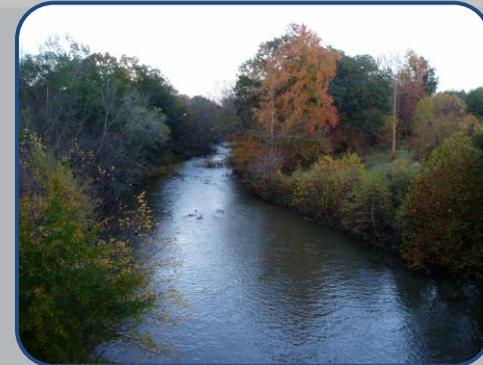
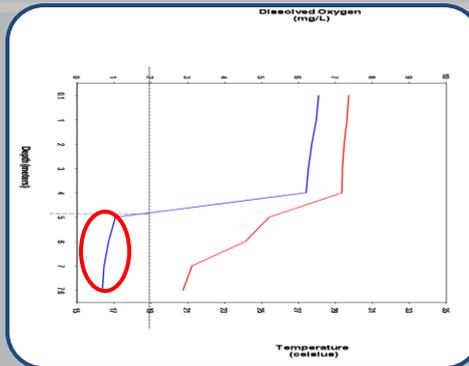


# DEVELOPMENT of OKLAHOMA'S WETLAND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS - A STAKEHOLDER PROCESS

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# Water Quality Standards



**Beneficial  
Use**

**Criteria**

**Anti -  
degradation  
Policy**

# Oklahoma's WQ Standards

- Dull (but important) regulatory citations.....
  - Oklahoma Administrative Code, Title 785, Chapter 45
    - Subchapter 3 – Antidegradation Requirements
    - Subchapter 5 – Surface Water Quality Standards
      - Generally organized by beneficial use & supporting criteria
      - Designated Beneficial Uses (Appendix A) – lakes & streams
      - Default Beneficial Uses – all surface waters
  
- What about wetlands?

# WQ Standards for Wetlands

- ❑ Wetlands are a water of the state, but not specifically addressed in standards
- ❑ Wetlands protected with default standards
- ❑ Default standards often not applicable to wetland waterbodies
- ❑ Need new standard to fully and accurately protect wetland waterbodies



Say  
What?

# Stakeholder Engagement

## Wetlands Technical Work Group

- ❑ OK Environmental Agencies
- ❑ Army Corps of Engineers
- ❑ OSU
- ❑ NRCS
- ❑ EPA
- ❑ Indian Nation Council of Governments
- ❑ Association Central OK Governments

# Technical Work Group - Progress to Date

- Agreement to apply federal wetland definition in OK
- Support for preliminary draft beneficial uses
- Started discussion on narrative criteria



# Technical Work Group – Additional Work

- Continue criteria discussion & gain support
- Discuss application of Antidegradation Policy
- Consider implementation approaches



# Stakeholder Engagement

## Oklahoma Wetlands Work Group

- Technical Work Group
- Regulated Community
- Environmental Groups
- Tribes

# Wetland Work Group – Expected Activity

- Share technical progress/approach & receive feedback
- Provide input/expertise on implementation approach
- Provide input/expertise on policy considerations
- Inform official rulemaking
- Kick off – summer 2014



# Official Rulemaking

- Anticipate official rulemaking for wetland standards in fall 2014

Rulemaking Task
Publish notice of rulemaking
Proposed rules available for 45 day public comment
Water Board consideration of proposed rule
Submit for legislative & gubernatorial review, if adopted
EPA approval, if approved by state

# Questions & Contact



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