

# OKLAHOMA Water News

3rd Quarter 2017

## Inside

Author Seth Siegel to  
Keynote Governor's Water  
Conference

Governor's Water  
Conference Agenda

OWRB REAP Grant to Help  
with Cleveland County  
Water Needs

OWRB Launches Fish  
Monitoring Sites Map Viewer

Drought Update

FAP Update

## Author Seth Siegel To Keynote Governor's Water Conference

The 38th Annual Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference will be held on October 31 - November 1 at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Norman, OK. This year's keynote speaker is Seth Siegel, author of *Let There Be Water*, which focuses on the methods and techniques that have enabled Israel to lead the world in cutting-edge water technology.

According to Siegel, Israel can serve as a model for other countries on how to combat water shortages. Even though 60 percent of Israel is comprised of desert, the country has not only solved its water problems, but now has an abundance of water—enough to supply water to its neighbors in Palestine and the Kingdom of Jordan.

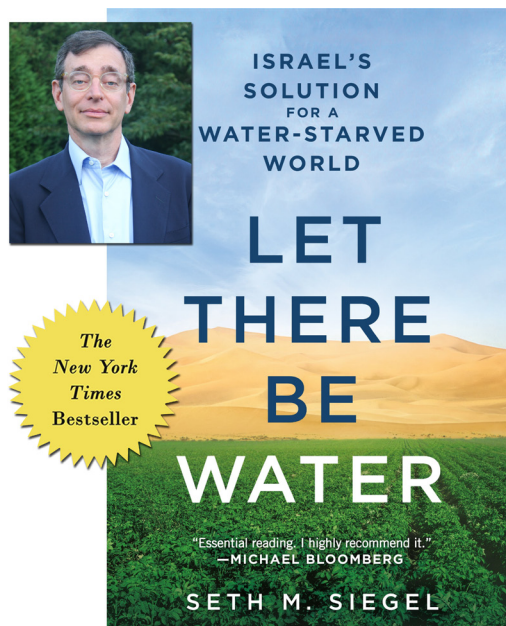
In *Let There Be Water*, Siegel offers an analysis of water-saving innovations like the creation of smart seeds for drought-friendly plants, careful reuse of treated wastewater, and desalination. He also points out that cooperation on water systems can forge diplomatic ties and promote unity.

Siegel's essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and many other publications on business, political, and cultural issues. Siegel is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, an independent, nonpartisan membership organization and think tank dedicated to a better understanding of the world and foreign policy choices. ♦

## From the Director

We have closed the books on another summer of unpredictable Oklahoma weather! The statewide rainfall fluctuated from well below average in July to almost record high in early August and back into dry weather in early September (see page 4)! The quarter ended with severe shortages in the Southeast region, which typically leads the state in average rainfall. Once again, this provides all the more reason for every community across the state to prepare for drought, which can appear at any time and place with little warning!

From Oct. 31-Nov. 1, the OWRB and Oklahoma Water Resources Center will host the 38th Annual Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference and Research Symposium. As always, we have prepared a full slate of dynamic experts to address the state and nation's most important water issues and we anticipate 300 to 400 attendees—public water officials and academics, private professionals, students, and citizens who share an avid interest in Oklahoma's water resources management, development, and protection.



*Seth Siegel's Let There Be Water focuses on the methods and techniques that have enabled Israel to lead the world in cutting-edge water technology. Complimentary copies of the book will be offered to attendees of the Oklahoma Governor's Water Conference on Oct. 31-Nov. 1 at the Embassy Suites in Norman.*



Julie Cunningham, Executive Director  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board

(continued on page 2)





### From the Director (continued)


With this year's theme—"Liquid Assets: the Value of Water Investment in Oklahoma"—we will focus on the economic value of water and water infrastructure investment in the agriculture, municipal, industrial, tourism, energy, and navigation water use sectors and the impact it has on our economy and way of life.

Governor Mary Fallin will kick off the event, followed by keynote speaker, Seth Siegel, author of the New York Times bestseller *Let There Be Water*. Attendees will hear from experts from each sector as well as our congressional and state legislative delegation; Major General Ed Jackson, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, US Army Corps of Engineers; Kenneth Wagner, Senior Advisor to the Administrator for Regional and State Affairs, US Environmental Protection Agency; and Layne Carter, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, regarding important legislation, infrastructure, federal support, and water recycling in space.

We will celebrate the OWRB's 60th anniversary with a look back at milestones in Oklahoma's rich water history; present the Water Pioneer award to a new group of distinguished honorees who have positively impacted Oklahoma's water management; and present our first-ever Water for 2060 Excellence Awards to deserving nominees who demonstrate water efficiency, conservation, and recycling in Oklahoma's largest water use sectors—Public Water Supply, Crop Irrigation/Agriculture Production, and Energy/Industry.

There are many other great speakers and topics lined up for what will be an engaging two days of focus on Oklahoma water. Please take a look at the agenda and visit [www.owrb.ok.gov/GWC](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/GWC) for the most up-to-date information. I look forward to seeing you at the Conference! ♦

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD



60 YEARS

OKLAHOMA'S WATER AGENCY SINCE 1957

INNOVATION • COLLABORATION • SOUND SCIENCE • SERVICE

---

ALL former OWRB employees are invited to attend the 60th anniversary luncheon on Oct. 31 at noon! Please RSVP to Mary Schooley or Mary Nell Brueggen at (405) 530-8800.

PLEASE RSVP BY OCTOBER 20.

### WATER CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

THE VALUE  
OF WATER  
INVESTMENT  
IN OKLAHOMA

OCT 31-NOV 1, 2017  
EMBASSY SUITES, NORMAN

LIQUID  
ASSETS

## OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR'S WATER CONFERENCE AND RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

### October 31, 2017

#### 8:30 WELCOME

Ford Drummond, Chairman, OWRB  
Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin  
Keynote: Seth Siegel, Author of *Let There Be Water*

#### 10:00 BREAK

#### 10:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

##### Water Conference: Energy Panel

Michael Teague, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy & Environment  
Michael Dunkel, CH2M, Facilitator for the Produced Water Working Group  
Nikki Fuller, Executive Director, Southwestern Power Resources Association  
Usha-Maria Turner, OGE Energy Corp

##### Research Symposium: Poster Presentations

#### 12:00 LUNCHEON

Video Welcome from Senator James Inhofe  
OWRB 60th Anniversary Celebration  
Julie Cunningham, Executive Director, OWRB  
Dr. Bob Blackburn, Executive Director, Oklahoma Historical Society  
Oklahoma Water Pioneer Awards

#### 2:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

##### Research Symposium: Irrigation Water Use Efficiency

##### Water Conference: Nonconsumptive Use Panel

Video Welcome from Congressman Tom Cole  
Scott Robinson, Director, Port of Muskogee  
Roy Williams, CCE, President & CEO, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber  
Dian Jordan, PhD, Sociologist

#### 3:00 BREAK

#### 3:30 GENERAL SESSION

Gary McManus, Oklahoma State Climatologist  
Major General Ed Jackson, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)  
Kenneth Wagner, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Poster Contest Award Winners: Dr. Kevin Wagner, Director, OWRB

#### 5:00 RECEPTION

### November 1, 2017

#### 8:30 WELCOME

Julie Cunningham, Executive Director, OWRB  
Water for 2060 Excellence Awards  
Michael Teague, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy & Environment  
Jim Reese, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture  
Keynote: Layne Carter, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center  
Oklahoma Legislative Update

#### 10:00 BREAK

#### 10:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

##### Water Conference: Municipal and Industrial Panel

Matt Newman, Tulsa Regional Water Policy Task Force  
Robert Moore, Manager, Marshall County Water Corp.  
Kim Peterson, Mayor, Guyton, OK  
Marc Hoss, Plant Manager, Koch Industries

##### Continuing Legal Education Sessions, OBA Environmental Law Section

##### Research Symposium: Role of University Water Centers & Institutes Federal & State Programs to Support Water Management in Oklahoma

#### 12:00 LUNCHEON

Dr. Todd Halihan, Professor of Hydrogeophysics, Oklahoma State University  
Video Welcome from Senator James Lankford  
4H Speech Contest Winners

#### 2:00 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

##### Water Conference: Agriculture Panel

Video Welcome from Congressman Frank Lucas  
Jim Reese, Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture  
Tracy Streeter, Executive Director, Kansas Water Office Director  
Jimmy Emmons, Leedy, OK  
Dan Sebert, National Watershed Coalition

##### Symposium Session 4: Surface Water Assessment & Management

#### 3:00 BREAK/ADJOURN WATER CONFERENCE

#### 3:30 Research Symposium: Groundwater Hydrologic Evaluations

##### OWRB Monthly Meeting

#### 5:00 ADJOURN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

## OWRB REAP Grant to Help with Cleveland County Water Needs

On September 20, a special reception was held by the Cleveland County RWSG & SWMD #1 to accept a ceremonial check from the OWRB for a Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grant approved in late June. The \$150,000 grant will be used to explore opportunities for adding a water supply source.

The District's goal is to supply water services to the rural community located on the east side of Cleveland County, which currently has no public water or sewer facilities. Residents have been relying on shallow wells, pond water filtering systems, and hand dug cisterns, as well as septic systems for sewage disposal. For some areas, in addition to insufficient quantities of groundwater, there are significant water quality issues as well.

To help alleviate these needs, the District has entered into a groundwater lease agreement with Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to take and use 960 acre-feet per year of groundwater from 1,920 acres of land. The grant funding will be utilized for water rights acquisition, surveying, and drilling a deep test well.

In addition to supplying services to the rural community, the District plans to provide water supply to the City of Lexington to meet about 35 percent of the city's demand.



OWRB presentation of ceremonial check to Cleveland County RWSG & SWMD #1. Pictured left to right: Kimberly Hornbuckle, Consulting Engineer; Kent Wilkins, OWRB; Joe Freeman, OWRB; Harold Haralson, Cleveland County Commissioner; Bobby Cleveland, State Representative; Gary Koehn, District Board Member; Jerri Hargis, OWRB; Sara Senyondo, OWRB; Richard Tarp, District Treasurer; and Robert Grisham, District Board Member.

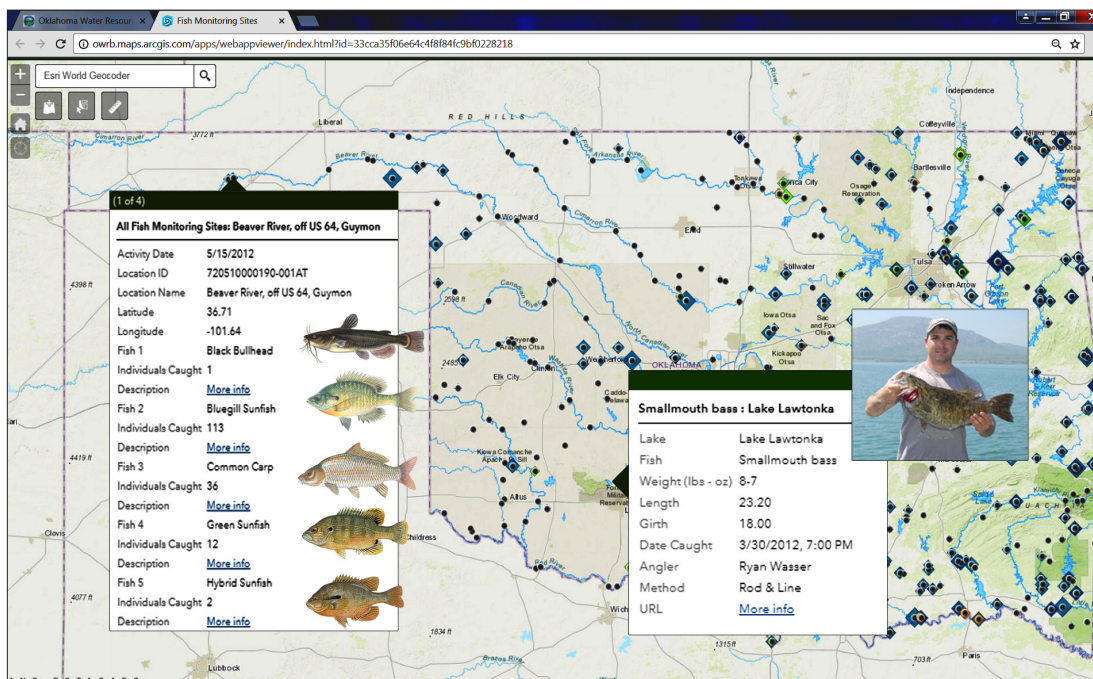
Joe Freeman, chief of the OWRB's Financial Assistance Division, calculated that the grant will save the District's customers \$270,000 in principal and interest charges by not having to borrow the project funds.

State Representative Bobby Cleveland also attended the ceremony to show his support of water and wastewater infrastructure funding for rural areas of Oklahoma. 💧

## OWRB Launches Fish Monitoring Sites Map Viewer

The OWRB's Streams Monitoring section has collaborated with OWRB GIS staff to launch an interactive map viewer highlighting the agency's fish collection data from 2003 to 2016 at nearly 400 sites across the state.

Biological specimens are analyzed as part of the OWRB's Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP) and the Statewide Surface Water Statistical Survey monitoring program. More than 150 species are represented on the viewer, which can be accessed at [www.owrb.ok.gov/maps](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/maps).



OWRB's new Fish Monitoring Sites map viewer. To access the viewer, visit [www.owrb.ok.gov/maps](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/maps).

The layers panel to the left of the map viewer allows the user to select to view all fish species collected, fish by type, or all sports fish. Some sites are linked to record fish data and photos.

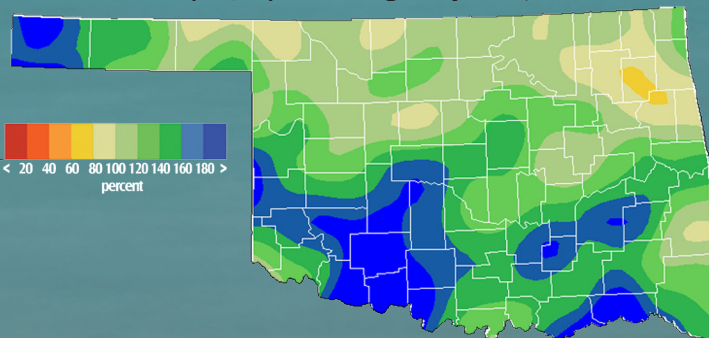
The goal of the OWRB's monitoring programs is to provide statistically sound, unbiased information on the health of streams and rivers across Oklahoma. OWRB staff collect fish data between May and October from each stream reach using seines or electrofishing equipment, depending on water conditions. Most fish are identified on site and released. 💧



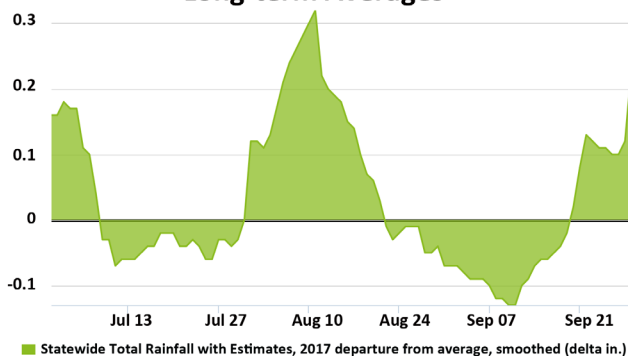
# Drought Update

## Percent of Normal Precipitation

Last 90 Days (July 2 through Sept. 29, 2017)

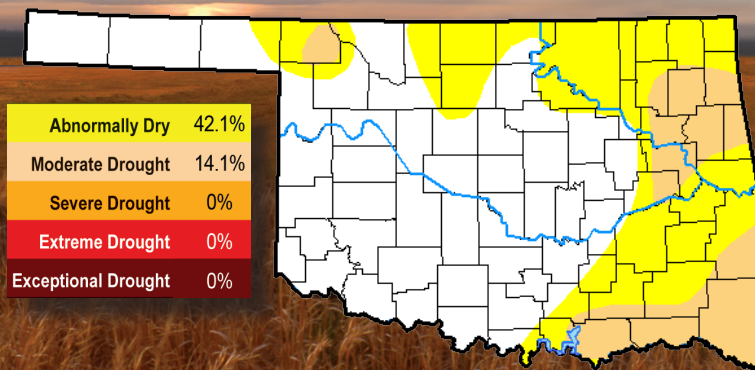


### Long-term Averages



## U.S. Drought Monitor

October 3, 2017



Data obtained from the National Drought Mitigation Center and Oklahoma Climatological Survey. For more drought information, and to obtain updated information on Oklahoma's drought and moisture conditions, visit [www.drought.ok.gov](http://www.drought.ok.gov).

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Loans & Grants Approved as of September 30, 2017

### FA Loans—380 totaling \$1,022,310,000

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 very competitive interest rates.

### CWSRF Loans—309 totaling \$1,455,918,950

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program was created in 1988 to provide a renewable financing source for communities to use 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—190 totaling \$1,166,748,300

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program is an initiative of the OWRB and ODEQ 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—672 totaling \$59,561,641

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

### Emergency Grants—575 totaling \$34,178,455

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.

### Drought Response Program Grants—6 totaling \$418,848

Through the OWRB's Drought Response Program, funding is available for communities in most dire need during state drought emergencies declared by the Governor. A maximum of \$300,000 is diverted from existing OWRB Emergency Grant proceeds to fund the Program.

### Water for 2060 Grants—8 totaling \$2,625,000

Through the Water for 2060 Grant Program, funding is available for municipalities, counties, water/sewer districts and other public entities for projects that highlight the responsible use of water.

### Total Loans/Grants Approved: 2,140 totaling \$3,741,761,193

### Estimated Savings: \$1,267,704,274

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. **For more information, call (405) 530-8800 or go to [www.owrb.ok.gov/financing](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/financing).**

# OKLAHOMA Water News

3rd Quarter, 2017

Published online at [www.owrb.ok.gov](http://www.owrb.ok.gov).

Follow us on twitter @OKWaterBoard for publication notification.

The Oklahoma Water News is published quarterly by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board as authorized by Julie Cunningham, Executive Director. For questions, comments, or article submissions, please contact Darla Whitley, Editor, at [pubinfo@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:pubinfo@owrb.ok.gov) or (405) 530-8800.

Ford Drummond, Chairman • Jason Hitch, Vice-Chairman • Stephen Allen, Secretary  
Tom Buchanan • Charles Darby • Bob Drake • Linda Lambert • Robert Melton • Robert Stallings