OWRB Mission

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

Oklahoma Water Resources Board (9 members)

Executive Director

Administrative Services
Financial Assistance
Water Quality & Monitoring
Planning & Management
OWRB Overview - 2019

- OWRB - OCWP Updates
- 2019 OWRB Rule Changes
- State Legislative Update
- Federal-Congressional Update
OCWP Priority Recommendations

- Infrastructure Financing
- Conservation, Efficiency, Reuse
- Water Monitoring
- Supply Reliability
- Fish & Recreation Flows
- Excess/Surplus
- State/Tribal Resolution
- Regional Planning
OCWP Priority Recommendation

Infrastructure Financing

• Address projected $82+ billion water/wastewater infrastructure need by 2060- new and rehabilitation

• OWRB’s 5 grant & AAA-rated loan capacity to satisfy 60% and specifically address small and medium communities.

• In 2012, SQ 764 established Water Infrastructure Credit Enhancement Reserve Fund to provide additional leveraging capacity to fund more projects!

• Anticipated $502.6 million funding demand over next five years

• FACT Team/Tribal coordination critical
Capacity Development Assistance

• OWRA/ODEQ/OWRB partnership working with systems on sustainability planning, technical assistance, operator/member training.

• OWRB new effort to offer coaching to borrowers on loan condition compliance, program updates.

• Educate systems on funding solutions to help meet Oklahoma’s Water for 2060 goal through non-point source, storm water, green infrastructure, water/energy conservation and reuse

• Offering new no-cost cloud solution to help loan recipients manage federal labor and contract reporting (Davis-Bacon)
GIS System Mapping

- Water/Wastewater/Storm water/Reuse Infrastructure
- Data Map Viewers provided to systems on an online secure server accessible on any device
- Free for Previous SRF Borrowers of <3,300 population when funding is available
- 5-10 systems this year
OCWP Priority Recommendation

Water Monitoring

• 2012 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan – Priority Recommendation for Monitoring
  – Restore funding for surface water monitoring initiatives to original 1998 funding level
  – Initiate a comprehensive groundwater quantity and quality monitoring program

• OWRB was appropriated 1 million dollars to conduct monitoring
  – $200,000 to restore surface water monitoring to 1 million
  – $800,000 to begin groundwater monitoring
OCWP Priority Recommendation

Water Supply Reliability/Availability

- Recommendation called for ensuring water availability for future growth through **fair and sustainable water allocation**
  - aquifer yield studies- statutorily mandated
  - stream water allocation models
  - Analysis of new water management approaches
- Work in progress with a target 2022 completion
- 2012 Gross Production Tax funding was due to sunset in 2019. Extended through 2023
OCWP Priority Recommendation

Conservation/Reuse/Efficiency

• OCWP recommended voluntary programs/policies, financial incentives and education.

• Water for 2060 Act adopted statewide water neutral use goal through conservation, efficiency, and developing new sources.

• Advisory Council recommendations to Governor/Legislature but no funding.
  – Education and outreach campaigns
  – Recognition programs
  – Incentive programs
  – Best practices guides/online info. portal
OCWP Priority Recommendation

Conservation/Reuse/Efficiency

Ongoing collaboration with Legislature, communities, consulting engineers, oil and gas industry, ORWA, OML, ODEQ, OCC, ODAFF, many others

• Developing Marginal Water Sources
  - Oil and Gas Produced Water Working Group (2016)
  - Brackish Water Development (2018 HB 3405)
  - Potable Water Reuse

• Maximizing Water Storage: Aquifer Storage and Recovery Framework (2016 SB1219)
Aquifer Storage and Recovery

- SB1219 (2016)
  - Authorized storage and recovery of water from an aquifer
  - Directed OWRB promulgate rules - framework for taking and use of water stored develop for permitting ASR projects and terms of withdrawal
  - Requires site-specific ASR storage and recovery plan - water is available for recovery, well spacing to protect from interference
  - Requires DEQ authorization to protect water quality
- Necessitated changes to GW quality standards, DEQ implementation rules, and GW quantity rules
- Governor approved standards rules in June 2017
Potable Water Reuse

• Rules for potable reuse in sensitive water supplies (SWS-Reuse) became state law September 2016

• Next Steps: develop additional rules for:
  – Process for petitioning to reclassify a water-body from SWS to SWS-Reuse
  – Implementation rules for SWS-R and non-SWS water reservoirs
Produced Water Working Group

Multi-disciplinary Workgroup to find ways to reduce disposal volumes

ID regulatory, technical and economic barriers to produced water re-use.
Produced Water Working Group

- Dept. of Interior-BOR announced $23.6 m in water reclamation and reuse projects and studies nationally (3 in Oklahoma):
- OWRB received $150,000 - Feasibility Study of Potential Impacts of Select Alternative Produced Water Management and Reuse Scenarios
- Project Partners- GW Protection Council, Environmental Defense Fund, Bureau of Economic Geology at University of Texas, OWRB
- Interested in opportunities to connect water treatment technology providers, produced water suppliers, potential users
Brackish Groundwater Permitting

2018 HB 3405—New authority to permit wells up to 10,000 ppm TDS

• Future Drinking Water Sources?
• O&G use now
• 2019- New water well construction standards
  • Drilling marginal quality water wells will require a construction permit from OWRB
  • Drilling methods must carefully protect both the fresh water and marginal quality water
• Next—Inventory marginal water source basins for permit availability
Fish & Recreation Flows

- OCWP Recommendation & Workgroup
- Pilot Study on a Scenic River to test methodology framework—wrapping up Spring 2019
- Summer 2019—reconvene Advisory Group to assess methodology and recommend policy moving forward
- Interim Study? New legislation?
Tribal-State Partnerships

Many examples and opportunities to work collaboratively to solve our water problems and provide future water security:

- Technical studies and stream gage network
- Water planning, watershed restoration planning, etc.
- Choctaw-Chickasaw-OKC-State Settlement- out-of-basin water right application review, water planning collaboration, etc.
- Oklahoma Funding Agency Coordinating Team
- Interstate issues- e.g. Oklahoma-Arkansas agreement on Illinois River phosphorus control
OCWP Priority Recommendation

Regional Planning

• OWRB dedicated to directing assistance and financing to local water planning and conservation efforts that help implement OCWP initiatives.

• Match local, state, federal, NGO funding partners

• Local stakeholders representing unique interests of each region.

• Developing plans: infrastructure strategies, conservation initiatives, water rights, reuse, efficiency, regionalization.
Water for 2060 Excellence Award

3 Categories:

• Public Water Supply
• Energy / Industry
• Crop Irrigation / Ag Production

• Nominations open in Summer 2019
• Presented at the 2019 Governor’s Water Conference & Research Symposium

www.owrb.ok.gov/2060/award
2019 OWRB Rule Changes

• Chapter 5. – Amended Safety Fee Schedule for Dam Safety and stream water groundwater permit fees.

• Chapter 30. – Added a definition for Marginal Waters and amended state-wide well spacing and location language (Effective October 1st).

• Chapter 35. – Updated Well Driller language, added marginal waters language, heat exchange language
2019 OWRB Rule Changes

• Chapter 45. – Revised water quality variance language to reflect latest federal guidance and allow for more efficient and effective implementation

• Chapter 46. – Updated Use Support Assessment Protocol language

• Chapter 50. – General “Clean-up” language.
2019 State Legislation Update

Gross Production Tax Allocation Extension— $2.6 million annually

- GPT funded the 2012 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Planning (audited total: $9.3 million)
- Legislature extended funding for Implementation through 2019
- Request: Extend GPT funding through 2023
- Priorities—
  - Complete remaining groundwater basin allocation studies
  - Continue implementation of Water for 2060—“marginal” water development, incentives for system/agri. water loss reduction and mapping, etc.
  - Begin OCWP 2025 Update scoping
  - Leverage Federal, Tribal, and Local Dollars
2019 State Legislation Update (cont.)

– OWRB online notice of water right applications – HB 2474
  – Speaker McCall – LAW

– Phase II Arbuckle Simpson study to inform water permitting – SB 568 – Sen. McCortney – LAW

– Mining permit moratorium by DEQ pending Phase II Arbuckle Simpson study – McCall/McCortheny - LAW


– Defines taking and use of marginal water to be beneficial and not waste – SB 998 – Murdock/Patzkowsky – LAW
Hearings/Legislation on Key Committees:

- Energy-water nexus- use less water for energy production and finding cheaper ways to deliver water.
- On June 6th, the President signed a $19.1 billion disaster bill. This is a supplemental aid package (HR 2157) for victims of hurricanes, wildfires, floods and other natural disasters dating back to 2017.
- The aid package signed on June 6th also extended the National Flood Insurance Program’s (NFIP’s) authorization to September 30, 2019.
Thank You!

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