



*association of central oklahoma governments
Garber-Wellington Association*

Chair
Vacant

Vice-Chair
Vacant

Secretary/Treasurer
Marsha Jefferson
Spencer Mayor

Executive Director
Zach D. Taylor

AGENDA

**GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
May 27, 2004 (Thursday) 2:30 P.M.
(or immediately following the ACOG Board of Director's Meeting)**

ACOG CONFERENCE ROOM
21 EAST MAIN, SUITE 100, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Roll Call
- II. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES ([Attachment III](#))

Action Requested: Motion to approve minutes of the April 29, 2004 meeting.

- IV. ELECTION OF GWA OFFICERS ([Attachment IV](#))

Action Requested: Motion to approve recommendations of Nominations Committee.

- V. STAFF REPORT ([Attachment V](#))

A. **ACOG Pathogen Study** – John Harrington will report on this summer's pathogen study in Oklahoma and Logan Counties.

Action Requested: None, for information only.

B. **Legislative Issues** – Update on significant water legislation in the Oklahoma legislature.

Action Requested: None, for information only.

- VI. PROGRESS REPORT ([Attachment VI](#))
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

April 29, 2004

The third regularly scheduled meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee for the calendar year 2004 was convened on April 29, 2004 in the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) Board Room, 21 E. Main Street, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held as indicated by advance notice filed with the Oklahoma County Clerk and by notice posted at the ACOG offices at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

PRESIDING

CITY/AGENCY

Hon. Ron Bledsoe, Mayor

Slaughterville

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Dave Howe, Councilmember	Choctaw
Hon. Larry O'Connell, Councilmember	Del City
Hon. Saundra Gragg Naifeh, Mayor	Edmond
Hon. Debbie Harrison, Councilmember	El Reno
Hon. Bill Haddock, Councilmember	Lexington
Hon. Mark Sharpton, Commissioner	Logan County
Hon. Eddie Reed, Mayor	Midwest City
Hon. David Hopper, Councilmember	Norman
Hon. Kathy Walker, Councilmember	Nichols Hills
Hon. Willa Johnson, Councilmember	Oklahoma City
Hon. John Brown, Councilmember	Piedmont
Hon. Judith Ainsworth, Councilmember	Spencer
Hon. Larry Kesler, Councilmember	Union City
Hon. Tom Smith, Councilmember	Warr Acres
Hon. Bob Bradway, Councilmember	Yukon

GUESTS PRESENT

Teresa Ramsey, Commissioner's Office	Canadian County
Mary Murphey, Commissioner's Office	Logan County
David Baisden, Sheriff's Office	Oklahoma County
Jim Roberts	STR, Inc.
Hon. Leslie Owens, Councilmember	Warr Acres

ACOG STAFF PRESENT

POSITION

Zach D. Taylor	Executive Director
John M. Harrington	Division Director, Water Resources
Jane Sutter	Division Director, IGS
Debbie Cook	Director of Finance and Budget
John G. Johnson	Consultant
Don Bown	Consultant
Doug Rex	Assistant to the Executive Director
Jerry Church	Special Projects Officer
Pong Wu	Associate Planner, TPDS
Ellen Owens	Department Secretary, Water Resources

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Ron Bledsoe called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m., noting that a quorum was present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The aforementioned guests were present at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Haddock made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2004 meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Naifeh and carried with the following vote:

AYE: Bledsoe, Howe, O’Connell, Naifeh, Harrison, Haddock, Sharpton, Reed, Hopper, Walker, Johnson, Brown, Ainsworth, Kesler, Smith, and Bradway

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

IV. STAFF REPORT

A. Regional Arsenic Study

Mr. Harrington reminded the Committee that in less than two years, the arsenic regulations will be going into effect. He said that people have been studying the arsenic problem and it is obvious that there are two types of solutions: engineering, which means cleaning up the arsenic once it is located, but that will be very expensive. The other solution is the geology – analyzing where the arsenic is occurring and then drilling wells in the areas that don’t have any arsenic.

Jim Roberts presented an update on the regional arsenic study that he is conducting. He said that working out the geology has been the most difficult part of the project. He indicated a cross-section of Lake Arcadia down to Lake Hefner called the Hennessey formation, which is mostly shale.

Mr. Roberts said that for this project, the Garber-Wellington has been separated out. He said there is no arsenic in the Garber portion of the Aquifer. In a cross section of the Upper Wellington, the area focused on was from Meridian Ave. almost to Pennsylvania Ave. The arsenic that has been found is primarily residing in the lower three formations in varying concentrations. Mr. Roberts said they have been able to determine and eliminate arsenic occurring in the upper part of the Wellington. He also said that they are using logs where there is no water sample information to compute an arsenic concentration and from that, they will map the change in concentration of the arsenic over the entire area and then focus primarily on the lower formations because that is where the arsenic is occurring.

Mr. Taylor said that this gives a plot that shows a physical location where you might expect to have arsenic. More importantly, old logs that have been developed on a water well or an oil well can be used to better predict where to place a well and at what depth to complete the well so as to avoid pulling arsenic into the water supply altogether, thereby avoiding the need to treat that water. Mr. Roberts said they have already had success with that method in one of Nichols Hills new wells. For about a fifth of the cost of drilling a new well, Nichols Hills will have a well that will produce as much arsenic free water as they need for that well.

Commissioner Sharpton asked at what depth the arsenic is. Mr. Roberts said the depths vary as you move along the cross-section. Mr. Haddock asked if, when good water is drawn out, does the arsenic stay where it is. Mr. Roberts said yes and in the lower formation, it is at about 900 feet. He said this study will allow us to know how deep to drill new wells and acquire water rights, and also tell us how to repair existing wells. Mr. Roberts said that Edmond had a well that was completed but they were still getting arsenic. In looking at that well, a plug was found that was leaking and as water was pumped over time, the leakage came up inside the well. That well was sealed off and the concentration of arsenic is now below the detection level.

Ms. Johnson asked about the arsenic level in the Nichols Hills area. Mr. Roberts said that in Nichols Hills the level is basically below 600 to 650 feet. The bottom of the aquifer is about 900 feet in the Broadway area, but coming up about 300 feet or so, you start getting into arsenic at about 550 to 600 feet.

Commissioner Sharpton asked if the people who have wells in their backyard at 175 feet have water that is safe to drink. Mr. Roberts said they are safe because those wells are located in the Garber sandstone. The area that he is working on in the Garber has no arsenic. He said that is not true around Will Rogers World Airport, where Yukon's wells are, and perhaps some of Mustang's wells.

John Brown asked about the difference in the makeup between the Garber and the Wellington. Mr. Roberts said the primary difference is that the Garber has very thick sand with very little clay or shale. The Wellington sands are much finer grain sands and there is more mud or shale, which contains iron. He said the arsenic is associated with the iron and the chemistry in the water is such that it causes the arsenic to be liberated from the iron. In a treatment process where they use iron sequestration, they try to adhere the arsenic to the iron by lowering the PH. In the Aquifer, the PH is raised liberating the arsenic from the iron

Mr. Sharpton asked what the symptoms of arsenic poisoning are. Mr. Roberts said it causes bladder cancer, but you would have to drink the water over a long period of time before it would show up as bladder cancer.

Mr. Taylor said the federal rules regarding arsenic have changed, possibly rendering all or part of your water supply bad, requiring treatment or finding another source of water. He said he did not know of anything more serious to the future of our communities than this. He indicated Mr. Roberts would be available to help if there were any requests for additional information, and that this was just one cross section to demonstrate how technologies can be used to solve your arsenic problems.

B. Legislative Issues

Mr. Harrington briefly discussed legislative issues. He said the Oklahoma Floodplain Management Act was signed into law. Floodplain managers will now need to be certified by the Water Resources Board. The Oklahoma Floodplain Management Association is working with the Water Resources Board to set up training sessions.

He said that Senate Bill 903, the Oklahoma Water Resources Development Act, got out of Committee, went back to the House, and the House passed it. However, the Senate still did not like it and they did not vote on it. They asked instead that it be sent back to Conference.

V. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Harrington said that work will begin on pathogen sampling this summer in about two weeks.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed at the meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Smith made a motion to adjourn. Director Naifeh seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Garber-Wellington Policy Committee Members

FROM: John M. Harrington, Division Director, Water Resources Division

DATE: May 27, 2004

SUBJECT: Garber-Wellington Association Officers – July 2004 – June 2005

The Nominations Committee has met and made the following recommendations related to Garber-Wellington Association officers:

Chairman	Marsha Jefferson
Vice-Chairman	Saundra Naifeh
Secretary-Treasurer	John Brown

JMH:eo

MEMORANDUM

TO: Zach D. Taylor
Garber-Wellington Policy Committee

FROM: John M. Harrington, Division Director, Water Resources Division

DATE: May 27, 2004

SUBJECT: ACOG Pathogen Study

Objective: The objective of this project is to collect water quality data to support the 303(d) listing for pathogens and turbidity in several streams in the ACOG region.

Background: The 1972 amendments to the Clean Water Act require states to develop an inventory of the water quality of all water bodies in the state and to submit an updated report to the EPA every two years. This inventory is listed in the State Of Oklahoma 2002 Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report. The Category 5 subsection designates the waterbodies where the waterbody is impaired or threatened for one or more designated uses by a pollutant(s), and requires a TMDL. Much of the waterbodies are listed for pathogens and turbidity.

This project will monitor the pathogen and turbidity of the following listed streams:

WBIDSEGUID	NAME	SIZE	SAMPLING SITES	CATEGORY	TMDL_DATE	PATHOGENS	TURBIDITY
OK620910040120_00	Deer Creek	13	2	5	2009	9000	9000
OK620910040100_00	Chisholm Creek	21	3	5	2009	9000	9000
OK620910040010_20	Cottonwood Creek	24	3	5	2009	9000	9000
OK520710020060_00	Canadian River, Deep Fork	10	2	5	2006	9000	
OK520710020030_00	Spring Creek	8	1	5	2006	9000	
OK520700050200_00	Opossum Creek	7	1	5	2006		9000

This project is funded from three separate 604(b) funds – 99 Task 300, 00 Task 300, and 00 Task 500.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS: This project will confirm the listing on the 303d list in the Integrated Report and generate a TMDL for the affected streams on this list.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Garber-Wellington Policy Committee
FROM: John M. Harrington, Division Director, Water Resources Division
DATE: May 27, 2004
SUBJECT: Progress Report

Staff met with municipal officials from Cashion, OK to discuss the water situation in their town. Recommendations from staff focused on possibilities of a municipal well field on the Cimarron Terrace Aquifer.

The summer internship for the pathogens study has been filled with our addition of Kris Wright. Final approval of the study is still pending, but expect to be approved within a few weeks.

The pathogen study on the North Canadian River ended on October 1. Evaluation of data is in progress. Draft data report sent to DEQ on March 12. Comments received April 12. Draft final report due June 15.

The Thunderhead Hills project has been included in a larger program headed by the Groundwater Protection Council focusing on saltwater contamination sites in northern Oklahoma County. Funding for the program was approved from the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. OSE and EPA reviewed study April 13. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) due May 30.

Phase I arsenic study is underway – geochemical modeling phase is progressing and stratigraphic cross-sections are being drafted.