



*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  
October 26, 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 September 28, 2006 meeting.

IV. STAFF REPORT

- 1. **The 2006 Triennial Water Quality Revisions** – OWRB is changing the beneficial use of Canadian River from Habitat Limited to Warm Water Aquatic Community. We will discuss what this means for dischargers in this watershed. Also, we will review the request to open the pathogen section for study and revision.

**Action Requested:** None, for information only.

- 2. **Drought Update** – A quick review of the drought status in Oklahoma.

**Action Requested:** None, for information only.

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

## MINUTES

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 28, 2006

The seventh regularly scheduled meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee for the calendar year 2006 was convened on September 28, 2006 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.

PRESIDINGCITY/AGENCY

Hon. John Brown, Councilmember

Piedmont

POLICY COMMITTEE PRESENT

Hon. Phil Carson, Commissioner

Canadian County

Hon. Roger Malone, Councilmember

City of Choctaw

Hon. Ken Bartlett, Councilmember

City of Del City

Hon. Saundra Gragg Naifeh, Mayor

City of Edmond

Hon. Julie Rozsypal, Councilmember

City of El Reno

Hon. Doug Hehn, Councilmember

City of Guthrie

Hon. Ray Poland, Councilmember

City of Jones City

Hon. Mark Sharpton, Commissioner

Logan County

Hon. Margaret Graham, Councilmember

City of Luther

Hon. Russell Smith, Mayor

City of Midwest City

Hon. Kathy McMillan, Councilmember

City of Moore

Hon. Keith Bryan, Councilmember

City of Mustang

Hon. David Hopper, Councilmember

City of Norman

Hon. Willa Johnson, Councilmember

City of Oklahoma City

Hon. Jeff Davis, Councilmember

City of Piedmont

Hon. Scott Symes, Mayor

City of The Village

GUESTS

Mary Murphey, Administrative Assistant

Logan County Commissioner's Office

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
Doug Rex	Assistant to the Executive Director
John G. Johnson	Legal Consultant
Jerry Church	Communications Programs Coordinator, IGS
Ellen Owens	Division Secretary, Water Resources

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman John Brown called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m., noting that a quorum was present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The aforementioned guest was present at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Sharpton made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2006 meeting. Director Davis seconded the motion and the motion carried with the following vote:

AYE: Brown, Carson, Malone, Bartlett, Naifeh, Rozsypal, Hehn, Poland, Sharpton, Graham, Smith, McMillan, Bryan, Hopper, Johnson, Davis, and Symes

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

VI. STAFF REPORT

1. The North Canadian TMDL - John Harrington informed the Committee that the second public meeting with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) was held two weeks ago to clarify the language that will be in the stormwater permits. He gave a presentation showing the reduction rates along the North Canadian River along with the approximate locations where the deductions will have to take place. He indicated that from El Reno south to Dale there are very high reduction rates. He said that ODEQ understands that to decrease the pathogen level in the River by two orders of magnitude is probably an unreasonable goal and that what they want is for the State to demonstrate progress for

attaining that goal. Mr. Harrington remarked that the cities are responsible only for pathogen contribution within their own systems.

Director Hopper commented that the Little River has some pathogens that are coming from Moore and that will require some coordination with a group like this in order to deal with that. Mr. Harrington said that will require a modeling concept of that watershed. Director Hopper asked if the plan was to have ACOG act as an intermediary between the different cities and Mr. Harrington said he would try to act as a mediator. He said this would require funding and a lot of modeling to determine where the pathogens come from and where they will go.

Mr. Taylor said it is important to note that if a community is in the North or South Canadian River basins, pathogens that stem from the headwaters and come into the different cities, do not become the responsibility of those communities.

Mr. Harrington said to address some of what is coming from upstream, the agricultural community in Canadian County is already planning to do a Master Water Conservation Plan from above El Reno to Lake Overholser. They will be doing a modeling study of the pathogens and try to do source tracking.

Mr. Harrington informed the Committee that this year is the triennial revision of the Water Quality Standards. He said he has been asked by people on the Water Resources Board to send a letter requesting that risk-based approaches to pathogens be done. He said he does not expect a lot of movement on this approach as it would several years of investigation. Mr. Harrington said if the Water Quality Standards are changed, then the TMDL will be re-evaluated.

Mr. Harrington said that what is required in the stormwater permits is for the communities to develop a bacteria reduction plan, develop and participate in a bacteria monitoring program, and then have an annual reporting.

2. Drought Update – Mr. Harrington gave a brief update on the status of the drought. He said that central Oklahoma is still in a drought situation. He said the October forecast is for normal rains, but the region has had the second driest water year on record. He said that in a drought, the farmers are affected first. The next indication would be the rivers drying up and also the storage capacity of our reservoirs would decline. He said the storage capacity of the five reservoirs is declining and he feels we are in the second phase of a long term drought. He indicated that the soil is so dry in Oklahoma now that any rain is immediately absorbed.

## V. PROGRESS REPORT

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Harrington said he has received a letter from the Water Resources Board regarding the discharge permits for the Canadian River. He said the cities of Oklahoma City, Moore, and Norman will be affected by this. He said the River was the focus of a nationwide biological assessment. He said sampling was done for fisheries and biological communities in the River and what was found was that there is enough evidence to upgrade the Canadian River from a habitat-limited aquatic community to a warm water aquatic community. He said this means that discharge permits will become stricter, especially in dissolved oxygens. This will be proposed at the next revision meeting of the Water Quality Standards.

Director Sharpton asked if there have been any changes in the water level of the Garber-Wellington Aquifer as a result of the drought. Mr. Harrington replied that there hasn't thus far and that he doesn't expect to see serious water level declines in the Garber until sometime next summer.

Jane Sutter asked if the cities of Norman, Moore, and Oklahoma City should be communicating with the Water Resources Board. Mr. Harrington suggested that the cities have representatives attend the next Standards meeting for discussion. He said the next meeting is on October 19 and they will also be meeting with representatives on October 5.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Director Sharpton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Brown seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Garber Wellington Policy Committee  
**FROM:** John M. Harrington, Water Resources Director  
**DATE:** October 26, 2006  
**RE:** Progress Report

---

Staff submitted comments to ODEQ concerning the North Canadian River TMDL. Staff recommended that the study be labeled preliminary until modeling issues are resolved.

Staff reviewed Canadian River dissolved oxygen model to understand impact of new beneficial use designation of Warm Water Aquatic Community on the discharge permits in the watershed.

Staff has received comments on the Cottonwood Creek pathogen model and the Deep Fork pathogen model. The report is undergoing much review and refinement of the model is ongoing, especially in light of the present pathogen TMDL issues.

Staff is finishing field work in the El Reno well field, testing out the earth imaging machine and evaluating the lease. Final processing of the data is currently underway.