

OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

It is with regret I informed the Board of my resignation as executive director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at the December 13 meeting. My resignation is effective January 9.

The OWRB is an outstanding organization which will continue its fine work. The agency is fortunate to have committed, talented people who will always put the interests of the citizens before their own.

As I look back over four years, I count as my successes the reorganization of the staff into a more efficient, customer-friendly corps.

Another strategy that has been successful for the Board and the State of Oklahoma was Governor Walters' creation of the Department of Environmental Quality. It allowed the OWRB to achieve its true identity and focus on our major tasks in water resources planning, water management and financial assistance.

I also assisted Governor Walters in establishing a subcabinet for the environmental agencies, which fostered coordination and cooperation.

I encouraged staff to take on more responsibility in "doing more with less." We have fewer people doing more work and providing an outstanding quality of service. We have exceptional leadership.

Another accomplishment I count is our total success in getting the OWRB legislative goals passed. We were

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Infrastructure Key to Growth, Stipe Tells Water Conference

Oklahomans interested in water resources planning heard a message about paying for infrastructure from Sen. Gene Stipe, keynoter at the November 2 Governor's Water Conference. He reminded the 325 attendees that the Five Civilized Tribes who settled eastern Oklahoma traveled the Trail of Tears on foot, arriving with only the possessions they could carry on their backs.

"Western Oklahoma was settled by land run by people who had very little, running for free land," Stipe said. "They didn't bring anything with them because they didn't have anything to bring. We started with very little, but we've come a long way."

Stipe reminded the conference that the progress in Oklahoma's water and turnpike programs has been through the use of revenue bonds. "We've got to pay attention to infrastructure," he said. We can't expect the country to grow, the economy to prosper, or the quality of life to improve if we don't provide the infrastructure.

***"If you want a boom,
put down a blacktop
road with a water line
beside it; in 5 years
there will be a house
every 100 yards."***

He credited the Water Development Fund created by the Legislature and administered by the OWRB for development in rural Oklahoma. "We issue bonds and go in debt and we

make money available to every town in Oklahoma that will take the time to qualify," he said. Stipe says the fairest way of building public projects is by letting the people who use the projects pay for them.

"We need to have a more daring philosophy. We need to venture out and invest. "If we're going to have infrastructure, we're going to have



Senator Gene Stipe

to pay for it. There is no free lunch.

"We have beautiful lakes that are tourist meccas," he pointed out. "Lake Texoma is so crowded on a holiday weekend that there's no place to camp or have a picnic. We've got Lake Eufaula that's much larger than Texoma, but the tourists who want to come can't get to it because we don't have the money to build access roads. Stipe pointed out that no one wants to raise

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Director, continued from page 1

successful in obtaining authorization and funding to update the Comprehensive Water Plan; in promoting Senate Bill 54 which clarified riparian water rights; and in securing state matching funds for our EPA cost-shared SRF program.

I am proud of the OWRB Financial Assistance Program that accomplished three successful bond issues during my tenure. We have doubled the scope and size of FAP with the addition of only a few staff in the SRF Program.

Finally, in our initiative of outreach and improved service to our customers, we have shared the Board's commitment to make the agency more visible throughout the state.

I shall look forward to my new position as executive director of Tulsa Opera, Inc. Earlier, I had the pleasure of serving on the Tulsa Opera Board for a number of years, and I welcome the chance to renew my friendships in that splendid organization.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the State of Oklahoma. Water will continue to be under political pressures and competing demands, but I know the Board will continue to meet these challenges with fairness and intelligence. □

Infrastructure, continued from page 1

taxes. We all want to pay for projects from growth revenues, but how can we grow without infrastructure? We're going to have to finance it through revenue bonds.

He asked conferees to go forth with the determination that we're going to invest in infrastructure and let Oklahoma grow.

Patty Eaton, OWRB executive director, followed Stipe to the podium to introduce the agency's 20-minute slideshow on the current update of the 1980 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. The Water Plan is a flexible, long-term strategy for managing and developing the state's water resources to the year 2050.

Jim LaGrotte, who directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation effort in five states, told conferees that floodplain management relies on a new partnership with the states. "It is not solely a federal plan, but a new approach based on

shared responsibility and accountability," he said.

"Top-down, single-purpose floodplain control is no longer affordable or effective"

LaGrotte pointed out that the National Flood Insurance Program fell short by planning for the 100-year flood, when some midwestern states were experiencing 500 and 750-year floods.

A panel chaired by Kathy Peter, USGS district chief, considered future water planning issues. Professor Drew Kershen of the OU College of Law, who spoke on the environmental concerns associated with agriculture, said "Agriculture is a pollutant-developing industry. By its nature, it disturbs the soil, creates residues and uses resources, fertilizers and pesticides which can become water pollutants.

"In coming years, agriculture will be the most important issue as we discuss what kind of environmental quality we want, as opposed to the costs we'll impose on agriculture and impacts on our food supply and cost of food," Kershen said.

Next, tribal Judge and OU Professor of Communication Phillip Lujan spoke on successfully negotiating with Native Americans. He encouraged seeking commonalities, not differences. "There is no monolithic Indian-ness or whiteman-ness. It is an issue of trust."

Col. Otis Williams, commander of the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, described the difficulties in balancing water uses in six Corps lakes in the 12,500 square mile Grand Neosho River Basin.

Mason Mungle, executive director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, briefed conferees on Oklahoma's wetlands management strategies being developed by a committee of state and federal agencies. Mungle pointed out the committee is dedicated to conserving, enhancing and restoring the quality, quantity and biological diversity of the state's wetlands resources.

The balance of the morning agenda included remarks on federal environmental legislation by Sen. Don Nickles and Congressman Frank Lucas.

The luncheon program was highlighted by an update by Rep. Randy Beutler on activities of the Joint Committee on Financing Environmental Infrastructure. Sen. Jack Bell reported on the progress of the Kiamichi Basin Water Supply Study.

Governor-elect Frank Keating told the conference that as the son of a drilling contractor, member of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, and someone who has operated a family owned oil and gas business, there must be an agreement that we will not permanently soil our nests, first. Second, we must recognize that quality water is important to job development and the growth of Oklahoma. We must recognize that this process must be driven by science, not by politics.

Keating described his agenda as "Oklahoma One." He said "O" is for opportunity -- real economic development. "N" is for neighborhood -- legislative solutions to crime and corrections. "E" is for education -- tax credits for teachers pursuing masters and doctorates; tax credits for firms hiring Oklahoma college graduates; public school choice, and getting competition back in public school education.

Presentation of Oklahoma Water Pioneer Awards closed the Fifteenth Annual Governor's Water Conference. Chairman Ross Kirtley and Executive Director Patty Eaton honored J.K. Lindsey, Tahlequah; Bonita Hoeme, Guymon; and Gerald Borelli, Kingfisher.

Lindsey is a water resources engineer instrumental in the development of more than a dozen eastern Oklahoma rural water districts and has served nine communities as city engineer.

Hoeme is a founding member, officer, longtime conservation activist and newsletter editor for the Texas County Irrigation and Water Resources Association.

Borelli served on the Water Resources Board 20 years and was elected its chairman by fellow members 15 consecutive terms. Under Borelli's leadership, the OWRB completed the 1980 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, established the successful Financial Assistance Program, completed the Six-State High Plains Ogallala Aquifer Study and established the Governor's Water Conference. □



Board member Ervin Mitchell visits with Dean Couch, OWRB general counsel.

Fifteenth Annual Governor's Water Conference



Beth McTiernan of OSU enjoys a coffee break with Terri Sparks and Jann Hook of the Water Board.



1994 Oklahoma Water Pioneers J.K. Lindsey, Tahlequah; Bonita Hoeme, Guymon; Gerald Borelli, Kingfisher, pose with their awards.

Bernice Crockett, seated, was among the first Water Pioneers honored at the 1985 conference. She and Bonita Hoeme, standing, are the only two women who have won the award.



Gene Whatley of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association registers with Kim Brown and Denise Hill of the OWRB.



Board Chairman Ross Kirtley presented Sen. Don Nickles a certificate expressing appreciation for Nickles' long support of the conference.



Governor-elect Frank Keating was one of the featured luncheon speakers.



Rep. Randy Beutler updated conferees on the work of the Joint Committee on Financing Environmental Infrastructure for Economic Development.

THE FLOOD CURRENT

JANUARY- FEBRUARY 1995

OWRB Lends Staff to Assist In Texas Flood Response

Only as south Texas floodwaters receded could local citizens and officials begin to painstakingly evaluate the widespread damage left in the wake of catastrophic flooding that claimed more than 20 lives. While the National Guard, state and federal agencies and volunteers worked to restore order, find shelter for displaced families and respond to a contingent of other problems caused by the September disaster, Texas looked to neighboring states for help.

Prompted by a formal request to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board from Wayne Fairley, with Region VI of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Donnie Blanlot traveled south to lend her hand in a cooperative effort to help communities rebuild and improve floodplain management procedures. Blanlot, who routinely coordinates National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) activities in southeast Oklahoma as a staff member of the Water Board's McAlester Office, flew to Houston on October 30.

"Upon my arrival, Wayne assigned me to a four-person disaster response team that would evaluate floodplain management practices in affected counties and recommend measures that have promise to reduce future damages," she said.

Blanlot's team also included representatives of the Texas Department of Emergency Management, NFIP and FEMA. "The majority of my work involved explaining to local officials about the availability of funds through

the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and helping them obtain those funds," she explained.

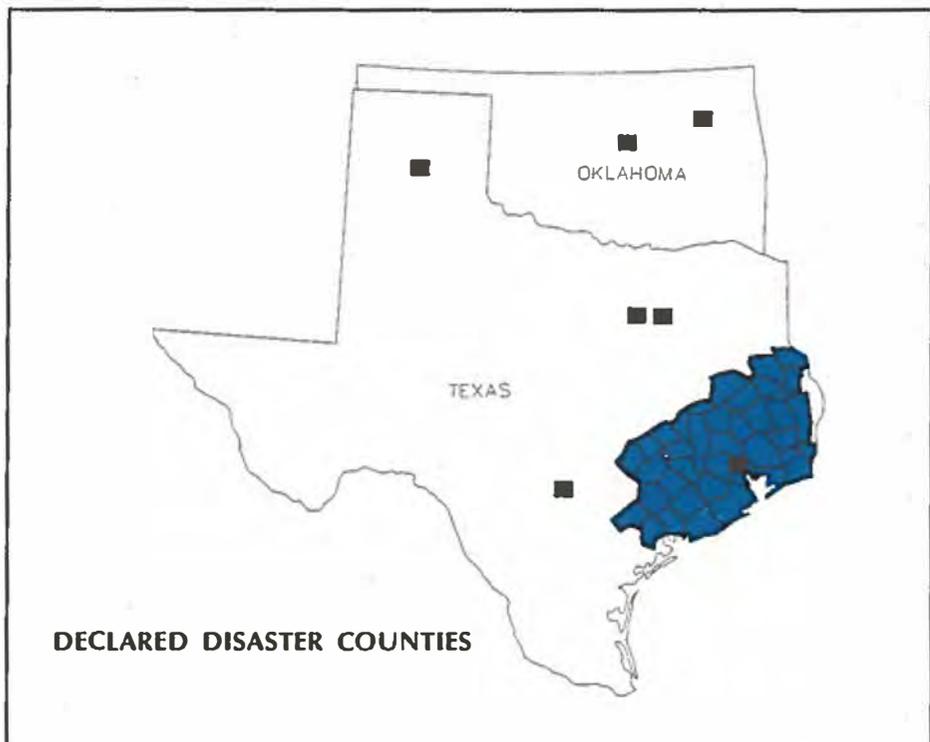
The HMGP was created in 1988 to reduce the vulnerability of communities to flooding and related natural disasters. The program facilitates a 75/25 federal/state cost-match to fund projects which reduce local flooding risks and prevent repetitive damage. A separate funding mechanism, the federal Public Assistance Program, finances actual repairs to roads, bridges and other publicly-owned flood-damaged structures.

In all, 38 counties received presidential disaster declarations. According

to Blanlot, most of the damage occurred north of Houston in Montgomery County, a result of flooding caused by overflow of the San Jacinto River. "My team was assigned a seven-county area on the western edge of the flood-damaged region. Our headquarters, which housed some 400 people, was set up in an office building assumed by FEMA. This Disaster Field Office was essentially a large, makeshift governmental agency, complete with entire sections dedicated to personnel activities, dispersal of supplies and counseling for staff and the public," she pointed out.

"We met early each morning to review files for the county scheduled for visit that day. Then we would contact the local communities to set up the meeting times and places and collect all relevant information on flood insurance poli-

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Food Response, continued from page 5
 es and claims, repetitive loss, and community status in the National Flood Insurance Program.

"At the meetings, we discussed local food damages, potential projects that could prevent damages and various other floodplain management issues. Then we presented an overview of available funding programs to help mitigate future flood problems," she said.

Because many of the damaged communities did not have mitigation strategies in place (including plans and specifications for projects that would likely reduce subsequent flood damages) and federal monies are available for only a brief time following the disaster declaration, Blanlot's team worked 12-hour-plus days.

"Much of our time was spent helping folks complete permit applications quickly and as accurately as possible to expedite the rebuilding process. On one particular day, we prepared more than 300 permit applications for citizens who sustained damages to properly rebuild in flood-prone areas. Our team members also provided much information to community and county officials to increase their chances of receiving funds, most of which would go to more heavily damaged areas," Blanlot added.

Of her week-long stay in Texas, Blanlot said that the one resounding issue or problem she encountered was the lack of disaster preparedness -- or, in many cases, lack of it. "The south Texas flooding situation reflects something we stress in Oklahoma-- cities and towns with frequent flooding problems should participate in hazard mitigation planning efforts prior to disasters rather than during post-disaster recovery periods. Regardless, the experience I gained there was invaluable and will assist us in preventing and responding to potential flooding disasters in Oklahoma." □

OFMA Elects Officers

At its fourth annual conference in September, the Oklahoma Floodplain Managers Association elected nine new officers. They are chairman, Pat Loggarden, City of Tulsa; vice-chairman, Albert

Ashwood, State Department of Civil Emergency Management; secretary, Donnie Blanlot, State Water Resources Board; and treasurer, Carolyn Schultz, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The five OFMA region representatives are Region 1, Robbie Williams, City of Edmond; Region 2, T.J. Davis, City of Sand Springs; Region 3, Johnny Shepherd, Durant/Bryan County Civil Defense; Region 4, Joe Elles, Ardmore Emergency Management; and Region 5, Rod Shaw, Soil Conservation Service.

The conference, held at Lake Murray State Lodge, focused on hazard mitigation. Specific topics of discussion included the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; floodplain mapping; ongoing study of flooding problems in the Cache Creek Basin; the Clean Water Act Section 404 dredge and fill program; Tulsa's stormwater utility fee; and the Community Rating System.

The Floodplain Man-

ager of the Year award was presented to Ken Morris, State Coordinator of the National Flood Insurance Program. Edmond Mayor Randal Shadid was named Elected Official of the Year. Special awards for promoting floodplain awareness and the OFMA went to Mike Morgan, meteorologist for Oklahoma City's KFOR-TV, and Donnie Blanlot. □



Oklahoma City Meteorologist Mike Morgan of KFOR-TV, receives an award for promotion of floodplain awareness from Robert Bigham, former OFMA chairman.

OWRB, FEMA Set Floodplain Workshops

The OWRB and Federal Emergency Management Agency will host five workshops in March to provide continuing education for local officials on various aspects of floodplain management.

While the workshops are specifically designed for Oklahoma members of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), all interested persons are encouraged to attend. The one-day workshops, held each year throughout the state, serve to inform community officials and leaders of NFIP regulatory and administrative requirements, flood loss reduction techniques and related aspects of wise floodplain management.

Workshop dates and locations are listed to the right. To register, call the OWRB at 405/231-2576.

March 1 -- Okmulgee
 Okmulgee Noble Center
 1801 East 4th

March 2 -- McAlester
 Days Inn
 1217 George Nigh Expressway

March 7 -- Omega
 Chisholm Trail Vo-Tech
 Highway 33
 (between Watonga & Kingfisher)

March 8 -- Oklahoma City
 Metro Tech
 1900 Springlake Drive

March 9 -- Lawton
 Cameron University
 Shepler Center

□

At the December Board Meeting:

Joe Freeman, Financial Assistance Division chief recommended and received Board approval for a \$200,000 loan to Rogers County RWD #9; a \$4.7 million loan to Guymon Utilities Authority; and a \$1.9 million loan to the Chandler Municipal Authority.

Mike Mathis, Planning Division chief, asked the Board to approve an amendment to the OWRB contract with the ORWA to expand the scope of the cooperative leak detection program to include the remedy of water losses. The Board approved the amendment. The Board also approved a \$30,000 loan to Cyril Municipal Authority for water audit, leak detection and corrective activities. The loan will be made from oil overcharge funds through the Statewide Energy and Water Conservation Program.

J.A. Wood, Water Management Division chief, asked and obtained Board approval of four regular permits and eight temporary permits to use groundwater; and seven regular permits for the use of stream water.

In protested applications, the Board approved regular permits for the use of groundwater for Cochino Ranch L.L.C., Major County, and for Barry Smith, Major County. The Board Order required applicants to plug existing well bores and to meter water use on new wells. The Board approved a temporary permit for Alta Mae Wood and Clifford Neil McGarraugh, Texas County, for the use of groundwater and required metering of water use.

A regular permit was approved for Richard K. Young, Comanche County, for the use of 76 acre-feet of stream water for irrigation.

The Board approved water well driller/pump contractor licenses for John Lawson, Okland Development Co., Nicoma Park; and Neil R. Arnold, Shady Nook Pump & Supply, Inc., Tulsa.

Mary E. Whitlow, Editor

Barry Fogerty, Photographer

James Leewright, Typography and Layout

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Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Approved at October, November and
December 1994 Board Meetings

FAP Loans (4.522%; 30 year maximum term)

Locust Grove PWA	\$ 2,555,000.00
Porum PWA	\$ 350,000.00
Ponca City PWA	\$ 1,800,000.00
Nowata RWD #7	\$ 22,000.00
Rogers County RWD #9	\$ 200,000.00
Guymon UA	\$ 4,775,000.00

FAP Grants

Ketchum PWA	\$ 75,000.00
Locust Grove PWA	\$ 75,000.00
Davenport	\$ 22,000.00
Grove School	\$ 50,000.00
Jenks	\$ 23,931.00
Covington UA	\$ 37,000.00
Tishomingo	\$ 30,000.00
Carnegie	\$ 50,000.00
Washington MA	\$ 25,000.00
Mountain Park	\$ 40,000.00

SRF Loans

Chandler MA	\$ 1,974,000.00
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TOTALS AS OF 12/13/94

	FAP Loans	FAP Grants	SRF Loans
APPROVED	154	347	24
Amount	\$181,060,000.00	\$19,333,106.00	\$120,303,726.48
FUNDED	139	314	22
Amount	\$157,425,000.00	\$17,426,878.55	\$117,919,726.48

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*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

It was my pleasure to be appointed by Governor Keating to serve as Secretary of Environment and be hired by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board as its executive director.

Over the past 12 years, I had many opportunities to work with the Board and its staff during four terms in the House of Representatives and as Secretary of Agriculture. Each time, I was impressed by the professionalism and dedication of the people that make up the Water Board.

At the Department of Agriculture, I embraced the principles of Quality Oklahoma and am delighted to find the OWRB staff pledged to these same goals of employee involvement and outstanding customer service.

The people with whom I work are dedicated to Oklahoma and to the protection, development and conservation of the state's water resources. We at the Water Resources Board work steadfastly to provide you, our customers, with the products and service you expect. It is important to us that we meet your highest expectations.

We solicit your comments and your evaluation of our efforts. We strive to maintain open communication with the citizens of Oklahoma, so we can serve you better and more efficiently than ever before.

If we are ever slow to respond or fail to provide the quality service you

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Board Names Gary L. Sherrer To Executive Director Post

J. Ross Kirtley, OWRB chairman announced the appointment of Gary L. Sherrer to executive director of the Water Resources Board. In welcoming Sherrer to his first Board meeting as executive director on February 14, Kirtley said, "We are so fortunate to have a director with Mr. Sherrer's credentials. He comes to the OWRB with an excellent understanding of water resources and environmental matters."

Governor Frank Keating earlier named Sherrer Secretary of Environment, a position Sherrer will hold concurrently with the Water Board post. Sherrer served as Secretary and Commissioner of Agriculture since 1991 and earlier represented District 19 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1980-1988.

As executive director, he will oversee the agency's day-to-day operations, including personnel, fiscal matters, policy and issues concerning the Board's rules and regulations. He will continue an active role in working with Governor Keating and his staff, the Oklahoma Legislature and the Congressional

delegation in matters concerning water and environmental issues.

Sherrer attended Oklahoma State University and Southeastern State University in Durant, where he earned a B.A. degree. He is a Vietnam combat veteran, previously serving with the U.S. Army as a medic. His family lived in Snow, in Pushmataha County, where he owns and oversees a cattle ranch. Sherrer and his wife, Judith, and three daughters now live in Jones, where Sherrer is a deacon in the First Baptist Church.



Gary L. Sherrer

Board Polls Water System Operators

On January 19, the OWRB Planning Division mailed questionnaires to 964 operators of rural water systems, seeking information to be used in updating the "Rural Water Systems in Oklahoma." The 1980 survey, one of the Board's most successful publications, mapped 398 systems across Oklahoma that serve populations of 10,000 or less.

It is part of the Board's effort to provide reliable information on the systems and reflect recent growth. According to Mike Mathis, Planning Division chief, the number of water systems in Oklahoma has nearly doubled since 1980, and many systems have extended their lines or merged. The survey will also include

Continued on page 2

water quantity and quality information.

Preliminary to the statewide project, Planning staff completed a successful pilot study of Noble and Garfield counties. Geographic Information System (GIS) and related software were used to digitize rural water systems.

Dave Goughnour, water resources planner who oversees the project, said, "We are extremely encouraged by the success of the pilot study and the data analysis and management capabilities of the GIS."

Once questionnaires are collected, the Board will begin field work for the project in the spring.

Mathis said the most valuable feature of the updated document will be its benefits to water resources planning. "The survey will be used to guide operation, expansion and maintenance of the rural water systems," he said. It will also identify opportunities for regional systems and boost economic development in rural areas by linking water supply to new business and industry," Mathis pointed out.



Dave Goughnour, Carl Albert Executive Fellow; Deanne Whiteaker, GIS coordinator; and Trudy Rigney compare 1995 data with information collected on rural water systems in 1980.

20 Million A/F of Water Unused

Oklahoma water users have appropriated for annual use nearly 2.6 million acre/feet of water from reservoirs and stream flows-- a mere drop in the bucket compared to the amount of surface water available. "For the past 40 years, an average of 34 million acre-feet of stream water has flowed out of the state through the Arkansas, Red and Little Rivers on the eastern boundary," said J.A. Wood, Water Management Division chief. He said the 30 large reservoirs in Oklahoma that capture and yield at least 5,000 acre-feet a year on a dependable basis, make an additional 1.7 million acre-feet of water available for Oklahoma water users.

He pointed out that water inventories have been completed on 47 of the state's 49 stream systems. "When you add up all the water available from the streams and reservoirs and subtract the amount appropriated, an estimated 20 million more acre-feet of stream water (or eight times the present use) could be used by Oklahomans.

The greatest amount of good water

available for appropriation flows in the Verdigris River in northeastern Oklahoma, through Oologah Reservoir and downstream to the Arkansas River. (Grand Neosho flows are greater, but exempt from appropriation by the state.) The Verdigris produces approximately 3.4 million acre-feet of water each year. Along the river, and from Oologah Reservoir, 263,651 acre-feet of water is appropriated for beneficial use.

After gathering flow from all its tributaries, the Arkansas River carries an average annual flow of 23 million acre-feet out of the state.

The Red River and its tributaries supply large amounts of water. Approximately 11 million acre-feet of water leaves the state via the Red River each year.

Wood said the water is fully appropriated in a few areas of Oklahoma. He emphasized more specific information is available by calling the Oklahoma Water Resources Board Water Management Division at (405) 231-2531.

Director, continued from page 1

are entitled to, I invite you to visit with me personally or call Assistant Director Duane Smith in our Oklahoma City office at (405) 231-2500. "I look forward to getting to know you and encourage you to stop by our offices to share your concerns or your vision for the vast water resources of our great state."



Forrest Nelson Died Feb. 21

Longtime water development activist and Water Resources Board Executive Director Forrest Nelson died February 21 in Norman at the age of 88. Nelson joined the Planning and Resources Board (a state agency which preceded the OWRB) in 1946 and retired in 1975 as executive director.

Nelson was honored as an Oklahoma Water Pioneer at the 1985 Governor's Water Conference for his contributions to the development, protection and con-

ervation of the state's water resources. He was born in Duncan, graduated from Central High School in Marlow and received a B.A. Degree in Education from Cameron Junior College and B.S. Degree in Agricultural Engineering from Oklahoma State University. Nelson served with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in World War II in the South Pacific.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Earline, who died in December 1994.

Board Announces New Book

The Water Management Division of the Water Resources Board announces publication of a new book, "Groundwater Levels in Observation Wells in Oklahoma for 1994." Authors of the book are Mark Belden, geologist, and Andy Scurlock, data processing applications specialist.

The 464-page book contains water level data gathered at nearly 850 wells in the state's major and minor bedrock and alluvial and terrace aquifers. Data include maximum, minimum and mean water levels for period of record; 1991-1994 water levels; and changes in water levels from the previous year, five years ago, 10 years ago and from the first year of well measurement.

According to Belden, Oklahoma's well measurement program began in 1937 as a cooperative program with the U.S. Geological Survey. Water Management division staff and field office staff collected static water levels in a network of wells used for irrigation, municipal, stock, domestic and industrial purposes. Measurements are made January through March, when irrigation is inactive and water levels are stable. The USGS and OWRB maintain the data collected, organized and printed by the Water Resources Board.

Books may be purchased for \$20 by requesting Technical Report 95-1, "Groundwater Levels in Observation Wells in Oklahoma for 1994." To order, please call (405) 231-2553.

ORWA Meeting April 10-12

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association will be held at the Holiday Inn West in

Oklahoma City. The April 10 agenda includes ORWA Board meetings, golf tournament and exhibit setup.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. on Tuesday and the business meeting at 9 a.m. Workshops will be held for operators, new ORWA board members and bookkeepers Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The meeting will feature exhibits, door prizes, barbecue, banquet and awards ceremony.

For more information, call James Gammill at the Oklahoma Rural Water Association, (405) 672-8925.

Colorado Limits Wells for Hogs

Corporate hog farming, a troublesome issue for farm belt states, recently has been spurned by Colorado. The state has taken the advice of a local groundwater management district and refused to allow the drilling of 25 wells in the Ogallala Aquifer to pump 2,000 acre-feet of groundwater to a 20,000-sow operation proposed near Burlington. Colorado Water Engineer Hal Simpson, who allowed the drilling of a single well instead of the 25

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Spring is the Danger Season for Flooding

"Spring is Oklahoma's flood season, a dangerous time of the year," pointed out OWRB Executive Director, Gary Sherrer.

Of the 32 presidentially declared disasters in Oklahoma since 1955, 25 have involved flooding. To mitigate such emergencies, the Water Resources Board was named the state coordinating agency for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1969. According to Sherrer, the NFIP assists Oklahomans by making flood insurance available at affordable rates and helps communities make sound decisions concerning use of floodplains. Communities become eligible for the NFIP by establishing a floodplain board, recognizing floodplain boundaries and restricting development in flood-prone areas.

"We estimate some 44,000 structures lie in flood-prone areas," said Sherrer. "From 1978 through 1993, more than 11,000 Oklahoma residents were victims of flood damage, yet none had flood insurance. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of flood insurance -- especially since it is so inexpensive and offers such complete protection against our most common natural disaster," Sherrer pointed out.

The Water Resources Board offers these flood tips:

★Do not walk or drive through floodwaters.

Drowning is the number one cause of flood deaths, mostly during flash floods. Currents can be deceptive;

six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. More people drown in their cars than anywhere else. Don't drive around road barriers; the road or bridge may be washed out.

★Stay away from power lines and electrical wires.

The number two flood killer (after drowning) is electrocution. Electrical current can travel through water. Report downed power lines to your utility company or emergency management office.

★Be alert for gas leaks.

Use a flashlight to inspect for damage. Don't smoke or use candles, lanterns or open flames unless you know that the gas has been turned off and the area has been ventilated.

★Clean everything that got wet.

Floodwaters often pick up sewage and chemicals from roads, farms, factories and storage buildings. Spoiled food, flooded cosmetics and medicines are health hazards. When in doubt, throw it out.

★Be prepared for a rough time.

Flood recovery is stressful and exhausting. The impact a disaster has on you and your family may last a long time.

For more information on the National Flood Insurance Program, call the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at (405) 231-2576.

Mainstream, continued from page 3

requested, says he expects the corporation to take another tack. Simpson says he expects the applicant to buy farmland and convert existing irrigation rights to usage by the giant hog farm. According to "U.S. Water News," state permittees expect the corporate farm to return with another application and use some deep irrigation water that's already appropriated for other agricultural use, and maybe do some land switching. In recommending a single well, the Plains Groundwater Management District of Burlington cited a section of state water law that limits each business to only one commercial well. Simpson concurred and denied all but one of the applications of Midwest Farms, Inc.

A decade ago, such operations were rare; today corporate hog farming represents more than six percent of the agriculture industry.

Floods Stall Drought Planning

All it takes to derail drought planning is a flood, said Donald Wilhite, a climatologist who advocates an integrated climate monitoring system instead of drought monitoring.

"We all know that drought is transient," said Wilhite, director of the International Drought Information Center at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He points out that the danger of developing a drought monitoring system is that in years of normal or above-normal precipitation, government officials may divert drought funds to more visible programs of higher priority.

"The need for climate monitoring must be sold on the basis of knowing, on a continuous basis, the current condition of water availability," Wilhite said.

A worldwide analysis suggests that flooding has been a more significant problem than water shortages, causing apathy on the part of officials and the public. "In the Midwest and western U.S.," said Wilhite, "above-normal precipitation in 1993 that temporarily interrupted a drought cycle, has effectively diverted attention from the big picture. My perception is that after the extensive floods in the Midwest in 1993,

awareness of evolving drought conditions in 1994 is exceedingly low."

He pointed out that such a climate monitoring strategy is underway as a joint venture of the Western Regional Climate Center and some state and federal agencies.

"Such a system would be of enormous value to decision makers in the western U.S.," he said.

Amazon World's Longest River

The Amazon River of Brazil is longer than the Nile of Africa, listed in textbooks as the world's longest, claim Peruvian researchers. Previously, the Nile was recognized as the longest and the Amazon was credited with the largest flow volume.

According to "U.S. Water News," Peru's Institute of Scientific Investigations has determined that the Amazon's true source is the Ucayali River, not the Marañon River, as earlier believed. This new finding puts the length of the Amazon River at 4,131 miles, compared to Africa's Nile at 4,003 miles.

Researchers also say that the Amazon is host to the most fish species of any river in the world. However, the great river is plagued with grave pollution problems -- oil spills in Ecuador, deforestation in Peru and Colombia for the cultivation of coca, and mercury poisoning from gold mines in Brazil.

High Plains Water Levels Up

Although water levels rose in much of the High Plains, levels continued to decline in intensively irrigated areas of southwestern Kansas, the central Panhandle of Oklahoma and the northern Panhandle of Texas, says the U.S. Geological Survey. Water levels rose in some areas of the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Conclusions are based on analysis of measurements at more than 8,000 observation wells in the High Plains during 1992 and 1993. Comparisons were also made with water-level changes from predevelopment to 1980, and 1980 to 1993.

Water levels rose in much of the High Plains, averaging gains of 0.21 foot from 1992 to 1993. Substantial rises occurred

in eastern and southern Nebraska, northwestern and south-central Kansas and much of the southern High Plains of Texas, in association with above-average to normal precipitation in 1992 and 1993.

The USGS noted long-term water level change in the High Plains, however, remains in decline. The average decline from 1980 to 1993 has been more than two feet, but the annual rate of decline, has slowed to 0.14 foot.

The report, "Water level changes in the High Plains aquifer--Predevelopment to 1993," Water Resources Investigations Report 94-4157, can be purchased from the USGS Earth Science Information Center, Open-File Reports Section, Box 25286, MS 517, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.

1994 Waterway Tonnages Up

Tonnages transported on the Kerr McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System in 1994 increased 14 percent over shipping in 1993, reported the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers. The 1994 total amounted to 11.1 million tons.

The Oklahoma segment of the system registered an 11 percent increase or a total of 3.8 million tons.

Biggest volumes were measured in sand, gravel and rock, 4.2 million tons; chemical fertilizers, 1.7 million tons; wheat, 1.5 million tons; iron and steel, 806,698 tons; other grains, 717,200 tons; and soybeans, 531,963 tons.

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Juli Watterson, zoologist of the OWRB Water Quality Programs Division, scores Science Fair project prepared by Classen student Roger Tucker. Watterson and March volunteered as judges in the school's first Science Fair.



Ferrella March, biologist of the OWRB Water Quality Programs Division, judges an exhibit on the Protection of Groundwater at the Science Fair held January 26 at Classen School for Advanced Studies in Oklahoma City.



At a reception preceding the Water Resources Board meeting February 14, the Board honored Patty Eaton, former OWRB Executive Director for her dedicated service to the Board 1991-1995. Eaton, left, receives the plaque of appreciation from Board member Mike Henson of Stillwater.

On February 14, members of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board hosted a reception for legislators at the State Capitol. Executive Director Gary Sherrer, Assistant Director Duane Smith, Assistant to the Director Mike Melton, Board members and OWRB staff from the Financial Assistance Division answered legislators' questions concerning the Water Board's Financial Assistance Program which makes available loans and emergency grants to cities, towns, rural water districts and other entities for the solution of water and sewer problems.



Sen. Gene Stipe, Rep. Danny Hilliard, Speaker Glen Johnson and Jim Cummings, the Governor's liaison to the House, enjoy a break at the February 14 reception.



Norman Lamb, the Governor's Senate legislative liaison; Rep. Bill Widener and Rep. Loyd L. Benson visited the reception.



Standing in front of the OWRB exhibit are Bill Secret, Board member from Broken Arrow; Nader Sous of the OWRB staff, Speaker Glen Johnson, OWRB Executive Director Gary Sherrer, Robert S. Kerr, Jr., Board member from Oklahoma City; and J. Ross Kirtley, OWRB chairman from Kingfisher.

At the March Board Meeting:

Executive Director Gary Sherrer told the Board he was optimistic concerning the 1996 OWRB appropriation after conversations with the House appropriations chair and the Senate subcommittee chair. Sherrer said legislators complimented the Board on the reception held at the Capitol February 14 to acquaint members with OWRB programs.

Joe Freeman, FA Division chief, asked and received approval on a \$70,000 emergency grant to Shady Point PWA (LeFlore Co.) The Board approved a \$320,000 SRF loan to the Tonkawa MA (Kay Co.); an expansion of purpose on the Union City MA loan (Canadian Co.); an extension of time for Creek County RWD #2. Freeman announced the appointment of a 4-member committee to process proposals submitted by underwriting firms and bond counsels interested in participating in the Board's 1995 Bond Issuance.

The Board approved seven temporary (90-day) permits for the use of groundwater; amended the permit held by the Town of Mooreland (Woodward Co.); and approved a regular permit for stream water use for the City of Prague (Lincoln Co.)

New D/PC operators licenses were approved for Ricky Dismang, Larry Turner, Richard Bowman and Andy Jones. Six new firms were licensed and operators certified: Warren E. Black; Therman French; Casey Drilling, Preston Casey, operator; Environmental Technology Specialists, Joe Bruton and Tony Bedingfield, operators; Whisner Well Drilling, Kenneth R. Whisner, operator; and C&W Construction Co., Alan J. Piper, operator.

The Board denied and remanded to staff the application to add three wells to the regular permit of James H. Becker, previous owner of land deeded to Shawnee Funding/Seaboard Farms.

General Counsel Dean Couch reviewed amendments proposed to Board Rules, and the Board approved all amendments.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Approved at January, February and March 1995 Board Meetings

FAP Loans (4.522%; 30 year maximum term)

Blackwell MA	\$ 725,000.00 ¹
Wilburton PWA	\$ 240,000.00 ¹
Goldsby WA	\$ 450,000.00
Ponca City Utility Authority	\$ 2,215,000.00 ¹

¹Amount represents an increase in original loan amount.

FAP Grants

Amorita	\$ 5,000.00
Union City	\$ 50,000.00
Lincoln County RWD #3	\$ 50,000.00
Roff	\$ 70,000.00
McClain County RWD #7	\$ 58,025.00
Gracemont	\$ 44,255.00
Holdenville	\$ 50,000.00
Pittsburg County RWD #7	\$ 15,000.00
Shady Point	\$ 70,000.00

SRF Loans

Shawnee MA	\$ 3,620,000.00
Tonkawa MA	\$ 230,000.00

TOTALS AS OF 12/13/94

	FAP Loans	FAP Grants	SRF Loans
APPROVED	155	356	26
Amount	\$184,560,000.00	\$19,745,386.00	\$123,109,726.48
FUNDED	146	322	22
Amount	\$172,635,000.00	\$17,721,514.55	\$116,875,726.48

Mary E. Whitlow, Editor

Barry Fogerty, Photographer

James Leewright, Typography and Layout

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OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
600 N. Harvey Avenue, P.O. Box 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150

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- Bill Secrest
- Ervin Mitchell
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- Mike Henson
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- Dick Seybolt
- Lonnie L. Farmer
- Paul H. Horton



Printed on recycled paper in biodegradable oil based soy-bean ink.

OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

Because your numbers are so great, and for fear some kindness may be overlooked, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and Office of the Secretary of Environment extend thanks to all who raced to our aid at the time of the disaster. We were deeply touched by your messages of sympathy and concern. Encouraging words rushed to us from all over Oklahoma and the nation.

We were overwhelmed by your generosity in providing the day-to-day necessities to get our agency up and running and your thoughtful gifts of plants and flowers to cheer us.

We especially thank Governor Keating and the Oklahoma Legislature for their support; the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Wildlife Conservation for providing meeting space while we were "regrouping;" the Governor's Performance Team for their warm hospitality as our neighbors in this building we occupy temporarily; to the State Insurance Fund for their generous lease of office space; to the Office of State Finance for the loan of telephones and computer equipment; to the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Agriculture for their assistance in personnel and insurance matters; to the Motor Pool for assistance in retrieving our damaged cars; to the Department of Commerce for the loan of computers; to the Depart

Continued on page 2

Board Recovering from Bombing; Relocated, Restoring Services

*Blast kills two, injures many, devastates offices;
Agency temporarily moves to 1901 N. Walnut, OKC*

At 9:02 the staff of the OWRB were well into the workday in the offices at 5th Street and Harvey Avenue, across the street from the Alfred P. Murrah federal building. Then the Water Board's corner of the world broke apart in a storm of glass and concrete cloaked in black and choking smoke.

Staff fled the ruined building and counted losses. Two of the Water Board "family" had been swept to hospitals where they died, dozens were cruelly injured, others retreated bruised and frightened.

Among the seriously injured were Denise Hill of the Water Quality Programs Division; Photographer Barry Fogerty of the Water Management Division; and Brenda Maxey, Laura

Oak, Shelly Bacon and Paul Hodge of the Financial Assistance Division. By early June, all had returned to work.

The two OWRB fatalities of the bombing were Trudy Rigney, a University of Oklahoma senior geography student serving an internship, and Robert N. Chipman, a financial analyst in the Financial Assistance Division. Rigney and Chipman were the only two State of Oklahoma employees killed in the blast.

Rigney joined the Water Resources Board June 27, 1994 as a geographic information system (GIS) assistant based in the Drafting Section. She lived in Midwest City with her 11 year-old son, Jonmichael, attended classes on

Continued on page 2

The southeast corner of the OWRB building was directly across the street and approximately 200 feet west of the explosive-laden truck. Truck fragments were found on all three floors.



Director, continued from page 1

ment of Central Services for snacks and helping in our move; to all our sister agencies in state government who have provided support and myriad kindnesses in these trying times.

We were moved by the tree planted on the Capitol grounds May 3 by the Oklahoma Public Employees Association as a living memorial to two of our Water Board family killed in the bombing.

Generous loans of computers and office furniture made it possible to resume our work in a timely manner. Our heartfelt thanks to the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers for their generous loan of computers; to the Great Plains Region and the Oklahoma-Texas Project Office of the Bureau of Reclamation

for the loan of computers and office furniture; to the U.S. Geological Survey for providing maps and data.

Nice folks with whom we do business rushed in to help. Pagenet Paging Network of Oklahoma City, Inc., loaned us pagers; Precision Computer Services provided a network operating system; Mountain Network Solutions, Inc., provided a tape backup unit; Microage loaned token ring adapters, cables and access units; and Data General loaned a laser printer.

Marie Kash Weltzheimer, a former OWRB employee, now a noted pastel/watercolor artist, loaned our plain walls nine original artworks to cheer us.

We cannot tell you how deeply we were touched and comforted by the love and concern of our friends new and old...far and near. □

Bombing, continued from page 1

OU campus and worked 30 hours a week at the Water Resources Board. Before enrolling at OU in 1993, she attended Tulsa Junior College, where she was awarded a Phi Theta Kappa honors scholarship and served as presi-

dent of the TJC student body. At OU, she founded the Geography Club and served as its president. According to the OU Geography Department, Rigney will be posthumously awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography.

Bob Chipman joined the OWRB in January. He retired as a major from the U.S. Air Force, where he directed a department that developed the standardized office procedures for a 1100-person unit. Chipman held a Master of Science degree from the University of Arkansas with a major in Operations Management; a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from

OWRB Moves

As a result of the April 19 disaster which damaged the office at 600 N. Harvey, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is temporarily located at 1901 N. Walnut (in the State Insurance Building), Oklahoma City 73105. The Board continues to receive mail at P.O. Box 150, OKC 73101-0150.

To reach the OWRB by phone: (405) 525-4700; to send a FAX: (405) 525-4799.

Eastern New Mexico University with majors in Marketing and Management; and a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from the University of Central Oklahoma with a major in Business Education. Chipman entered military service as an enlisted man and rose through the ranks. He completed Squadron Officer School and Air Command and Staff College.

Chipman is survived by his wife, Gloria, of their Edmond home, a daughter who is a student at OSU; a daughter and her husband in the military service stationed in Japan; a grandson, and a son who is a National Merit Scholar in Engineering at OU. Among the casualties of the bombing must be counted the 3-story building at 600 North Harvey that had housed the Oklahoma Water Resources Board since January 1991. The ruined and broken shell stood sentinel over the ravaged federal building. The Alfred P. Murrah Building, was razed May 23, a month and four days after the atrocity committed there. Then great mechanized claws snatched the rubble away to its last resting place. By June 17, the corner had been swept clean.

Surely, not one who endured the dreadful day can but wish that hurt and sadness could be also borne away with the debris. In the meanwhile, the Water Resources Board is temporarily housed in space generously leased by the State Insurance Fund at 1901 North Walnut, a few blocks southwest of the Capitol. □



Trudy Rigney



Robert N. Chipman



The damage inflicted to the library in the center of the OWRB building, on the second floor, was typical of damage throughout. Almost all glass windows were blown into the building, ceilings and walls were crushed.

Water Board Honors Firefighters Who Rescued Them

To show their appreciation to the firefighters of Oklahoma City Stations #1 and #5, staff honored them at a breakfast on Friday, May 19. The firefighters of Station #1, 820 NW 5th Street, and Station #5, 24 NW 22nd Street, were the first rescuers to arrive at the Water Resources Board building on April 19.

A month later to the day and under happier circumstances, 14 of the firefighters came to visit the grateful staff of the Water Resources Board and Office of the Secretary of Environment, some of whom they had carried injured from the shattered building the day of the bombing. Employees prepared breakfast, presented the firefighters with an enormous thank-you banner and posed for pictures with the firefighters and their rescue truck from Station #1.

Executive Director Gary Sherrer said, "We cannot begin to express our deep gratitude for your courage and selflessness in bringing our people to safety. All of you will long remain in our

thoughts and prayers," he said. "The debt we owe you is beyond description, and we thank God for you." As a memento, the OWRB presented

the firefighters with a glass brick dislodged from the building by the blast and engraved with their thank-you message. □



Cpl. Jimmy Shiner shakes hands with Board Photographer Barry Fogerty. Looking on are Cpl. Rick Harris, Lt. Rick Yarbrough, OWRB Draftsman Mike McGaugh and Captain Nathan Shipman. After the bombing, McGaugh led rescuers to Fogerty's aid. It was Shiner and Shipman who carried the injured Fogerty out of the building.

Firefighters pose with Barry Fogerty and Paul Hodge (in cap), two of the OWRB employees they rescued. Left: Maj. Keith Bryant, Lt. Mike Hardy, Firefighter Mike Foster from Station #5; Major Cornelius Young, Cpl. Billy Billeg, Maj. Mark Woodard, Cpl. Rick Harris, Capt. Nathan Shipman, Lt. Rick Yarbrough, Cpl. Jimmy Shiner and Cpl. Ivory Brent from Station #1.



Firefighters line up for breakfast at the Water Board. Left: Maj. Cornelius Young, Cpl. Ivory Brent, Maj. Keith Bryant, Cpl. Jimmy Shiner, Capt. Nathan Shipman, Firefighter Mike Foster, Cpl. Rick Harris and Maj. Mark Woodard.



Jack Givens Named to Board

Mangum irrigation farmer Jack N. Givens was recently appointed by Gov. Frank Keating to serve on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Givens owns Givens Farms, Inc., and serves as vice-president of the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District.

Givens, a lifelong resident of Oklahoma, attended Mangum High School, Oklahoma State University and Oregon State University at Corvallis, where he earned BS degree in Agriculture.

He was previously president of Laughlin-Simmons & Co. of Texas, Inc., an oil well elevations and surveying firm, and served six years as chairman of the Oklahoma Agriculture, Stabilization and Conservation Committee in Stillwater. His farming and ranching operations extend into Jackson, Greer and Kiowa Counties.

Givens, an officer and prisoner of war in WW II in Europe, was awarded a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. He and his wife, Helen Jane, have two adult daughters.

He serves on the board of directors

of Oklahoma Art Institute, OSU Alumni Association, Oklahoma Baptist University National Board of Development; Cotton Incorporated, New York City; and Western Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. He is Southwest Director and Board member of the Oklahoma Farm Bureau. □



Jack N. Givens

FEMA Honors Staff

Gov. Frank Keating recognized the OWRB June 13 for its leadership in reducing flood losses in Oklahoma. Planning Division staff and Field Office staff administer the National Flood Insurance Program in Oklahoma under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Raymond "Buddy" Young, FEMA Region VI director, Denton, TX, met with Gov. Keating and the Board to honor OWRB staff for their efforts in promoting the goals and objectives of the National Flood Insurance Program through the application of sound floodplain management strategies.

Young proclaimed the OWRB floodplain management program the best in Region VI and one of the best in the nation. He attributes the state's success in the NFIP to the partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management.

Officials of FEMA Region VI had recommended to FEMA Director James L. Witt, Washington, D.C., that the Water Board receive the Outstanding Public Service Award.

Ken Morris coordinates the National Flood Insurance Program for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Approved at April and June 1995 Board Meetings

FAP Loans

(5.172%, 28.5 year maximum term)

Lawton Water Authority \$ 5,575,000.00

FAP Grants

Osage RWD #15 \$ 25,000.00
 Hughes RWD #6 \$ 60,000.00
 Chandler Municipal Authority \$ 60,000.00
 Woodward RWD #1 \$ 54,000.00
 Town of Alluwe \$ 100,000.00
 Hughes RWD #2 \$ 75,000.00

SRF Loans

Harrah Public Works Authority \$ 1,400,000.00
 Kiefer Public Works Authority \$ 270,000.00

TOTALS AS OF 6/13/95

	FAP Loans	FAP Grants	SRF Loans
APPROVED	156	362	28
Amount	\$190,135,000.00	\$20,119,386.00	\$124,779,726.48
FUNDED	148	329	22
Amount	\$178,625,000.00	\$18,067,864.25	\$116,875,726.48



Gov. Frank Keating displays the plaque awarded the OWRB by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Front: Executive Director Gary Sherrer, Board Chairman Ross Kirtley, Raymond "Buddy" Young, FEMA Region VI director; Ken Morris of the Planning Division, Board Member Mike Henson. Behind: Col. (ret.) Tom Feuerborn, executive director of the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management; OWRB members Richard McDonald, Bill Secrest, Jack Givens, Dick Seybolt and Ervin Mitchell. Center back: Mike Mathis, Planning Division chief.

J.A. Wood Retires from OWRB; Honored for 22-Year Career

He came to the Water Board January 1, 1973, armed with a new Civil Engineering degree from OU and a careful mind for detail, both of which served him well in a career in water resources. Add to that, advice from then-director Forrest Nelson, who told him to "Get the water to the people who need it and help the people as much as you can. Follow the law and the rules." Wood followed Nelson's advice to the letter all his twenty two and a half years at the Board as Division Chief of Planning, Groundwater, Stream Water and Water Management.



J. A. Wood

He also brought with him to the OWRB an appreciation for water acquired in his early life on the dry, tough plains of western Oklahoma. Wood grew up on a farm near Reydon, a half-mile south of the Washita River in Roger Mills County, close to where his grandparents had homesteaded.

"I was the second-youngest in a family of 10 kids, and we were luckier than a lot," he recounts. "My folks had lived through the Dust Bowl, and in 1936, they built a homemade irrigation system that watered an acre of garden and provided water for the family, carried in buckets to the house. We had a well with a windmill that pumped water into a big open-topped tank salvaged from the oilfield," he recalls. "That 25-foot tank was our bath tub and swimming pool too."

Wood says everyone worked in those hard times, and "we made a living without ever seeing much money." He and his sisters still own that 160-

acre farm that was the homeplace. Wood first pulled cotton with a potato sack strapped over his shoulder when he was three years old. He also recalls working long days in the broom corn and hay fields.

He declares he loves that country of his childhood around Cheyenne, Durham and Reydon, but never wanted the hard life of farming the homeplace. However, his roots in the Ogallala sand, his love for the red hills and devotion to friends and family bring Wood back to visit often. Sister Lorene Gault lives in Cheyenne and another, Barbara Cloyd, and her family live east of Sayre. The other sister, Pearlina Cowan, lives with her husband in San Jose, California.

Wood admires the state's early water giants for their foresight. He was especially fond of the late L.L. "Red" Males, Cheyenne banker and Board member for 25 years. It was Males, who in the 1940's, persuaded Sen. Robert S. Kerr to seek Congressional funding for the construction of small SCS flood control reservoirs. Roger Mills County's Sandstone Creek Project, a system of 17 small flood control structures on tributaries of the Washita, was the nation's first such project.

In reviewing his 22 years at the Water Resources Board, Wood says the most satisfying work has been helping thousands of citizens, as well as cities, towns, rural water districts and industries find dependable groundwater or stream water supplies and obtain

water rights. During his tenure, the OWRB has determined reservoir yields and inventoried streams and groundwater basins to determine the total amount of water available for beneficial use. Wood oversaw studies of many of the major groundwater basins and hydrologic studies of most of the state's stream systems.

Wood and his staff also worked with the state's water well drillers in developing the first minimum standards for the industry. He pressed for Board Rules and Regulations that were fair to the drillers and pump contractors and protected the state's fresh groundwater basins.

"I've enjoyed it all," Wood says, "but at 54, it's time to travel, go to the horse races, buy and sell more antiques, and see more rodeos." Wood's first trip will be to Wyoming in July to see the "granddaddy of them all," the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo.

On June 13, at the regular meeting of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, members presented him with a plaque recognizing Wood's "dedicated service and steadfast loyalty and leadership as Chief of the Water Management, Groundwater, Stream Water and Planning Divisions since January 1, 1973."

Staff, friends and colleagues gathered at Board offices for a reception on June 29 to wish Wood godspeed. When he walked out the door the last day, he closed the door on an unforgettable era of Water Board history. It was the 22 year-long era of the Gentleman Cowboy in boots and "Mo" Betta shirts. J.A. Wood had a smile and a handshake for everyone he ever met. □

At the June 13 Board meeting, J.A. Wood was presented a plaque by Board Chairman Ross Kirtley, in appreciation for 22 and a half years of service.



Trust Fund Set Up for Victim's Son

Executive Director Gary Sherrer, announced that a guardianship account has been established for Jonmichael Rigney, the 11 year-old son of Trudy Rigney, a Water Resources Board employee killed in the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. Sherrer said Board Attorney Lou Klaver has assisted Barbara Bartlett, a Tulsa attorney, in establishing the guardianship account which will underwrite the support and education of Jonmichael Rigney.

Contributions to the fund may be addressed to:

**Jonmichael Rigney Guardianship Account
Bank of Oklahoma
320 S. Boston Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74192**



Cecil Bearden of the Water Resources Board, who serves as Oklahoma representative to the Association of State Dam Officials, presents \$2500 scholarship check to Shawnita Sterett, senior OSU civil engineering student. Dr. R.K. Hughes, OSU Civil Engineering Department Head, looks on. Each year, the ASDO recognizes one outstanding senior and one outstanding junior engineering student in the nation. According to Bearden, Sterett is the first Oklahoman to receive the award. ASDO recognized Sterett for scholarship, leadership, character, and dedication to dam safety goals. She is a native of Hugo.

Employing university students to assist with special projects and water quality programs has been one of the OWRB's most successful efforts. Left, seated: Kashi Stephens, Management, Langston University; Christy Hobbs, Environmental Science, OSU; Jane Sund, Civil Engineering\ Environmental Science, OU; Jennifer Ezell, Environmental Science, OSU; Julie Cunningham, Environmental Science, UCO. Standing: Jason Milner, Geography, OU; Donald Stover, Civil Engineering\Environmental Science, OU; Myles Mungle, Agricultural Engineering, OSU; Bill Tanksley, Geography, OU; Angela Brewer, Civil Engineering\Environmental Science, OU. Shanon Haraughty, upper right, is a Carl Albert Executive Fellow in the PhD program in Zoology at OSU.



Mary E. Whitlow, Editor

Barry Fogerty, Photographer

James Leewright, Typography and Layout

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OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

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- Jack N. Givens

OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board

*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

Oklahoma Scrambles to Replace Funds for Clean Water Programs

*Failure of the Congress to renew Clean Water Act
strands major water quality projects high and dry*

Compared to the dollars spent promoting Oklahoma as the nation's hottest spot for fishing, boating, swimming and camping, \$200,000 is a drop in the bucket. Indeed, it is a wonderful bargain if such modest annual investments can ensure Oklahomans and out-of-state tourists clean and scenic waters for recreation.

The EPA recognized the bargain when it set in place the far-reaching Clean Water Act in the 1970's. Section 314 of the Act authorized the Clean Lakes Program and made grants available to states to identify pollution sources of publicly owned lakes and to restore and protect their recreational benefits. However, the

\$200,000 formerly available to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board each year through the program is down the drain, scrubbed by a Congress intent on downsizing EPA and balancing the budget.

Oklahoma benefitted immensely from the Clean Lakes Program. More than a dozen state lakes testify to the success of the program in which the EPA has invested \$2.8 million and the Water Resources Board and local sponsors have contributed in-kind matches of \$1.8 million.

*It's win-win. It's geared
toward helping the public*

"The program grew because it's popular with Oklahomans," said Derek Smithee, OWRB acting Water Quality Programs division chief. "It is the only program that focuses exclusively on lake resources," he pointed out.

The Clean Lakes Program utilizes a phased approach to monitoring lake water quality (the Lake Water Quality Assessment), diagnose problems with specific lakes (Phase I), perform lake restoration (Phase II), and evaluate the success of restoration (Phase III.)

Phase I studies are cost-shared, with EPA traditionally picking up 70 percent of the cost; the state 30 percent. The state's contribution is usually in-kind -- technical expertise and salaries for limnologists who collect and analyze samples of water, sediment and fish. Phase I concludes with a



As most of our customers know, the April 19 bombing heavily damaged the Water Resources Board building and forced us to a temporary location in the State Insurance Building.

Now, after long months, we will occupy a new permanent home. We anticipate our move to 3800 Classen by January 1. This is exciting news for us and a landmark in our recovery.

Board Chairman Ross Kirtley, Assistant Director Duane Smith and I recently met with building owners to finalize an agreement for the OWRB's new home. The building meets our

Continued on page 2



The Water Resources Board will occupy the concourse level and first floor of this building at 3800 Classen, with an expected move-in date of January 1, 1996.

Continued on page 2

Director, continued from page 1

criteria for comfortable and secure work space; accessibility to major streets and highways; proximity to the Capitol; proximity to food and services; and safe, convenient parking for employees and visitors.

Some interior alterations now underway will provide more usable office space, more storage, a larger Board meeting room and more amenities than our downtown location. We searched for the best office space we could possibly find for our people because they deserve it.

Over these past months, the dedicated Water Board staff has accomplished miracles under very difficult circumstances in crowded quarters, with borrowed, make-do furniture and equipment, and a mountain of cardboard boxes.

All of us long for a return to "normalcy." I look forward to the time when all of us at the Water Resources Board can proudly welcome our friends and customers to our new offices at 3800 Classen. □

Clean Lakes, continued from page 1

report setting out precise recommendations and estimates of costs for cleanup.

Phase I studies/reports have been completed recently on Meadow Lake (Enid), Perry Lake and Newkirk Lake. Studies are in progress at Lakes Tenkiller, Wister, Carmen, Henryetta, Hunter Park (Hobart) and Lake Arcadia (Edmond.) Since



Jane Sund, OU student and OWRB seasonal employee, collects bottom water sample at Broken Bow Lake.

the Clean Lakes Program began, the OWRB has completed studies on 10 additional lakes.

Phase II focuses on restoration and protection, and requires the city or other entity to match 50/50 with the EPA. In Phase II restorations, the OWRB provides technical support and the city's share is often in-kind.

The Clean Lakes Program is a boon for municipalities because it offers less expensive cleanup alternatives. One of the most successful and visible Clean Lakes projects is Northeast (Zoo) Lake at the Oklahoma City Zoo. The successful cleanup was accomplished with the cooperation of the OWRB, Oklahoma City Zoo, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma County and the EPA.

And although many publicly owned lakes in the OWRB program are small, the state's large lakes are not exempt from problems. Indeed, age, geography and development in the watershed impact larger lakes as well. Phase I studies at Grand and Tenkiller Lakes detected pollution and turbidity problems with the potential to impact tourism and recreational uses.

If clean and inviting lakes were not reward enough, the state gains two other remarkable benefits through the Clean Lakes Program -- the Statewide Lakes Water Quality Assessment and Oklahoma Water Watch, a citizens volunteer monitoring program.

Through the Statewide Lakes Water Quality Assessment, OWRB staff assess water quality and establish baseline water quality for all significant publicly owned lakes, then revisit and reevaluate trophic status every five years.

Oklahoma Water Watch is also assisted by EPA funding. Since 1992, Oklahoma Water Watch has trained 600 volunteer monitors at 33 lake and river sites throughout the state.

Smithee warned that the move on Capitol Hill to downsize environmental programs casts a deep shadow over the Clean Lakes Program. "Oklahoma has been fortunate in that the EPA has made significant investments and the Oklahoma Legislature has been generous in providing matching funds," Smithee said. "Now, in addition to approximately \$100,000 the Legislature has appropriated as matching funds, we will have to ask for the \$200,000 formerly provided by the EPA," he pointed out.

Smithee emphasized it's important for the state to get involved... lakes are state resources. □

**Sanford Takes Tulsa Command**

Col. Timothy L. Sanford assumed command of the Tulsa District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on July 18, during change of command ceremonies at the Corps' Tulsa Office.

He replaces Col. Otis Williams who became executive director of the Directorate of Military Programs at Corps headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Sanford will oversee water resource development in southern Kansas, Oklahoma and Northern Texas, as well as military construction and environmental restoration in the region.

He is a 1972 engineering graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and holds a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of Illinois. He is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College, the Army War College, and is a registered professional engineer in the State of Illinois.

Sanford has commanded a combat company and combat battalion, served as Branch Chief of the Corps' Japan District and has taught at the USMA and the Defense Mapping School at Fort Belvoir, VA. He is a member of the Society of American Military Engineers, Association of the U.S. Army and the Army Engineer Association.

Don Ellison Died July 23

Charles Donald (Don) Ellison, Jr., community planner for Region VI of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, died at his home in Denton, July 23, 1995. He was 59 years old.

Ellison held a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in regional and city planning from the University of Oklahoma. He joined FEMA Region VI October 1978 and served in the Natural Hazards Branch of the agency. The Water Resources Board enjoyed a long association with Ellison as a representative to the state in the National Flood Insurance Program administered in Oklahoma by the OWRB Planning Division.

Ellison is survived by his wife, Wanda, of Denton; daughters Jeannette Cook

of Pennsylvania and Ann Ellison of Ohio; and a stepson, Harold Doss of Denton.

Memorials may be made to the Denton Flame Fellowship, 1412 Kendolph St., Denton, TX 76205.

Waterways Meeting Sept. 27-29

The 35th Annual Meeting of the National Waterways Conference will be held at the Adams Mark Hotel in Tulsa on September 27-29, 1995.

The theme of the meeting will be "Redefining Waterways Role: Reinventing Missions or Reneging on Commitments?" According to planners, the agenda will examine cost-cutting alternatives such as closing tributaries, stopping new projects, recovering operation and maintenance (O&M) costs, abandoning flood control and other other means to contain navigation costs.

For more information, call Carol King, conference coordinator at (918) 838-9933.

Water Conference Nov. 15

Circle your calendar for November 15 and plan to attend the Sixteenth Annual Governor's Water Conference at the Marriott Hotel, 3233 Northwest Expressway in Oklahoma City. The theme will be "The Shifting Federal Role -- Oklahoma's Opportunity to Redefine Water Policies," reflecting the downsized dollars and diminishing role of the federal government in state water and environmental programs.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., and the program will conclude at 3 p.m., following the luncheon and presentation of Oklahoma Water Pioneer Awards. Registration is \$30. For information, call conference coordinator Mary Whitlow at (405) 525-4700.

Nonpoint Source Conference

The first Regional Nonpoint Source Conference will be held October 15-17 at the Tulsa Marriott Hotel, 41st and Garnett.

The conference is sponsored by the EPA Region VI, Office of the Secre-

tary of Environment and others and hosted by Blue Thumb, Tulsa's Urban Water Quality Improvement Project. Registration is limited to 250 and costs \$100. Workshops on October 16 cost \$35. The deadline for registration is October 6. For information or brochure, call Sylvia Ritzky at (405) 525-4720.

Laura Oak, husband Mark and 5-day old daughter Carly Ann visited the OWRB offices on August 8. Laura, six months pregnant at the time of the bombing, suffered serious injuries and premature labor. Carly was born full-term on August 3 and is regarded as the Water Board's "miracle baby."



Board Member's Grandson Reflects on Bombing

TO OUR HORROR

To our horror --

The flash, the sound, the screams.

In our dreams --

The hurt, the dead, the heroes now -- Angels, Angels.

They walk through our nightmares.

Our own brothers -- killed our children who were

So unaware...So impartial to the motives of hate.

Yet, with that one push of a button,

With that one twist of a dial, with one light of a fuse,

Our children's innocence and youth have been denied.

So now we ask what shall we do? What with the lost and buried in the building's black abyss? What with the building torn and bruised? What with the tears of the family and friends and fellow countrymen?

On our own, we are helpless.

On our own, we are gone.

On our own, we'll be left in ruin.

But with Love we conquer all.

April 19, 1995

T.J. McCloud

T.J. McCloud was so touched by the tragedy of April 19 that he wrote a poem expressing his grief. His grandmother, Board member Mike Henson, said that wasn't unusual for 15 year-old T.J. because he's been writing almost all of his life. She says after the bombing, T.J. just sat down and jotted off the poem entitled "To Our Horror."

Henson recalls that T.J. made his own comic book when he was seven years old, drawing all the panels and writing all the text in cartoon-style balloons. His unique talents and creativity were recognized last year by Jenks East Junior High, winning him awards as Outstanding Drama Student and Outstanding Vocal Music Student.

T.J. lives in Tulsa with his parents, Tom and Raye Lynn McCloud, and a seven year-old sister named Mickey, after her grandmother. T.J. is an active member of Park Plaza Church of Christ, where he participated in a summer church camp volunteer program to paint and repair homes of low income families. □



T.J. McCloud

THE FLOOD CURRENT

JULY-AUGUST 1995

29 Counties Slated for Disaster Aid

On June 26, President Clinton approved federal disaster aid for 10 Oklahoma counties which were hit hardest by severe storms and flooding in late May and much of June. One week later, after further assessment of the damage, 19 counties were added to the federal disaster declaration list.

James Lee Witt, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said the President's major disaster declaration makes federal funds available to supplement the recovery needs of affected local governments in the counties of Alfalfa, Atoka, Beckham, Caddo, Canadian, Carter, Cotton, Creek, Custer, Ellis, Grady, Grant, Harmon, Jackson, Kingfisher, Kiowa, Lincoln, Logan, Major, Murray, Nowata, Osage, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Roger Mills, Seminole, Tillman, Washita and Woodward. The total damage estimate for the state now stands at \$10

million.

Under the declaration, the federal government will pay 75 percent of the approved costs for restoring public roads, bridges, utilities and related facilities damaged by the storms. In addition, funding will be provided to pay part of the eligible costs for clearing of debris from public areas and emergency measures that were taken to protect public health and safety.

According to Ken Morris, state NFIP coordinator, the Town of Davidson in southwest Oklahoma was among the hardest hit by the late spring storms. "Separate gages in the area measured rainfall at six inches in one hour and 14 inches in a 12-hour period. Homes in the southeast part of town were flooded with over three feet of water," he said.

Counties included in the presidential disaster declaration are eligible for

federal assistance under the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), created to reduce a community's vulnerability to flooding and related natural disasters. Specific projects funded through the program -- including floodproofing, acquisition/relocation and development of disaster preparedness plans -- decrease the potential for future damages as well as the need for state and federal financial assistance.

Morris is working with officials from FEMA and the Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management in evaluating projects in the disaster areas that could be eligible for HMGP grants.

"Our primary objective is to prevent or decrease the likelihood of flood-related disasters -- especially loss of life," Morris said. The HMGP will provide a 75/25 cost-match for both public and private projects, contingent upon membership in the National Flood Insurance Program, he added. □

OFMA Meets September 13-15

The Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association will host its fifth annual meeting at Lake Texoma Lodge September 13-15. Enforcement will be the theme.

Speakers will include representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Oklahoma Municipal League, Association of State Floodplain Managers, City of Tulsa, Oklahoma Department of Civil Emergency Management and Insurance Services Office. The conference will feature a workshop on the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

Ken Morris, state NFIP coordinator, urges floodplain managers from all communities with sound programs to attend the CRS session, scheduled for Friday, September 15. "Local govern-

Continued on page 5



The Town of Davidson in Tillman County received 14 inches of rain, flooding homes in the southeast part of town.

MAJOR FLOODS WORLDWIDE WITHIN THE PAST CENTURY

YEAR	LOCATION	CAUSE & CASUALTIES
1883	Java & Sumatra	Tsunami, following the explosion of Krakatoa. 36,000 dead.
1887	Henan, China	The Hwang He River, swollen by rain, floods 50,000 square miles. 900,000 dead.
1889	Johnstown, Penn.	Dam failure. 2,200 dead.
1900	Galveston, Texas	Hurricane/flooding. 6,000 dead.
1916	The Netherlands	North Sea storms flood lowlands. 10,000 dead.
1928	Florida	Hurricane causes Lake Okeechobee to flood. 2,400 dead.
1938	northern China	Chinese forces blow up dikes on the Hwang He to impede Japanese advance. Estimate: 1 million dead.
1960	Chile, Hawaii & Japan	Giant tsunami, following a major Chilean earthquake, inundates coastal areas.
1963	northern Italy	Landslide into Vaiont Dam/Reservoir sends huge wave into valley below. 2,000 dead.
1970	eastern Pakistan	Cyclone-generated floods inundate coastal regions. Estimate: 200,000 dead.
1971	Orissa State, India	Cyclone and sea surge hit coast. 10,000 dead.
1979	Morvi, India	Heavy monsoon rains cause collapse of river dam. 7,000 to 10,000 dead.
1982	Peru	Torrential rains cause lake to overflow into Chantayacu River valley. 2,500 dead.
1985	northeastern Brazil	Rain-caused floods. 1 million homeless
1988	Bangladesh	Monsoon flooding inundates most of country. 28 million homeless.
1988	Sudan	Torrential rains flood the Nile. 1.5 million homeless. Number of dead unknown.
1991	Bangladesh	Cyclone hits delta area with 145 mph winds, floods and 16-20 foot water surges. 125,000 believed dead.
1993	midwestern U.S.	Record spring and summer rains cause prolonged flooding along Mississippi River and its tributaries. 50 dead; 70,000 homeless.

Meeting, continued from page 4

ments who qualify for the CRS can expect to secure a substantial reduction in flood insurance premiums for their residents," he pointed out. □

Floodplain Information is Free

Community officials or other citizens in search of information on floodplain management can obtain a wide variety of national publications on that subject by contacting the Floodplain Management Resource Center in Boulder, Colorado. After identifying your needs, staff will search the computerized bibliographic data base for the appropriate publications.

The Center can be contacted by calling 303/492-6818. The service is free. □

OWRB Offers NFIP Video

To improve community involvement in the National Flood Insurance Program, the OWRB offers a video for use by community officials.

The 9-minute video details responsibilities of the NFIP, what constitutes development in the floodplain, and the differences between the floodway and floodplain. The video is available for loan or presentation to interested communities. For more information, call (405) 525-4740.

"100-Year Flood"... It's a Probability

The following article is reprinted, in part, from the North Dakota Water newsletter, "The Water Primer."

When flooding or flood control are discussed, the terms 100-year, 500-year, or even 10- or 25-year flood, are often used to describe the size of a flood event. Unfortunately, these terms often mislead people to believe that once an area has experienced a 100-year flood, for example, there won't be another as big for the next century. But that's not exactly correct. The term "100-year flood" is actually a way of stating the odds.

According to rules and regulations of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the 100-year flood, or "base flood," is defined as "the flood having a one percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year." While this definition does not hint at its severity, the 100-year flood is often associated with considerable damage to property and, sometimes, loss of life.

If you flip a coin, there is a 50 percent chance it will come up heads. Or, if you have two straws, one of which is shorter, there is a 50 percent chance of drawing the short straw. Another way to say this is the odds are one in two. A two-year flood has the same chance of occurring -- 50 percent, or one year in two. If you had 10

straws, one of them short, the chances of drawing the short straw are one in 10, or 10 percent; in flooding terminology, this is the same as a 10-year event.

A 100-year flood has a one in 100 chance of occurring, or a one percent chance in any given year. This is the same chance as drawing the one short straw out of 100 straws. To most accurately demonstrate the chances of a 100-year flood, imagine 100 bundles of straws, each containing 100 straws. In each bundle, there is one short straw. The chance of drawing the short straw out of one bundle is one in 100. However, if one straw is drawn from each of the 100 bundles, the odds are good that one short straw will be "selected."

Because of luck, good or bad, it may be that no short straws are drawn or a fairly large number of short straws may be drawn. You might draw one on the first pull and one on the last, or five, even ten, in a row. Floods work much the same way. One hundred years may pass without a 100-year flood (no short straws) or you could have five or ten 100-year floods in a row. Now that you (hopefully) understand what the 100-year flood is and when it could occur, you should also know the value of this advice: plan carefully and BE PREPARED! □

At the August 8 Board Meeting:

Board approved two regular streamwater permits. New D/PC operators licenses were approved for Jay Cox, Brad Bryne and Richard Weber. Crouch Drilling, a licensed firm, added Tom Bickell and Clark Johnson as operators. ☐

The Board met in the auditorium of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. In opening remarks, Executive Director Gary Sherrer introduced a Resolution delegating authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to approve selection of a site and lease, as a means of expediting relocation of the OWRB to permanent quarters.

Joe Freeman, Financial Assistance Division chief, asked and received approval for emergency water/sewer improvement grants of \$35,000 to Stroud UA, (Lincoln Co.), \$25,000 to Canute PWA (Washita County), and \$100,000 to Haileyville PWA (Pittsburg Co.) He asked for approval of a loan of \$330,000 to Haileyville PWA, and an increase of \$125,000 in the previous loan to Tonkawa MA (Kay Co.) In preparation for the upcoming bond sale, Freeman asked the Board to approve Boatmen's Bank as the trustee bank and to approve a resolution authorizing issuance of Oklahoma Water Resources Board State Loan Program Bonds in the amount of \$50 million.

In the Planning portion of the agenda, the Board approved a resolution asking the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to examine flooding problems in the Arkansas and Grand Neosho River Basins. It asked the reactivation of the Arkansas River Basin Coordinating Committee to review the performance of the basin's operating plan and suggest any needed changes in maximizing project benefits. Planning Chief Mike Mathis asked approval of a \$15,000 loan for RWD #6 (Pittsburg Co.) under the Statewide Rural Energy and Water Conservation Program.

On the Water Management agenda, the Board amended one temporary permit and approved six temporary permits and five regular permits for the use of groundwater. The

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Approved at July and August 1995 Board Meetings

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE			
Approved at July and August 1995 Board Meetings			
FAP Loans (5.172%, 28.5 year maximum term)			
Rush Springs MIA		\$	165,000.00
Alex MA		\$	350,000.00
FAP Grants			
Stroud UA		\$	35,000.00
Canute PWA		\$	25,000.00
Okfuskee RWD #1		\$	33,623.00
Haileyville PWA		\$	100,000.00
Town of Hollister		\$	32,500.00
Alex MA		\$	70,000.00
SRF Loans			
Haileyville PWA		\$	330,000.00
Increase Tonkawa MA by		\$	125,000.00
TOTALS AS OF 8/9/95			
	FAP Loans	FAP Grants	SRF Loans
APPROVED	158	368	29
Amount	\$190,615,000.00	\$20,415,509.00	\$125,229,726.48
FUNDED	148	336	23
Amount	\$178,625,000.00	\$18,347,889.25	\$117,285,726.48

Mary E. Whitlow, Editor

Barry Fogerty, Photographer

James Leewright, Typography and Layout

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OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
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Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150

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- Richard McDonald
- Dick Seybolt
- Lonnie L. Farmer
- Jack N. Givens

OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

How Will Federal Budget Cuts Impact State's Water Programs?

*Nov. 15 Governor's Water Conference will examine
"Oklahoma's Opportunity to Redefine Water Policies"*

I extend a personal invitation to each of you to attend the Governor's Water Conference on November 15 in Oklahoma City. This is the sixteenth annual water conference, making it the oldest and best attended of the state conferences and an event popular with four governors.

Again this year, we are fortunate in featuring the remarks of Gov. Frank Keating. The agenda will explore the extent of federal budget cuts and the implications the Congress' crusade holds for water and environmental programs. That's the down side. On the brighter side, the retreat of the federal government may return power and resources to the states and allow Oklahomans options in deciding their future.

The Governor's Water Conference will bring to the podium the assembly of insightful speakers that has distinguished our agenda since 1980. We have invited authoritative speakers from national and state levels, the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and members of the Oklahoma Legislature.

In addition, conferees will premiere the Water Board's new slide show on the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, an updated strategy that will project water supply and demand and guide water development and policy to 2050. The Water Conference will provide citizens the

Continued on page 2

The Sixteenth Annual Governor's Water Conference to be held at the Oklahoma City Marriott Hotel on November 15 will examine the impact of federal budget cuts and downsizing on Oklahoma's water and environmental programs.

The theme is "The Shifting Federal Role — Oklahoma's Opportunity to Redefine Water Policies." Conferees will hear about the feds' retreat in funding state and local programs as Congress drives relentlessly toward a balanced budget. However, returning power and resources to the states as means to control the federal budget could present Oklahoma opportunities in shaping its own destiny. Predicting the policy outcome will be the focus of the Governor's Water Conference.

Registration opens at 8 a.m.; the program begins at 8:30 a.m. with welcome and opening remarks by J. Ross Kirtley, OWRB chairman.

The keynote will be delivered by Craig Bell, an attorney and executive director of the Western States Water Council headquartered in Midvale, Utah. Bell guides water resource administrators in 16 western states concerning water policy issues and pending legislation. He regularly addresses the U.S. Congress, the National and Western Governors' Associations, and the Western Legislative Conference. Bell writes amicus

briefs in water cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and has written widely on evolution of water laws in the West, federal and Indian water rights; the impacts of federal environmental laws on water rights, compacts, water rights and conservation; and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Bell serves on many advisory committees, among them the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Western Water Management, which authored a 1992 report entitled "Water Transfers in the West — Efficiency, Equity and the Environment."

Following Bell's address, representatives of federal agencies will discuss options in altering missions, shifting responsibilities and "work-

Continued on page 2



Governor Frank Keating

Director, continued from page 1

opportunity to survey significant water issues, meet policymakers and visit with members of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

I invite you to call today to reserve your spot at the Governor's Water Conference on November 15 at the Oklahoma City Marriott. If you have an interest in the state's water resources and programs, I promise a memorable day. □

Conference, continued from page 1

ing smart" in a future of limited budgets. The panel entitled "The Downsizing Dilemma" will be moderated by Christopher J. Brescia, executive director of Midwest Area River Coalition (MARC 2000) based in St. Louis. Panelists include Col. Timothy L. Sanford, commander, Tulsa District Corps of Engineers; Charles Rainbolt, state director, Rural Economic and Community Development; A. Stanley Meiburg, deputy regional administrator, EPA Region 6; and Larry L. Todd, area manager, Bureau of Reclamation.

At mid-morning, Gov. Frank Keating will address the conference and project the opportunities open to Oklahoma in charting its own destiny in water and environmental programs. Governor Keating addressed the 1994 Governor's Water Conference as one of three gubernatorial candidates in a race he subsequently won by a margin of 17 percentage points. He is a

Tulsa, a graduate of Georgetown University and the University of Oklahoma College of Law. Keating served as Assistant District Attorney in Tulsa, in the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma Senate. In Washington, D.C., he was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Associate Attorney General and Acting Deputy Secretary and General Counsel of HUD.

Following the Governor's address, OWRB Member Dick Seybolt will oversee a discussion entitled "New Directions, New Destinies." Panelists representing state organizations will consider the impact, implications and opportunities in choosing new directions. Panelists are Bill Moyer, executive director, Oklahoma Municipal League; Ronn Cupp, vice-president of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Rob Johnson, chief executive officer of the National Rural Water Association, Scott Robinson, president, Arkansas Basin Development Association; and Jarold Callahan, executive director, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association.

As part of the luncheon program, Water Resources Board Executive Director Gary L. Sherrer will introduce a 20-minute slide presentation updating the 1980 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. The show discusses water issues of concern to Oklahomans, recommends necessary legislation, projects water supply and demand, guides water

development and policy to the year 2050, and sets out regional plans of development.

The noon program will also feature the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation and State Legislators, including Speaker Glen Johnson and Rep. Mike Mass, and close with presentation of Oklahoma Water Pioneer awards.

The Water Pioneer award was introduced at the 1985 Governor's Water Conference and continues to recognize lifelong achievements in the development, conservation and protection of Oklahoma's precious water resources.

The Governor's Water Conference, one of the oldest and best attended state meetings, is coordinated by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and sponsored by 28 water-related organizations.

Registration costs \$30 and includes lunch. The Marriott Hotel, 3233 N.W. Expressway offers a special Conference room rate of \$70, single or double, through November 6. Please make room reservations by calling the Marriott Hotel at (405) 842-6633.

For further information on the Conference or to register, please call the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, (405) 525-4700. To register by mail, please complete the form below, enclose check or purchase order made out to Governor's Water Conference, and mail to P.O. Box 150, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150. □

Please mail completed form with your \$30 check or purchase order to: **Governor's Water Conference**
P.O. Box 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150

Registration includes luncheon.
No refunds considered after November 10
Please make checks payable to : **Governor's Water Conference**

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Water Board Pitches in for "Day of Caring"

The volunteers who pledged a day work to the United Way "Day of Caring" on September 8 swarmed on Celebrations Preschool like Junebugs. It was the first cool day of the season and the last Friday of vacation for the children who would arrive on Monday.

The bilingual preschool for Hispanic children at 431 S.W. 11th Street was one of 57 facilities in Oklahoma City assisted by United Way funding and the project targeted for OWRB efforts. The spirited crew was 34-strong and armed with rollers, brushes, buckets, spades, rakes and hoes. Water Board engineer Cecil Bearden crawled a Bobcat skid-steer loader through a mountain of 50 railroad ties and 26 tons of sand.

By day's end, the Water Board folks had restructured the playground by creating sand safety areas around

climbing toys and swings, then bordered the play areas with railroad ties. They weeded flowerbeds, cleaned the grounds and trimmed trees. Inside, volunteers applied two coats of fresh white paint to walls and trim of two big playrooms.

The Water Resources Board offices, across the street from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, had been heavily damaged by the April 19 bombing, and some of the volunteers had been injured in the blast. Gary Sherrer, OWRB executive director, said volunteers appreciated the opportunity to help the community that had helped them so much following the tragedy.

"It was our opportunity to give something back to the city and help the children," Sherrer said.

Shelly Bacon of the Financial Assistance Division coordinated the

Water Resources Board Day of Caring. Other volunteers were Brent Riley, Brenda Maxey, Reese Daugherty, Marc Hullinger, Paul Hodge, Laura Oak, Karen Yuan, and Tiger Feng of the Financial Assistance Division; J.D. Strong, Juli Cunningham, Keith Owen, Bill Cauthron, Jennifer Ezell, Shanon Haraughty, Christy Hobbs, Juli Watterson, Angela Brewer and Paul Koenig of the Water Quality Programs Division; Harold Springer, Cecil Bearden, Terri Sparks, Ing Yang and Dave Goughnour of the Planning Division; Gene Doussett and Barry Fogerty of the Water Management Division; Mary Whitlow, Mike McCaugh, Jim Schuelein, Brad Nesom, Kelley Bailes and Mike Melton of the Administration Division; Sylvia Ritzky, Kelley Smith and Leslie Nance of the Office of the Secretary of Environment. □



Terri Sparks helps with the first of two coats of paint.



Engineers Reese Daugherty and Mike Melton raise the tire swings before laying a cushion of sand.



Juli Cunningham and Angela Brewer pour paint in Shanon Haraughty's roller pan.

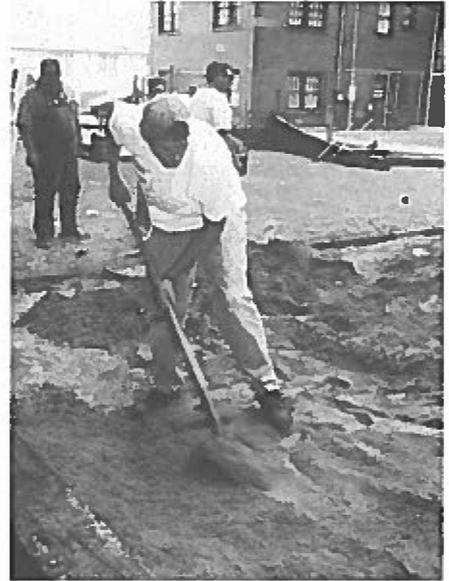


Brenda Maxey weeds flower beds as part of the OWRB effort to beautify Celebrations Preschool.

***Safer playground, brighter rooms
all in a day's work***



Cecil Bearden moves sand with the Bobcat loaned without charge by A&B Rental.



Brent Riley spreads sand in the area beneath the tire swings.



Dave Goughnour struggles with a dead branch on the elm tree that shades the playground.



Gene Doussett and Mike McGaugh begin rolling first coat of paint over dark stripes on playroom walls.



When the paint job was finished, playrooms were clean and bright.



Volunteers placed 50 railroad ties and 26 tons of sand to create safer, more inviting play areas.



Former Water Pioneer Dies

Heber Finch, Jr., Sapulpa, honored as an Oklahoma Water Pioneer at the 1991 Governor's Water Conference, died August 25 at the age of 88.

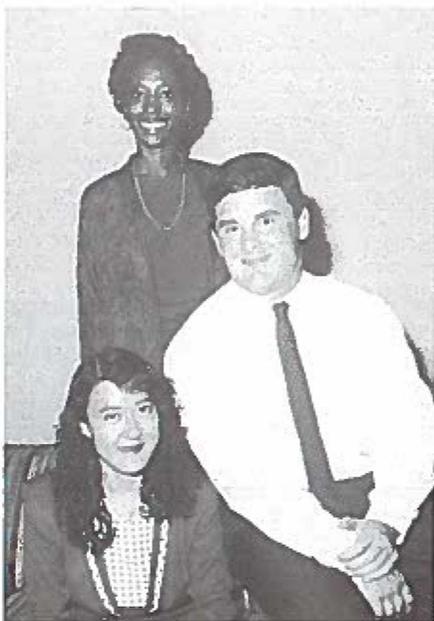
Finch served 20 years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, representing House District 30 from 1954 to 1974. He earned undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Oklahoma, then entered the Sapulpa law firm founded by his father. The Water Conference honored him as a Water Pioneer for his long advocacy for water development.

He is survived by his wife, Clorene, three daughters, a stepdaughter, two stepsons, a brother, 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. □

FA Division Welcomes Three

Joe Freeman, chief of the OWRB Financial Assistance Division, announces the addition of three employees, Karen Yuan, Angela Roberson and Bill Botsford.

Yuan is a Carl Albert Executive Fellow who works in the Engineering Analysis Section. She is a student at OU in



New employees Angela Roberson, Bill Botsford and Karen Yuan

Applied Math and Computer Science. Yuan holds a BS degree in Environmental Engineering from Chongqing Institute of Architecture and Engineering in China, a diploma in Chinese literature from Humanity University in Beijing and a MS in Environmental Engineering from the University of Connecticut at New Haven.

Roberson, a financial analyst trainee, is a graduate of Langston University with a BA in Business Administration in Accounting. She has four years experience in public accounting.

Botsford, an intern in the Financial Analysis Section, is a University of Central Oklahoma student working on a degree in Finance. □

John Pearson Named to Compact

Governor Frank Keating recently announced the appointment of John C. Pearson of Guthrie to the Oklahoma-Kansas Arkansas River Compact Commission.

Pearson is president and chairman of the board of the Guthrie Corporation, a grain storage and handling facility and supplier of agricultural products. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and the Harvard Graduate School of Business. Pearson is president of the Mid-South Grain Shippers Association, chairman of the Waterways Advisory Board of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and an officer in many other professional organizations. He has served as mayor of Guthrie, Oklahoma, and worked in city and county economic development organizations and the Chamber of Commerce.

Pearson replaces Lew Meibergen as commissioner on the Oklahoma-Kansas Arkansas River Compact. □

Bernice Crockett Died Oct. 8

Water activist, writer, educator and Water Pioneer Bernice Norman Crockett died October 8 in Norman at the age of 87. She was a resident of Shawnee.

She was born in Davis, Oklahoma, and married James Henry Crockett,

Jr., who preceded her in death.

Crockett, a longtime proponent of water development, had been an enthusiastic booster in Oklahoma Water Incorporated. She was named Oklahoma Water Pioneer at the 1985 Governor's Water Conference, one of only two women ever to receive the prestigious award. She served on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Crockett is survived by Lynn and Sid Clarke of Shawnee, Chloe and Trent Baulch of Norman and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Durant on October 10. Memorials may be made to the Oklahoma Historical Society 2100 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, 73105. □

Sardis Meeting Well Attended

More than 90 southeast Oklahomans attended the October 5 meeting at Clayton to voice opinions concerning the marketing of Sardis Lake water. It is the first of four public meetings scheduled in the region.

Gary Sherrer, OWRB executive director who facilitated the meeting, said "It was very productive, and that's important because it sets the stage for our next three meetings."

The second meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. October 19 at Oliver's Inn in Antlers, will feature a presentation by Oklahoma City Mayor Ron Norick on the city's proposal to use Sardis/Kiamichi water to augment its existing supplies.

The third and fourth meetings will be held at 7 p.m. on November 2 at the High School Cafeteria in Hugo, and November 16 at the Clayton High School Auditorium. At the Hugo meeting, Carl Riehn, director of the North Texas Municipal Water District, will outline the district's interest in utilizing the basin's water resources. The final meeting will address any other water marketing proposals.

Sherrer assured residents that any plan must address future water needs, lake levels, tourism/recreation, economic development and Native American claims. □

At the October Board Meeting:

In his report to the Board, Executive Director Gary Sherrer reviewed the OWRB budget and assured the members that the FY 1997 budget is extremely conservative and includes no new money.

Assistant Director Duane Smith commended members of the Canton Lake Task Force for working diligently to reach an agreement concerning releases of water from Canton Lake. He recognized the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, City of Oklahoma City, Canton Lake Association and recreational interests for their steadfast efforts in seeking a satisfactory solution.

Joe Freeman, chief of the Financial Assistance Division, reported that the OWRB will close the \$50 million 1995 bond issue in New York on October 18. He said Standard and Poor's had assigned a "AA" rating to the new issue and allowed the "AA" rating on current outstanding bonds. In further business on the FA Division agenda, the Board approved the following emergency grants for sewer/water improvements: \$50,000 to Atoka RWD #3 (Atoka Co.), \$100,000 to Broken Bow PWA (McCurtain Co.) and \$50,000 to Hooker MA (Texas Co.); and the following loans: \$235,000 to Hooker MA, \$3,790,000 to Marlow MA (Stephens Co.), \$285,000 to Wagoner County RWD #2, and \$6,428,000 to Duncan PUA (Stephens Co.) The Board approved an increase in the loan amount and extension of time for Wilburton PWA and an extension of time for Longtown RWSD #1.

In the Water Management agenda, the Board approved 10 temporary and five regular permits for the use of groundwater and amended one temporary and one regular groundwater permit. The Board approved six regular

permits for use of stream water.

New D/PC operators licenses were approved for Larry Brown of Brown's Water Well Service and Mark Grantham and Craig Tucker of A.W. Pool, Inc. □

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Approved at September and October 1995 Board Meetings

FAP Loans
(4.822%, 28.5 year maximum term)

Bethany-Warr Acres PWA	\$ 6,335,000.00
Duncan PUA	\$ 4,075,000.00
Hooker MA	\$ 235,000.00
Wagoner Co. RWD #2	\$ 285,000.00
Increase Wilburton PWA by	\$ 105,000.00

FAP Grants

Murray Co. RWD #1	\$ 15,200.00
Osage Co. RWD #15	\$ 30,000.00
Valliant PWA	\$ 50,000.00
Douglas PWA	\$ 60,000.00
Atoka Co. RWD #3	\$ 50,000.00
Broken Bow PWA	\$ 100,000.00
Hooker MA	\$ 50,000.00

SRF Loans

Broken Arrow MA	\$ 3,925,000.00
Bethany-Warr Acres PWA	\$ 3,749,940.00
Increase Kiefer PWA by	\$ 50,000.00
Marlow MA	\$ 4,000,000.00
Duncan PUA	\$ 2,353,000.00

TOTALS AS OF 10/10/95

	FAP Loans	FAP Grants	SRF Loans
APPROVED	171	371	31
Amount	\$204,721,000.00	\$20,720,709.00	\$137,407,666.48
FUNDED	149	338	25
Amount	\$178,825,000.00	\$18,529,834.41	\$119,035,726.48

Mary E. Whitlow, Editor

Barry Fogerty, Photographer

James Leewright, Typography and Layout

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OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
P.O. Box 150
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0150

J. Ross Kirtley, Chairman
Bill Secrest
Ervin Mitchell
Robert S. Kerr, Jr.
Mike Henson
Richard McDonald
Dick Seybolt
Lonnie L. Farmer
Jack N. Givens

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OKLAHOMA WATER NEWS

Bimonthly Newsletter of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board



*from
the desk
of the
Director...*

Solutions to Water, Environmental Problems Rely on State, Cities

State, local people can do a better job of targeting real problems and implementing reasonable solutions

Solution of water and environmental problems must move away from Washington, D.C., keynote speaker Craig Bell told 300 participants of the Governor's Water Conference in Oklahoma City on November 15. "That model of decision-making failed in the dynamic, adaptive, long-term view," said Bell, a Utah attorney and executive director of Western States Water Council.

Bell's message of change in the federal

budget deadlock between Congress and the President.

The theme of the Sixteenth Water Conference was "The Shifting Federal Role: Oklahoma's Opportunity to Redefine Water Policies."

Bell said, "Our states have assumed almost all the costs of regulating those programs which have been delegated to them. In fiscal 1991 (the most recent year for which data are available) the states spent \$9.3 billion. The federal share was 14 percent -- down significantly from the traditional 35 to 40 percent."

He noted that state and local governments and other interest groups, working together, can target resources that can be used efficiently and effectively to deal with real problems in managing our water resources and protecting the environment. In the past, the feds have led us to believe that more regulation equals more environmental protection. Not true, he said. Nothing is accomplished until the program is implemented at the state and local level, he pointed out.

"States are confronted with both opportunity and responsibility," Bell said. "If states fail to deal with the complex problems confronting us in water resource management, we can't complain about lack of federal control when it's invited by our own inaction."

He said he believes the states will respond to a new model -- one locally driven, state-facilitated and federally supported. It will involve all the

Continued on page 2



State and local governments can target resources, solve problems better, said Craig Bell, executive director of Western States Water Council.

regulatory role was driven home by nearly every speaker. It was further emphasized by the absence of the invited Environmental Protection Agency speaker, grounded by the



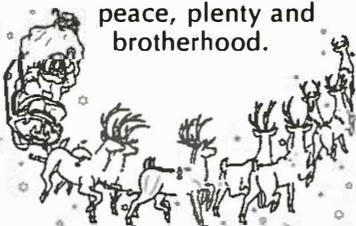
As we end the year, all of us at the Water Resources Board feel blessed that we survived the tragedy of April 19. We continue to mourn our two fine employees who were killed, and progress in our healing process, but we are filled with hope and expectation this holiday season.

Very early in the New Year, the Water Resources Board will move from crowded temporary quarters into new beautiful new offices at 3800 North Classen. We will meet 1996 with new excitement, greater dedication, and more energy than ever before. At last, the folks at the Water Board will be at home and more eager than ever to serve the citizens of Oklahoma.

Among the blessings we count this special time of year are all our friends who held out helping hands... the close ties in the Water Board family... our health and healing... the prospect of a happier, more productive year.

In this season of expectation and joy, all of us at the Water Resources Board wish all of you a holiday season abundant with blessings.

We wish our world a New Year of peace, plenty and brotherhood.



Conference, continued from page 1

relevant stake-holders in arriving at solutions which carry the legitimacy of support of those people most affected.

Panelists describe feds' new missions

A discussion entitled "The Downsizing Dilemma" brought together panelists describing the federal perspective on agency realignments and their changing relationships to the states. Moderator Christopher J. Brescia, executive director of the Midwest Area River Coalition, pointed out that it's not a coincidence that so many major cities are located on rivers.

"There are 800,000 jobs connected to the river systems in this country, but the river transportation system works so well that most people have forgotten it's there," he said.

He pointed out that one river barge can carry as much freight as 15 rail cars or 50 trucks.

Second up on the panel was Col. Timothy L. Sanford, commander of the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers. Sanford said under the new structure, the Corps will continue performing its core missions -- overseeing inland waterways, ports, multistate flood control and water supply.

"On the national level, one-half of the Corps' budget is spent on operation and maintenance expenses," he pointed out. "By 2003, the entire \$3.3 billion annual appropriation could be taken up in O&M. There aren't going to be new projects if we are caught up in O&M," he said.

Charles Rainbolt, state director, Rural Economic and Community Development told conferees his agency is undergoing budget and personnel reductions, as well. "Last year, RECD had \$21 million available for loans and grants for water and wastewater facilities," Rainbolt said. This year, we will have \$8.5 million for loans and \$5 million available for grants. He noted that this is more than a 30 percent reduction from last year.

Elizabeth Harrison, Bureau of Reclamation area manager, said the bureau has downsized 20 percent in the last two years and has reexamined its mission.

"As we move away from project construction, we will be aligning our resources to provide technical skills and assistance to the states," she said.

Mark Coleman, executive director

of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and Jon Craig, DEQ's Water Quality Division chief, filled the panel slot slated for EPA's representative. Craig pointed out that EPA is facing a budget cut of 34 percent, resulting in the loss of 4,000- 7,000 jobs in its corps of 19,000 employees nationwide.

Coleman noted that EPA is redirecting its programs to place emphasis on areas where there are problems. He said he expects EPA to move out of the enforcement role, but to continue to set standards based on scientific data. Coleman said the EPA had committed to a 25 percent reduction in rules.

"Much of the control in environmental programs is being transferred to us," Coleman said. "When there's a problem, we'll be responsible for fixing it."

"Oklahoma is on the verge of great



Gov. Frank Keating

things," Gov. Frank Keating said. We've been able to attract business and industry to the state.

"Some of this is due to my salesmanship -- more than 30 trips overseas since last December," he noted. "Much of it also is due to the tremendous image Oklahomans received as a result of the tragedy of April 19, but nothing will happen unless there is fundamental change."

We need the legislative change that will make the reality permanent, he said. He emphasized that he expects to come back to the legislature with substantial bodies of change -- right to work, workers compensation reform, tax cuts to stimulate savings and investments and tax credits to en-

courage the hiring of Oklahoma college graduates. All were defeated in the last session, but we're coming back with that agenda and more.

"Our first responsibility is to keep our resources alive, renewable and available for our children."

We are in an intense, global, interdependent and very competitive environment. We need to support growth in Oklahoma, Keating said.

"Never forget the fact that our first responsibility is to keep our resources alive, renewable and available for our children," This is their state too."

We are going to work together; to continue the road to excellence; to continue the road to progress. With your help, I am confident that Oklahoma will achieve it, he said.

A second panel, entitled "New Directions, New Destinies," presented the state perspective on federal cuts. Moderator Dick Seybolt, a member of the Water Resources Board and resident of Grand Lake, told conferees that on three weekends a year Grand Lake is the third-largest city in Oklahoma, emphasizing the importance of clean water for recreation in Oklahoma. Clean water is important to tourism and economically important to the state. Water-based recreation is a multi-million dollar industry, Seybolt pointed out.

Bill Moyer, executive director of the Oklahoma Municipal League, looks at federal budget cuts as an opportunity for local and state officials to regain control of their own programs.

"For years we've pleaded with the federal government to get out of our hair, leave us alone and cut the strings.

Now it's happening. The real question is, will they give us the money when they give us the programs," Moyer said.

Rob Johnson, chief executive officer of the National Rural Water Association, said the association is concerned over the proposal to return water and wastewater loan and grant funds as block grants to the states. He pointed to the existing loan program as the most successful in the federal government, with a repayment rate of 99 percent. However, the backlog of applications in this program amounts to \$2.5 billion, and

Continued on page 5



Sen. Robert Kerr, Altus, said large projects still require the partnership of the federal government.



Ray Tomasko, a board member of Rogers County RWD #5, examines map showing OWRB members' home counties.



Water Board Chairman Ross Kirtley visits with former chairman Gerald E. Borelli, Kingfisher rancher/oil producer.



Governor Keating visits with Ron Elliott of the OSU Environmental Institute and Ken Crawford of the Oklahoma Climatological Survey.



Gary Sherrer, OWRB executive director, visits with Elizabeth Harrison, area manager of the Bureau of Reclamation and Ervin Mitchell, OWRB member.



Executive Director Gary Sherrer congratulates Oscar Hughes of Freedom for a lifetime of work in bringing water to rural areas.



Speaker Glen Johnson pointed out the Board's Financial Assistance Program as an example of a successful state initiative.



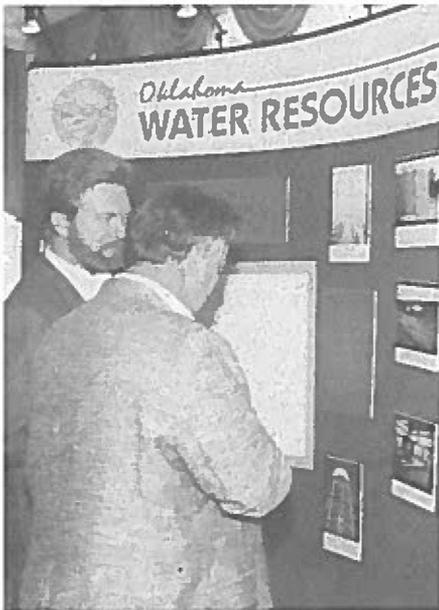
"The river transportation system works so well that most people forget it's there," said Chris Brescia of MARC 2000.



Connie Ziegelgruber, Kim Brown and Donnie Blanlot work at the conference registration desk. Right is Cecil Wildman, an engineer with Spear & McCaleb Co.



Visitor to the Water Conference studies details of financial assistance program



Conferees study photo display of sewer/water projects completed with assistance of OWRB loan and grant program.



Diane Miller, daughter of Dr. Norman Durham of Stillwater, accepts the Oklahoma Water Pioneer award on behalf of her father, who was out of state at meeting time.



Derek Smithee, OWRB Water Quality Programs chief, visits with Kathy Peter, executive director of the U.S. Geological Survey.



The Corps of Engineers has downsized and redefined its mission, said Col. Timothy Sanford of the Tulsa District.



More than 300 people attended the Governor's Water Conference at the Marriott Hotel in Oklahoma City November 15.

Conference, continued from page 2

EPA estimates the need for small water systems in this country exceeds \$8 billion.

"Moving this to a block grant seems penny-wise and pound-foolish; money could be diverted to other less critical programs," Johnson warned.

Ronn Cupp, vice-president of the Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said if Oklahoma and other states are going to have to pick up a bigger part of the water resources tab, Washington will have to back off on unfunded mandates.

Cupp asked for balance in federal programs. "We need reasonable rules and regulations and a change in the attitude of regulators that allows



Duane Smith, OWRB assistant director, presents Oklahoma Water Pioneer award to Paul Thornbrugh of Tulsa. Thornbrugh is one of 70 honored on the plaque in the background since inception of the award in 1985.

compliance while allowing enough flexibility for economic development."

Jarold Callahan, executive director of the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, pointed out that agriculture is the state's biggest industry, but unique in that it cannot pass through regulatory costs. He said he is wary of the federal government's unfunded mandates. "As they shift the burden to the states, someone is going to have to pay. It's going to be industry," said Callahan.

Scott Robinson, president of the Arkansas Basin Development Association, pointed out that the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System is preparing to celebrate its 25th anniversary. "The destiny of the waterway lies in our resolve to tackle the tough decisions ahead," he said. "We need to build Montgomery Point Lock and Dam, get operation and maintenance funding for the Corps, and

resist crippling user fees on the waterway that would take away its competitive edge."

At the conference luncheon, House Speaker Glen Johnson and Sen. Robert M. Kerr presented their perspective of the shifting federal role.

Johnson said Oklahoma is fortunate to have ample supplies of good water to attract new industry. In the last 25 years, the legislature has made the commitment to good water.

"The \$25 million appropriation we made to the water resources board's Financial Assistance Program is some of the best money we've spent."

He reminded conferees that December is the time to set legislative priorities.

Sen. Kerr, a resident of Altus, said the country is sailing into uncharted waters concerning the shifting responsibilities of local, state and federal governments. He agreed that there are some local problems best solved at the local level, but he pointed out that large projects require the partnership of the federal government.

"For example, the Tom Steed and Altus-Lugert Reservoirs in my district could not have been built with-

out federal involvement. I am not going to admit that all big government has been bad," Kerr said.

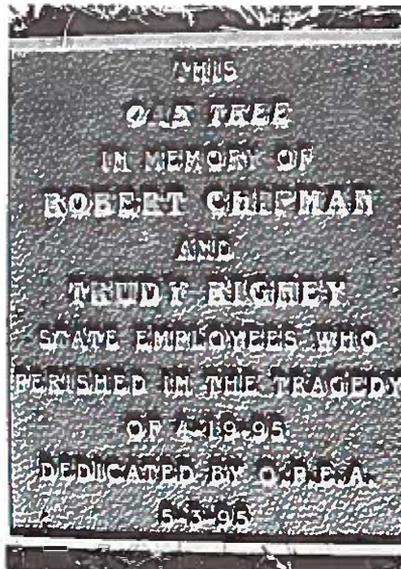
He pointed to federal desalination projects underway in the Red River Basin as examples of projects requiring more resources than state or local sources can muster.

The Sixteenth Annual Governor's Water Conference closed with presentation of Water Pioneer Awards to four Oklahomans who have made outstanding contributions to the development, protection and conservation of the state's water supplies.

Those honored were Bill Wilson, upstream flood control advocate and soil/water conservationist from Kinta; Oscar Hughes, rural water proponent and ORWA board member from Freedom; Paul Thornbrugh, former federal commissioner on the Oklahoma-Kansas Arkansas River Compact Commission from Tulsa; and Dr. Norman Durham, retired director of the OSU Center for Water Resources Research from Stillwater. OWRB Executive Director Gary Sherrer and Assistant Director Duane Smith presented honorees the framed certificates.

Ceremony Honors Employees Who Died

A memorial marker was set in place November 8 to remember Trudy Rigney and Robert Chipman, the two Water Resources Board employees who perished in the April 19 bombing. The marker was placed on the south Capitol grounds, near the oak tree planted in May. OWRB Executive Director Gary Sherrer spoke at the brief noontime ceremony that honored the two victims.



Board Schedules Rules Hearings

Executive Director Gary Sherrer announced a series of public meetings will be held throughout the state in January to give citizens an opportunity to comment on proposed Water Resources Board rules and the draft revision of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan.

Significant proposed amendments to OWRB Rules and Regulations include stricter eligibility requirements for entities applying for emergency grants for sewer and water improvements. The loan and grant program is administered by the Board's Financial Assistance Division.

According to Sherrer, the proposed rules amendments assume the life of an "emergency" to be no longer than 180 days; require applicants to contribute at least 15 percent of project cost; give priority to applicants in proportion to project contributions; deny grants to entities with priority points below a certain threshold; award lower priority points to emergencies caused by negligence or improper maintenance; and require certain Board-prescribed conditions be met upon approval of the application.

All hearings will begin at 7 p.m. at these locations:

- **Guymon** - January 23, Texas County Activity Center, Banquet Room, 5th and Sunset
- **Woodward** - January 24, Northwest Electric Coop, 2925 Williams Avenue
- **Oklahoma City** - January 25, MetroTech, Rose Room, 1900 Springlake Drive
- **McAlester** - January 29, First National Bank Center, Conference Center, 3rd and Choctaw
- **Tulsa** - January 30, 7 p.m., University Center, North Hall Room 155, 700 N. Greenwood
- **Lawton** - January 31, 7 p.m., Great Plains Vo-Tech, Room 301A, 4500 S.W. Lee Boulevard

Copies of the proposed rules and information are available by calling the OWRB at (405) 525-4700.

Sherrer also invited citizens to attend the slide show and discussion on the revised Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan which will immediately follow the rules hearings.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Approved at November and December 1995 Board Meetings

FAP Loans (4.472%; 28.5 year maximum term)

Rush Springs MIA, Increased by \$ 320,000.00

FAP Grants

Bridge Creek School, Grady County \$ 100,000.00

City of Norman \$ 100,000.00

Lincoln County RWD #3, Increased by \$ 35,000.00

Marlow MA \$ 60,000.00

Hughes County RWD #6, Increased by \$ 30,368.00

SRF Loans

Glenpool USA \$ 3,751,300.00

Skiatook PWA \$ 600,000.00

Norman UA \$ 2,720,000.00

TOTALS AS OF 12/12/95

	FAP Loans	FAP Grants	SRF Loans
APPROVED	162	378	36
Amount	\$201,805,000.00	\$21,046,077.00	\$146,354,834.23
FUNDED	153	343	29
Amount	\$190,065,000.00	\$18,679,834.41	\$129,359,534.23

Mary E. Whitlow, Editor

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