From the Director’s Desk:

Dr. Dave Engle

Please join me in thanking Dr. Will Focht for his many years of able leadership as director of OWRRI. Under Dr. Focht’s leadership, OWRRI gained national prominence and the reputation for working effectively on behalf of Oklahoma citizens by leveraging federal resources with resources provided by OSU and other state agencies. He rightly should take pride in the strides made under his leadership to better understand the state’s water resources and water use. There is no better testament to Dr. Focht’s vision for OWRRI than its role in the 2012 Update of the Comprehensive Water Plan, most notably the public input phase of the plan. Oklahoma’s water resources and the state’s water users are all the better for this truly monumental effort that began in 2007 with 42 professionally facilitated local input meetings held throughout the state and ended with 13 regional feedback and implementation meetings. A core group of volunteers devoted over 100 hours each to deliberating over the course of the process. Jeri Fleming led the successful implementation of Dr. Focht’s vision to effectively incorporate public deliberation into the planning process. The evidence at this point strongly supports the statement that public deliberation will result in enhanced public support of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan.

We at OWRRI want to thank all of you who gave liberally of your time to participate in the public deliberation surrounding the Comprehensive Water Plan. One of the benefits to us is that we got to better know you and the water issues you consider important. We see this as a broader way to evaluate the public’s interest in water resources, much the same as our twice annual meetings of the Water Research Advisory Board (WRAB). WRAB meetings bring together about two dozen individuals representing various water interests in Oklahoma to set research priorities for OWRRI, to construct a call for research proposals, to evaluate research proposals, and to select the proposals to be awarded funding (see separate item on these elsewhere in this newsletter). Volunteer service on the WRAB benefits both OWRRI and the citizens who serve.

We can look forward to continuing OWRRI’s excellence in research and outreach. Plans are set for OWRRI’s Research Symposium, held in conjunction with the Governor’s Water Conference. Again this year, we expect a slate of outstanding presentations. Please join us October 18 and 19 in Norman. For more information see page 3.
Each year the OWRRI receives funds from the federal government to fund research on water-related topics that are of benefit to the state. Beginning in 2007, this money has been matched by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board allowing the OWRRI to award three one-year grants of $50,000 each. To facilitate the awarding of these grants and ensure that the research projects focus on issues of importance to our state, the OWRRI has assembled 22 water professionals into the Water Research Advisory Board (WRAB) which meets twice each year.

This year's summer WRAB meeting was held on June 17th at the American Indian Museum and Cultural Center in Oklahoma City. Fifteen board members were able to attend the meeting. After being welcomed by Gena Timberman, executive director of the Native American Cultural & Educational Authority, they heard a final report on the OWRRI's efforts with the state's water plan. This was followed by presentations from the three researchers, who completed their OWRRI projects last year, Justin Moss, Russell Dutnell, and Al Sutherland. The presentations can be viewed at http://environ.okstate.edu/OWRRI/WRAB%20Presentations%20July%202011.htm.

After lunch the Board discussed funding priorities for 2012. The discussion focused on research that will assist the state in implementing the recommendations from the Water Plan. The Board developed a list of 12 possible priorities which they reduced to 10 through voting. The top 10 priorities are included in the Request for Proposals (see pages 10-11).

This RFP was distributed to approximately 600 researchers and other interested parties. The priorities are not an exhaustive list of the research needs of our state. Rather, they are a guide to let researchers know which topics the Board thinks are important for water research in Oklahoma at this time. Projects outside this list are welcome and are often funded. Technical reports from past funded projects are available on the OWRRI website http://ojs.library.okstate.edu/osu/index.php/OWRRI/issue/archive.

The purpose of funding these projects is not just research for the sake of research but to provide information that can be put to a practical use by the state, industry, or even individuals. As Oklahoma begins implementation of the state's water plan, the information gathered through this research will be put to practical use in shaping and managing Oklahoma's water use.
2011 GOVERNOR’S WATER CONFERENCE AND OKLAHOMA WATER RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

JOIN US

OCTOBER 18-19, 2011
AT THE
EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER
NORMAN, OK

Registration will be available through the Oklahoma Water Resources Board’s website beginning in September. We look forward to seeing you there!

http://www.owrb.ok.gov

QUESTIONS?
Contact the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB)
3800 N Classen
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
(405) 530-8800
The Oklahoma Water Research Symposium, held in conjunction with the Governor’s Water Conference, is an important venue for information exchange among the more than 200 professionals and students who attend annually. Poster presentations are invited on any research topic broadly related to water or environmental resources in Oklahoma. Posters will be prominently displayed throughout the conference, with extended breaks dedicated to poster viewing. Due to limited space, only student posters will be accepted this year.

**Poster Viewing Sessions**
Oct. 18: 7:45 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

**Cash Awards**
Student posters are eligible to receive cash awards. Award amounts are:

1st Place - $500  
2nd Place - $300  
3rd Place - $200

**Poster Application**
Applicants should email an abstract of the poster to the address below. The email must include full contact information (email, phone, mailing address, university affiliation and department).
It is not necessary to complete the poster before applying; only an abstract of the work is required.

**Application deadline**
September 18, 2011 no later than 12:00 a.m. (midnight).

For contest guidelines visit http://environ.okstate.edu/OKWATER
Questions? Call (405) 744.9994 or email owrri@okstate.edu

**POSSIBLE TOPICS**
- Hydrology
- Outreach
- Water Quality
- Limnology
- Ecology
- Sociology
- Policy
- Economics
- Green Building
- Landscape Design
- Low Impact Development
- Natural Resource Management
Call for Presentations

The Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute holds its annual Oklahoma Water Research Symposium in conjunction with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board’s Governor’s Water Conference each fall. This year’s event will be the 18th & 19th of October at the Embassy Suites.

**The OWRRI invites researchers and others to submit abstracts for oral presentations at the Symposium.**

Abstracts on a wide range of research topics concerning water in Oklahoma - including but not limited to surface water, ground water, water quality, water quantity, aquatic habitat (instream flow needs and habitat maintenance), low impact development, water conservation, water reuse, water transfer, hazards (flood and drought), climate change, and water resource policy – are encouraged.

**Audience:** The 2011 Symposium will highlight science and communicating that science to non-scientists. Technical presentations should be focused on research while remaining comprehensible to a general, non-expert audience as this event attracts over 400 water professionals, policymakers, and interested citizens from many disciplines.

**Submission Details:** Abstracts should not exceed one page in length and must include the title of the presentation and the presenter’s complete contact information (name, title - if any, affiliation, email, mailing address, and phone). Email abstracts to OWRRI@okstate.edu. The submission deadline is to **12 September 2011**.

**Date and venue:** This year’s Symposium is again scheduled for two days, **18-19 October 2011**, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman. Last year’s concurrent session format was quite popular and will be utilized again this year.

For further information, contact the OWRRI.
For 2012, research funding will focus on supporting implementation of the state’s comprehensive water plan recommendations; however, proposals on any water-related topic are welcome.

**Funding:** Awards are typically $50,000. OWRRI’s funding will be matched equally by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The applicant need provide only a 1:2 match. For example, a research project requiring $75,000 would be funded with $25,000 from OWRRI, $25,000 from OWRB, and a $25,000 match. Indirect costs must be waived but are credited toward the match. Uncompensated investigator time may also be counted toward the match.

**Timing:** Grants will be awarded to support one-year projects. Longer projects must be divided into discrete one-year proposals with distinct deliverables. Projects will start March 1, 2012 and should be completed by February 28, 2013.

**Deadline:** Proposals must reach the OWRRI office on or before Sunday, October 2, 2011.

**Water Research Topics for 2012**

The topics listed on the next page were identified by the Water Research Advisory Board (WRAB) as priorities for funding. The WRAB is comprised of leaders from twenty-two government agencies and non-government organizations interested in water science and policy. OWRRI expects to fund three research projects that exhibit scientific merit (as judged by peer reviewers) and answer questions important for implementing Oklahoma’s Comprehensive Water Plan. For more information about Oklahoma’s comprehensive water planning effort, see http://www.owrb.ok.gov.

Proposals need not address all aspects of a research priority; any project that advances our knowledge toward the stated goal will be considered. These priorities are not intended to be exclusive, but serve as a guide to understanding the thinking of the WRAB about the research needs of Oklahoma. Researchers who are unsure if their intended project aligns with these topics should contact the OWRRI for clarification. Proposals that do not match these priorities are also welcome and will be given full consideration.

The WRAB will review proposals in January 2012 and recommend three for funding. Proposers may be invited to make a brief presentation of their proposal at that time. Notification of the successful proposals will be sent out soon thereafter.

Note: Funding is contingent upon funds being made available by the USGS and OWRB.
Water Research Funding Priorities for 2012

**Higher Priority**

- Develop an in-stream (environmental) flow model that incorporates one or more of the following:
  - Methods for estimating in-stream flows for Oklahoma streams
  - Evaluation of the ecological costs and benefits of implementing in-stream flow recommendations
  - Evaluation of the economic impacts to the consumptive water users in Oklahoma

- For a section of a major Oklahoma river, construct and validate a model of the interactions/communications between groundwater and surface water under base flow conditions. The model could incorporate water quality and/or quantity.

- Evaluate the legal and policy implications of adopting conjunctive use/management regulations.

- Evaluate the legal and policy implications of adopting in-stream flow regulations.

- Evaluate water infrastructure, including USDA-constructed dams, for irrigation, water supply, and additional beneficial uses. Project may include an inventory, a list of current uses, and a list and evaluation of potential uses.

**Lower Priority**

- Develop models that improve our understanding of and develop solutions for water quality degradation resulting from nutrients, including identifying pollutant pathways, and chemical and biological effects.

- Develop a model for a groundwater quality and quantity monitoring network across Oklahoma including potential voluntary reporting, and agency coordination.

- Identify and quantify the extent of erosion and sedimentation on a watershed scale attributable to stream bank, road crossing, and roadside erosion, utilizing/synthesize currently available information wherever possible (e.g. USGS, ARS).

- Regarding marginal quality and reuse water:
  - Develop economical methods for treating these waters.
  - Assess and document public acceptance of uses for these waters.

- Evaluate the feasibility of alternative water storage options, including water banking, in Oklahoma.

For more information and application guidelines, visit [http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri/project_funding.asp](http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri/project_funding.asp)

or contact Mike Langston, Assistant Director, OWRRI
139 Ag Hall • Stillwater OK • 74078-6009
OWRRI@okstate.edu • 405-744-9994
OWRRI Technical Reports can now be found online!

In addition to the reports and presentations found on our website, we are pleased to announce that OWRRI’s Annual Technical Reports can now be found online through Oklahoma State University’s Open Journal System. To access the OJS, simply click here or copy and paste the following link into your web browser -


We’re moving!

Starting August 15, 2011, our offices will be housed in the Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources:

Ag Hall 139
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078

phone. 405.744.5615
email. owrri@okstate.edu
facebook. Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute
twitter. okwaterinst
flickr. owrri