



ASSOCIATION OF
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
GOVERNMENTS

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair

Tim Rudek

Harrah Councilmember

Vice-Chair

Vickie Douglas

Warr Acres Mayor

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Sharpton

Logan County Commissioner

Executive Director

Mark W. Sweeney, AICP

AGENDA: THURSDAY
DECEMBER 18, 2025
2:30 P.M.

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments

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

THE GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025, AT ACOG IN THE OKLAHOMA BOARD ROOM, 4205 N. LINCOLN BLVD., OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA.

Please notify ACOG at 405.234.2264 (TDD/TTY Call 711 Statewide or [email title.vi@acogok.org](mailto:title.vi@acogok.org)), by 5 p.m. Monday, December 15, 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 THE MINUTES - OCTOBER 30, 2025** ([ATTACHMENT 2](#)) *Action requested.*
3. **STAFF REPORT:** John Harrington, Interim Water Resources Director *For information only.*
 - A. Drought Update ([ATTACHMENT 3-A](#))
 - B. City of Newcastle Waste Load Allocation (WLA) Proposal on Walnut Creek ([ATTACHMENT 3-B](#))
 - C. Federal Legislation HR 3898 - The Permit Act ([ATTACHMENT 3-C](#))
4. **PROGRESS REPORT:** John Harrington, Interim Water Resources Director ([ATTACHMENT 4](#)) *For information only.*
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
6. **ADJOURN**

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
BETHANY	Hon. Amanda Sandoval Mayor	Hon. Chris Powell Councilmember
		Hon. Kathy Larsen Councilmember
CALUMET	Hon. Laurie Morris Mayor	Hon. Terry Brungardt Trustee
CHOCTAW	Hon. Cody Brewer Councilmember	Hon. Chad Allcox Mayor
CRESCENT	Hon. Greg Cummings Mayor	Vacant
DEL CITY	Hon. Floyd Eason Mayor	Hon. Pam Finch Vice-Mayor
		Hon. Claudia Browne Councilmember
EDMOND	Hon. Mark A. Nash Mayor	Hon. Maggie Murdock Nichols Councilmember
EL RENO	Hon. Amy Neathery Councilmember	Hon. J. Steven Jensen Trustee
		Hon. David Black Vice-Mayor
FOREST PARK	Hon. William Jones Trustee	Hon. George Smith Mayor
		Hon. Stephen Miller Trustee
GEARY	Hon. Sandra Cleveland Councilmember	Hon. Lois Hicks Mayor
		Hon. Darla Golden Councilmember
GOLDSBY	Hon. Kari Madden Vice-Mayor	Hon. David White Trustee
GUTHRIE	Hon. Grant Aguirre Councilmember	Hon. Jeff Taylor Councilmember
HARRAH	Hon. Tim Rudek Councilmember	Hon. Jennifer McCammond Councilmember
		Hon. Bill Lisby Councilmember
JONES CITY	Hon. Casey Burwell Trustee	Hon. Dan Wells Mayor
		Hon. Scott Meyer Trustee
LANGSTON CITY	No Designee	Hon. Magnus Scott Trustee
		Hon. Misty B. Mayes Mayor
LEXINGTON	Hon. Mike Donovan Mayor	Hon. TaRena Furr Vice-Mayor
		Hon. Max Punneo Councilmember
LUTHER	Hon. Carla Caruthers Vice-Mayor	Hon. Cindy Harris Baker Trustee
		Hon. William T. Arps Mayor

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
MIDWEST CITY	Hon. Matt Dukes Mayor	Hon. Pat Byrne Vice-Mayor
		Hon. Rick Favors Councilmember
MOORE	Hon. Kathy Griffith Councilmember	Any Moore Councilmember
MUSTANG	Vacant	Hon. James Wald Councilmember
NICHOLS HILLS	Hon. Sody Clements Vice-Mayor	Hon. Colin M. FitzSimons Councilmember
NICOMA PARK	Hon. Mark Cochell Mayor	Hon. Mike Czerczyk Councilmember
NOBLE	Hon. Phil Freeman Mayor	Hon. George Schmerer Councilmember
		Hon. Chad Terrill Councilmember
NORMAN	Hon. Stephen T. Holman Mayor	Hon. Scott Dixon Councilmember
OKARCHIE	Hon. Jeff Brueggen Trustee	Hon. Judd Kroener Trustee
OKLAHOMA CITY	Hon. Matt Hinkle Councilmember	Any Oklahoma City Councilmember
PIEDMONT	Hon. Rob Jones Councilmember	Hon. Byron Schlomach Councilmember
		Hon. Matt Myers Councilmember
SLAUGHTERVILLE	Hon. Kathy Snellbaker Trustee	Hon. Leah Grady Trustee
SPENCER	Hon. Frank Calvin Mayor	Hon. Charmin Williams Vice Mayor
THE VILLAGE	Hon. David Bennett Councilmember	Hon. Braxton Banks Vice-Mayor
TUTTLE	Hon. Trey Buck Councilmember	Hon. Larry Watson Councilmember

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
UNION CITY	Hon. James Smith Trustee	Hon. Chad Fisher Trustee
WARR ACRES	Hon. Vickie Douglas Mayor	Hon. Judy Myers Councilmember
YUKON	Hon. Shelli Selby Councilmember	Vacant
CANADIAN COUNTY	Hon. Lacey Dawson Commissioner	Hon. Tomas Manske Commissioner
		Hon. Tracey Rider Commissioner
CLEVELAND COUNTY	Hon. Rusty Grissom Commissioner	Hon. Rod Cleveland Commissioner
LOGAN COUNTY	Hon. Mark Sharpton Commissioner	Hon. Monty Piearcy Commissioner
		Hon. Floyd Coffman Commissioner
OKLAHOMA COUNTY	Hon. Myles Davidson Commissioner	Hon. Brian Maughan Commissioner
TINKER AIR FORCE BASE (Associate Member)	Stephanie Wilson Base Civil Engineer	Vacant



ATTACHMENT 2

SUBJECT:

MINUTES OF THE GARB-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE:

OCTOBER 30, 2025

A regular meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee (GWAPC) convened at 2:50 p.m., Thursday, October 30, 2025, at Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG) in the Oklahoma Board Room, 4205 N. Lincoln Blvd., 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 24 hours prior to the meeting.

PRESIDING CHAIR

Hon. Tim Rudek, Councilmember

ENTITY

Harrah

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Chris Powell, Councilmember
Hon. Claudia Browne, Councilmember
Hon. Maggie Murdock Nichols, Councilmember
Hon. William Jones, Trustee
Hon. Misty Mayes, Trustee
Hon. Matt Dukes, Mayor
Hon. Kathy Griffith, Councilmember
Hon. Sody Clements, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Stephen T. Holman, Mayor
Hon. Matt Hinkle, Councilmember
Hon. Rob Jones, Councilmember
Hon. David Bennett, Councilmember
Hon. Vickie Douglas, Mayor
Hon. Judy Myers, Councilmember
Hon. Shelli Selby, Councilmember

ENTITY

Bethany
Del City
Edmond
Forest Park
Langston
Midwest City
Moore
Nichols Hills
Norman
Oklahoma City
Piedmont
The Village
Warr Acres
Warr Acres
Yukon

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT

None

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Hon. Laurie Morris, Mayor
Hon. Cody Brewer, Councilmember
Hon. Greg Cummings, Mayor
Hon. Amy Neathery, Councilmember
Hon. Sandra Cleveland, Councilmember
Hon. Kari Madden, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Grant Aguirre, Councilmember
Hon. Casey Burwell, Trustee
Hon. Mike Donovan, Mayor
Hon. Carla Caruthers, Vice-Mayor
Hon. James Wald, Councilmember
Hon. Mark Cochell, Mayor
Hon. Phil Freeman, Mayor
Hon. Jeff Brueggen, Trustee
Hon. Kathy Shellbaker, Trustee
Hon. Frank Calvin, Mayor
Hon. Trey Buck, Councilmember
Hon. James Smith, Trustee

ENTITY

Calumet
Choctaw
Crescent
El Reno
Geary
Goldsby
Guthrie
Jones City
Lexington
Luther
Mustang
Nicoma Park
Noble
Okarche
Slaughterville
Spencer
Tuttle
Union City

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

Hon. Lacey Dawson, Commissioner
Hon. Rusty Grissom, Commissioner
Hon. Mark Sharpton, Commissioner
Hon. Myles Davidson, Commissioner

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephanie Wilson, Base Civil Engineer

GUESTS PRESENT

Pete White, Attorney
Steve Griffith, Citizen
Michael Taylor, Assistant City Manager
Andrew Fleet, Extension Educator

ACOG STAFF PRESENT

Mark W. Sweeney
John Harrington
John Sharp
Eric Pollard
Jimmy Smith
Ethan Mazzio
Beverly Garner
Shana Sapp

ENTITY

Canadian County
Cleveland County
Logan County
Oklahoma County

ENTITY

Tinker Air Force Base

ENTITY/AGENCY/BUSINESS

ACOG Legal Counsel
Moore
Nichols Hills
OK County OSU Extension

POSITION

Executive Director
Interim Water Resources Director
Deputy Director
Air Quality & Clean Cities Manager
IT Operations Specialist I
Transportation Planner III - Mobility
Executive Assistant
Administrative Assistant

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Chair Tim Rudek called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - AUGUST 28, 2025

Councilmember Vickie Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2025, Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee meeting. Councilmember Shelli Selby seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. STAFF REPORT**A. Drought Update**

John Harrington said the drought has returned to Eastern Cleveland County and a small portion of Southeastern Oklahoma County. He said Central Oklahoma has not seen stage 2 drought for over a year. He said there is persistent drought in the S.W. part of Oklahoma. He said the entire state received some rain last week, which decreased the drought from five percent of the state to three percent.

Mr. Harrington said Oklahoma received 4 inches of recharge this year and that the state has already exceeded the annual recharge for the year.

Mr. Harrington said the long-term models show a weak La Nina for the next month. He said El Nino condition for next spring could bring more rain and moisture. He said there have been no hurricanes in the Gulf for the year.

John Sharp asked if there could be a high percentage of fires in the spring. John Harrington said due to the March winds there could be a possibility.

B. US Geological Survey (USGS) Study

Mr. Harrington said the water in the aquifer must be less than 100 years old to be contaminated with Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). He said the data shows most of

the water from the Garber-Wellington Aquifer is up to 10,000 years old. He said the PFAS issue may be much more restricted to domestic wells.

Vice-Mayor Sody Clements asked if PFAS is dangerous for residents. Mr. Harrington said there is a debate on whether PFAS causes cancer. He said it has been determined that PFAS is hazardous to a resident's health.

C. Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) Limits Withdrawal Rates in NW Oklahoma

Mr. Harrington said the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) reviewed its first major update to groundwater permit limits. He said this plan will cut allocations for new groundwater permits from one acre-foot per acre a year to half that amount. He said the Agriculture Assessor lobbied against the metering of wells. He said the last comprehensive aquifer analysis was completed in 1983 and is still in effect today.

Councilmember Chris Powell asked how the authorities enforce the new rule. Mr. Harrington said there has not been a lot of enforcement. He said there is no reliable data collection to know. Vice-Mayor Clements asked if the new rule will also restrict the data centers use of water. Mr. Harrington said they will only get one-acre.

4. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Harrington said ACOG is still looking for a replacement for his position. Mr. Sweeney added that they will continue to schedule interviews and should have news soon.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

6. ADJOURN

There being no other business, Chair Rudek adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.



ATTACHMENT 3-A

SUBJECT

DROUGHT UPDATE

DATE:

DECEMBER 18, 2025

FROM:

JOHN HARRINGTON

Interim Water Resources Director

INFORMATION:

Extreme drought is creeping back to Central Oklahoma.

Extreme drought is now being mapped in southern Cleveland, McClain, Pottawatomie, and Seminole Counties. This is due to the very dry autumn that Oklahoma has experienced.

Recharge to the aquifer over the past few months continues to be negligible; however, the fall and winter months generally do not produce huge recharge numbers unless we get some rainfall from a stray hurricane that has hit the Texas Gulf Coast. This year not only have we had no hurricanes in the Gulf, but there have also been no hurricanes that have made landfall in the US.

The good news is that we have already exceeded the annual recharge for the year, so we have plenty of moisture to rely on for the dry months. In addition, the surface water situation still looks fairly good.

Looking forward, the long-term models show a weak La Nina may hang around until the end of the year. Then comes some good news – an El Nino condition for next spring. El Nino usually brings good moisture to this part of the world. So, this may be a very short-term drought that we are in, and we are in decent shape to manage a short-term drought.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



ATTACHMENT 3-B

SUBJECT:

CITY OF NEWCASTLE WASTE LOAD ALLOCATION (WLA) PROPOSAL ON WALNUT CREEK

DATE:

DECEMBER 18, 2025

FROM:

JOHN HARRINGTON
Interim Water Resources Director

INFORMATION

The City of Newcastle is proposing to discharge into Walnut Creek in McLain County as part of an expansion project which includes a new wastewater treatment system. Newcastle is proposing a new south service area encompassing approximately 21,475 acres, and desires to construct a new South Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to serve this area. The proposed discharge for this South WWTP is the North Fork of Walnut Creek.

The proposed outfall would be discharged to the North Fork of Walnut Creek just downstream of Highway 62 bridge. Since this is a new discharge, a new waste load allocation (WLA) study is required by the ODEQ for approval and Oklahoma Water Quality 208 Plan amendment.

Newcastle authorized S2 Engineering, PLLC, for the preparation of the WLA report. S2 Engineering and its subconsultant Alliance Technical Group prepared this WLA study report for the City of Newcastle for ODEQ approval. ACOG staff provided technical assistance with the project and will be incorporating the results of this WLA study into the regional Water Quality Analysis Simulation Program (WASP) model to monitor the impact on the Canadian River system.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



ATTACHMENT 3-C

SUBJECT:

FEDERAL LEGISLATION HR 3898 - THE PERMIT ACT

DATE:

DECEMBER 18, 2025

FROM:

JOHN HARRINGTON

Interim Water Resources Director

INFORMATION

Officially titled the “Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today Act,” HR 3898 was introduced June 11, 2025 by Mike Collins (R-GA) and Sam Graves (R-MO). It aims to revise major parts of the federal law that governs water pollution and permitting — the Clean Water Act (CWA). It is expected to be on the House floor for a vote in the week of Dec 15-19. The PERMIT Act makes a number of changes to how the Clean Water Act is implemented, especially around permitting, definitions, and regulatory scope. Some of the notable elements:

REDEFINING “NAVIGABLE WATERS”

The bill would narrow the definition under the CWA to exclude — among others — waste-treatment systems, ephemeral/seasonal streams (those that flow only after precipitation), prior-converted cropland, groundwater, and other water features the federal government designates.

STREAMLINING PERMITS AND REGULATORY REVIEWS

The bill seeks to speed up and simplify permitting for projects — e.g., dredging, filling wetlands or waterways, wastewater discharges, pesticide runoff — by reducing regulatory burdens, clarifying permit terms, and limiting opportunities for delay or litigation under the CWA.

REFORM OF PERMIT/AUTHORIZATION PROCESSES

Changes include extending certain permit durations (e.g., general permits under the National Pollution Detection and Elimination System (NPDES) from 5 to 10 years), reducing uncertainty over wastewater discharge permits, clarifying when permits are needed, and limiting retroactive or preemptive vetoes by federal agencies under certain CWA provisions.

LIMITING STATE AND LOCAL OVERSIGHT AND PROTECTIONS

By narrowing federal jurisdiction and reducing permit requirements, the bill would also reduce scope for state-level or community-level protections, particularly for smaller water bodies, wetlands, and ephemeral streams.

In summary, this bill would scale back federal oversight of many waterbodies and leave them to the state-level planning agencies. It may streamline permitting processes in states with little or no federal waters.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

PROGRESS REPORT





ATTACHMENT 4

SUBJECT:
PROGRESS REPORT

DATE:
DECEMBER 18, 2025

FROM:
JOHN HARRINGTON
Interim Water Resources Director

INFORMATION

A new manager for the Water Resources Department will be coming onboard January 5, 2026. John Harrington is on retainer with ACOG to make this transition as smooth as possible.

ACTION REQUESTED:
For information only.