

UPDATE

Meetings & Events

*ORWA Fall Management
Conference
August 13-15, 2007
Western Hills Lodge
Hulbert, OK*

*NRWA Annual
Conference
September 23-26, 2007
Philadelphia Marriott
Downtown
Philadelphia, PA*

*Governors Water
Conference
(OWRB 50th
Anniversary)
October 23-25, 2007
Cox Convention Center
Oklahoma City, OK*

MAY 8, 2007 DESIGNATED "BILL SECREST DAY" AT THE STATE CAPITOL

In recognition for his many years of public service, and 24 years of service on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, the Oklahoma legislature designated May 8, 2007 as "Bill Secrest Day" at the Oklahoma State Capitol. Senate Concurrent Resolution 35, by Senator Mary Easley and Representative Wade Rousselot, honors the public career of Bill Secrest and thanks him for his long and dedicated service to the people of Oklahoma.

Secrest was appointed to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board in 1983 by Governor George Nigh, to represent rural water interest. He served as OWRB Vice Chair from 1986 to

1997. Mr. Secrest was presented the OWRB Oklahoma Water Pioneer Award in 1998. His term on the OWRB expired this May and he did not seek reappointment.

The honor was presented in conjunction with Water Day, which is held annually at the State Capitol to focus attention on the importance of Oklahoma's water resources. Water related organizations and agencies manned exhibits in the capitol rotunda and provided information to legislators and other government officials on water resource management and conservation and educational and assistance programs.

ORWA FALL MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 13-15, 2007 AT WESTERN HILLS LODGE

The Oklahoma Rural Water Association's annual fall management conference will be held August 13-15 at scenic Western Hills Lodge. A golf tournament and fishing tournament are scheduled for Monday, August 13. Training classes will be held all day Tuesday and until noon on Wednesday. ORWA Associate Members will have exhibits of the products and services available to water and wastewater systems and provide prizes. Our associates also sponsor the free bar-b-que, which is scheduled for Tuesday evening. Board members can satisfy their six hour training requirement by attending training sessions all day on Tuesday. Additional information on the conference and registration forms are enclosed with this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at Western Hills.

BILL SIMS NAMED ORWA MAN OF THE YEAR

The ORWA Man of the Year Award was presented to Bill Sims, at the association's annual conference in Tulsa, in recognition and appreciation for his dedicated service and his contributions to the development and advancement of rural water in Oklahoma. Sims has been associated with rural water for more than 30 years. He is Chairman of Caddo County Rural Water District #3, which provides water to more than 1,870 members in parts of Caddo, Kiowa and Comanche counties.

Sims was elected to the ORWA Board of Directors in 2002 and to the ORWA Executive Board

that same year. He holds the position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and serves on the ORWA Legislative, Audit and Budget and Public Relations Committees. Sims was elected to the ORWA Assurance Group (ORWAAG) Board of Directors in 2000 and holds the position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Sims is an effective leader and advocate for rural water at the local, state and national level. He is actively involved in issues affecting small water systems and works to promote the development, conservation and protection of our water resources.



SENATOR RICHARD LERBLANCE NAMED ORWA LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

The Oklahoma Rural Water Association (ORWA) Legislator of the Year Award was presented to State Senator Richard Lerblance, at the ORWA Annual Conference Awards Luncheon in Tulsa, Oklahoma, April 25th. The Senator from Hartshorne, Oklahoma received the recognition for his support of Oklahoma rural water systems and for his leadership and assistance in working to protect and preserve the state's water resources.

Senator Lerblance sponsored legislation in the Oklahoma Senate, which allows rural water districts, with the approval of their members, to charge up to ten cents per 1,000 gallons of water sold to assist other entities, such as schools or rural fire departments, that benefit the water district's members. The legislation was signed into law by Governor Henry and was effective April 17th.

Senator Lerblance is Co-Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and serves on the Appropriations, Energy and Environment, and Education Committees. Previously, Senator Lerblance chaired the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, which handles most legislation dealing with water and environmental issues. Senator Lerblance has worked to promote fair and equitable competition between municipalities and rural water districts, and is a good friend in the Senate for Oklahoma's rural water providers.

ORWA OUTSTANDING RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

The ORWA Outstanding Rural Water System Award is presented annually in recognition of the outstanding achievements of a rural water system, including operation, management and administration and is intended to recognize the contributions of the board members, managers, operators, office personnel and other employees that have helped make the system a success. The Award is meant to honor everyone involved with the system for their hard work, dedication, professionalism and commitment to providing a reliable supply of good quality water and excellent service to their customers.

Washington County Rural Water District No. 3 and Garvin County Rural Water District No. 6 were presented the ORWA Outstanding Rural Water System Award at this year's Annual Awards Luncheon.

Washington County Rural Water District No. 3 was formed in 1965 and began operation with 458 customers. The district currently serves 6448 members through their recently upgraded water treatment plant that has a capacity of 3.2 mgd. The district recently completed a comprehensive master plan that includes an additional source of water that incorporates 50 years of five percent growth.

Garvin County Rural Water District No. 6 was formed in 1970 and had 212 original customers. The district currently serves 1043 members through approximately 300 miles of distribution line. Garvin No. 6 has been very progressive in looking at future growth and security for the water system. They recently purchased additional water rights to help assure their long term water supply and viability of the system.

ORWA ANNUAL MEETING AND TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

The 37th Annual Meeting and Technical Conference of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association, held April 23-25, 2007 at the Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa, was a great success. It was our best attended meeting to date, with 724 rural water officials, associate members, agency representatives and other guests registered for the conference. We would like to express our appreciation to our instructors, associates and everyone who attended for their assistance and participation. Mark your calendars now. Next year's ORWA Annual Meeting and Technical Conference will be held April 14-16, 2008 at the Clarion Meridian Convention Center in Oklahoma City.

NRWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) 2007 Annual Leadership Conference and Technology Exhibit is scheduled for September 23-26, 2007 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Toll-free Reservations: 800-320-5744. Rate: \$195.00 single/double, \$215.00 triple and \$235 quad. When making reservations, please let the hotel know that you are with the National Rural Water Association. For more information and to register for the conference contact NRWA at (580) 252-0629 or go on-line at www.nrwa.org.

ORWA members that serve less than 400 connections are eligible for a free registration to the national conference. For details, contact ORWA at (405) 672-8925.

STEPHENS COUNTY RWD NO. 5 WINS WATER TASTE CONTEST

Winner of the Third Annual ORWA Water Taste Contest was Stephens County Rural Water District No. 5, located in Marlow, Oklahoma. The system is a ground water system that serves approximately 1370 connections. System Manager Brett Kimbro accepted the first place award on behalf of the District.

Preliminary judging for the taste contest was held on Monday afternoon at the ORWA Annual Conference in Tulsa. Three rural water systems, Stephens County Rural Water District No. 5, Cherokee County Rural Water District No. 11 and Wagoner County Rural Water District No. 4 were selected as finalist. A panel of three expert judges had the difficult task of selecting the states best tasting water at the final judging held on Tuesday morning. Entries were evaluated and judged for clarity, smell and taste.

Water from Stephens County RWD No. 5 was also entered in the National Rural Water Association's "Great American Water Taste Test" held May 1st in Washington, D.C. The district was selected as one of five finalist in the event, which is held annually in connection with the Rural Water Rally.



UPDATE OF THE STATE COMPREHENSIVE WATER PLAN

The Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute (OWRRI) at Oklahoma State University has been selected to assist the OWRB in developing a strategic guide for managing the State's water resources over the next 50 years. OWRRI will conduct 42 "Local Input Meetings" around the state to give state residents an opportunity to share their opinions about what should be included in Oklahoma's upcoming 50-year water plan.

We strongly encourage all water systems to have representatives attend one or more of these meetings and address water

supply, infrastructure, and planning problems and the needs of your area. This is your opportunity to help set the agenda for the state water plan.

Local Input Meetings that have been scheduled for June, July and August are listed below. Check the OWRRI website <http://okwaterplan.info> for additional dates and locations, or for your convenience, a link to this website has been placed on the ORWA home page www.okruralwater.org. **All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.**

- June 5, Northern Oklahoma College, Walcher Conference Center, Tonkawa, OK
- June 7, Grady County Fairgrounds, Community Building, Chickasha, OK
- June 12, Stephens County Fair and Expo Center, North East Room, Duncan, OK
- June 19, Garfield County Fairgrounds, Hoover Building, Enid, OK
- June 21, Canadian Valley Career Tech, Conference Center, El Reno, OK
- June 28, Kingfisher County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Building, Kingfisher, OK
- July 12, Oklahoma County Extension Office, Auditorium, Oklahoma City, OK
- July 17, Murray County Expo Center, Hilliard Hall, Sulphur, OK
- July 19, Cleveland County Fairgrounds, North Classroom, Norman, OK
- July 24, Lincoln County Fairgrounds, Agri-Civic Center, Chandler, OK
- July 31, Ardmore Convention Center, Salon D&E, Ardmore, OK
- August 7, Gordon Cooper Vo Tech, Seminar Center, Shawnee, OK
- August 23, Creek County Fairgrounds, Banquet Hall, Kellyville, OK

EPASTAGE 2 TRAINING

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will sponsor three free one-day Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DPB2) training sessions in August. Staff from EPA Region 6 will work one-on-one with water systems to help systems comply with the Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDES) requirements of the (DPB2) Rule. The DBP2 Rule applies to all water systems that receive or deliver water that has been disinfected. Training has been scheduled for the following dates and locations. All classes are from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

August 7- Tulsa Technology Center, Broken Arrow Campus, 4600 S. Olive, Broken Arrow, OK

August 8- Stillwater Community Center, Lowry Activity Room, 315 W. 8th St., Stillwater, OK

August 9- Great Plains Technology Center, Building 300, Room 301, 4500 West Lee Blvd., Lawton, OK

This training session is strongly recommended for systems serving less than 500 persons.

Bring the following material with you to the training

- Copy of water distribution system map (with locations of storage tanks, booster chlorination stations, and connections to other water systems plotted on map)
- Pen/Pencil
- Any water quality information about your water system (chlorine residual results, HPC results, water age information in distribution system)
- Name and phone number of the lab you use or plan to use for TTHM and HAA5 sample analysis

Registration is limited to two (2) persons per water system. Please register by calling Ms. Julie Hankinson at (214) 665-3185 or email her at hankinson.julie@epa.gov. Operator certification credit will be awarded to participants.



For emergency calls after office hours, nights, weekends and holidays, contact Gene Whatley at 405/794-0841



RURAL WATER RALLY

This year's Rural Water Rally was held April 29 through May 2 in Washington, D.C. Attending the Rally from Oklahoma were: Phillip Klutts, Wallace and Doris Lee Howard, Bill and Jackie Porter, Bill and Bonnie Sims, Jimmy Seago, Bob Chase, Charles and Carolyn Lewis, Boyd and Nelwyn Hughes, Wayne and Evalyn Johnson, Randy and Jenelda Vaughn, James Gammill and Gene Whatley. Rally participants visited with congressional members and/or their staff to promote support for rural water funding initiatives. All of Oklahoma's congressional delegation committed to sign a delegation letter supporting funding for the Rural Development Rural Water Loan and Grant Program and rural water training, technical assistance, wellhead protection and source water protection programs. We owe a special thanks to Representative Frank Lucas for initiating the Oklahoma delegation letter. Senator James Inhofe has signed a dear colleague letter in the Senate asking appropriations subcommittees to fund these important programs. Our appreciation to everyone who participated and helped make this year's Rally a success.

ORWA HONORS FOUNDER, SID WILLIAMS

An ORWA Founders Hall of Fame Award was presented in memory of Oklahoma rural water pioneer Sid Williams at the ORWA Annual Conference Banquet in Tulsa. The Association's first Executive Director, R.K. Johnson, made the presentation.

Sid Williams wrote the legislation that established Oklahoma's rural water districts during the early 1960's. He also wrote the legal incorporation documents that established the Oklahoma Rural Water Association. Williams was instrumental in establishing the goals and objectives that still guide ORWA today. In 1976, Williams also helped to establish the National Rural Water Association, with headquarters in Duncan, Oklahoma, where it still operates today. R.K. Johnson said "those of us involved in Oklahoma's rural water development remember Sid as 'Mr. Rural Water', because of the initiative, leadership and guidance he provided in creating the foundations for strong rural water systems in Oklahoma." Several of Sid Williams' surviving family members attended the Hall of Fame Founders Award Presentation to accept the award.

FORMER ORWA CIRCUIT RIDER AMBROSE 'TINY' HAMMOND PASSES AWAY

ORWA Circuit Rider 'Tiny' Hammond passed away April 15, 2007 at his home in Byron. He was 77 years old. Tiny was employed by the Association in 1982 and retired in April of 1996. After leaving ORWA, Tiny worked for the Town of Cherokee.

As an ORWA Circuit Rider, Tiny devoted virtually all of his time and energy to helping water systems. He would leave home Monday morning and wouldn't return until Friday evening. During his tenure with ORWA, he helped solve hundreds of water system problems and made hundreds of friends throughout the state. We will always remember Tiny as a big man with a big heart. Our condolences go out to his sons, Timothy Owen and Paul Wayne and to other family members and friends.

PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGN

The Rural Water Public Relations Campaign has developed a series of new ads and a new web site to promote the benefits of rural water. One of the ads will run each month for the next eight months in Oklahoma Living magazine. The magazine is published by the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives and is mailed monthly to over 250,000 rural electric customers around the state. Unpaid Heroes ads will continue to run in Oklahoma Living on a periodic basis.

Be sure and check out our new web-site at www.gettoknowyourh20.com and let us know what you think. We would like to thank the ORWA Public Relations Committee and Traction Marketing for their good work. Members of the ORWA Public Relations Committee are; Charles Lewis, Chairman, Richard Alig, Jerry Gammill, Bill Giles, Phillip Klutts, Gary McGuire, Dennis Meyers, Arvil Morgan, Jimmy Seago, Bill Secrest, Bill Sims and Clifford Tatum.