight accommodations at the Renaissance Hotel (10 North Broadway, Oklahoma City) can be made by calling 1-405-228-8000 or 1-800-627-7468. A block of rooms and special Water Conference room rate of \$89 per night (single or double) has been reserved for conferees until October 10th.

Drummond Joins Board

In May, F. Ford

Drummond was appointed to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board by Gov. Henry to replace Harry Currie, whose term expired. Representing agriculture, Drummond is an at-large member and will serve a full, seven-year term. A resident of Bartlesville and a fourth-generation Oklahoman, Drummond earned his bachelor's degree in Economics from Stanford University and law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1989. He is currently the owner and operator of Drummond Ranch in Pawhuska, a large family ranch consisting of a cow/calf operation and yearling/stocker program.



Drummond also serves as General Counsel for a regional company providing health claims administration services for self-funded health plans representing employers and employees in a four-state region and providing legal guidance on all aspects of federal health care regulations. He formerly worked in Washington D.C., serving first as a legislative assistant for the House Ways and Means Committee on federal health and welfare issues, and later as Legislative Counsel to the American Medical Association.

Drummond's civic and professional leadership experience includes the following: the Oklahoma Academy for State Goals (Executive Committee), Leadership Oklahoma (Board of Directors), Governor Brad Henry's EDGE Program (Agriculture Expert Panel), Governor Frank Keating's Tax Reform Task Force, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (Vice Chairman of the Tax Committee), and Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (Director).

Kempthorne Confirmed as Interior Secretary

Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne has been confirmed as United States Interior secretary, ending delays caused by the concerns of Gulf Coast lawmakers about offshore drilling.

Sen. Mary L. Landrieu (Louisiana) had put a hold on the nomination in order to press her case that Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states should be earning a greater share of royalties from offshore energy production.

Sen. Bill Nelson (Florida) had a different concern. His hold was designed to win assurances that his state's beaches would be protected from drilling in the Gulf of Mexico.

"As a part of my promise to Florida, I have said I could not support an Interior secretary who would advance this administration's willingness to acquiesce to the oil lobby and its ever-increasing desire for greater profits beyond even the recent, record levels," Nelson said.

Landrieu said "significant progress" had been made in her quest for a greater state share of royalty payments, and she praised Kempthorne on the floor. "He has shown a great deal of ability in mediating very difficult issues," she said. "He showed that skill as a member of the Senate, and I am sure he will do so as secretary of Interior."

Kempthorne, a Republican, served one term in the Senate before his initial 1998 election as governor. He succeeds Gale A. Norton—a Coloradan and the first woman to hold the position—in overseeing the nation's mineral resources, wildlife programs and millions of acres of public lands.

Landrieu said she expected Kempthorne to lead the Interior Department in a "partnership" with Gulf Coast states "as the nation struggles to find new ways to produce oil and gas." She has long advocated a greater share for states of royalty revenue to help them pursue hurricane protection, flood control and wetlands restoration.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Pete V. Domenici (New Mexico) has sponsored a bill (S 2253) to open a portion of the Gulf of Mexico to oil and gas drilling. Landrieu is seeking changes that would give coastal states some of the revenue from leases and royalties, while Florida senators want to push drilling farther off Florida's shores.

Bush nominated Kempthorne, who was in his second term as Idaho governor, after Norton announced her resignation March 10. Kempthorne has been chairman of the National Governors Association. During his Senate tenure from 1993 to 1999, he was chairman of the Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Drinking Water, Fisheries and Wildlife.

Westville Uses Funds to Meet Tough Treatment Standards

Wastewater project funding from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and other state and federal agencies will not only result in a cleaner Barren Fork River, but also help the small community of Westville cope with tough new discharge requirements.

On July 12, Westville leaders formally broke ground on a new state-of-the-art facility that will replace the community's antiquated treatment plant, which is currently under a consent order from the Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality to remove excess phosphorus in its wastewater discharge. At elevated levels, phosphorus and other nutrients in rivers and lakes can result in excess algae growth that limits oxygen, frequently causing adverse impacts to aquatic life. Because the river is a state-protected Scenic River, additional treatment is required to remove nutrients and other potentially harmful pollutants.

Westville will now begin construction of a Sequential Batch Reactor (SBR) treatment plant that features physical, chemical, and biological treatment methodologies, including an ultraviolet disinfection system. To finance the \$3,522,321 project, expected for completion next summer, Westville Municipal Authority will use an OWRB emergency grant of \$100,000 and an OWRB Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grant of \$99,969 (both approved last October) in combination with a \$680,450 loan from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Development and \$2,641,902 in local funds and grants from the USDA and Oklahoma Dept. of Commerce. The town has increased monthly household sewer rates to repay the USDA loan.

According to OWRB Executive Director Duane Smith, Westville is a classic example of a small community that must use limited fiscal resources to comply with increasingly stringent state and federal standards: "Here is a case where you have 827 customers who must somehow pool their resources to finance a 3.5 million dollar project. They are assuming a tremendous burden for the sake of clean water," Smith says. "Because of their commitment to improving Barren Fork Creek and the surrounding environment, Westville officials and citizens have focused their efforts on finding solutions to the problem and making this important project happen."

To combat increasingly high levels of nutrients in state-designated Scenic Rivers, including Barren Fork Creek, the OWRB imposed a first-time numeric limitation on phosphorus discharges and loadings in 2002. State legislation was also passed that required Oklahoma agencies to identify the sources and amount of phosphorus contributions and to implement a Scenic River watershed restoration and protection strategy.

Because many of those protected rivers, such as the Illinois River, share watersheds with Arkansas, environmental officials from both states have entered into an agreement that establishes a 10-year implementation

schedule for compliance with new phosphorus limits. In the meantime, Oklahoma and Arkansas will coordinate monitoring and develop joint watershed plans, including both voluntary and mandatory measures, to reduce phosphorus and achieve other water quality goals in shared watersheds.

"We can't ask cities in Arkansas to do anything cities in Oklahoma are not doing. Communities and industries in both states are responsible for the nutrient problem and are similarly responsible for correcting the problem," Smith says.



Brian Sitsler, Westville Municipal Authority Chairman (center) receives grant checks from Joe Freeman and Shelly Bacon of the OWRB.

Lucas Helps Fund Repairs to Aging Dam

Oklahoma has received \$70,000 to repair an aging flood-control structure in Kingfisher County. The funding, received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program, will be used by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to rehabilitate a 39-year-old flood-control structure in the Cottonwood Creek Watershed in Kingfisher County.

"A large portion of the nation's problem watersheds are in Oklahoma, and they've been protecting lives and property for generations," says Oklahoma Congressman Frank Lucas, who has worked to provide funding for the USDA's program for more than eight years. "But we have to ensure they continue to keep Mother Nature in check."

Lucas authored the Small Watershed Rehabilitation Act, which was signed into law in 2000. The legislation helps finance and provide engineering assistance in rehabilitating the nation's aging watershed dams.

NRCS and its sponsors will now begin the design to bring Cottonwood Creek Site 15 up to current dam design and safety standards. This site, one of 16 single-purpose flood water retarding structures in the watershed, was completed in 1967 as a low hazard site, but is today classified as high hazard due to development in its watershed. If left uncorrected, the lives of approximately 44 residents could be at risk while another 107 individuals could be adversely affected by flood water damages.

Oklahoma, the first state to build a flood control structure, leads the nation in the number of flood control dams with more than 2,100 structures.

Oklahoma Drought Monitor

Reservoir Storage

As of June 26, the combined normal conservation pools of 31 selected major federal reservoirs across Oklahoma (see below) are approximately 93 percent full, a 0.9 percent decrease from that recorded on June 5, according to information from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Tulsa District). Twenty-three reservoirs have experienced lake level decreases since that time; 17 reservoirs are currently operating at less than full capacity. Three reservoirs are now below 80 percent capacity.

Storage in Selected Oklahoma Lakes & Reservoirs

As of June 26, 2006

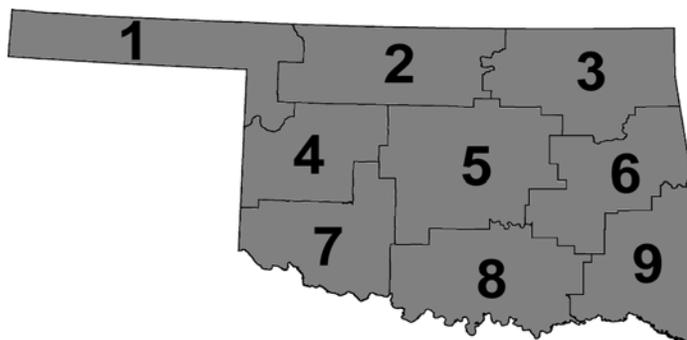
CLIMATE DIVISION	Conservation Storage (acre-feet)	Present Storage (acre-feet)	Percent of Storage (acre-feet)
North Central (2)	505,170	504,164	99.8
Northeast (3)	3,766,342	3,668,667	97.4
West Central (4)	276,790	258,036	93.2
Central (5)	154,225	127,123	82.4
East Central (6)	3,183,243	2,801,666	88.0
Southwest (7)	301,810	191,343	63.4
South Central (8)	3,118,676	2,911,402	93.4
Southeast (9)	1,561,859	1,510,304	96.7
State Totals	12,868,115	11,972,705	93.0

Drought Indices

According to the latest Palmer Drought Severity Index (June 24, below), state drought conditions continue to worsen as all regions report various stages of drought. In particular, the East Central, Southwest, Central, Southeast, Northwest, and South Central climate divisions are in "severe drought." All of Oklahoma's nine climate divisions have undergone PDSI moisture decreases since June 3.

The latest monthly Standardized Precipitation Index (through May, below) reflects increasingly dry conditions throughout Oklahoma. Among the selected time periods (3-, 6-, 9- and 12-month SPIs), "extremely" dry conditions are present in East Central and Southeast Oklahoma during the past 9 to 12 months. Seven climate divisions are experiencing at least "very" dry conditions during the last 6-, 9-, and/or 12-month periods.

Oklahoma Climate Divisions



Palmer Drought Severity Index

CLIMATE DIVISION	Current Status 6/24/2006
Northwest (1)	Severe Drought
North Central (2)	Moderate Drought
Northeast (3)	Moderate Drought
West Central (4)	Moderate Drought
Central (5)	Severe Drought
East Central (6)	Severe Drought
Southwest (7)	Severe Drought
South Central (8)	Severe Drought
Southeast (9)	Severe Drought

Standardized Precipitation Index

Through May 2006

CLIMATE DIVISION	3-month	6-month	9-month	12-month
Northwest (1)	Moderately Dry	Very Dry	Very Dry	Near Normal
North Central (2)	Near Normal	Moderately Dry	Very Dry	Near Normal
Northeast (3)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Very Dry	Moderately Dry
West Central (4)	Near Normal	Moderately Dry	Moderately Dry	Near Normal
Central (5)	Near Normal	Very Dry	Very Dry	Near Normal
East Central (6)	Near Normal	Moderately Dry	Extremely Dry	Extremely Dry
Southwest (7)	Near Normal	Very Dry	Very Dry	Near Normal
South Central (8)	Near Normal	Near Normal	Moderately Dry	Near Normal
Southeast (9)	Near Normal	Moderately Dry	Very Dry	Extremely Dry

Financial Assistance Program Update

Loans/Grants Approved as of June 20, 2006

FAP Loans—318 totaling \$620,765,000

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—174 totaling \$600,159,915

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—61 totaling \$287,406,785

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—451 totaling \$39,445,213

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—523 totaling \$30,692,882

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—1,527 totaling \$1,578,469,795

Estimated Savings—\$492,082,399

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*

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