



*association of central oklahoma governments
Garber-Wellington Association*

Chair John Brown
Piedmont Councilmember

Vice-Chair Jim Pumphrey
Nicoma Park Councilmember

Secretary/Treasurer Marsha Jefferson
Spencer Mayor

Executive Director
Zach D. Taylor

AGENDA

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

April 27, 2006 (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 March 30, 2006 meeting.
- IV. STAFF REPORT
 - A. **Drought Update** – A quick review of the drought status in Oklahoma.
Action Requested: None, for information only.
 - B. **Stormwater and the Pathogen TMDL** – The open comment period now exists for the upcoming North Canadian pathogen TMDL. Staff will comment on how this will impact the new stormwater programs.
Action Requested: None, for information only.
 - C. **Legislative Issues** – Staff will update on the remaining water legislation for this session.
Action Requested: None, for information only.
- V. PROGRESS REPORT ([Attachment V](#))
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

Doug Rex
Don Bown
John G. Johnson
Jerry Church
Ellen Owens

Assistant to the Executive Director
Consultant
Legal Counsel
Communications Programs Coordinator, IGS
Division Secretary, Water Resources

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Brown called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m., noting that a quorum was present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The aforementioned guest was at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Willa Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2006 meeting. Director Pumphrey seconded the motion and the motion carried with the following vote:

AYE: Brown, Howe, Bartlett, Naifeh, Sharpton, Graham, Reed, McMillan, Walker, Pumphrey, Hopper, Johnson, Davis, Symes, and Owens

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

IV. STAFF REPORT

A. Drought Update

John Harrington informed the Committee that the central Oklahoma region had its driest winter on record. He said that the region needs about an inch of rain to get the area up to normal levels. He indicated the southeast Oklahoma has gone from severe drought to mild drought, while the four state area of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona are in the stages of dry to extreme drought. He said the little rain we got in the last month upped our reservoir capacity to over 80%, but we are still in a drought condition.

B. Results of the 2005 ACOG Pathogen Study

Mr. Harrington said a pathogen study was done last summer. He said data was collected from Cottonwood Creek, the Deep Fork Basin, and Spring Creek. He commented that the pathogen count at Spring Creek needs to be reduced by about 97% or two orders of magnitude. This is endemic across central Oklahoma in general. He indicated the numbers

for the N. Canadian River are similar. He said that pathogens are a serious issue and said that on April 10th, there will be a public meeting in El Reno on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study. He said that the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) will be proposing the 97% reduction as an official TMDL for the N. Canadian River.

Mr. Taylor asked if the reductions will be achieved by urban stormwater controls or sewer plans. Mr. Harrington commented that he had read an article whereby environmental groups in Atlanta forced industry to start taking samples of their outflows to reduce pathogens and said that the onus was on the industries. He said that he would be looking for cross-connects between sewage and stormwater systems as a means of contributing pathogens to a stream. He said that this will probably be something that will eventually be in the stormwater permits, as well as Best Management Practices (BMP).

Mr. Taylor asked if ODEQ and EPA will want to make the discharge permit more stringent. Mr. Harrington replied they will not do that right away. He said that Mark Derschweiler of ODEQ would like to first use BMP's in order to achieve reductions. He said they would also try to track the sources of contamination. Commissioner Sharpton asked if more rain would clean it up. Mr. Harrington indicated that more rain would not. He said that storm surges actually increase the numbers of pathogens.

Director Pumphrey referenced the sampling point at I-35 and said that there is no one dumping into that area at that sampling point. He said that Edmond has the Spring Creek lift station which is downstream from the sampling site. He said all that has to be naturally occurring or from a septic tank somewhere. Mr. Harrington said that in the area there is the Thunderhead Hills community and there are large numbers of new homes in that area. The sources could be people's pets. He said there are probably no point sources in that watershed.

V. PROGRESS REPORT

There was no discussion of the Progress Report at the meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed at the meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Pumphrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Hopper seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Garber Wellington Policy Committee
FROM: John M. Harrington, Division Director, Water Resources
DATE: 4/21/06
RE: Progress Report

Staff participated with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality on the first public meeting concerning pathogen TMDLs on the North Canadian River in El Reno earlier this month.

Staff is still presenting talks concerning drought preparedness to various interested groups. Staff also participated in ScienceFest 2006 and attended the Tinker Community Advisory Board this month.

The 2005 ACOG Pathogen sampling report has been submitted to EPA.

EPA has approved the North Canadian DO TMDL report submitted last fall.

Staff is participating in preparing a Stream Restoration Conference with INCOG, OSU, and the Office of the Secretary of Environment. Tentative date is in November, with the conference site at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City. Crutcho Creek will be a focus during the conference.

The SuperSting resistivity unit was delivered to ACOG October 31. Preliminary field-testing will start in April.