

Role of University Water Centers & Institutes

Oklahoma Water Resources Center

Dr. Kevin Wagner, Director



DIVISION OF
Agricultural Sciences
& Natural Resources

University Research & Outreach is Critical

to addressing current & future water challenges

Research Needs

- Groundwater characterization
- Enhanced aquifer recharge
- Aquifer storage & recovery
- Water Conservation
- Produced water treatment
- Reuse
- Instream flows
- Harmful algal blooms

Outreach Needs

- Water conservation
- Voluntary land stewardship
- General water quality & water quantity awareness



Oklahoma Water Resources Center

- **Established by Congress & Governor Henry Bellmon**
 - As authorized by Water Resources Research Act of 1964
 - Designated as the Water Resources Research Institute for the State of Oklahoma (i.e. OWRRI)
- **2011–OWRRI & OSU Water Research & Extension Center merged to form OK Water Resources Center, a unit of:**
 - Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station
 - Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
 - College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources



Oklahoma Water Resources Center

- **Purpose** (per authorizing legislation):
 - **Plan, facilitate, and conduct research** to aid in the resolution of State and regional water resource issues
 - **Promote technology transfer** and dissemination and application of research results
 - **Provide for training of scientists and engineers** through their participation in research
 - **Provide for competitive grants** to be awarded under the Water Resources Research Act



Oklahoma Water Resources Center

- **Purpose** (per authorizing legislation):
 - **Cooperate closely with other colleges and universities** in the State...in order to develop a statewide program designed to resolve State and regional water and related land problems



Collaboration is key to our mission!

- Water issues are complex
 - Require involvement of multiple disciplines (i.e. science, engineering, socio-economics, policy)
- To achieve our mission, we closely work with:
 - USGS
 - Stakeholders (WRAB, etc.)
 - University water faculty and centers/institutes



Cooperate closely with USGS

- To support, coordinate & facilitate research thru:
 - Annual Base Grants - 104(b)
 - National Competitive Grants - 104(g) grants
 - Coordination Grants
- To operate Student Internship Program



Cooperate closely with stakeholders

- Water Resources Advisory Board (WRAB) provides direction to Water Center on:
 - Setting research priorities
 - Selecting projects/programs for seed grants
 - **Ensures university research aligns with State's needs**
- Composed of 24 members representing:
 - State & Federal agencies
 - NGOs
 - Tribes



Cooperate closely with university water faculty & students

- Support development of projects & programs to address state & regional water issues
 - Provide seed grants to university researchers
 - Facilitate team-building around key issues
 - Assist grant writing & project management
- Help communicate research results
- Provide student scholarships & internships



Stay updated on the Water Center

Join Our Mailing List

OKLAHOMA
WATER RESOURCES CENTER

Join the Water Center's Mailing List

Your E-Mail Address: ■ (Required)

I would like to receive information on: ■ (Required)

- General communication (AQUAhoman newsletter & semi-monthly Currents)
- Research grant funding announcements (RFPs)
- Research Symposium announcements
- Student-relevant news (includes all of the above and more)

<http://water.okstate.edu/join-mailing-list>

Oklahoma Water Resources Center

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