



*association of central oklahoma governments  
Garber-Wellington Association*

Chair John Brown  
Piedmont Councilmember

Vice-Chair Jim Pumphrey  
Nicoma Park Councilmember

Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Jefferson  
Spencer Mayor

Executive Director  
Zach D. Taylor

## AGENDA

**GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
February 23, 2006 (Thursday) 2:30 P.M.  
(or immediately following the ACOG Board of Director's Meeting)**

ACOG CONFERENCE ROOM  
21 EAST MAIN, SUITE 100, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Roll Call
- II. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ([Attachment III](#))

**Action Requested:** Motion to approve minutes of the January 26, 2006 meeting.

- IV. STAFF REPORT ([Attachment IV](#))

**Legislative Issues** – Forty-six water-related bills have been introduced to the state legislature this session, ranging over a wide variety of topics. This is up from twenty-five bills last year, denoting a backlog of water issues that the legislature needs to take care of. Staff will discuss some of the more interesting bills.

**Action Requested: None, for information only.**

- V. PROGRESS REPORT ([Attachment V](#))
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

## MINUTES

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 26, 2006

The first regularly scheduled meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee for the calendar year 2006 was convened on January 26, 2006 in the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) Board Room, 21 E. Main Street, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held as indicated by advance notice filed with the Oklahoma County Clerk and by notice posted at the ACOG offices at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

PRESIDINGCITY/AGENCY

Hon. Marsha Jefferson, Mayor

Spencer

POLICY COMMITTEE PRESENT

Hon. Grant Hedrick, Commissioner	Canadian County
Hon. Dave Howe, Councilmember	Choctaw
Hon. Ken Bartlett, Councilmember	Del City
Hon. Debbie Harrison, Councilmember	El Reno
Hon. Lewis Pringle, Trustee	Forest Park
Hon. Jim Dickinson, Councilmember	Harrah
Hon. Mark Sharpton, Commissioner	Logan County
Hon. Margaret Graham, Councilmember	Luther
Hon. Eddie Reed, Mayor	Midwest City
Hon. Kathy McMillan, Councilmember	Moore
Hon. David Hopper, Councilmember	Norman
Hon. Willa Johnson, Councilmember	Oklahoma City
Hon. Stan Inman, Commissioner	Oklahoma County
Hon. Jeff Davis, Councilmember	Piedmont
Hon. Linda Daniels, Mayor	Slaughterville
Hon. Scott Symes, Councilmember	The Village
Hon. Leslie Owens, Councilmember	Warr Acres

GUESTS

Bill Knox, Special Projects Officer	Harrah
Jerry Taylor, City Manager	Tuttle
Joe Blough, Deputy Commissioner, District 1	Oklahoma County

ACOG STAFF PRESENT

POSITION

Zach D. Taylor	Executive Taylor
John M. Harrington	Division Director, Water Resources
Jane Sutter	Division Director, IGS
Debbie Cook	Director of Finance and Budget
Doug Rex	Assistant to the Executive Director
Yvonne Anderson	Clean Cities Program Manager
Jerry Church	Communications Program Coordinator, IGS
John G. Johnson	Legal Counsel
Don Bown	Counsel
Ellen Owens	Dept. Secretary, Water Resources

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Marsha Jefferson called the meeting to order at 1:45 p.m., noting that a quorum was present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

There were no guests introduced at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Dickinson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2005 meeting. Director Reed seconded the motion and carried with the following vote:

AYE: Hedrick, Howe, Bartlett, Harrison, Pringle, Dickinson, Sharpton, Graham, Reed, McMillan, Hopper, Johnson, Inman, Davis, Daniels, Jefferson, Symes, and Owens

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

IV. STAFF REPORT

John Harrington commented that there have been a lot of questions about water supply and water climate. He said there is a need to raise the level of awareness as the region is in a "Condition Yellow" at this time. Referring to a graph entitled "Drought Ahead?," Mr. Harrington illustrated rainfall data in Oklahoma over the last hundred years with five year averages. He said that drought years are clumped together where three out of five years will be dry. Also, the last 10-15 years have been exceptionally wet—the longest and wettest period in our

geological history as we know it. That has two implications: our corporate memory of what is supposed to be normal is actually skewed toward the wet. He said that everybody is talking about how dry the Year 2005 was; however, there is nothing remarkable about the Year 2005 other than that all the rain occurred in June and July instead of April and May—it was a very normal year. A dry year is going to be a lot drier than what has been experienced. The second implication is that we are going to start getting a lot drier. So in answer to the question, Is there a drought coming?, Mr. Harrington said he thinks there will be a couple of drought years coming within the next five years. Therefore, he said there needs to be discussion about conservation.

Where are we right now? Mr. Harrington presented a table from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board report that showed Central Oklahoma from September 1 through January 16, 2006 to have only received 36% rainfall of what is normal, and for the last five weeks, it has been very weak (14% rainfall of what is normal).

Zach Taylor pointed out that other parts of the state are important to ACOG. He said that we import water from Canton Reservoir and, in the Southeast section of the state, the departure from normal rainfall in inches is -13.86. We are watching out for emerging conditions that could be of concern with a primary basin from which we import water. If there is a deficit and it continues, it could be problematic.

Mr. Harrington pointed out where Lake Atoka and the Deep Creek Reservoir are. As of this morning, Lake Atoka is about ten feet below normal. The Southwest is in extreme drought, while Central Oklahoma is in mild drought. There are two ways to compute drought. The Palmer Drought Severity Index put Central Oklahoma in mild drought and the Standardized Precipitation Index also says that Central Oklahoma is in a mild drought.

So what do we have? Canton Reservoir discharges to Lake Overholser, which goes to Lake Hefner and is looking good at 89.7 percent capacity. Lake Arcadia is at 97.3 percent and Lake Thunderbird is a little on the low side at 83.7 percent. Generally at this time of year, we like to see the percent at 90 or above, but considering the amount of rain that we have not had, the percents in the 80's are probably reasonable. Lake Atoka is at 59.2 percent, so flags are going up. Deep Creek, which also discharges into Lake Atoka, is at 88.5 percent, so we are looking good there. Linda Daniels said that when he talks about the levels of these lakes, she thought Lake Thunderbird was a lot lower than just down four feet. Mr. Harrington said the water levels are looked at on a day-to-day basis. USGS monitors networks and the Army Corp of Engineers has a monitoring atlas as well. Depending on what network you are on, you can gather the information, usually on a day to day basis.

Mr. Harrington then presented a “Soil Moisture Map”, which shows where it has rained and where it has not rained. He said the desired moisture rate is at .5 or .6 where your soil is nice and moist, but not saturated. Tulsa, Muskogee, and in the panhandle, the moisture is looking grim. In Central Oklahoma, we are doing okay.

Regarding the depth of the groundwater, Mr. Harrington said that at this time of year, he takes last year's drilling data, and for the last two years, the average has been going up, although he does not think it is statistically significant. He would like to get another year's data before he calls it a trend, but at least it is not going in the other direction. So right now, the groundwater table seems to be doing fine. David Hopper asked if the groundwater table in the Garber-Wellington has any take on the arsenic content or is it pretty mobilized still. Mr. Harrington said that has a lot more to do with the depth you are getting the water out of than the static water levels. If you are getting water from the sandier and higher levels in the Aquifer, you won't get arsenic. If you are getting water down deep in the lower part of the Aquifer, then you will get arsenic. Mr. Harrington showed an aerial distribution of the Garber-Wellington Aquifer regarding static water levels. He said that compared to the 1980's, he said he ran a baseline of the last ten years and compared it to the baseline of 1980-1990. He said that the static water levels are rising.

Mr. Harrington commented that April and May are usually our wettest months, with half of our yearly precipitation coming in those two months. He showed a chart from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA). He said NOAA does long-range forecasting and they are predicting equal chances for normal precipitation. He said the Farmer's Almanac is predicting a wet summer after a dry spring. Mr. Harrington said that if we are going to have a hot summer as we did in 1998, we should think of the two things we learned from that summer. First of all, discussion of conservation should begin in May, not in July. Secondly, public awareness should be a coordinated effort among communities. He said the result of multiple conservation programs confused the public to the detriment of the conservation effort. He said that at the next Garber-Wellington Technical Committee Meeting, there will be a discussion of how to launch a conversation program, if it is needed.

Lewis Pringle asked if individual wells would be included in the program. Mr. Harrington replied individual wells fall outside the rules of conservation. The conversation program deals with public water supplies. If you are on an individual program, you should be monitoring the static water levels in domestic wells to insure a sufficient amount of water so that pumping levels do not drop.

V. PROGRESS REPORT

There was no discussion of the Progress Report.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed at the meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Hopper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Pringle and the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Garber-Wellington Policy Committee  
**FROM:** John M. Harrington, Division Director, Water Resources  
**DATE:** February 23, 2006  
**RE:** Legislation 2006

Measure	Intro Date	Short Title	Author(s)
<a href="#">HB1138</a>	2/7/2005	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; making an appropriation. Effective date.	Benge(H), Morgan(S)
<a href="#">HB1139</a>	2/7/2005	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; making an appropriation. Effective date.	Benge(H), Morgan(S)
<a href="#">HB1261</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; clarifying language; effective date.	Plunk(H)
<a href="#">HB1320</a>	2/7/2005	Environment and natural resources; water quality; effective date.	Shoemake(H)
<a href="#">HB1458</a>	2/7/2005	Environment; relating to rural water districts; providing additional restrictions. Effective date.	Ellis(H), Wilson(S)
<a href="#">HB1494</a>	2/7/2005	Water and water rights; Oklahoma Water Resources Board; effective date.	Shoemake(H)
<a href="#">HB1504</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; groundwater applications; emergency.	Roan(H)
<a href="#">HB1505</a>	2/7/2005	Water and water rights; scenic rivers; effective date.	Roan(H)
<a href="#">HB1574</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act; effective date.	Walker(H)
<a href="#">HB1717</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; Oklahoma Water Resources Location Act; codification; emergency.	Winchester(H)
<a href="#">HB1813</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; relating to the statewide water plan; modifying requirements. Emergency.	Armes(H), Lerblance(S)
<a href="#">HB1901</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; stream water use effective date.	Askins(H), Bass(S)
<a href="#">HB1914</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; Oklahoma Water Resources Location Act; codification; emergency.	Blackburn(H)
<a href="#">HB1995</a>	2/7/2005	Water and water rights; Conservancy Act of Oklahoma; effective date.	Jackson(H)
<a href="#">HB2282</a>	2/6/2006	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; appropriation; budgetary limits; effective date; emergency.	Benge(H), Crutchfield(S)
<a href="#">HB2283</a>	2/6/2006	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; appropriation; budgetary limits; effective date; emergency.	Benge(H), Crutchfield(S)
<a href="#">HB2711</a>	2/6/2006	Water resources; transferring the powers, duties, and authority of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to the Environmental Quality Board and the Department of Environmental Quality; noncodification; effective date.	Bingman(H)
<a href="#">HB2804</a>	2/6/2006	Waters and water rights; sale of water outside of Oklahoma; legislative referendum; ballot title; filing.	Reynolds(H)
<a href="#">HB3018</a>	2/6/2006	Game and fish; making hunting from or with the use of an air boat on certain waters unlawful; emergency.	Armes(H)
<a href="#">HB3020</a>	2/6/2006	Waters and water rights; increasing membership of Oklahoma Water Resources Board; effective date.	Armes(H)
<a href="#">HB3023</a>	2/6/2006	Public finance; short title; Rural Economic Action Plan Water Projects Fund Amendments Act of 2006; noncodification; effective date; emergency.	Roggow(H)
<a href="#">HB3024</a>	2/6/2006	Waters and water rights; licensing of well drillers and pump installers; codification; emergency.	Roggow(H)
<a href="#">HB3029</a>	2/6/2006	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; appropriation; effective date; emergency.	Blackburn(H)
<a href="#">HCR1042</a>	2/6/2006	Concurrent resolution designating April 18, 2006, as McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Waterway to the World Awareness Day; distribution.	Rousselot(H)
<a href="#">SB54</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; encouraging local contracts or joint cooperative agreements to allocate customers. Emergency.	Lerblance(S), Walker(H)
<a href="#">SB175</a>	2/7/2005	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; making appropriations; stating purpose. Effective date. Emergency.	Morgan(S), Benge(H)
<a href="#">SB176</a>	2/7/2005	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; setting budgetary limits. Effective date.	Morgan(S), Benge(H)
<a href="#">SB372</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; providing for compensation to municipalities for damages caused by moratorium. Emergency.	Rabon(S)

<a href="#">SB525</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; exempting certain municipal waters from regulation. Emergency.	Bass(S), Askins(H)
<a href="#">SB574</a>	2/7/2005	Rural water districts; authorizing boards to charge fee for certain purpose. Emergency.	Lerblance(S), Walker(H)
<a href="#">SB592</a>	2/7/2005	Water quality; clarifying statutory language relating to water pollution. Emergency.	Lerblance(S)
<a href="#">SB597</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; creating a Water Advisory Committee; requiring update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. Emergency.	Gumm(S), Roan(H)
<a href="#">SB724</a>	2/7/2005	Rural water districts; relating to notice of annexation; clarifying reference. Effective date.	Pruitt(S)
<a href="#">SB954</a>	2/7/2005	Waters and water rights; creating the Oklahoma Water Endowment Revolving Fund. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB1019</a>	2/6/2006	Water and water rights; expanding designated scenic river areas. Effective date.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SB1081</a>	2/6/2006	Public finance; modifying deposit limit and uses of funds under Rural Economic Action Plan Water Projects Fund. Emergency.	Corn(S)
<a href="#">SB1220</a>	2/6/2006	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; making an appropriation. Effective date.	Crutchfield(S), Benge(H)
<a href="#">SB1221</a>	2/6/2006	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; setting budget limits. Effective date.	Crutchfield(S), Benge(H)
<a href="#">SB1293</a>	2/6/2006	Professions and occupations; authorizing public entities to share services of public water supply operators. Effective date. Emergency.	Crutchfield(S), DeWitt(H)
<a href="#">SB1353</a>	2/6/2006	Waters and water rights; creating moratorium on water permits from Lake Eufaula. Emergency.	Lerblance(S), Harrison(H)
<a href="#">SB1397</a>	2/6/2006	Agriculture; requiring terms for persons applying poultry litter in watershed area. Emergency.	Easley(S)
<a href="#">SB1572</a>	2/6/2006	Municipal and rural water providers; encouraging use of local contracts or joint cooperative agreements. Emergency.	Lerblance(S)
<a href="#">SB1574</a>	2/6/2006	Oklahoma Water Resources Board; requiring meeting of Well Drillers Advisory Council. Emergency.	Laughlin(S)
<a href="#">SB1677</a>	2/6/2006	Waters and water rights; creating the Citizens Local Water Control Act. Emergency.	Lerblance(S)
<a href="#">SB1719</a>	2/6/2006	Waters and water rights; regulating waters for mining purposes. Emergency.	Gumm(S)
<a href="#">SJR18</a>	2/7/2005	Disapproving certain industrial wastewater system rules promulgated by the Department of Environmental Quality. Emergency.	Lerblance(S)

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Garber-Wellington Policy Committee  
**FROM:** John M. Harrington, Division Director, Water Resources  
**DATE:** February 23, 2006  
**RE:** Progress Report

---

Staff is presenting talks concerning drought preparedness to various interested groups.

Staff is presenting a paper on resistivity techniques to the Oklahoma Groundwater Association meeting this month.

Pathogen sampling project has concluded. Staff is finished data report. Staff currently is working on HSPF model for TMDL calculations.

Staff will be participating with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality on public meetings concerning pathogen TMDLs on the North Canadian River next month.

Comments were received and evaluated on the Draft DO TMDL report on the North Canadian River. Revised document sent to the Office of Secretary of Environment on November 7 for EPA review and approval.

The SuperSting resistivity unit was delivered to ACOG October 31. Preliminary field-testing will start in March.