



GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Chair

Kim Bishop
Harrah Vice-Mayor

Vice-Chair

Ray Poland
Jones City Mayor

Secretary/Treasurer

Sheila Stevenson
Langston City Mayor

Executive Director

Mark W. Sweeney, AICP

association of central oklahoma governments

4205 N. Lincoln Blvd. | Oklahoma City, OK 73105 | 405.234.2264 | acogok.org

GWPC AGENDA:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021, 2:30 P.M.

**IF UNABLE TO ATTEND IN PERSON,
PLEASE ACCESS THE CALL-IN
INSTRUCTIONS:**

DIAL-IN NUMBER: 800-326-0013

PARTICIPANT PASSCODE: 9476299



acog

THE GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A COMBINATION **IN-PERSON AND CALL-IN** REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, IN THE OKLAHOMA COUNTY BALLROOM (BEHIND THE ACOG BOARD ROOM), 4205 N. LINCOLN BLVD., OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.

The Oklahoma County Ballroom ([download a short video of the Ballroom here](#)) is setup to follow social distancing guidelines. Masks are required during the meeting. For your convenience, masks and sanitizer will be available.

PLEASE NOTIFY ACOG AT 405-234-2264 (TDD/TTY CALL 7-1-1 STATEWIDE) BY 5 P.M. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, IF YOU REQUIRE ACCOMMODATIONS PURSUANT TO THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OR SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT.

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER** ([ATTACHMENT 1](#))
2. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 2020 MINUTES** ([ATTACHMENT 2](#))
3. **STAFF REPORT** - John Harrington, Water Resources Director
For information only.
 - A. **ANNUAL STATE OF THE AQUIFER** ([ATTACHMENT 3-A](#))
 - B. **DROUGHT IN 2020** ([ATTACHMENT 3-B](#))
 - C. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2021** ([ATTACHMENT 3-C](#))
4. **PROGRESS REPORT** - John Harrington, Water Resources Director
([ATTACHMENT 4](#)) For information only.
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
6. **ADJOURNMENT**

NEXT MEETING:

April 29, 2021 at 2:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

GARBER-WELLINGTON POLICY COMMITTEE

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
BETHANY	Hon. Chris Powell, Councilmember	Hon. Kathy Larsen, Councilmember
		Hon. K.P. Westmoreland, Mayor
CALUMET	Hon. Robert B. Wallace, Trustee	Hon. Steve Snow, Trustee
CHOCTAW	Hon. Mike Birdsong, Councilmember	Hon. Roger Malone, Vice-Mayor
DEL CITY	Hon. Floyd Eason, Mayor	Hon. Pam Finch, Councilmember
		Hon. Michael Dean, Councilmember
EDMOND	Hon. Josh Moore, Councilmember	Hon. Daniel P. O'Neil, Mayor
EL RENO	Hon. Matt White, Mayor	Hon. Tim Robinson, Councilmember
FOREST PARK	Vacant	Vacant
GEARY	Hon. Warren G. Carter, Councilmember	Hon. Tabbitha Kiener, Councilmember
		Hon. Bobby Allen, Mayor
GUTHRIE	Hon. Steven J. Gentling, Mayor	Hon. Jeff Taylor, Councilmember
HARRAH	Hon. Kim Bishop, Vice-Mayor	Hon. Tom Barron, Councilmember
JONES CITY	Hon. Ray Poland, Mayor	Vacant
LANGSTON CITY	Hon. Sheila Stevenson, Mayor	Hon. Magnus Scott, Trustee
		Hon. Linda Williams, Trustee
LEXINGTON	Hon. Mike Donovan, Councilman	Hon. Max Punneo, Vice-Mayor
LUTHER	Hon. Jenni White, Mayor	Hon. William "Terry" Arps, Trustee
MIDWEST CITY	Hon. Matt Dukes, Mayor	Hon. Pat Byrne, Councilmember
		Hon. Christine Allen, Councilmember
MOORE	Hon. Mark Hamm, Councilmember	Hon. Glenn Lewis, Mayor
		Any Moore Councilmember
MUSTANG	Hon. Brian Grider, Vice-Mayor	Hon. Michael Ray, Councilmember

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
NICHOLS HILLS	Hon. Peter Hoffman, Councilmember	Vacant
NICOMA PARK	Hon. Brian Foughty, Mayor	Hon. Mike Czerczyk, Vice-Mayor
NOBLE	Hon. Marjorie Hill, Councilmember	Hon. Gail Hatfield, Councilmember
		Hon. Dianne Gray, Vice-Mayor
NORMAN	Hon. Breea Clark, Mayor	Hon. Stephen Holman, Councilmember
OKARCHE	Hon. Joe Frisby, Trustee	Hon. Jeff Sadler, Trustee
OKLAHOMA CITY	Hon. Todd Sloan, Councilmember	Any Oklahoma City Councilmember
PIEDMONT	Hon. Kevan Blasdel, Councilmember	Hon. Melissa Ashford, Councilmember
		Hon. Austin Redus, Councilmember
SLAUGHTERVILLE	Hon. Ronnie Fulks, Trustee	Hon. Steve Easom, Mayor
SPENCER	Hon. Frank Calvin, Mayor	Hon. Jim Scanlan, Vice-Mayor
		Hon. Kerry Andrews, Councilmember
THE VILLAGE	Hon. David Bennett, Mayor	Hon. Cathy Cummings, Vice-Mayor
		Hon. Adam Graham, Councilmember
TUTTLE	Hon. Mary Smith, Vice-Mayor	Hon. Austin Hughes, Councilmember
UNION CITY	Hon. Charlie Ross, Vice-Mayor/Trustee	Hon. Bob McGregor, Trustee
WARR ACRES	Hon. Jim Mickley, Mayor	Hon. Roger Godwin, Councilmember
		Hon. John Knipp, Councilmember
		Unnamed
YUKON	Hon. Shelli Selby, Mayor	Hon. Rick Cacini, Councilmember
CANADIAN COUNTY	Hon. Marc Hader, Commissioner	Hon. Jack Stewart, Commissioner
		Hon. David Anderson, Commissioner
CLEVELAND COUNTY	Hon. Rod Cleveland, Commissioner	Hon. Darry Stacy, Commissioner
		Hon. Harold Haralson, Commissioner
LOGAN COUNTY	Hon. Kody Ellis, Commissioner	Hon. Marven Goodman, Commissioner
		Hon. Monty Pearcy, Commissioner
OKLAHOMA COUNTY	Hon. Carrie Blumert, Commissioner	Hon. Brian Maughan, Commissioner
		Hon. Kevin Calvey, Commissioner

ATTACHMENT 2

SUBJECT:

MINUTES OF THE GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE:

DECEMBER 17, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee was convened at 3:20 p.m. on December 17, 2020 in the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) Board Room, 4205 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held as indicated by a notice filed in advance with the Oklahoma County Clerk and by notice posted at the ACOG offices at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting.

PRESIDING

Hon. Ray Poland, Vice-Chair

CITY/AGENCY

Jones City

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN-PERSON

Hon. Kevan Blasdel, Councilmember

Hon. Mike Pearson, Commissioner

Hon. Chris Powell, Councilmember

Hon. David Bennett, Mayor

Hon. Mary Smith, Vice-Mayor

Piedmont

Logan County

Bethany

The Village

Tuttle

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT CALL-IN

None

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Hon. Bruce Wallace, Trustee

Hon. Roger Malone, Vice-Mayor

Hon. Floyd Eason, Mayor

Hon. Josh Moore, Councilmember

Hon. Matt White, Mayor

Vacant

Hon. Warren G. Carter, Councilmember

Hon. Steven J. Gentling, Mayor

Hon. Sheila Stevenson, Mayor

Hon. Mike Donovan, Councilmember

Hon. Jenni White, Mayor

Hon. Matt Dukes, Mayor

Hon. Mark Hamm, Councilmember

Hon. Brian Grider, Vice-Mayor

Hon. Peter Hoffman, Vice-Mayor

Hon. Brian Foughty, Mayor

Hon. Marjorie Hill, Councilmember

Hon. Breea Clark, Mayor

Hon. Joe Frisby, Trustee

Hon. Todd Sloan, Councilmember

Hon. Ronnie Fulks, Trustee

Hon. Frank Calvin, Mayor

Hon. Charlie Ross, Vice-Mayor

Hon. Jim Mickley, Mayor

Calumet

Choctaw

Del City

Edmond

El Reno

Forest Park

Geary

Guthrie

Langston City

Lexington

Luther

Midwest City

Moore

Mustang

Nichols Hills

Nicoma Park

Noble

Norman

Okarche

Oklahoma City

Slaughterville

Spencer

Union City

Warr Acres

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT (continued)

Hon. Shelli Selby, Mayor
Hon. Marc Hader, Commissioner
Hon. Rod Cleveland, Commissioner
Hon. Carrie Blumert, Commissioner

Yukon
Canadian County
Cleveland County
Oklahoma County

GUESTS

Pete White

ACOG Attorney

STAFF

Mark W. Sweeney
John Harrington
Anita Kroth
Jimmy Smith

POSITION

Executive Director
Water Resources Director
Administrative Assistant
IT Operations Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Ray Poland called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 17, 2020

Director Mike Pearson, Logan County, made a motion to approve the December 17, 2020 Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee minutes. Director Kevan Blasdel, Piedmont, seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. STAFF REPORT (UPDATE THESE PREVIOUS ITEMS)**A. STRATIGRAPHIC MAPPING GWA AQUIFER - 18604(b)**

As part of a 604(b) grant, staff is continuing and extending net sand maps originally created as part of a drilling project with the City of Norman. This effort will allow drillers to focus their efforts in areas with more sandstone, thus increasing well capacity.

Work commenced in March 2020. At present there have been eight structural cross-sections made through the center and southern part of Oklahoma County. These sections incorporate geophysical well logs along the strike and dip of the Garber sandstone. Approximately 120 well logs were utilized in creating eight net sand maps on different intervals.

Channelization in the Garber and Wellington sandstones appear to have different orientations over time. Older units (Wellington formation) appear to have a NE-SW orientation similar to the fault orientation and regional structural grain that is in Oklahoma County. Younger units are oriented in more of a NW-SE direction.

Preliminary report writing has commenced and is expected to be submitted for peer review in January 2021.

B. DROUGHT UPDATE

November has come and gone. It was a bit warmer than normal (3.7 degrees above normal) and a bit drier than normal (1.39 inches below normal). All this kept us on course for more drought development.

In October 2020 we entered official La Nina climate conditions. About 60% of Oklahoma is in an abnormally dry condition and about 30% is in at least moderate drought conditions. We are now seeing drought in new areas – specifically southern Oklahoma. Since this time last month we have seen about a 4% increase in the abnormally dry areas; however, the area of actual drought has decreased by about 7%. So intensity has decreased, but the area has increased.

La Niña winters set up dry persistent conditions that can lead into drought. A La Niña in late 2010 set up the conditions for the drought of 2011-13. Unfortunately, the situation is eerily similar to ten years ago. The forecast models show the timing and intensity of the 2020-21 La Nina event is almost identical to what we saw in 2010-11. In October 2010 we had no drought in Oklahoma. In October 2011 over half the state was in exceptional drought.

A rather grim November precipitation forecast by NOAA came mostly true and as a result recharge to the aquifer has been minimal since the last report. In October 0.28 inches of recharge occurred, which is barely average. In November 2020, no recharge to the aquifer occurred.

4. PROGRESS REPORT

Vice-Chair Ray Poland pointed out that the progress report was available for review in the agenda.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 3-A

SUBJECT:

ANNUAL STATE OF THE AQUIFER

DATE:

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

FROM:

JOHN HARRINGTON

Water Resources Director

INFORMATION:

The year 2020 ranks twelfth in activity out of the past thirty years. 2020 saw a small uptick in overall well drilling from the year before. Domestic well drilling was down by 10% from 2019. Well drilling tends to be less in wet years such as 2007, 2015, and 2019.

Most of the activity is in north Edmond and southeastern Oklahoma County. Top categories were domestic wells and soil evaluation holes, similar to 2018-19.

Domestic well depths are trending deeper, but the deepest wells are getting shallower. Average domestic well depth has increased forty feet since 1990. This is due to more wells being drilled towards the edges of the aquifer in combination with drought conditions. This trend has been steady for over 20 years.

Reported median depth to water for domestic wells has declined since the wet decades of the 1980's and 1990's. In 2019 reported water levels were up due to the large recharge events in the spring. In 2020 the median domestic water level was the lowest in thirty years.

Average recharge to the aquifer over the past 20 years is 2.75 inches per year. 2020 was an average year for precipitation. 2020 ranks as the ninth wettest recharge year over the past twenty-one years.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

ATTACHMENT 3-B

SUBJECT:
DROUGHT IN 2020

DATE:
FEBRUARY 25, 2021

FROM:
JOHN HARRINGTON
Water Resources Director

INFORMATION:

A year ago the extent of drought nationally was 10%. Now the extent of drought nationally is 46%. The state of Oklahoma is on the very edge of a drought area that covers most of the southwest United States.

Forecasters now predict that we will have a strong La Nina that will continue for at least the next six months. La Niñas set up dry conditions that can lead into drought. A La Niña in late 2010 set up the conditions for the drought of 2010-12. A persistent La Nina could keep the jet stream to the north of Oklahoma and repeat the events of the last drought.

ACTION REQUESTED:
For information only.

ATTACHMENT 3-C

SUBJECT:

2021 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DATE:

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

FROM:

JOHN HARRINGTON

Water Resources Director

INFORMATION:

So far, 24 bills have been filed for the 2021 session. Thirteen are shell bills. In a drought year, over 40 bills would have been filed.

Some bills of interest: HB 1093 modifies the Water Quality Standards to permit the development of watershed trading programs. Water quality trading can provide greater flexibility on the timing and level of technology a facility might install, reduce overall compliance costs, and encourage voluntary participation of non-point sources within the watershed. Trading can produce substantial cost savings while meeting the same water quality goal.

HB 2330 restricts drilling of industrial and domestic wells to within a six hundred foot distance of the boundary of dedicated or platted land of a municipality.

SB109 requires instream flow studies on certain rivers east of Interstate 35. The Little River in Cleveland County is one of the streams listed. Lake Thunderbird dams the Little River.

HB 1878 allows the North Canadian River to be renamed "Oklahoma River" for economic development purposes. This affects the river only in Oklahoma County.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

ATTACHMENT 4

SUBJECT:
PROGRESS REPORT

DATE:
FEBRUARY 25, 2021

FROM:
JOHN HARRINGTON
Water Resources Director

INFORMATION:

ACOG Drought Program

Oklahoma is now experiencing a much different climate than in the 1980-90 decades. We are going back to the more severe dry/wet cycles seen in the 1950-60 era. Static water levels have finally returned to pre-drought levels seen in 2010, ending a nine and a half year cycle of groundwater drought.

However, in October 2020 a new La Nina formed. La Nina is the term given when Pacific Ocean equatorial temperatures reach a sustained temperature value of at least 0.5 degree Celsius below average. La Nina presence has been correlated to hotter and drier conditions in the U.S. Midwest. The drought of 2011-13 started with a large La Niña event.

Models in mid-January suggest that the present La Nina is much stronger than initially expected and will likely be a multi-year event. This is precisely the behavior the previous drought in 2010-12 experienced.

The progress of drought in Oklahoma has held steady over the past weeks, mainly due to a very wet January. About 24% of Oklahoma is in an abnormally dry condition and about 10% is in at least moderate drought conditions. About 71,278 people in Oklahoma are being affected by drought at the present time.

Recharge to the aquifer has been minimal since the last report. In January 2021, a generous 0.83 inches of recharge to the aquifer occurred.

Since the last progress report, two monthly drought reports have been generated.

18604(b) - Stratigraphic Mapping Garber-Wellington Aquifer Oklahoma County

As part of a 604(b) grant, staff is continuing and extending net sand maps originally created as part of a drilling project with the City of Norman. This effort will allow drillers to focus their efforts in areas with more sandstone, thus increasing well capacity.

Work commenced in March 2020. Mapping and cross-section work have been completed and the draft report has been submitted to EPA for peer review.

19604(b) - Stratigraphic Mapping Garber-Wellington Aquifer Southern Logan County

As part of a 604(b) grant, staff will continue and extend net sand maps created in the 18604(b) project into northern Oklahoma County. This effort will allow drillers to focus their efforts in areas with more sandstone, thus increasing well capacity.

Work on the 19604(b) project is expected to start in February 2021.

20604(b) - Stratigraphic Mapping Garber-Wellington Aquifer Southern Logan County

As part of a 604(b) grant, staff will continue and extend net sand maps created in the 18604(b) and 19604(b) projects into southern Logan County and southern Cleveland County. This effort will allow drillers to focus their efforts in areas with more sandstone, thus increasing well capacity.

Workplan was accepted by the EPA in July 2020. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) is due March 2021.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.