



ASSOCIATION OF
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
GOVERNMENTS

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Chair

Vickie Douglas
Warr Acres Mayor

Vice-Chair

Mark Sharpton
Logan County Commissioner

Secretary/Treasurer

Vacant

Executive Director

Mark W. Sweeney, AICP

AGENDA: THURSDAY
AUGUST 27, 2026
2:45 P.M.

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments
4205 N. Lincoln Blvd. | OKC | 405.234.2264 | acogok.org

THE GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 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, August 24, 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 – JUNE 25, 2026** ([ATTACHMENT 2](#)) *Action requested.*
3. **STAFF REPORTS – TOPICS, ISSUES, AND INITIATIVES:** Benjamin Matsumura, Water Resources Manager *For information only.*
 - A. A Chronicle of the Garber-Wellington ([ATTACHMENT 3-A](#))
 - B. What Makes a Good Aquifer? ([ATTACHMENT 3-B](#))
 - C. The Science of Water Wells ([ATTACHMENT 3-C](#))
4. **PROGRESS REPORT:** Benjamin Matsumura, Water Resources Manager ([ATTACHMENT 4](#)) *For information only.*
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
6. **ADJOURN**

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 29, 2026, 2:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1

GARBER-WELLINGTON ASSOCIATION POLICY COMMITTEE

CITY/ORGANIZATION	MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
BETHANY	Hon. Amanda Sandoval Mayor	Hon. Brian Magirowsky Councilmember
		Hon. Ken Smart 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. Claudia Browne Councilmember	Hon. Greg Childers Mayor
		Hon. Pam Finch Vice-Mayor
EDMOND	Hon. Maggie Murdock Nichols Councilmember	Hon. Mark A. Nash Mayor
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. Darrla Golden Councilmember
GOLDSBY	Hon. Kari Madden Vice-Mayor	Hon. David White Trustee
GUTHRIE	Hon. Grant Aguirre Councilmember	Hon. Jeff Taylor Councilmember
HARRAH	No Designee	Hon. Jennifer Glenn 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. Sarah Callen 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. Raymond Melton Councilmember	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 Mayor	Hon. Colin M. FitzSimons Vice-Mayor
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. Byron Schlomach Councilmember	Hon. Matt Myers Councilmember
		Hon. Rob Jones Councilmember
SLAUGHTERVILLE	Hon. Kathy Snellbaker Trustee	Hon. Leah Grady Trustee
SPENCER	Hon. Earnest Ware Councilmember	Hon. Carrie Smith Vice-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. Rick Cacini Councilmember	Jordan Westfall Councilmember
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. Paul Foster Interim Commissioner	Hon. Jason Lowe 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:

JUNE 25, 2026

A regular meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee (GWAPC) convened at 3:36 p.m., Thursday, June 25, 2026, 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, Vice-Mayor

ENTITY

Harrah

P.C. MEMBERS PRESENT

Hon. Kari Madden, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Raymond Melton, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Kathy Griffith, Councilmember
Hon. Matt Hinkle, Councilmember
Hon. Byron Schlomach, Councilmember
Hon. Kathy Shellbaker, Trustee
Hon. Earnest Ware, Councilmember
Hon. David Bennett, Councilmember
Hon. Vickie Douglas, Mayor
Hon. Judy Myers, Councilmember
Hon. Rick Cacini, Councilmember
Hon. Lacey Dawson, Commissioner
Hon. Mark Sharpton, Commissioner

ENTITY

Goldsby
Midwest City
Moore
Oklahoma City
Piedmont
Slaughterville
Spencer
The Village
Warr Acres
Warr Acres
Yukon
Canadian County
Logan County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT

None

P.C. MEMBERS ABSENT

Hon. Amanda Sandoval, Mayor
Hon. Laurie Morris, Mayor
Hon. Cody Brewer, Councilmember
Hon. Greg Cummings, Mayor
Hon. Claudia Browne, Councilmember
Hon. Maggie Murdock Nichols, Councilmember
Hon. Amy Neathery, Councilmember
Hon. William Jones, Trustee
Hon. Sandra Cleveland, Councilmember
Hon. Grant Aguirre, Councilmember
Hon. Casey Burwell, Trustee
Hon. Misty Mayes, Mayor
Hon. Mike Donovan, Mayor
Hon. Carla Caruthers, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Nathan Sholund, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Sody Clements, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Mark Cochell, Mayor
Hon. Phil Freeman, Mayor
Hon. Stephen T. Holman, Mayor
Hon. Jeff Brueggen, Trustee
Hon. Larry Watson, Councilmember
Hon. James Smith, Trustee

ENTITY

Bethany
Calumet
Choctaw
Crescent
Del City
Edmond
El Reno
Forest Park
Geary
Guthrie
Jones City
Langston
Lexington
Luther
Mustang
Nichols Hills
Nicoma Park
Noble
Norman
Okarche
Tuttle
Union City

P.C. MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)

Hon. Rusty Grissom, Commissioner
Hon. Brian Maughan, Commissioner

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT

Stephanie Wilson, Base Civil Engineer

GUESTS PRESENT

Pete White, Attorney
Steve Griffith, Guest
Hon. Dan House, Mayor

ACOG STAFF PRESENT

Mark W. Sweeney
John Sharp
Ben Matsumura
Jennifer Sebesta
Beverly Garner
Shana Sapp
Jimmy Smith
Eric Pollard
Ethan Mazzio

ENTITY

Cleveland County
Oklahoma County

ENTITY

Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB)

ENTITY/AGENCY/BUSINESS

ACOG Legal Counsel
Moore
Cedar Valley

POSITION

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Water Resources Manager
Transp. Planning Services (TPS) Div. Mgr.
Executive Assistant
Administrative Assistant
IT Operations Specialist II
Air Quality & Clean Cities Manager, TPS
TPS Planner III - Mobility

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Presiding Chair Tim Rudek called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 30, 2026

Mayor Vickie Douglas made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2026 Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee meeting. Vice-Mayor Kari Madden seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. STAFF REPORT**A. Central Oklahoma's Water Supply Outlook**

Ben Matsumura said a growing number of states are facing potential water emergencies. He said based on data from the 2025 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan and United States Geological Survey research, surface water addresses roughly 59 percent of demand for Central Oklahoma. He said surface water gap for 2045 is estimated at 9,307 acre-feet and that this is a planning gap, not a total depletion of surface water sources.

Mr. Matsumura stated that Bedrock groundwater addresses 17 percent of demand for Central Oklahoma. He said that public supply accounts for 45 percent of demand, and that the groundwater gap for 2045 is estimated at 7,950 acre-feet, which is not depletion of the aquifers.

Mr. Matsumura said that the full 2,891 square mile Central Oklahoma/Garber-Wellington Basin held roughly 98,676,000 acre-feet of groundwater. He added that groundwater withdrawals averaged approximately 37,000 acre-feet per year during the study period.

The report can be viewed here:

<https://www.acogok.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/GWAPC-JUN-25-2026.pptx>

B. Confronting Emerging Contaminants

Mr. Matsumura highlighted the information as detailed in the agenda memorandum regarding emerging contaminants. He said according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), emerging contaminants (ECs) is a catch all term for any substance or microorganism that poses newfound risk to “human health, aquatic life, or the environment.” He said ECs can be man-made or naturally occurring, with some common sources being “personal care products, pharmaceuticals, industrial chemicals, pesticides, and microplastics,” in addition to the ubiquitous PFAS.

Mr. Matsumura said new research is emerging daily, and innovative capture/removal products coming to market. He said ECs can enter our environment and bodies through multiple avenues and tend to accumulate rather than degrade. He stated that ECs can have physical and chemical effects on humans, animals, and plants and disrupt the natural growth and development. Common sources of ECs include manufacturing plants, landfills, sewer systems, airports, agricultural areas, and medical facilities. The chemical structure of many ECs makes them incredibly resilient; meaning capture and disposal is the currently favored removal technique. He added that current disposal options include landfills, incineration, and deep well injections.

Mr. Matsumura said the Water Resources Department has recently submitted an EPA grant workplan to identify and map potential EC risk areas across Central Oklahoma. He said ACOG and state environmental agencies can direct future efforts towards sampling, monitoring, and addressing high-risk EC sites.

C. The Power of Regional Watershed Planning

Mr. Matsumura highlighted the information detailed in the agenda memorandum regarding the Regional Watershed Planning meeting. He said in a joint effort to support ACOG’s recently adopted Red Dirt Resiliency Plan, the Water Resources Department and Transportation Planning Services Division are bringing communities and state organizations together for a yearlong regional watershed planning effort. He said ACOG held its first stakeholder meeting for this project on June 3, 2026, to discuss the major themes and goals.

Mr. Matsumura said one of the project goals is to improve water quality and reduce flooding in rural and urban areas. He stated communities struggle with water project funding and the most consistent costs include repairs and upgrades to infrastructure. He discussed the cost of effective pollution reduction and getting major projects heard by high level “decision makers,” with public education and outreach playing a major role in garnering support for needed projects. He said ACOG’s goal with this project is to develop a plan that addresses shared concerns, work as a template for other watersheds across the state and help communities access state and federal funding.

4. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Matsumura said the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for the Norman Groundwater Modeling project has completed peer review and is now with the EPA for final review and approval. He said initial modeling for Newcastle’s Walnut Creek is complete, and the city is now reviewing its options based on DEQ feedback. He said the Water Resources Department’s FY 27 budget has been submitted. He added that three EPA grant workplans were submitted covering EC site tracking and prioritization, mapping and water transport modeling of septic system contamination, and modernization of ACOG’s regional Water Quality Analysis Simulation Program (WASP) model for the Canadian River.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None

6. ADJOURN

There being no other business, Presiding Chair Rudek adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS

TOPICS, ISSUES, AND INITIATIVES





ATTACHMENT 3-A

SUBJECT

A CHRONICLE OF THE GARBER-WELLINGTON

DATE:

AUGUST 27, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA

Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION:

Ask most anyone in Oklahoma and they will likely know the terms “groundwater” and “aquifer,” given the state’s history. Ask them how those things work and the answers will get less confident. Going one step further to ask where our aquifers originate would presumably end in a range of creative, yet mostly incorrect answers. But if we aim to protect our groundwater, we should understand its origins and what makes the Garber-Wellington such a tenacious resource.

Fully describing Oklahoma’s geologic history would be a whole presentation by itself. But we can still achieve a respectable understanding through a few key points:

- While tough to believe now, Oklahoma experienced multiple periods of mountain building and shallow sea intrusions. These shifting conditions are responsible for Oklahoma’s notable oil and gas reserves but also created the perfect conditions to construct our sandy aquifer.
- With mountain ranges covering multiple directions, and a large central basin for sediment to flow into, the Garber-Wellington was set to begin forming roughly 290 million years ago.
- As our ancient Wichita, Arbuckle, Ouachita, and Ozark mountain ranges eroded, streams carried sediment to Central and Western Oklahoma. The transported materials left vast accumulations of sand, silt, clay, and gravel, which eventually settled and solidified into the Garber-Wellington we know today.
- The regional climate continued to shift, and eventually a layer of clay-rich mud covered the Garber-Wellington. This material dried, compacted, solidified, and became what we call the Hennessey Group – which confines and protects our aquifer today.
- The landscape continued to change, but erosion dominated in Oklahoma, removing younger rocks that would have covered the Garber-Wellington. Thankfully, this large-scale exposure of our aquifer is what allows us to readily access it and lets it recharge so effectively today.

But how is all this ancient history important to us now? Because knowing this history helps us understand the scale of our groundwater resources. What took hundreds of millions of years to build and fill with fresh water could be drained in decades, if we do not manage it carefully. A few months of good rain is nothing compared to millions of years of accumulation. Should our aquifer be pumped dry or become contaminated, we would not see a new one formed in multiple lifetimes.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



ATTACHMENT 3-B

SUBJECT:

WHAT MAKES A GOOD AQUIFER?

DATE:

AUGUST 27, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA

Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION:

Dig deep enough nearly anywhere in the world and you are bound to find groundwater. In fact, groundwater comprises over 30 percent of the earth's useable (unfrozen) freshwater, while lakes and streams account for just over 0.30 percent. However, the distribution of groundwater is unequal, and some places hold much greater reserves than others. The work of locating these major reserves can be highly technical and incredibly challenging, but remarkably lucrative. Still, there are a few universal factors that distinguish a productive aquifer no matter the location.

The most fundamental qualities of a good aquifer are its ability to hold and transport water. The ease of these tasks is determined by **porosity** and **permeability**. Porosity is the amount of empty space, or voids within a substance. The greater the porosity of an aquifer, the more water it can hold. Permeability is the ease of which that water can move through the aquifer and is related to the connectedness of its voids. The Garber-Wellington's sandstone is both porous and permeable.

With porosity and permeability as our building blocks, we can determine the slightly more complex properties of **transmissivity**, **specific yield**, and **storativity**. Transmissivity is best understood as a measurement of how easily an aquifer can transmit water. A higher transmissivity means that water can pass through at a faster rate. Specific yield is the volume of water that could be hypothetically collected if every pore space was drained. Storativity is the most intricate of these three concepts but roughly describes the amount of water released when pressure is decreased within an aquifer.

At a very high level, these concepts work together to determine: A) how much water we can draw from an aquifer, B) how easily and quickly that water can be drawn, and C) how easily the aquifer will recharge and recover after water is withdrawn. There are of course more factors to consider when selecting an aquifer. These include the permeability of surrounding rock layers, potential contamination sources, and effects of withdrawal on adjacent surface waters.

At the end of the day, it is the level of demand and intended usage that truly determines a good aquifer. Countless families through history survived by pulling one bucket at a time from hand-dug wells. But with today's dense populations and high consumption, we must be selective. The Garber-Wellington is a fantastic resource based on all the properties discussed above, which makes it even more critical to protect.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.



ATTACHMENT 3-C

SUBJECT:

THE SCIENCE OF WATER WELLS

DATE:

AUGUST 27, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA

Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION

Over the past hundred years, research and experience have significantly improved the design and function of our water wells. In addition, we have greatly expanded our understanding of how wells influence groundwater contamination, subsidence, and surface water flow. But at the end of the day, a well can still be described as a straw pulling water from the ground, with a few extra steps.

Sticking with this analogy, the “straw” part of our well is known as the **casing**. The casing is the first part of a well to be installed, being placed immediately after the borehole is drilled into the aquifer. Casings are large pipes, typically made of metal or PVC, which prevent contamination from flowing in or out of the well. The casing also plays an essential role in stabilizing the drilled soil and rock.

At the very bottom of the casing is the **well screen**. The screen allows water to flow inward and fill the casing, while blocking sediment from entering. Once the water is inside the casing, a **submersible pump** draws it upwards through a smaller set of water lines. This water eventually meets the **pitless adapter**, which uses watertight connections to direct flow into underground service lines. This keeps the water piping insulated and prevents freezing in cold temperatures.

The final components of a typical well are the **cap** and **annular seal**. The cap covers the opening of the casing, allowing electrical lines for the pump to pass through, but preventing any contamination or unwanted guests from entering. The annular seal fills any space between the casing and surrounding rock layers, further stabilizing the well and preventing contamination between layers. Cement or bentonite clay are common materials used to create this seal.

While all these components form a robustly designed well, parts alone do not make a productive well. The well location and underlying geology are just as essential to good productivity. Too shallow a well risks drying up during droughts. Drill too deep and a well may pull up unwanted contaminants or saline water. Even at the same depth, different areas may contain varying amounts of silt and clay, which can hinder the efficient movement of groundwater.

Once a good well location and depth have been located, careful management is crucial. Even in areas of abundant groundwater, overcrowded wells can disrupt each other through their **cones of depression**. More than just unhappy wells, these cones are localized drops in the water table caused by withdrawal. But as usual, the issue can be abated through careful planning and proper well spacing. The science behind a good well goes deeper, but these are the very basics.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

PROGRESS REPORT





ATTACHMENT 4

SUBJECT:
PROGRESS REPORT

DATE:
AUGUST 27, 2026

FROM:
BENJAMIN MATSUMURA
Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION

Since the June GWAPC meeting, the Water Resources Department has worked on the following:

- Required semi-annual progress reports and quality assurance project plan (QAPP) recertifications for the Water Resources Department's 604(b) projects have been updated and submitted to the state.
 - The Water Resources Department is currently working with the Department of Environmental Quality and the Office of the Secretary of Energy and Environment to address older QAPP approvals that have stalled with the EPA.
- The Water Resources Department has reviewed and coordinated two stream sampling workplan submissions with the Department of Environmental Quality.
 - Alliance Technical Group will be sampling Walnut Creek on behalf of the City of Newcastle. The Water Resources Department will use this data to fully calibrate its regional water quality model, allowing the City of Newcastle to move forward with their wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) construction as originally budgeted.
 - The Water Resources Department will be sampling the Cottonwood Creek watershed alongside Oklahoma City's contractors, Plummer and STV. Collected data will be used by Plummer as they model water quality for Oklahoma City's Deer Creek WWTP upgrade. The data will also be used for ACOG's ongoing Cottonwood Creek Watershed Planning Project.
- ACOG's Water Resources Department, Transportation Planning Services Division, and consultant Stantec met with the Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) to discuss the following topics related to ACOG's Cottonwood Creek Watershed Planning Project:
 - The OCC's roles and responsibilities in statewide watershed planning.
 - The Unified Watershed Assessment & Prioritization Process.
 - An overview of state programs and funding alignment strategies.
 - Communications, approvals, and reviews moving forward.

These joint meetings are recurring as the watershed team works to align project goals with state requirements and available funding sources for ACOG communities.

- The Water Resources Manager will be attending two water modeling courses this September.
 - The first course runs from September 15 – 18 and will be held in Provo, Utah. This course will feature hands-on training for Aquaveo’s Groundwater Modeling System software. This software will be utilized for ongoing 604(b) groundwater modeling grant projects, which will improve groundwater quantity forecasting and help track potential groundwater quality concerns.
 - The second course runs from September 28 – October 2 and will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. This course will tackle the Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Quality Analysis Simulation Program, or WASP for short. ACOG currently maintains a regional WASP model of the North Canadian River, which is used for 208 permitting and water quality simulations. The course lessons will help the Water Resource Department as it updates the current model from WASP version 7.3 to 8.5, which features improvements in model accessibility and accuracy.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.