

OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

At the Sixth Annual Water Conference in 1986, the Water Resources Board initiated a ceremony that has become a cherished tradition of the Conference.

That year, we recognized the first 23 Oklahoma Water Pioneers -- crusaders, dreamers and doers in Oklahoma water development. Many of them honored us with their presence, and that day, we stood in the company of giants.

Some of them have not survived to see this Fourteenth Water Conference, but among those early Oklahoma Pioneers are Bernice Crockett, who now lives in Shawnee; Dr. Lloyd Church of Wilburton; Forrest Nelson of Norman; Leonard Solomon of Edmond; Robert S. Kerr, Jr. of Oklahoma City and Jacques Cunningham of Tulsa.

Having "caught up" that first year, the OWRB and sponsors limited the number of honorees at successive Conferences. Today, 60 names are engraved on the bronze plaque that commemorates Oklahoma Water Pioneers. Among those recognized in recent years are Paul Horton, Sen. Ray Giles, Raymond Gary, Bob Anderson, George Nigh, E.F. (Doc) Coker and Jack Grimmatt, Sr.

Again on November 17, we look forward to the privilege of honoring

Continued on page 2

Governor's Water Conference To Target "Unfunded Mandates"

*Nov. 17 Conference to examine burden of regulations
cities, towns, rural entities must shoulder for the feds*

"Infrastructures Under Pressure: Unfunded Mandates" is the theme of the Fourteenth Annual Governor's Water Conference to be held November 17 at the Marriott Hotel in Oklahoma City. The Conference is an annual forum



Governor David Walters

coordinated by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and sponsored by two dozen other water organizations.

Following opening remarks by OWRB Chairman Roberts S. Kerr, Jr., and a welcome by Governor David Walters, Mayor Susan Savage of Tulsa will examine the folly of "one-size-fits-all" federal regulations in her keynote on the "Unfunded Mandates" theme.

Mayor Savage was elected in August 1992, and as chief executive officer

of the City of Tulsa, oversees myriad services enabled by a \$370 million annual budget. Savage, representing the National Conference of Mayors, addressed the National Governors' Association meeting in August on the topic of federal mandates. She is a native Tulsan, honor graduate of Beaver College (Glenside, PA.) with a BA degree in Sociology with emphasis on criminal justice and economics, and granddaughter of retired U.S. District Judge Royce Savage. She has studied and worked with courts and prison systems in the U.S. and England. Savage completed independent studies at the City of London Polytechnic and the University of Aix-

Continued on page 2



Mayor Susan Savage

Director, continued from page 1

an elite few for luminous careers in water resources. Their names will join others on the bronze plaque that is inscribed..."In appreciation for their wisdom in developing Oklahoma's great rivers and groundwaters, and preserving the integrity and beauty of the state's waters for future generations."

Conference, continued from page 1
Marseilles, Aix-en-Provence, France.

From the perspective of small towns, Ann Cole, EPA Small Community Coordinator, will describe the impact of environmental regulations on small communities. Cole was selected in 1989 to be EPA's first Small Community Coordinator, a position charged with representing the small community and small government perspective within the agency. She formerly was director of Federal Affairs for the National Association of Towns and Townships, representing more than 13,000 small local governments. During that time, she brought community concerns to the attention of Congress, federal agencies and the White House.

A mid-morning panel will discuss innovative approaches and success stories in coping with costly federal regulations. Panelists will describe alternatives including regionalization of rural water systems; funding through Capital Improvements Planning and Community Development Block Grants; innovative wastewater treatment systems; and sales taxes to finance infrastructure.

Members of the Oklahoma Congress-

sional Delegation are invited to update conferees on timely Washington issues in the program segment preceding lunch.

The featured luncheon speaker is Robert E. Roberts, South Dakota Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, a champion of communities in challenging federally mandated regulatory programs. (Roberts is the author of an article on page 3, "When the EPA Came to Buffalo Gap.")

Oklahoma Legislators, including members of the Oklahoma Senate and House Appropriations Committees and co-chairmen of the Rural Water Task Force are also invited to make brief remarks during the luncheon program.

The presentation of Oklahoma Water Pioneer Awards, a tradition of the Governor's Water Conference will follow on the agenda. Each year the awards recognize Oklahomans who have made outstanding contributions to the protection, conservation and development of the state's water resources.

The final session of the Fourteenth Annual Water Conference will be the "Water Gazette," briefings on important Oklahoma water issues, including the Franco Decision and its impact on water rights; navigation fuel taxes and an update on the Montgomery Point Lock and Dam; the aftermath of flooding; and a progress report on the first year of the Department of Environmental Quality.

Registration, which includes the luncheon, costs \$25. To register, please return the form with your check, money

order or purchase order made to the Governor's Water Conference.

For more information, call Mary Whitlow, Conference Coordinator, at (405) 231-2523. To register by phone, call Connie Ziegelgruber at (405) 231-2521 or FAX (405) 231-2600. For room reservations at the special conference rate of \$70, single or double, call the Marriott Hotel at (405) 842-6633 by November 1.

Pat Hestand Retires Nov. 30

A reception November 19 for long-time OWRB employee Pat Hestand will mark the end of a 34-year career in state government. Hestand spent 25 of those years at the Water Resources Board, joining the OWRB staff in 1968 from the State Highway Department.

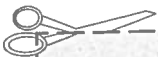
During her career, Hestand worked in every OWRB division and every major program, served under four executive directors and eight Oklahoma governors. She was first employed as receptionist, promoted to



secretary and will retire as an administrative officer in the Water Management Division.

Among the notable accomplishments Hestand recalls were assisting with the typing of the Regional Appraisals, the series of 12 books that preceded the "Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan;" serving as secretary to assistant director, Paul R. Wilson; and processing more permits for stream water and groundwater use than any other Board employee.

She assisted with interstate stream compact meetings, and with her close



Governor's Water Conference
P.O. Box 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150

Please make \$25 check or purchase order payable to GOVERNOR'S WATER CONFERENCE. No refunds considered after November 12. Registration includes luncheon.

Name _____
Representing _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
ZIP _____ Phone (____) _____

When the EPA Came to Buffalo Gap

Come to the Governor's Water Conference on November 17 to hear the author of this article, Robert E. Roberts, South Dakota Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, who will be the featured luncheon speaker. This article by Mr. Roberts is reprinted from the "Environmental Communique of the States," September/October 1993 issue.

"Buffalo Gap, South Dakota, population 173, is larger than 110 other towns in South Dakota. It has an annual budget of \$35,000. The main functions of the mayor of a town like Buffalo Gap are to run a landfill, participate in a rural water system, run a wastewater system and provide some police/volunteer fire/ambulance services which will include an underground storage tank of gasoline. The mayor may be part of the 'regulated community' of four federal environmental acts -- the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D, Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Clean Water Act (CWA) and RCRA Underground Storage Tank (UST).

"Changes in any of the federal acts could not impact the small town of Buffalo Gap more heavily if we had

Hestand, continued from page 2
friend and Water Board associate, Joan Wilkerson, arranged the ceremony for the signing of the Red River Compact. Hestand recalls making arrangements for the ceremony in which Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas compact commissioners signed the historic document at the top of Denison Dam in May 1978.

Friends and associates of Hestand are invited to attend a reception in her honor from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on November 19. It will be held at the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Offices, 600 N. Harvey in Oklahoma City. For more information, please call (405) 231-2500.

Hestand looks forward to enjoying her two grandsons, Trent, 3 1/2, and Tyler, 7; her two daughters, Treva and Rhonda; her husband, Jay; and her many craft projects. She and Jay are avid bowlers and they will continue team bowling, Hestand said.

drawn a circle around the town and targeted it with a smart bomb. The impact of environmental regulations on communities is not limited to small towns in rural states. California, Texas, South Carolina, and local officials from Ohio and Alaska are grappling with this problem, too. It is a national problem.

"State agencies worry about this problem for political, financial and philosophical reasons. States are not just another interest group; they are the building blocks of federalism. 'States are not merely subdivisions of the United States,' wrote Justice O'Connor. 'State governments are neither regional offices nor administrative agencies of the federal government.'

"This is our business because it is our business. The problem here is the belief that more regulations equal more environmental protection. There are six reasons we have this problem:

"1. Environmental rules are too often written to a one-size-fits-all standard. Standards are written in Washington ignoring the vast ecological differences in our country. Utah is nothing like Connecticut, nor is East Texas like West Texas.

"2. Environmental regulations appear to be developed without consideration of other requirements which are being developed simultaneously. Even individual offices within EPA clearly operate on their own time schedules. When landfill and drinking water regulations arrive more or less simultaneously, either has the capacity to exhaust the resources of a small town.

"3. Environmental rules and procedures lack the flexibility to apply to specific situations. For example, we need to clean up petroleum-

contaminated soil where the groundwater is five feet below sandy soil before we do the same where groundwater is 1500 feet below shale. Local officials have some flexibility to prioritize, but not the authority to waive the cleanup. And federal grants cannot be transferred from one environmental medium to another. A western state, with its drinking water in jeopardy but with no air quality problems cannot shift federal money from air to water.

"4. Increasingly, environmental standards are unaccompanied by the necessary funds to implement them. For example, 25 new parameters must be tested for drinking water, but the cost falls entirely on the community, and that requires the commitment of resources. One authority estimates the cost for local governments at more than \$32 billion by the end of this decade. Unfunded mandates give the illusion of environmental protection.

"5. The cost of compliance with environmental regulations is not considered in the development of these regulations. If finite resources are expended on lower-priority problems at the expense of higher-priority risks, then society faces needlessly high risks. No state or local government can divert federal money from a low-risk to a high-risk because of environmental mandates.

"6. Environmental mandates do not occur in a vacuum. From the state perspective. It seems that as the federal government faces increasing budget problems, a transfer of responsibilities from the federal level to the states and local governments is underway. Medicaid mandates and corrections mandates are the two fastest growing parts of many states' budgets. Money spent on one federal mandate is not available to spend on another."

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE Approved at the October Board Meeting

	Grants		Loans (3.572%; 30-year maximum term)	
	Fairmont PWA	\$24,450	Nowata Co. RW&SD #1	\$215,000
Totals as of 10/12/93				
	FAP LOANS		FAP GRANTS	
APPROVED	133		305	
AMOUNT	\$147,220,000.00		\$17,505,279.00	
FUNDED	117		280	
AMOUNT	\$126,280,000.00		\$16,216,105.15	
			SRF LOANS	
			15	
			\$76,556,029.03	
			12	
			\$56,410,729.03	

**STORAGE IN SELECTED OKLAHOMA LAKES & RESERVOIRS
AS OF OCTOBER 13, 1993**

PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (acre-feet)	PRESENT STORAGE (acre-feet)	PERCENT OF STORAGE		PLANNING REGION LAKE/RESERVOIR	CONSERVATION STORAGE (acre-feet)	PRESENT STORAGE (acre-feet)	PERCENT OF STORAGE	
			conservation	flood				conservation	flood
SOUTHEAST					EAST CENTRAL				
Atoka	124,100	86,341	69.6	N/A	Eufaula	2,314,600	2,314,600	100.0	0.3
Broken Bow	918,070	780,315	85.0	0.0	Tenkiller	654,100	654,100	100.0	1.7
Hugo ¹	187,603	179,757	95.8	0.0	Wister ¹	58,601	58,601	100.0	4.6
McGee Creek	113,930	113,688	99.8	0.0	NORTHEAST				
Pine Creek ¹	73,346	73,346	100.0	0.1	Birch	19,200	16,365	85.2	0.0
Sardis	274,330	274,330	100.0	0.1	Copan	43,400	43,400	100.0	1.1
CENTRAL					Eucha	79,600	79,600	100.0	N/A
Arcadia	27,520	27,520	100.0	0.1	Fort Gibson	365,200	365,200	100.0	1.5
Hefner	75,400	64,269	85.2	N/A	Grand	1,672,000	1,672,000	100.0	2.8
Overholser	15,900	14,253	89.6	N/A	Heyburn	7,105	7,105	100.0	0.1
Stanley Draper	100,000	88,200	88.2	N/A	Hudson	200,300	200,300	100.0	2.1
Thunderbird	119,600	115,100	96.2	0.0	Hulah	31,160	31,160	100.0	0.6
SOUTH CENTRAL					Oologah	553,400	553,400	100.0	6.4
Arbuckle	72,400	71,936	99.4	0.0	Skiatook	322,700	298,806	92.6	0.0
Texoma ¹	2,740,000	2,740,000	100.0	0.1	Spavinaw	30,590	30,590	100.0	N/A
Waurika	203,100	192,354	94.7	0.0	NORTH CENTRAL				
SOUTHWEST					Kaw	428,600	428,600	100.0	2.0
Altus	132,830	77,280	58.2	0.0	Keystone	557,600	557,600	100.0	2.0
Ellsworth	72,490	56,160	77.5	N/A	NORTHWEST				
Fort Cobb	80,010	79,527	99.4	0.0	Canton	111,310	99,903	89.8	0.0
Foss	178,410	161,906	90.8	0.0	Fort Supply	13,900	12,814	92.2	0.0
Lawtonka	58,327	50,311	86.3	N/A	Great Salt Plains	31,420	31,420	100.0	0.7
Tom Steed	88,970	76,680	86.2	0.0	STATE TOTALS	13,151,122	12,778,837	97.2	0.8

¹Seasonal pool operation
N/A -- not applicable; no flood storage allocation.

Data courtesy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma City Water Resources Department, City of Tulsa Water Superintendent's Office and City of Lawton.

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