



ASSOCIATION OF
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
GOVERNMENTS

GARB- 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
FEBRUARY 26, 2026
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, FEBRUARY 26, 2026, 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:email.title.vi@acogok.org)), by 5 p.m. Monday, February 23, 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 - DECEMBER 18, 2025** ([ATTACHMENT 2](#)) *Action requested.*
3. **STAFF REPORT:** Benjamin Matsumura, Water Resources Manager *For information only.*
 - A. Introduction and Position Goals ([ATTACHMENT 3-A](#))
 - B. EPA Rule Changes ([ATTACHMENT 3-B](#))
 - C. Data Center Water Usage ([ATTACHMENT 3-C](#))
4. **PROGRESS REPORT:** Benjamin Matsumura, Water Resources Manager ([ATTACHMENT 4](#)) *For information only.*
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
6. **ADJOURN**

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 30, 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 Mayor
		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	Hon. Nathan Sholund Vice-Mayor	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
OKARCHE	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	No Designee	Hon. Charmin Williams Mayor
THE VILLAGE	Hon. David Bennett Councilmember	Hon. Braxton Banks Vice-Mayor
TUTTLE	Hon. Larry Watson Councilmember	Hon. Sarah Hites 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. Tracey Rider Commissioner
		Hon. Tomas Manske 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 GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE:

DECEMBER 18, 2025

A regular meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee (GWAPC) convened at 2:20 p.m., Thursday, December 18, 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. Maggie Murdock Nichols, Councilmember
Hon. William Jones, Trustee
Hon. Grant Aguirre, Councilmember
Hon. Misty Mayes, Trustee
Hon. Matt Dukes, Mayor
Hon. Phil Freeman, Mayor
Hon. Matt Hinkle, Councilmember
Hon. Kathy Shellbaker, Trustee
Hon. Vickie Douglas, Mayor
Hon. Judy Myers, Councilmember
Hon. Shelli Selby, Councilmember
Hon. Mark Sharpton, Commissioner

ENTITY

Edmond
Forest Park
Guthrie
Langston
Midwest City
Noble
Oklahoma City
Slaughterville
Warr Acres
Warr Acres
Yukon
Logan County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT

None

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Hon. Amanda Sandoval, Mayor
Hon. Laurie Morris, Mayor
Hon. Cody Brewer, Councilmember
Hon. Greg Cummings, Mayor
Hon. Floyd Eason, Mayor
Hon. Amy Neathery, Councilmember
Hon. Sandra Cleveland, Councilmember
Hon. Kari Madden, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Casey Burwell, Trustee
Hon. Mike Donovan, Mayor
Hon. Carla Caruthers, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Kathy Griffith, Councilmember
Hon. James Wald, Councilmember
Hon. Sody Clements, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Mark Cochell, Mayor
Hon. Stephen T. Holman, Mayor
Hon. Jeff Brueggen, Trustee
Hon. Rob Jones, Councilmember
Hon. Charmin Williams, Mayor
Hon. David Bennett, Councilmember
Hon. Larry Watson, Councilmember
Hon. James Smith, Trustee

ENTITY

Bethany
Calumet
Choctaw
Crescent
Del City
El Reno
Geary
Goldsby
Jones City
Lexington
Luther
Moore
Mustang
Nichols Hills
Nicoma Park
Norman
Okarche
Piedmont
Spencer
The Village
Tuttle
Union City

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

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

ENTITY

Canadian County
 Cleveland County
 Oklahoma County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephanie Wilson, Base Civil Engineer

ENTITY

Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB)

GUESTS PRESENT

Pete White, Attorney
 DeMarria Tryial, Guest
 Michael Taylor, Asst. City Manager

ENTITY/AGENCY/BUSINESS

ACOG Legal Counsel
 Langston
 Nichols Hills

ACOG STAFF PRESENT

Mark W. Sweeney
 John Harrington
 John Sharp
 Beverly Garner
 Shana Sapp

POSITION

Executive Director
 Interim Water Resources Director
 Deputy Director
 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 - OCTOBER 30, 2025

Commissioner Mark Sharpton made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 30, 2025, Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee meeting. Mayor Vickie Douglas seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. STAFF REPORT

A. Drought Update

John Harrington highlighted the expected winter weather for Oklahoma. He said extreme drought is being mapped for southern McClain, Pottawatomie and Cleveland Counties. He said this is due to the dry autumn in Oklahoma. He said April, May, and June are the months for recharge. He said this will be the fifth largest annual recharge since 2000. He said the fall and winter months do not produce large recharge numbers unless there is some rainfall from a hurricane. He said due to La Nina, there is less rain and less storms. He said that it will most likely change by March due to El Nino. He said El Nino will change the jet stream and bring more moisture into Oklahoma. He said the drought should end by May. He said the surface water level is currently at 90 percent.

B. City of Newcastle Waste Load Allocation (WLA) Proposal on Walnut Creek

Mr. Harrington said 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. He said Newcastle is proposing a new south service area encompassing approximately 21,475 acres. He said 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.

Mark W. Sweeney asked how long the process will take. Mr. Harrington said it would take six months.

C. Federal Legislation HR 3898 - The Permit Act

Mr. Harrington said Federal Legislation HR 3898 was passed in the House last week. He said the Permit Act aims to revise major parts of the federal law that governs water pollution and permitting – the Clean Water Act (CWA). He said the term “Navigable Waters” means that the federal government has jurisdiction over the water. He said the Navigable Waters will exclude waste treatment systems, prior-converted cropland, groundwater, and other water features the federal government designates. He said general permits under the National Pollution Detection and Elimination System (NPDES) will be extended from 5 to 10 years. He said this bill would scale back federal oversight of many waterbodies and leave them to the state-level planning agencies.

4. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Harrington announced that on January 5, 2026, Benjamin Matsumura will be the new ACOG Water Resources Manager.

5. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

6. ADJOURN

There being no other business, Chair Rudek adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.



ATTACHMENT 3-A

SUBJECT

INTRODUCTION AND POSITION GOALS

DATE:

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA

Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION:

Who am I? - I am an environmental geologist with a focus on hydrogeology and water resource management. Prior to attending OU and earning my geology degree, I served for six years in the Air Force as a fuels technician at McConnell Air Force Base. I currently live in Norman with my wife and am often found supporting the economy through our local Donut King.

With the continued, and much appreciated, support of John Harrington, I plan to:

- Continue ongoing water management projects and grant work.
- Continue developing and updating Garber-Wellington Aquifer models and databases.
- Network with local leaders and program managers - sustaining the connection as a subject matter expert on issues related to surface and groundwater.

In addition to filling established roles and becoming the foremost expert on Central Oklahoma's water systems - these are the future goals for my position:

- Restart and expand community outreach programs, to include the K - 12 stormwater demonstrations
- Provide resources to communities for "water smart" development - in line with the 2025 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan
- Establish additional Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment Program (GMAP) sites around Central Oklahoma

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



ATTACHMENT 3-B

SUBJECT:

EPA RULE CHANGES

DATE:

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA

Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION:

On January 5, the EPA closed its 45-day comment period on proposed updates to the definition of “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS). This update is similar to the “Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today Act,” HR 3898.

The major difference is that EPA’s update is a regulatory change, adjusting how the EPA defines WOTUS based on the Supreme Courts *Sacket v. EPA* decision. While the EPA rule change will have similar effects to HR 3898, it is narrower in scope, and its deployment could be hindered by lawsuits. However, the EPA updates are likely to take effect even if HR 3898 fails to pass. The effects will primarily be felt when determining whether a project affects WOTUS, which can change permitting requirements.

A concern with regulatory updates is how farmers and developers should plan for long-term projects. The WOTUS definition has been changed multiple times over the years through court cases and administrative changes. If a project starts under the EPA’s updated definition, it may be subject to new regulations during the next administration change.

The EPA rule change also clarifies that groundwater is not considered WOTUS. This update is supported by the National Groundwater Association, who argue for groundwater regulation and management by states. Groundwater usage in Oklahoma is typically overseen by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). The EPA ruling should not result in noticeable change to groundwater permitting and usage.

Any parties looking at projects requiring Clean Water Act permits should continue tracking HR 3898 and the EPA rule update. The EPA rule update, while similar to HR 3898, will not have the same stability for permitting.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



ATTACHMENT 3-C

SUBJECT:

DATA CENTER WATER USAGE

DATE:

FEBRUARY 26, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA

Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION

With data centers potentially coming to multiple communities in Oklahoma, leaders and planners should be aware of water demands for these facilities. Fears and questions from residents often surround drinking water withdrawal for cooling usage. Thankfully, there are multiple options for data center cooling that can minimize impacts to residential water systems. The two most applicable areas to focus on water efficiency are as follows:

ON-SITE COOLING WATER USAGE

This usage is what most residents think of when discussing data centers. Water is used on-site to cool equipment and must meet certain treatment requirements. While potable water is an option for data center usage, non-potable and reclaimed water can also be used when treated correctly. Efficient planning and negotiation during construction can help reduce overall water usage and ensure drinking water supplies are not severely impacted.

POWER PRODUCTION

Although less discussed, the largest water demand for data centers comes in the form of power production. Unless a community has a local power plant, this usage is typically not as impactful to local water supplies. However, the increased water demand can cause regional strain over time and residents may see this impact in the form of increasing energy bills.

Communities looking to build data centers should consider setting Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) and Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE) requirements for new developments. They should also collaborate between the data centers and local water treatment plants to minimize potable water usage and prevent overloading of treatment systems.

Please note that water usage will be one of the main topics addressed at the Data Center Forum being hosted by ACOG on Friday, February 27, starting at 9:00 a.m. at the ACOG office.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

PROGRESS REPORT





ATTACHMENT 4

SUBJECT:
PROGRESS REPORT

DATE:
FEBRUARY 26, 2026

FROM:
BENJAMIN MATSUMURA
Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION

The new Water Resources Manager, Benjamin Matsumura, came onboard January 5 with ACOG. He is currently in training under the guidance of John Harrington.

Current project work includes:

- Continuing to work with Newcastle on increased water needs for their 2050 population projection
 - ACOG is investigating potential impacts to downstream community water allocations and verifying projections to ensure an effective water model is generated
- Following up on Opossum Creek and Cowbell Creek modeling projects
 - Currently waiting for developers to obtain a formal response from Edmond on whether the Edmond treatment plant will accept wastewater discharge
 - Any new models or updates will be based on Edmond's response
- Continuing work on the following 604(b) projects:
 - Source tracking of bacteria in the North Canadian River
 - Effects on aquifer recharge from the proposed turnpike section in Norman
 - Updating the Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) for the Norman Groundwater model update and Noble Groundwater model update
- No cost time extensions have been approved for the bacteria tracking and turnpike projects

ACTION REQUESTED:
For information only.