

North Canadian River Subject of Public Meeting

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is seeking written comments on a revised draft document describing pathogen reductions needed to improve water quality in the Shell Creek and North Canadian (Oklahoma) River watersheds. The comment period has been extended through October 12. An earlier comment period was held this summer, but due to interest in the reports, the deadline was extended and a public informational meeting will be held on Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m., at the ODEQ offices, 707 N. Robinson Avenue.

The federal Clean Water Act requires the state agency to develop plans with goals and pollution control targets for improving water quality where minimum standards are not met. This is accomplished by establishing limits known as Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for each pollutant that exceeds national standards. A TMDL is the amount of each pollutant that a waterway can receive and not violate water quality standards. TMDL programs set the limit for pollutants that allow water bodies to achieve their eventual beneficial use. A beneficial use for water can mean that it is drinkable, can be used for recreation, irrigation,



The Oklahoma River, which spans Central Oklahoma, is currently in violation of water quality standards.

fishing, swimming and general environmental aesthetics.

In the study, the North Canadian River spans from Canton Lake in Blaine County and runs east through the Central Oklahoma region (Oklahoma River) to Dale, Okla. ODEQ and the ACOG conducted the studies over the past few years.

Based on the report, the North Canadian River is in violation of state water quality standards for pathogens. The report provides recommendations to meet TMDL limits.

In 2003, water quality monitoring began at several sites along the water-

shed. Pathogens collected in the samples included fecal coliform bacteria, Escherichia coli (E. coli) and Enterococci. The primary source for coliform bacteria is sewage from non-point sources such as animal waste. It usually enters the water body as a result of stormwater runoff. The reports detail and inventory a multitude of point and non-point sources. Pathogens derived from non-point sources may require additional study in the future.

Copies of the TMDL reports can be found on the Internet at ODEQ's Web site ...See "TMDL Draft" on page three.

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September is Month of Preparedness

Headlines and breaking news come over the radio and television. An "F5" tornado is bearing down on the metro. The national threat level is raised. Bird flu is imminent. Pandemic is inevitable. What to do? Central Oklahomans should ask this question, and think about how lives can instantly change when emergencies occur.

To help initiate the planning process, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Secu-

rity (OKOHS) is helping families and communities take action during September, which is National Preparedness Month.

There are simple steps that everyone can take to prepare for whatever might occur. Emergencies happen all the time, but taking action now can help minimize the impact and nuisance that accidents and disaster can bring.

...See "Preparedness" on page three.

NIMS System Offers Courses, Regional Interaction

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is implementing an initiative that will provide local governments with a better system to interact with other agencies and develop a strategic emergency plan.

The program is called the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which provides a nationwide guide for all federal, state, local, tribal governments, private sector and non-governmental organizations, to approach emergency response operations. The intention of NIMS is to provide a unified approach to incident management, standard command and management structure, and puts an emphasis on preparedness, mutual aid and resource management.

While most emergency situations

are handled locally, when there's a major incident help may be needed from other jurisdictions, the state and the federal government. NIMS was developed so responders from different jurisdictions and disciplines can work together better to respond to natural disasters and emergencies, including acts of terrorism.

NIMS was introduced in 2004 and includes several key elements and features, such as:

- Incident Command System (ICS)
- Preparedness
- Communications and Information Management

- Joint Information System (JIS)
- NIMS Integration Center (NIC).

The Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security has contracted with regional councils of government, including ACOG, to help local communities become prepared for NIMS funding. The state office wants all eligible entities to be compliant by Sept. 30. Most communities in the ACOG region already meet requirements and are engaged in the NIMS program.

There are several training opportunities available through the program. For more information, contact Wendi Marcy, ACOG.

OML Honors Several Regional Officials

Several Central Oklahoma municipal leaders were honored at the **Oklahoma Municipal League's** annual conference last month. **Guthrie** Mayor **John Gumerison** was one of the Mayor of the Year nominees for cities with a population of over 5,000.

Steve Eddy, Moore City Manager and **Glenn Hayes, City Manager of Guthrie,** were Central Oklahoma nominees for the **Don Rider** award. The Don Rider Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to their community through personal growth and involvement.

Nominees for the **Gerald Wilkins Award**, which recognizes an outstanding city manager and is presented by the City Management Association of Oklahoma (CMAO), included **Jim Couch** of **Oklahoma City** and **Steve Eddy** of **Moore**.

Entries for the **Innovations Award** included **Edmond's** Cross Timbers Municipal Complex, and **Guthrie's** Waterline project with **Langston**, the Guthrie/Edmond Regional Airport and the Apothecary Gardens. All projects were lauded for their intergovernmental approaches to historic preservation and maximizing ...See "Honors" on page four.

Central Oklahoma
Perspective
Offering Regional Leaders News and Information

21 East Main, Suite 100
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73104-2405
(405) 234-2264/FAX: (405) 234-2200
TDD: (405) 234-2217/www.acogok.org
E-mail address: acog@acogok.org

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
"Providing Regional Leadership in Central Oklahoma Since 1966"

Established in 1966, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) is a voluntary association of cities, towns and counties. ACOG helps member governments plan for common needs, cooperate for mutual benefit and coordinate for sound regional development.

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Editor: Jerry Church
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“TMDL Draft”

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at www.deq.state.ok.us. ODEQ will accept oral and written comments at the meeting, or in writing. Comments should be addressed to Dr. Karen Miles, Water Quality Division, ODEQ, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677. Final results of the TMDL will be incorporated into the state Water Quality Management Plan.

“Preparedness”

...Continued from page one.
Preparedness can be a simple proposition. It just takes time to think of answers to questions that inevitably will come up. Where would you go if disaster struck, and how would you get there? What supplies are needed, and where should they be stored in the meantime? The questions are endless, but the resources to these questions are fairly easy to find.

National Preparedness Month is a state, national and local effort to encourage families to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools. Throughout the month, OKOHS and local communities will work with a wide variety of organizations to highlight the importance of emergency preparedness and promote individual involvement through events and activities such as first aid training, emergency drills and more.

With the prospect of Pandemic Influenza on the horizon, city governments and local businesses should also take the time to address the impact that a large flu outbreak might have on their service delivery. Contingency plans might have to be established if a large flu outbreak occurs and impacts a substantial percentage of the workforce. The Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) has checklists for local authorities to use. The checklists help stimulate thought and contingency plans that address mutual aid agreements, lifeline utility security and many other important issues. OSDH's Web site is www.health.state.ok.us.

September is also an ideal time for families to update their emergency supply kits and family emergency plans.

More is available at the OKOHS Web site at www.homelandsecurity.ok.gov.



Around the Region

- Several regional airports and aeronautic facilities will benefit from funding that was recently approved by the **Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission**. The funding will contribute \$4.4 million in capital improvements to 11 airports across the state. **Wiley Post Airport** will utilize the supplemental grant with upgrades to its infrastructure, as well as extensions to its taxiway. The **Guthrie-Edmond Airport** will also be able to acquire 90 acres to further its development. Safety improvements are scheduled for **Max Westheimer Airport** at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

- The **Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality** honored five state businesses and entities with the **Oklahoma Star Incentive**, a program that recognizes groups for their efforts to reduce waste and create a “green” environment. **Tinker Air Force Base** and **Bridgestone Firestone** were two facilities in Central Oklahoma presented with the award. Tinker was recognized for its partnership with the EPA's environmental priorities program and for its efforts to reduce releases of priority chemicals. Bridgestone Firestone was honored for maintaining a wildlife habitat that is used as an outdoor classroom and neighborhood garden.

- This year marks the fifth anniversary of the tragic events on Sept. 11, 2001. To commemorate the anniversary, organizers in Central Oklahoma, encouraged by the Department of Defense and **America Supports You**, will be sponsoring a **Freedom Walk** on Sept. 11. The walk will take place at 5:30 p.m. and start from the **Oklahoma City National Memorial** and end at the **Bricktown Ballpark**. Music and festivities will follow the walk.

For more information, visit www.americasupportsyoud.com.

- A ribbon cutting in **Bricktown** this summer opened up a major gateway to the region as the **Dr. G.E. Finley Bridge** formally became operational. The bridge, known previously as the Walnut Avenue Bridge, has been undergoing a massive reconstruction over the past few years, after falling into neglect. Much discussion was had on the future of the bridge, as several alternatives were reviewed. After a decision was made to rebuild the bridge close to its original state, the project commenced with much gusto. The project cost \$4.6 million and involved multiple government and private entities. It was named after the retired **Dr. Finley**, who opened a health clinic in the **Deep Deuce** the same year that the original bridge was opened in 1937. In those days, the bridge served as a racial divide, making the new bridge symbolic of the city's current inclusiveness and goals of racial equity. The bridge provides vital access to Deep Deuce, Bricktown and downtown Oklahoma City. About 4,500 cars a day are projected to travel the bridge.



Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, right, welcomes Dr. G. E. Finley at the inauguration ceremony of the bridge named after the doctor.

“Honors”

...Continued from page two. sustainability. The Innovations Awards recognize municipal projects that save taxpayer dollars, and offer unique alternatives to address community needs.

Earlier this summer, **Jerry Taylor**, City Manager of **Tuttle**, was named a director of the CMAO board of directors for the 2006-2007 year. The group helps provide leadership and resource sharing to city managers in the state. **Glenn Hayes**, **Guthrie** City Manager, was named three-year director, and **Larry Stevens**, **Edmond** City Manager, was named four-year director.

Also, concurrent with the OML conference was the induction of the 2006 **Oklahoma Hall of Fame for City and Town Officials**. **Charles Lamb**, current Ward 3 Councilmember for the City of Edmond, was named to this year’s class. Lamb is known throughout the state for spearheading innovative improvements to communities, particularly regarding planning and utility operations.

ACOG Calendar

September

- 4th ACOG Offices Closed for Labor Day
- 8th Garber-Wellington Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 12th 9-1-1 Technical Committee, 9:30 a.m.
- 14th Areawide Planning Technical Advisory Committee, 9 a.m.
Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 19th Operation FireSAFE, 10 a.m.
Clean Cities Stakeholders, 1:30 p.m.
- 28th 9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m.
Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m.
ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m.
Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.

October

- 12th Intermodal Transportation Technical Committee, 10 a.m.
- 26th 9-1-1 Board of Directors, 1 p.m.
Intermodal Transportation Policy Committee, 1:20 p.m.
ACOG Board of Directors, 1:45 p.m.
Garber-Wellington Policy Committee, 2:30 p.m.

Central Oklahoma

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Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

21 East Main • Suite 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73104-2405
(405) 234-2264 • FAX 234-2200
TDD 234-2217 • www.acogok.org

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