

UPDA

Meetings & Events

*NRWA Annual
Management and
Technical Conference
October 9-12, 2005
Sacramento, California*

*Governors' Water
Conference
October 1-2, 2005
Cox Convention Center
Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma*

*Rural Water Rally
April 2-4, 2006
Hyatt Regency
Capitol Hill
Washington, DC*

*ORWA Annual Meeting
and Technical
Conference
April 16-19, 2006
Meridian Conference
Center
Oklahoma City,
Oklahoma*

FARM BILL FORUM HELD IN OKLAHOMA CITY

Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Charles F. Conner conducted a hearing on the 2007 Farm Bill at the Oklahoma State University Campus in Oklahoma City on September 22. Forums are being held nationwide to receive recommendations and opinions in preparation for developing the next Farm Bill. The new Farm Bill will have a significant impact on rural communities and agricultural interest. The "listening session" gave Oklahoma a great opportunity to be included in the development process.

ORWA President Bill Secrest represented the Association at the forum in Oklahoma City. We

would also like to thank Alan Muse, Manager, Wagoner County RWD No.9, Brett Kimbro, Manager, Stephens County RWD No. 5 and Clifford Tatum, Manager, Hughes County RWD No. 6 for presenting comments at the Farm Bill Forum. Their presentations emphasized the importance of continuing and expanding the Rural Development Rural Water Loan and Grant Program and maintaining the ORWA Circuit Rider Program to assist small water and sewer systems with operational, management and compliance problems.

SENATOR INHOFE PRESENTS COMMENTS TO EPA ON FINAL D/DBP

On behalf of small water systems in Oklahoma, U.S. Senator, James M. Inhofe recently submitted comments to EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson on promulgation of the Stage 2 Disinfection and Disinfection By-Products Rule. Senator Inhofe expressed concern about the science being used to justify the new requirements and suggested that the EPA should do additional analysis before proceeding with finalizing the D/DBP Rule. He criticized EPA for its failure to consider the ability of low-income families to afford compliance as required by the SDWA. He said that the proposed rule will threaten the ability of low-income consumers to pay for water service or public health necessities. Inhofe said that EPA cannot say what "is" a health risk, only what is "not" a health risk. He told EPA that they should identify what constitutes "protection of public health" and "unreasonable risk to health" as contemplated

by the SDWA for all contaminants. Inhofe stated that the final D/DBP Rule should include a reasonable and workable small system variance technology program. He questioned EPA's authority to regulate Total Organic Carbons (TOC's) as an indicator of regulated disinfection by-products and the requirement that each system provide a detailed schematic of its distribution system to EPA.

Senator Inhofe has been at the forefront in assisting rural water in mitigating EPA regulatory requirements. As we all know working with EPA is a formidable, seemingly impossible task. Please let Senator Inhofe know that you appreciate his efforts on our behalf. Senator Inhofe's letter to EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson is posted on the ORWA web site.

GOVERNOR'S WATER CONFERENCE

The 26th Annual Governor's Water Conference will be held November 1-2, 2005 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. The theme of this year's conference is "Investing In Water: It's Time For Action". A pre-conference symposium on Oklahoma Groundwater will be held

at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1st and the Water Conference begins at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday. A conference brochure with more information and a registration form are enclosed. We look forward to seeing you at the Governor's Water Conference.





For emergency calls after office hours, nights, weekends an

SPEAKER TODD HIETT LAUNCHES RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (REDI)

Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Todd Hiett has created a legislative Task Force, co-chaired by Representative Don Armes and Representative Dale DeWitt, to look into what can be done to enhance economic development in rural Oklahoma. The Task Force will hold a series of twelve meetings around the state this fall to obtain input and recommendations for improving the economic climate in rural areas of the state.

Rural water officials are encouraged to attend a REDI meeting in their area. This is a good opportunity to discuss the problems and needs of your water system. Each meeting will begin with a tour of local economic facilities from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Public hearings will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to give the public the opportunity to comment on whatever issues that they want to bring before the Task Force. Contact the Chamber of Commerce in the host community for the location of the public hearing.

REDI meetings are scheduled in the following communities:

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| October 4 | Blackwell | November 1 | Woodward |
| October 5 | Cushing | November 2 | Waukomis |
| October 11 | Nowata | November 8 | Ada |
| October 12 | Miami | November 9 | Pauls Valley |
| October 25 | Elk City | November 29 | Idabel |
| October 26 | Frederick | November 30 | Poteau |

ORWA ASSISTS WITH HURRICANE RECOVERY

We have all seen and heard a lot in the news media about the devastation of large metropolitan areas caused by hurricanes in the gulf coast. But there has not been much coverage of the damage to communities and water systems in rural areas of Louisiana and Texas. Hundreds of small community and rural water and wastewater systems were damaged by the hurricanes. Many are still without water and sewer service due to the lack of electrical power and shortage of generators. It may be months before services are restored in some areas.

ORWA is working to help with the disaster recovery efforts in Texas and Louisiana. Soon after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana, Bob Hughes and Tod Fields of the ORWA staff went to Louisiana to work with the Louisiana Rural Water Association in helping small communities restore water and sewer service.

On October 1st Randy Caskey, Scott Roberson, Tim Wincapaw and Mark Matheson were sent to work with the Texas Rural Water Association in helping small communities in the Lone Star State. We appreciate the sacrifice of the ORWA staff in being away from their families and the comforts of home.

ORWA is committed to continuing the rotation of our staff to these states until our assistance is no longer needed. We are also committed to serving the rural and small community water and wastewater systems of Oklahoma. ORWA training will continue as scheduled and ORWA staff will be available to respond to requests for assistance with operational, management or compliance problems.



MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

T R A I N I N G

BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

Rural water district board members can fulfill their six hour statutory training requirement by attending one of the training sessions listed below. Board member training is also approved by DEQ to fulfill renewal training for operators. All sessions are evening sessions, unless otherwise indicated, lasting from 6:30PM till 9:30PM for two consecutive nights unless otherwise stated.

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|----------------------|-----------------|---|-----------|
| October 25-26, 2005 | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Indian Capital Tech Center, Hwy 59 & Marietta Rd. | Stillwell |
| November 8-9, 2005 | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Pontotoc Tech Center, 601 W 33rd | Ada |
| November 14-15, 2005 | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Muskogee Co RWD #2, 2310 S Woodland | Muskogee |
| December 6-7, 2005 | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Autry Tech Center, 1201 W Willow Rd | Enid |
| December 12-13, 2005 | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Prue School Cafeteria, 104 E Broadway | Prue |
| February 6-7, 2006 | 6:30 PM-9:30 PM | Craig Co RWD #2, 1/4 mile S of Hwy 60 on 4440 Rd | Vinita |

OPERATOR RENEWAL CLASSES

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| October 18, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Garvin Co RWD #6, 117 N Dean A McGee | Wynnewood |
| October 19, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Purcell Multi-Purpose Bldg., 1400 Chandler Rd | Purcell |
| October 20, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Meeker City Hall, 510 W Main | Meeker |
| October 21, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Wewoka Civic Center, 123 S Mekusukey | Wewoka |
| October 24, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Dover City Hall, 231 E Elm | Dover |
| October 25, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Logan Co RWD #1, 5113 S Sooner Rd | Guthrie |
| October 26, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Perry Municipal Court Bldg., 729 Cedar Street | Perry |
| October 27, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Cherokee City Hall, 121 N Grand | Cherokee |
| November 2, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Marietta Public Works, 303 W Main | Marietta |
| November 3, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Butler Community Center, 415 E Broadway | Butler |
| November 10, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Red River Tech Center, 3300 W Bois D' Arc | Duncan |
| November 17, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Mid-America Tech Center, I-35 & Exit 59 | Wayne |
| December 8, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Kiamichi Tech Center, 301 Kiamichi Dr | McAlester |
| December 9, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Central Tech Center, 3 CT Circle | Drumright |
| December 16, 2005 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Jay City Hall, 102 N 5th | Jay |
| January 5, 2006 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Northeast Tech Center, 19901 S 69 Hwy | Afton |
| January 6, 2006 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Tri-County Tech Center, 6101 Nowata Rd | Bartlesville |
| January 12, 2006 | 8:30 AM-12:30 PM | Eastern OK County Tech Center, 4601 N Choctaw Rd | Choctaw |

CLASS "D" WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Test given on last day after class

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| October 10-11, 2005 | Northeast Tech Center, 19901 S 69 Hwy | Afton |
| November 7-8, 2005 | Kiamichi Tech Center, Hwy 3 & 75 West | Atoka |
| December 5-6, 2005 | Western Tech Center, 621 Sooner Drive | Burns Flat |

CLASS "D" & "C" WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Test given on last day after class

| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| October 25-27, 2005 | Central OK Tech Center, 1720 S Main | Sapulpa |
| November 8-10, 2005 | Kiamichi Tech Center, 1509 S McKenna | Poteau |
| November 15-16, 2005 | Ardmore Public Works Dept., 317 Veteran Blvd. | Ardmore |
| December 6-7, 2005 | Cherokee City Hall, 121 N Grand | Cherokee |
| March 14-15, 2006 | Watts High School, 6th Street | Watts |

CLASS "D & C" WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Test given on last day after class

| | | |
|----------------------|---|----------|
| November 17-18, 2005 | Ardmore Public Works Dept., 317 Veteran Blvd. | Ardmore |
| December 8-9, 2005 | Cherokee City Hall, 121 N Grand | Cherokee |
| March 16-17, 2006 | Watts High School, 6th Street | Watts |

All Lab Classes REQUIRE pre-registration, please call the ORWA office at 405/672-8925 to register.

CLASS "C" WATER LAB CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Test given on last day after class

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| October 31-November 3, 2005 | Cherokee Co RWD #11, 117 E Main | Hulbert |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|

All Lab Classes REQUIRE pre-registration, please call the ORWA office at 405/672-8925 to register.

CLASS "C" WASTEWATER LAB CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Test given on last day after class

| | | |
|----------------------|--|------------|
| October 17-20, 2005 | Ponca City Wastewater Plant, 2800 S River Street | Ponca City |
| November 14-17, 2005 | Western Tech Center, 100 S Baily | Hobart |

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

USDA Rural Development is asking all of its borrowers to complete a vulnerability assessment and emergency response plan for their water and/or sewer system and submit a certificate of completion to the agency by December 31, 2005. Systems that have already completed the assessment and emergency response plan will only need to mail a copy of the certificate of completion that was sent to EPA.

If you are a RD borrower you will be receiving a letter and SEMS disk from Rural Development in a few weeks. The SEMS disk is in an interactive computer program that helps you complete the vulnerability assessment and emergency response plan. It is easy to use and prints the assessment, emergency

response plan and certificate of completion when all required information has been entered. If you need assistance, help is available from Rural Development or ORWA.

We encourage every water and wastewater system to complete a vulnerability assessment and emergency response plan. You can simplify the process by using the SEMS disk, which is available free of charge to ORWA member systems. The disk is available for only \$40.00 to non-member systems. A hard copy template is also available for systems that do not wish to use the computer program. If you would like assistance in completing your vulnerability assessment and emergency response plan contact a member of the ORWA staff.

TRAINING REQUIRED FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

Effective November 1, 2005, persons elected for the first time to position of a municipality on or after January 1, 2005 are required, within one year after taking the oath of office, to complete eight (8) hours of instruction conducted by an institute for municipal officials. Persons who fail to satisfy the education requirement cease to hold the position commencing at the next scheduled meeting of the governing body following the first year anniversary of the person's taking the oath of office. Reference: Title 11 Oklahoma Statutes, Section 8-114.

OPEN MEETING ACT ALLOWS VIDEO CONFERENCING

Legislation effective November 1, 2005 allows public bodies to hold meetings by videoconference where each member of the public body is visible to each other and the public through a video monitor. No less than a quorum of the public body must be present in person at the site of the meeting. Meeting notices and agendas must be prepared as required by law and must include videoconferencing locations. Each location must be accessible to the public. If you are interested in videoconferencing, contact ORWA for a copy of House Bill 1860.

OWRB CONSIDERING NEW STANDARDS FOR SENSITIVE WATER SOURCES

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board is considering chlorophyll a criterion that, if approved, would be applicable to the 77 public water supply reservoirs listed as Sensitive Water Supplies in the Oklahoma Water Quality Standards. Implementation of this standard is intended to limit the occurrence of excessive algae blooms that may impair these sensitive water sources. To discuss this proposed criterion and other potential revisions to the Water Quality Standards, the OWRB will be holding an informal public meeting on October 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the OWRB's Oklahoma City office. **OWRB staff asks that all water providers who have incurred additional treatment costs as a result of excessive algae to forward a summary of those costs to :**

Phillip Moershel
Water Quality Standards Section
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 North Classen
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73118

Phone: (405) 530-8800
Fax: (405) 530-8900
Email: phmoershel@owrb.state.ok.us

More information can be found on the OWRB Water Quality Standards revision page at http://www.owrb.state.ok.us/util/rules/wqs_revisions.php.

HAVE YOU ORDERED YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS MATERIALS?

Public relations marketing kits were mailed to ORWA members in August. The kits contain samples of posters, newsletters, press releases, informational and educational brochures, classroom curriculum and other public relations material. Public relations kits are provided free of charge to ORWA member systems and are available

to non-members for \$25.00. Help promote the services and benefits rural water systems provide to improve the quality of life and enhance economic development in rural areas. Order your marketing and public relations materials from ORWA today.