

UPDATE

June 2009



Meetings & Events

ORWA Operator EXPO

June 15-16, 2009

Payne County EXPO Center

Stillwater, OK

ORWA Fall Management

Conference

September 16-18, 2009

Western Hills Lodge

Wagoner, OK

National Rural Water

Association Annual Conference

and H2O-XPO

October 6-8, 2009

Louisville, KY

Governors Water Conference

and OWRRI Technical

Conference

November 3-5, 2009

Reed Center

Midwest City, OK

Rural Water Rally

February 7-10, 2010

Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill

Washington, DC

ORWA Annual Meeting and

Management Conference

April 19-21, 2010

Reed Center

Midwest City, OK

MEET THE NEW ORWA PRESIDENT

Bill Sims was elected President of the Oklahoma Rural Water Association at the ORWA 39th Annual Meeting and Management Conference held April 14-16, 2009 at the Marriott Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sims was elected to the ORWA Board in 2002 and previously held the position of Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. He has also served on the ORWA Assurance Group Board of Directors since 2000 and serves as Assistant Secretary of that organization. Sims has been associated with rural water for over 30 years. He started his career in the water business by helping organize and create Caddo County RWD #3 located at Carnegie, Oklahoma. He was elected to the board in 1974 and currently serves as chairman of the district. He is a retired banker and a farmer and rancher. He and his wife Bonnie reside in Mountain View, Oklahoma. Sims succeeds Bill Secrest who did not seek another term as President. Our congratulations to Bill Sims on his election.

BOYD HUGHES RECEIVES ORWA MAN OF THE YEAR HONOR

ORWA's highest honor, the ORWA Man of the Year Award, was presented to Vice-President, Boyd Hughes during the ORWA Annual Meeting Banquet held April 15th in Tulsa. The Award is presented to recognize and pay tribute to individuals who have made substantial contributions of their time, energy and expertise in the development and advancement of rural water in Oklahoma.

Hughes has served on the ORWA Board of Directors since 1994 and has been a member of the Executive Board for the past 10 years. He is Chairman of the ORWA Audit and Budget Committee and serves on the Public Relations and Membership Committees. Hughes was elected to the ORWA Assurance Group Board of Directors in 2002 and serves on the ORWAAG Policy Committee. Hughes recently retired from Woodward County RWD #1 where he worked as manager/operator, mostly as a volunteer, for almost 30 years. He is an effective leader and advocate for rural water at the local, state and national level. He has participated in numerous rural water rally's in Washington DC and is actively involved on issues affecting small water systems. Hughes always makes the extra effort and does an excellent job in promoting and representing the interest of the ORWA, the ORWA Assurance Group and rural water systems in Oklahoma. Congratulations to Boyd Hughes on his award.

CHARLES LEWIS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF ORWA ASSURANCE GROUP

Charles Lewis has been elected by his fellow board members to serve as Chairman of the ORWA Assurance Group. He succeeds Clifford Tatum who served as ORWAAG Chairman for seven years.

Lewis is a current board member and past Chairman of McCurtain County RWD #1. He was elected to the ORWA Assurance Group Board of Directors in 2002. Lewis has served on the ORWA Board of Directors since 1995 and is Chairman of the Public Relations Committee. Lewis and his wife Carolyn reside in Tom, Oklahoma. Our congratulations to Charles Lewis on his election.





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



IN MEMORY OF LONNIE FARMER

Former ORWA board member Lonnie Farmer died May 13, 2009 at his home in Oklahoma City at the age of 79. He was a retired banker and over the years was very active in the Towns of Morrison and Davidson in helping to create water systems and promoting the development of water resources. Lonnie served on the ORWA Board for over 32 years. He was an incorporator and original board member of the association and was instrumental in securing the first funding for ORWA training programs. He served on the Executive Board for many years and was Secretary from 1977 to 1982. He was the recipient of the ORWA Man of the Year Award in 1996, ORWA Associate Member Hall of Fame Award 1999 and the ORWA Founders Hall of Fame Award in 2007. Lonnie served many years on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board promoting rural water and irrigation farming. He served as OWRB Chairman and was recipient of the OWRB Water Pioneer Award in 1997. Our condolences to Lonnie's wife Rene and the Farmer family.

TOM WHITAKER ELECTED TO ORWA BOARD

Tom Whitaker, Wynnewood, Oklahoma was elected to serve on the ORWA Board at the Annual Business Meeting held April 14, 2009 in Tulsa. Whitaker was elected to complete the unexpired term of Clifford Tatum in Region 4.

Whitaker is manager of Garvin County RWD #6 headquartered in Wynnewood. He has worked with the system for many years, and was named manager in 2003. The district serves 1120 members in portions of Garvin and Murray Counties. Garvin County RWD #6 provides water purchased from Pauls Valley along with its own ground water supplies. Whitaker became interested in pursuing a career in the water business to help make a difference in complying with drinking water regulations and providing good quality water to people in rural areas of the state. Congratulations to Tom Whitaker on his election.

CLIFF TATUM RESIGNS

ORWA Assurance Group Chairman, Cliff Tatum did not seek another term on the ORWAAG Board when his position came up for election at this year's ORWAAG Annual Meeting in Tulsa. Arvil Morgan of Wagoner Co. RWD #5 was elected as his successor by the ORWA Board of Directors. Tatum also resigned his position on the ORWA Board of Directors. Tom Whitaker was elected to fulfill Tatum's term on the ORWA Board.

Tatum was elected to the ORWAAG Board in 1996 and served as Chairman of the Group since 2002. We appreciate his leadership, dedicated service and many contributions to the success of the ORWA Assurance Group and ORWA. He was a strong and effective leader and he inspired everyone to work harder to ensure that ORWA and the Assurance Group met the needs and expectations of the members. He was respected for his honesty, integrity and genuine commitment to expanding and improving services to water and wastewater systems in the state. Tatum plans to pursue a career in fishing and hunting. He will be missed at ORWAAG and ORWA. We wish him and Twila the best in their retirement.

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The ORWA Legislator of the Year Award is presented each year to members of the State Legislature in recognition and appreciation for their support of rural water and their leadership and assistance in working to protect and preserve the state's water resources. Recipients of the 2009 ORWA Legislator of the Year Award are Senator David Myers and Representative Dale DeWitt.

Senator Myers is from Ponca City, Oklahoma. His District includes portions of Alfalfa, Garfield, Grant, Kay and Noble Counties. He is Vice-Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Natural Resources and serves on the Senate Business and Labor, Transportation and Energy and Environment Committees.

Representative DeWitt is from Braman, Oklahoma. His District includes portions of Garfield, Grant, Kay, Noble and Osage Counties. He is Chairman of the House Appropriations Sub-Committee on Natural Resources and serves on the House Appropriations and Budget, Wildlife, and Agriculture and Rural Development Committees.

Senator Myers and Representative DeWitt are good friends and supporters of rural water and are effective leaders and advocates for rural Oklahoma. They appreciate the importance of rural water to the quality of life and economic development of rural Oklahoma, and work to protect, conserve and preserve the state's water resources.

As Chairmen of the House and Senate Appropriations Sub-Committees on Natural Resources, we appreciate their support for OWRB Financial Assistance Program and the REAP Program. These programs are vital to providing adequate funding for water and wastewater system development and improvements in the state. We are also deeply appreciative to Representative DeWitt and Senator Myers for their assistance in providing funding for valuable ORWA Training and Technical Assistance Programs.

Senator Myers and Representative DeWitt sponsored legislation during the past legislative session to repeal sections of the Rural Water Districts Act relating to the acquisition of a rural water district. These were ORWA's only request bills this year. Unfortunately, the legislation did not pass due to strong municipal opposition. We appreciate Senator Myers and Representative DeWitt's assistance with this legislation and their willingness to tackle this controversial issue.

ASSISTANCE WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN AND GRANT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM ORWA

We are pleased to announce that effective June 1, 2009 ORWA will expand its Circuit Rider Technical Assistance Program to assist rural and small community water and wastewater systems in applying for Rural Development loans and grants. Marc Davis has moved from his position as Wastewater Technical Assistance Specialist to assist with this new program. We have also hired Alan Brakefield to work with the program. Initially Mark and Alan will be working with current applicants to help clear the backlog of Rural Development loans and grants.

This new program is funded by Rural Development to assist systems in utilizing monies provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for water and waste projects. Rural Development could receive as much as \$70 million in ARRA funds for projects in Oklahoma. Time is of the essence. All ARRA monies must be utilized by September 30, 2010. Contact your local RD Office as soon as possible to get your application process started. Call Marc or Alan at (405) 672-8925 for assistance.

H2O-XPO

The registration is open, the educational sessions are set, the exhibitors are lining up for choice booth space and we are looking forward to seeing you there. Plan now to attend the National Rural Water Association Annual Conference and H2O-XPO, October 6-8, 2009 in Louisville, Kentucky. H2O-XPO will feature 30 acres of equipment (dubbed the "hands-on expo"), which promises to meet the needs of all size systems whether small, large, municipal or rural water district. There will be over 80 top of the line educational sessions and 1,000 booths providing access 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. The EXPO is designed to be the meeting place for our industry bringing systems together with suppliers, funding agencies, regulatory agencies, engineers, contractors and support agencies. Maximize your time and save money by registering now and selecting the educational sessions you desire to attend. For more information go to www.h2o-xpo.com or call (580) 252-0629. Exhibitors should contact Becca at 1-800-545-1054.

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS TRAINING

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 other wise indicated, lasting from 6:30 PM till 9:30 PM for two consecutive nights

June 8-9, 2009	Morrison Community Center	West Hwy 64 & Casey Lane by football field	Morrison
June 8-9, 2009	Atoka Co RWD #4 office	337 E Hwy 3	Atoka
June 22-23, 2009	Sequoyah Co Water office	3320 W Cherokee	Sallisaw
June 22-23, 2009	Ozark Electric Community Room	N of Stilwell on Hwy 51 (west side of office)	Stilwell
June 22-23, 2009	Wes Watkins Tech Center	7892 Hwy 9	Wetumka
June 24-25, 2009	Choctaw Co RWD #1 office	340 S Everidge	Grant
July 8, 2009 (9:00AM-4:00 PM)	Wagoner Co RWD #5 office	15078 S 305th East Ave.	Coweta
July 13-14, 2009 (6PM-9PM)	Onapa RWD #2 office (McIntosh Co)	5000 S Old Hwy 69	Checotah
July 15-16, 2009	Garfield Co RWD #5 office	Main Street	Bison
July 27-28, 2009 (6PM-9PM)	Tri-Co Tech Center	6101 Nowata Rd	Bartlesville

OPERATOR RENEWAL CLASSES

June 9, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Pontotoc Tech Center	601 W 33rd Street	Ada
June 9, 2009	1:00PM-5:00PM	Pontotoc Tech Center	601 W 33rd Street	Ada
June 9, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Atoka Co RWD #4 office	337 E Hwy 3	Atoka
June 9, 2009	1:00PM-5:00PM	Atoka Co RWD #4 office	337 E Hwy 3	Atoka
June 11, 2009	8:30AM-12:30PM	Hominy City Hall	202 W Main	Hominy
June 11, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Canadian Co Water Auth. office	17211 Darren Ave.	El Reno
June 12, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Farmers Market Bldg.	1002 Joe Long Dr.	Chandler
June 16, 2009	8:00AM-5:00PM	Payne Co Expo Center	4518 Expo Circle E	Stilwater
June 18, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Wagoner City Public Library	302 N Main	Wagoner
June 18, 2009	1:00PM-5:00PM	Wagoner City Public Library	302 N Main	Wagoner
June 23, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Sequoyah Co Water office	3320 W Cherokee	Sallisaw
June 23, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Wes Watkins Tech Center	7892 Hwy 9	Wetumka
June 24, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Wister Lake State Park	75768 US Hwy 270	Wister
June 25, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Choctaw Co RWD #1 office	340 S Everidge	Grant
June 25, 2009	8:30AM-12:30PM	Stratford City Hall	230 S Hyden Rd.	Stratford
June 26, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Garfield Co RWD #5 office	Main Street	Bison
June 26, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Canton City Hall	301 N Garfield	Canton
June 29, 2009	8:00AM-12:00PM	Weyerhauser Lumber	870 Weyerhauser Lane	Valliant

CLASS "D & C" WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

	All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Test announced in class	
June 22-24, 2009	Central OK Tech Center	1720 S Main	Sapulpa
July 13-14, 2009	Tipton City Hall	100 W Main	Tipton
July 21-22, 2009	Eastern OK Co Tech Center	4601 N Choctaw Rd	Choctaw
August 4-5, 2009	High Plains Tech Center	3921 34th Street	Woodward
August 18-19, 2009	Kiamichi Tech Center	810 Waldron	Durant
September 1-2, 2009	Kiamichi Tech Center	1509 S McKenna	Poteau
September 15-16, 2009	Mid-America Tech Center	I-35 & Exit 59	Wayne

CLASS "D & C" WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

	All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Test announced in class	
July 15-16, 2009	Tipton City Hall	100 W Main	Tipton

NEW MANAGEMENT TRAINING

DEQ Approved for renewal

July 9, 2009	8:30AM-12:30PM	Wagoner Co. RWD #5 office, 15078 S 305th E. Ave.	Coweta
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