

J.D. Strong, Executive Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
www.owrb.ok.gov
(405) 530-8800
jdstrong@environment.ok.gov



Oklahoma Water Resources Board



The OWRB develops policy and conducts the state's water business through a nine-member Board appointed by the Governor. Members serve staggered seven-year terms and represent all geographic areas of the state and diverse groups of water users.

Board Members:
Rudy Herrmann, Chairman
Mark Nichols, Vice Chairman
Linda Lambert, Secretary
Ford Drummond
Ed Fite
Marilyn Feaver
Kenneth K. Knowles
Richard Sevenoaks
Joe Taron

State of Oklahoma

OWRB
WATER RESOURCES BOARD
the water agency

OWRB Mission

To enhance the quality of life for Oklahomans by managing, protecting and improving the state's water resources to ensure clean, safe, and reliable water supplies, a strong economy, and a healthy environment.

The OWRB is

- ...the state's water agency;*
- ...multi-use balancers of the state's water resources;*
- ...leaders of water issues and the first choice for Oklahoma in problem-solving increasingly complex water issues; and*
- ...professionals and the recognized experts in our field.*

Agency Goals

Develop, implement and promote sound water policies, programs and plans to protect lives, property and Oklahoma's water resources.

Build partnerships and increase public awareness to encourage responsible stewardship of Oklahoma's water resources.

Improve service to the public by maximizing agency efficiency and innovation, and through promotion of a healthy, safe, productive and inclusive working environment.



Agency Structure

The OWRB's **Administrative Services Division** provides administrative and programmatic support to all agency programs and divisions through the Office of General Counsel, Financial Management, Legislative & Media Relations, Human Resources, and Information & Technology Services.

The **Financial Assistance Division** is dedicated to assisting communities and rural water districts in maintaining critical water and wastewater infrastructure. The primary duties of the Division include managing the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), the State Revenue Bond Loan Program (FAP), emergency grants, and the Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) grants program.

The **Water Quality Programs Division** is responsible for developing Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards (WQS) and WQS Implementation Rules. These companion rules are key Federal Clean Water Act tools to assure that pollution abatement and restoration programs are done in a scientifically sound and consistent manner. The Division is also responsible for studying and restoring Oklahoma's valuable reservoirs, and administering Oklahoma's Beneficial Use Monitoring Program (BUMP), which monitors all of the state's surface waters for chemical, physical and biological integrity.

The **Planning and Management Division** fulfills the critical mission of long-term planning and management of the state's waters. The primary duties of the Division include water rights permitting and administration, comprehensive water planning, interstate stream compact administration, floodplain management, dam safety, oversight of well drillers, and technical studies.

What We Do

The OWRB accomplishes its mission through the following programs and activities:

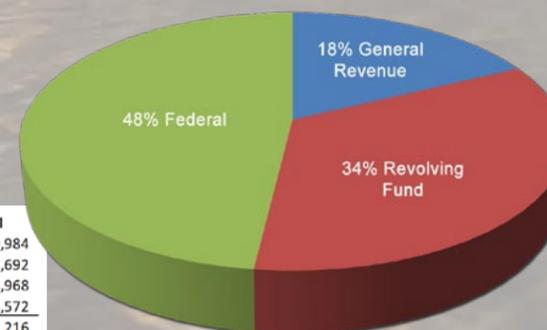
- Creation and update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan to provide safe and dependable water supply for all Oklahomans and information for making water-related decisions.
- Administration of the use of surface and groundwater in the state, which currently includes more than 12,000 water rights permits on file for almost 6 million acre-feet (2 trillion gallons) of water.
- Coordination of the state's largest financial assistance program funding water and wastewater infrastructure in Oklahoma. To date, the agency has issued more than \$2 billion in loans and grants for those infrastructure improvements.
- Promulgation of State water quality standards and coordination of Oklahoma's most comprehensive water quality monitoring network, including data collected from 155 lakes and streams at approximately 600 sites.

- Conducting hydrologic investigations and intensive studies of individual State lakes, streams, and aquifers to address questions concerning quality and quantity.
- Licensing of all water well drillers in the state to ensure the integrity of well construction and prevent potential groundwater contamination, and maintenance of a database of approximately 35,000 water well logs that are accessible to the public.
- Coordination of floodplain management activities in Oklahoma to ensure construction and development is conducted in a manner that preserves the benefits of Oklahoma's floodplains.
- Support of state activities in four interstate stream compacts.
- Coordination of Oklahoma's Dam Safety Program to ensure the integrity of more than 4,500 dams.

Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

The OWRB is required by 82 O.S. 1086.1 through 1086.5 to update the **Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP)** every 10 years. The last update occurred in 1995. The Governor and Oklahoma Legislature, during special session in June 2006, showed unprecedented support by passing legislation to fund the OCWP from Gross Production Tax revenues of approximately \$1.3 million annually through 2012. During the 2009 Legislative Session, OCWP funding was extended though FY-2014 to begin implementation of the plan. As the OCWP nears completion (scheduled for the 2012 Legislative Session), funding for implementation becomes the critical next phase. An extensive statewide, collaborative public participation initiative has been completed, which ensured public involvement and stakeholder access to this unprecedented statewide water planning process. From that process, as well as from technical studies and the input of other state water management agencies, will come a list of prioritized, phased recommendations that will require varied levels of action, which may include policy changes, rulemaking, research, workgroup formation or new programs.

Budget Breakdown	Gen Rev		Revolving		Federal		Total
Administrative Services	1,391,725	24%	1,093,442	10%	604,817	4%	3,089,984
Financial Assistance	-	0%	3,258,160	30%	685,532	4%	3,943,692
Planning and Management	739,012	13%	1,951,445	18%	564,511	4%	3,254,968
Water Quality	1,459,059	26%	1,051,329	10%	654,184	4%	3,164,572
Subtotal OWRB	3,589,796	63%	7,354,376	67%	2,509,044	16%	13,453,216
Pass-through							
Secretary of Environment	118,639	2%	3,581,428	33%	12,898,552	84%	16,598,619
Oklahoma Rural Water Association	239,527	4%	-	0%	-	0%	239,527
REAP	1,750,609	31%	-	0%	-	0%	1,750,609
Subtotal Pass-through	2,108,775	37%	3,581,428	33%	12,898,552	84%	18,588,755
Total	\$ 5,698,571	100%	\$ 10,935,804	100%	\$ 15,407,596	100%	\$ 32,041,971



Agency Budget

From FY 2009 to FY 2011, the OWRB's budget experienced a 16 percent reduction in general revenue.

FY 2011 Operational Budget		
General Revenue	\$ 5,698,571	18%
Revolving Funds	\$ 10,935,804	34%
Federal (Including ARRA)	\$ 15,407,596	48%
Total	\$ 32,041,971	100%

Key Issues for the OWRB

- Finalize and implement the *Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan*.
- Address declining State appropriations and its potential negative impact Financial Assistance Program bond ratings, OWRB State Revolving Fund programs, grant assistance, and Rural Economic Action Plan funding for struggling Oklahoma communities and rural water districts.
- Maintain sufficient technical information and data on which to base intelligent water management decisions.
- Reduce the potential for groundwater contamination through continued oversight of well drilling and other regulated activities.
- Eliminate safety risks from aging dam infrastructure through oversight of construction and maintenance activities and improved emergency action planning.
- Resolve pending claims and lawsuits over southern Oklahoma waters, including Sardis Reservoir.
- Initiate discussions with Oklahoma's Tribal governments concerning water rights claims and related water interests.
- Proactively address out-of-state interests in Oklahoma water supplies.
- Reverse declining water quality in the Illinois River and other Scenic River watersheds.
- Finalize hydrologic and water allocation studies for the Arbuckle-Simpson and Garber-Wellington groundwater basins.

Oklahoma Water Resources Board members and staff are dedicated to the belief that all Oklahomans deserve access to clean water, both today and in future generations.

All OWRB programs and activities have been designed to assist Oklahoma citizens in the management and protection of our precious water resources.

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Contact Information:

Josh McClintock
Director of Government & Public Relations
 (405) 530-8800/(405) 808-3960
jjmclintock@owrb.ok.gov