



**Chair of The Board  
2021  
By Ron Jarman, PH.D  
Board Member 1991**

In this EFO history series, we have previously described the traits, personalities and management style that each of our previous Board Chairpersons have possessed over the 32 years of EFO operations. The Chairman of the Board is the one person in EFO who leads the organization, sets priorities, educates new Board members, maintains control of Board activities, and signs all the official documents. That one person is currently Dr. Darrell Townsend II.

Dr. Townsend is a busy guy, who was elected to the EFO Chairman position in October 2021. But his paying job is serving as the “Vice President for Ecosystems and Watershed Management” with the Grand River Dam Authority where he has been since 2004. This GRDA program is responsible for studying and managing over 70,000 surface acres of lake waters, including Grand Lake, Lake Hudson and the W.R. Holway Reservoir, along with 161 miles of Oklahoma’s scenic rivers. The underlying theme for the department is to build cooperative relationships across the watershed to help accomplish GRDA’s conservation and restoration goals.

But that is not the full story for Dr. Townsend. His doctorate is in ecology from Oklahoma State University where he currently serves as an Adjunct Faculty member in Integrative Biology with OSU. He also serves in the same role at OU’s School of Civil Engineering and Environmental Science. His scientific expertise lies in the development and coordination of new and innovative approaches to multifaceted watershed management focusing on broad-scale conservation and restoration throughout complex watersheds.

Darrell’s ranch is named Rock Bottom to describe both the quality of the fields and his luck! He is known far and wide for his kindness to all manners of animals that find a home with him and his wife.

Fortunately for EFO, he serves as the Board Chairman with a knowledgeable gentle hand to guide the organization through dealing with current environmental and regulatory issues that impact business and industry on Oklahoma. In addition, he is leading an EFO effort to work with Oklahoma Colleges and Universities to train future engineers and scientists to meet EFO’s stated goal of addressing the common environmental concerns of EFO members.