

# UPDATE

February 2009



## Meetings & Events

*FACT Funding Conference*  
March 11, 2009

*Clarion Meridian Hotel and  
Conference Center*  
Oklahoma City, OK

*ORWA Annual Meeting and  
Management Conference*  
April 14-16, 2009  
Marriott Southern Hills  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Rural Water Rally*  
April 19-21, 2009  
Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill  
Washington, DC

*ORWA Operator EXPO*  
June 15-16, 2009  
Payne County EXPO Center  
Stillwater, OK

*Western Hills Fall Conference*  
September 16-18, 2009  
Hulbert, OK

*National Rural Water  
Association Annual Conference  
and H2O-XPO*  
October 6-8, 2009  
Louisville, KY



## LEGISLATION

The Oklahoma Legislature is back in session and it looks like it will be a busy year at the State Capitol. Over 2,000 bills and resolutions have been introduced in the House and Senate. There are currently about 40 bills, dealing with water and other issues of interest or importance to water and wastewater systems, on our priority tracking list. A summary of priority legislative bills is enclosed with this newsletter. Additional bill summaries are posted on the ORWA web site. Please call the ORWA office if you have questions or comments on bills.

ORWA has only one request bill this year. House Bill 1484 by Representative Dale Dewitt and Senate companion bill, SB 347 by Senator David Myers, repeal sections 1324.41 through 1324.50 of the Rural Water Districts Act, which relate to the acquisition of a rural water district. The language to be repealed by HB 1484 and SB 347 was requested by ORWA in 1994 to insure that anyone acquiring a rural water district has the technical expertise, experience and financial capacity to continue to operate and maintain the system in a satisfactory manner.

ORWA reviewed the statute after a city indicated an interest in using it to takeover a rural water district. The statute does not allow for a hostile takeover of a rural water district, but defending itself from such an attempt by a city could be very costly for a district. After reviewing the statute we concluded that it is seldom used and not really needed. Other provisions in the Rural Water Districts Act give system members and the County Commissioners adequate control over the disposition of a rural water district. Repealing this section of the law could also be helpful in avoiding costly litigation.

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## BRENT KISLING RESIGNS

USDA Rural Development State Director, Brent Kisling resigned his position on January 20, 2009. He was appointed in 2001 as part of the George W. Bush Administration. Kisling was responsible for overseeing Rural Development's mission to provide technical and financial resources to rural areas. During his tenure, USDA Rural Development administered over 50 different federal programs while investing over \$2.5 billion in projects throughout rural Oklahoma.

Brent Kisling was a good friend and supporter of rural water. He did an excellent job as Rural Development State Director. We appreciate his leadership in promoting economic development in rural communities and his commitment to improving the quality of life for all rural Oklahomans. We wish Brent great success in his future endeavors.

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**ARE YOU READY FOR THIS YEARS  
ANNUAL MEETING?  
INFORMATION IS ENCLOSED  
SEE YOU IN TULSA!!**



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



### FACT FUNDING CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 11, 2009

The Oklahoma Funding Agency Coordinating Team (FACT) is hosting its first FACT Funding Conference Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at the Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center, 737 South Meridian in Oklahoma City. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:00 a.m.

This is a great opportunity for water and wastewater system officials, financial consultants and engineers to attend for one-stop shopping to find the financing you need for your project. The Conference will be filled with informational topics that will help your system identify potential funding sources while learning how to best utilize your existing resources. A general session for all participants will look at how to use rate setting to secure your systems financial future.

To register go to <http://orangehub.okstate.edu>. Follow the Agricultural Conference Services, FACT Funding Conference links. Registration fee \$35.00. Late registration fee \$75.00 (after March 2). Visit [www.okruralwater.org](http://www.okruralwater.org) for more information.

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



**OCTOBER 6-8, 2009  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WWW.H2O-XPO.ORG](http://WWW.H2O-XPO.ORG)

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### *H2O-XPO*

The National Rural Water Association's H2O-XPO in Louisville, Kentucky will feature 30 acres of equipment (dubbed the "hands-on expo"), over 80 educational sessions and 1,000 booths providing accesses to every conceivable product, service and piece of equipment. You will be awed by the expanse of equipment and machinery and by the educational sessions that are guaranteed to stretch your knowledge to new heights.

Plan now to attend the National Rural Water Association Annual Conference and H2O-XPO, October 6-8, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky. For more information go to [www.h2o-xpo.com](http://www.h2o-xpo.com), or call (580) 252-0629. Exhibitors should contact Becca at 1-800-545-1054.