

PLEASE NOTIFY ACOG AT 234-2264 (TDD 234-2217) BY 5:00 P.M. MARCH 22
IF YOU DESIRE A SIGN-LANGUAGE INTERPRETER AT THE MEETING



association of central oklahoma governments

Chair Willa Johnson
Oklahoma County Commissioner

Vice-Chair Sam Bowman
Oklahoma City Councilmember

Secretary/Treasurer Russell Smith
Midwest City Mayor

Executive Director
John G. Johnson

AGENDA

**GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
March 25, 2010 (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 February 25, 2010 meeting.

- IV. STAFF REPORT

A. State of the Aquifer

Staff report on drilling activity and water quality in the Garber-Wellington aquifer in 2009.

B. Legislation Report

Staff will report on new bills proposed for the 2010 legislative season.

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

MINUTES

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
RESCHEDULED JANUARY 2010 MEETING
February 25, 2010

The second regularly scheduled meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee was convened on February 25, 2010 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

Hon. Jim Pumphrey, Mayor

CITY/AGENCY

Nicoma Park

POLICY COMMITTEE PRESENT

Hon. Roger Malone, Councilmember

Choctaw

Hon. Elizabeth Waner, Councilmember

Edmond

Hon. Marianne Yarbrough, Trustee

Forest Park

Hon. Ray Poland, Mayor

Jones City

Hon. Kathy McMillan, Councilmember

Moore

Hon. Jay Adams, Councilmember

Mustang

Hon. Peter Hoffman, Mayor

Nichols Hills

Hon. Rachel Butler, Councilmember

Norman

Hon. Earnest Ware, Mayor

Spencer

Hon. David Dirkschneider, Councilmember

Warr Acres

Hon. Mike Pearson, Commissioner

Logan County

GUEST PRESENT

Noel Osborne

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

ACOG STAFF PRESENT

John G. Johnson	Executive Director
John M. Harrington	Director, Water Resources
Jane Sutter	Deputy Director
Steve Willoughby	E9-1-1 & Public Safety Division Director
Debbie Cook	Finance Director
Jerry Church	Director, Media and Public Relations
Ryan Poots	9-1-1 GIS Specialist
Carolyn White	9-1-1 Database Manager
Lysa Baker	Special Programs Officer
Beverly Garner	Administrative Assistant, TPDS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Pumphrey called the meeting to order at 2:53 p.m., noting that a quorum was present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF GUEST

The aforementioned guest was present at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Waner made a motion to approve the February 2, 2010 minutes. Director Yarbrough seconded the motion and the motion carried with the following vote:

AYE: Pumphrey, Malone, Waner, Yarbrough, Poland, McMillan, Adams, Hoffman, Butler, Ware, Dirkschneider, and Pearson

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

IV. STAFF REPORT

The Garber-Wellington Aquifer Study – Mr. Harrington introduced Noel Osborne, a geologist with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board who gave a presentation on the upcoming Garber-Wellington yield study.

Ms. Osborne said she wanted to give some background on why the study is being done, an update on what has been done, and what remains to be done. She said the Aquifer serves most of the urban communities in central Oklahoma, except for Oklahoma City, which gets all of its water from surface water. She indicated that it is one of the most heavily used aquifers, being the third largest used aquifer in Oklahoma and most of it is for public water supplies.

Ms. Osborne displayed a map showing lands which are dedicated to ground water permits, and indicated that most of those permits are on the western part of the Aquifer where the higher urban corridor is located. She said there are about 17,000 records of domestic wells. Ms. Osborne indicated that the Aquifer does have naturally occurring concentrations of arsenic, selenium, uranium, and chromium that can exceed the drinking water standards in certain areas.

Ms. Osborne said the OWRB has been getting many questions regarding the Aquifer such as how much it can be depended upon for future growth, what would happen if pumping continues at current rates or, if the rates were increased, as well as other questions. She said the Comprehensive Water Plan is important for planning for water use in Oklahoma. She said there is about \$350,000 appropriated for the project and it is a federal/state cost-share. She said the purpose is to conduct a hydrologic investigation to obtain the information necessary to develop a water management plan that will insure sufficient, good quality water to support the growing population and economy.

Ms. Osborne informed the Committee that there was seed money back in June 2008 to get started, enough to begin the monitoring and water level measurements; since then they have gotten full funding. She said that because it is tied to the Comprehensive Water Plan, this Study will need to be completed by September of 2011. Most of the work will be occurring this year and next to get the final product done in time for it to be incorporated into the Water Plan.

She commented that they have a study team comprised of various people to help supply advice, and keep everyone on track. She said that there are a lot of studies to draw on for this project. The National Water Quality Assessment (NAWGA) study was conducted by USGS in the mid 1980's to the mid-1990's and the emphasis of this study was on the water quality of the Aquifer.

Ms. Osborne commented that Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB) is right on top of the Aquifer in one of the most prolific areas and they have a lot of hydrologic data. She said the Garber-Wellington Association has been archiving hydrologic data since the 1970's and that Mr. Harrington has supplied them with over 1,000 geophysical logs in Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties.

She said their approach will be to build on existing information but more current information is needed. She indicated they will be conducting monitoring, getting current stream flows and water level data, and evaluating water use information. She said they will also be modeling the different sandstone and mudstones.

Ms. Osborne said that for the NAWGA study, 380 wells were measured in the shallower part of the Aquifer in order to construct a water table map. She said that, two years ago, several people from the OWRB and USGS tried to identify as many wells as possible to update the map; there were 280 wells measured. She said the information is being analyzed by USGS and a new potentiometric surface map has been constructed. She said that we are on average four feet lower than we were twenty years ago which means that over the 3,000 square mile area, that works out to be 1.2 million acres feet of water difference. Ms. Osborne said that new monitoring and water level data is needed, necessitating continuous measurements. She said there are two observation wells, one in Shawnee and one in Spencer.

Ms. Osborne remarked that staff members have been updating water use data which is needed for the model. She said that water users for all the cities need to submit a water use report every year. She said that the USGS is currently working on a geohydrologic framework model in order to get a better three-dimensional view of how the dams and mudstones are distributed across the Aquifer. She said a three-dimensional model of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer greatly improved that Aquifer.

Ms. Osborne referred Committee members to an OWRB fact sheet regarding the Determination of Maximum Annual Yield. She said that in 1973, the Oklahoma Ground Water Law changed, replacing the prior appropriations system, to an allocation system type land ownership. She indicated that the Law requires that the OWRB conduct hydrologic investigations for each ground water basin. From the information gathered, the OWRB will approve a maximum annual yield and, once that is done, they will issue regular permits. She said maximum annual yield is the total amount of fresh ground water that can be produced every year from a ground water basin. The allocation amount is based on the "equal proportionate share" which is defined as the maximum annual yield of water from a ground water basin or subbasin that is allocated to each acre of land overlying the basin or subbasin.

Ms. Osborne said entities can help supply her with information, such as water use data, unused wells that can be used for monitoring purposes, and log and pump test data. She also asked members to express concerns they may have about what they want for their communities from the yield study.

Director Poland asked if prior rights are reserved solely for municipalities or do they apply to land owners as well. Ms. Osborne replied that they do not require permits for domestic uses but we do for irrigation, for power uses, etc. Director Poland asked if prior rights must be applied for or are they automatic. Ms. Osborne said that, through the 1970's, every county had a prior right hearing and documentation had to be provided to show that the water had not been used.

Director Butler asked, if the current state law states that water must be allocated based on a minimum of a twenty year life span for the Aquifer, what life span are all the temporary permits based on. Ms. Osborne replied that it will start at the date that the maximum annual yield is approved.

Director Johnson asked Ms. Osborne if she would characterize the difference between the before and after permitting as significantly lower before this process. Ms. Osborne said that currently, when a temporary permit is issued, the rule is about two acre feet per acre. She said the recharge rate is about 1-1/2 inches per year, a lot less than two feet, so it will probably be lower than two feet.

Mr. Harrington informed the Committee that he will be assembling the Garber-Wellington Technical Committee next month and also contacting the public water managers. He said the idea is to start establishing the lines of communication because eventually, we will want to get information from the principal stakeholders, which are the public water supply operators.

V. PROGRESS REPORT

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed at the meeting

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Garber-Wellington Policy Committee
FROM: John M. Harrington, Division Director, Water Resources
DATE: March 25, 2010
SUBJECT: Progress Report

06604(b) - Modeling Assessment of Nichols Hills Well Field
Submitted revised draft report for EPA review.

07604(b) 3 - El Reno Wellfield Resistivity Survey
Setting up preliminary groundwater model.

07604(b) 6 - Assessment of Nonpoint Brine Sources in Cottonwood Creek Basin
Reviewing sampling locations.

079007 - Canadian River DO Model
ODEQ submitted QAPP to EPA; waiting on approval. Phase 2 budget prepared by Guernsey.

Staff attended OFMA Spring Conference; also went on USGS spring field trip on Garber sandstones.