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
Sody Clements
Nichols Hills Mayor

Executive Director
Mark W. Sweeney, AICP

AGENDA: THURSDAY
OCTOBER 29, 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, OCTOBER 29, 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), by 5 p.m. Monday, October 26, 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 – AUGUST 27, 2026** (ATTACHMENT 2) *Action requested*.
3. **STAFF REPORTS – TOPICS, ISSUES, AND INITIATIVES:** Benjamin Matsumura, Water Resources Manager *For information only.*
   A. Water in the Digital Age (ATTACHMENT 3-A)
   B. Nuclear Energy and Water (ATTACHMENT 3-B)
   C. What's in a Water Model? (ATTACHMENT 3-C)
4. **PROGRESS REPORT:** Benjamin Matsumura, Water Resources Manager (ATTACHMENT 4) *For information only.*
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
6. **ADJOURN**

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, December 17, 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. Darrla Golden Councilmember
		Hon. Ashley Hurst Councilmember
GOLDSBY	Hon. Kari Madden Vice-Mayor	Hon. David White Trustee
GUTHRIE	Hon. Grant Aguirre Councilmember	Hon. Jeff Taylor Councilmember
HARRAH	Hon. Jennifer Glenn Councilmember	Hon. Bill Lisby Councilmember
		Hon. John Cochran 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
OKARCHE	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	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:
AUGUST 27, 2026

A regular meeting of the Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee (GWAPC) convened at 3:28 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 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	ENTITY
Hon. Vickie Douglas, Mayor	Warr Acres

P.C. MEMBERS PRESENT	ENTITY
Hon. William Jones, Trustee	Forest Park
Hon. Grant Aguirre, Councilmember	Guthrie
Hon. Raymond Melton, Vice-Mayor	Midwest City
Hon. Kathy Griffith, Councilmember	Moore
Hon. Colin M. FitzSimons, Vice-Mayor	Nichols Hills
Hon. Phil Freeman, Mayor	Noble
Hon. Matt Hinkle, Councilmember	Oklahoma City
Hon. Byron Schlomach, Councilmember	Piedmont
Hon. Kathy Shellbaker, Trustee	Slaughterville
Hon. Earnest Ware, Councilmember	Spencer
Hon. David Bennett, Councilmember	The Village
Hon. Judy Myers, Councilmember	Warr Acres
Hon. Rick Cacini, Councilmember	Yukon
Hon. Mark Sharpton, Commissioner	Logan County
Paul Foster, Interim Commissioner	Oklahoma County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT
None

P.C. MEMBERS ABSENT	ENTITY
Hon. Amanda Sandoval, Mayor	Bethany
Hon. Laurie Morris, Mayor	Calumet
Hon. Cody Brewer, Councilmember	Choctaw
Hon. Greg Cummings, Mayor	Crescent
Hon. Claudia Browne, Councilmember	Del City
Hon. Maggie Murdock Nichols, Councilmember	Edmond
Hon. Amy Neathery, Councilmember	El Reno
Hon. Sandra Cleveland, Councilmember	Geary
Hon. Kari Madden, Vice-Mayor	Goldsby
Hon. Jennifer Glenn, Councilmember	Harrah
Hon. Casey Burwell, Trustee	Jones City
Hon. Misty Mayes, Mayor	Langston
Hon. Mike Donovan, Mayor	Lexington
Hon. Carla Caruthers, Vice-Mayor	Luther
Hon. Nathan Sholund, Vice-Mayor	Mustang
Hon. Mark Cochell, Mayor	Nicoma Park
Hon. Stephen T. Holman, Mayor	Norman

P.C. MEMBERS ABSENT (Cont.)	ENTITY
Hon. Jeff Brueggen, Trustee	Okarche
Hon. Larry Watson, Councilmember	Tuttle
Hon. James Smith, Trustee	Union City
Hon. Lacey Dawson, Commissioner	Canadian County
Hon. Rusty Grissom, Commissioner	Cleveland County

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT	ENTITY
Stephanie Wilson, Base Civil Engineer	Tinker Air Force Base (TAFB)

GUESTS PRESENT	ENTITY/AGENCY/BUSINESS
Pete White, Attorney	ACOG Legal Counsel
Steve Griffith, Guest	Moore
Michael Taylor, Asst. City Manager	Nichols Hills

ACOG STAFF PRESENT	POSITION
Mark W. Sweeney	Executive Director
John Sharp	Deputy Director
Ben Matsumura	Water Resources Manager
Jennifer Sebesta	Transp. Planning Services (TPS) Senior Div. Mgr.
Beverly Garner	Executive Assistant
Shana Sapp	Administrative Assistant
Jimmy Smith	IT Operations Specialist II
Eric Pollard	Air Quality & Clean Cities Manager
Madison Martin	TPS/CED Planner I

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

   Presiding Chair Vickie Douglas called the meeting to order at 3:28 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JUNE 25, 2026**

   Councilmember Grant Aguirre made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2026 Garber-Wellington Association Policy Committee meeting. Mayor Phil Freeman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **STAFF REPORT**

   A. A Chronicle of the Garber-Wellington

   Ben Matsumura highlighted the information as detailed in the agenda memorandum regarding Oklahoma's geological history. He said historic, geologic conditions are responsible for Oklahoma's oil and gas. He said if we do not preserve our aquifer, it would take a long time to make a new one. He discussed the historic regional climate shift and the accumulation of sand, silt, clay and gravel. He said as the regional climate continued to shift, a layer of clay-rich mud covered the Garber-Wellington. He said the landscape continued to change, eventually removing younger rocks that previously covered the Garber-Wellington. He said this large-scale exposure of our aquifer is what allows us to readily access it and recharge it today. Mr. Matsumura added that should our aquifers be pumped dry or become contaminated, we will not see a new one formed in multiple lifetimes. Commissioner Mark Sharpton asked if there were any natural lakes in Oklahoma. Mr. Matsumura said there are no natural lakes.

B. What Makes a Good Aquifer?

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

Mr. Matsumura discussed alluvial aquifers and bedrock aquifers. He explained that alluvial aquifers can recharge and discharge quickly and are more vulnerable to contamination issues. He said bedrock aquifers are made of solid rock, and are slower to recharge, but less prone to contamination. He stated a higher transmissivity means water can pass through at a faster rate and that specific yield is the volume of water that could be collected if every pore space was drained. He said storativity describes the amount of water released when pressure is decreased within an aquifer. He added that the level of demand and intended usage is what determines a good aquifer. Commissioner Sharpton asked if clean water could be put back into the aquifer. Mr. Matsumura said they are working on aquifer recharge areas, but it can take a long time to push the water back in.

C. The Science of Water Wells

Mr. Matsumura highlighted the information detailed in the agenda memorandum regarding the science of water wells. He said the casing is the first part of a well to be installed, being placed after the borehole is drilled into the aquifer. He said casings are large pipes, made of metal or PVC, which prevent contamination from flowing in or out of the well. He stated the well screen is at the very bottom of the casing and allows water to flow inward and fill the casing, while blocking sediment from entering. Commissioner Sharpton asked if there was water under Oklahoma. Mr. Matsumura said not in all parts of Oklahoma.

Mr. Matsumura discussed the cap and annular seal of a well. He said the cap covers the opening of the casing, while still allowing electrical lines for the pump to pass through. He said the annular seal fills any space between the casing and surrounding rock layers, further stabilizing the well and preventing contamination between layers. He said cones of depression are localized drops in the water table caused by withdrawal. He added that in areas of abundant groundwater, overcrowded wells can disrupt each other through their cones.

4. PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Matsumura said 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. He said the 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. He stated that the Alliance Technical Group will be sampling Walnut Creek on behalf of the City of Newcastle. He also stated that recently collected data will be used to model water quality for Oklahoma City's Deer Creek treatment plant upgrade and for ACOG's ongoing Cottonwood Creek Watershed Planning Project.

Mr. Matsumura announced that he will be attending Aquaveo's Groundwater Modeling System software training from September 15 – 18. He said the 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. He said the Environmental Protection Agency's Water Quality Analysis Simulation Program will be held in Atlanta from September 28 – October 2. He said this course will help staff update ACOG's current model from WASP version 7.3 to 8.5.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. ADJOURN

There being no other business, Presiding Chair Douglas adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.

STAFF REPORTS

TOPICS, ISSUES, AND INITIATIVES

ATTACHMENT 3-A

SUBJECT

WATER IN THE DIGITAL AGE

DATE:

OCTOBER 29, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA
Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION:

Over the past 50 years, many of our physical resources have shifted to some type of digital form. Emails and texts have largely replaced letters, a single USB drive can hold a building's worth of documents, and playing music no longer requires vinyls or tapes. But digitization can only go so far, and water is yet to be captured by 1s and 0s on a hard drive.

However, the way we manage our water has changed with the rise of technology. In addition to the storage tanks and piping that form the backbone of our water networks, **Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition** (SCADA) systems now play a crucial role. SCADA systems are a combination of hardware and software that collect data, control processes, and provide monitoring capabilities. Thanks to these systems, operators can now oversee facilities and conduct work with more ease and accuracy than ever before.

As with any digital system, easier access and increased capabilities also bring additional risk. **Programmable Logic Controllers** (PLCs) introduce the greatest vulnerability within water facilities, as they go far beyond monitoring. PLCs can handle temperature control, fault detection, automated pump and valve operations, and chemical dosing. Because of their critical roles, vulnerable PLCs have been the target of recent cyberattacks across the United States.

Thankfully, no serious injuries have occurred from attacks on water treatment plants. But overflows, data breaches, and water outages are still no small matters. In addition, switching plants to manual controls means long hours for facility operators and can interrupt municipal service.

While the option of shutting down all our computers and turning back to a pre-digital life is sometimes tempting, it is not realistic. Thankfully, there are multiple resources available to municipalities and plant operators. The **Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency** (CISA) offers free vulnerability scanning for utilities, the **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) offers system evaluations and technical assistance, and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** (FBI) has mechanisms to track threat reports and identify vulnerable technology.

With the cybersecurity landscape evolving rapidly, digital water systems have finally become a national priority. The Water Cyber Shield Act of 2026 intends to implement new requirements on a federal level, while also providing $300 million in new funds to help protect water systems. Now is the best the time to speak with your operators and begin preparing for new threats ahead.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

ATTACHMENT 3-B

SUBJECT:

NUCLEAR ENERGY AND WATER

DATE:

OCTOBER 29, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA
Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION:

As of July 2026, Oklahoma is one of five finalists in the Department of Energy's **Nuclear Lifecycle Innovation Campus** (NLIC) program. Winning this bid could bring significant funding and energy capability to the state, along with new challenges. As always, environmental and safety issues are at the forefront of these nuclear power discussions, with water usage being a key topic.

To understand any water quality risks that may come with this program, we must understand what role water plays in nuclear energy. There are three main reactor types being considered for Oklahoma's program, with each using varying amounts of water.

- **Advanced Large Light-Water Reactors** (ALWRs): When you think of nuclear power, these systems and their large cooling towers are likely what you imagine. ALWRs have three main water functions, primary reactor cooling, steam generation for driving turbines, and waste heat removal. The first two processes are closed loops, with very little water being consumed. The waste heat removal step is most consumptive, with some large reactors using 19 million or more gallons of water per day.
- **Light-Water Small Modular Reactors** (SMRs): These are smaller versions of ALWRs, with the same water uses but at a reduced scale. However, their size and modularity mean that multiple units could be stationed in proximity, increasing their water consumption.
- **Non-Light-Water Reactors** (Non-LWRs): Non-LWRs are the top contender based on Oklahoma's NLIC proposal. These advanced reactor designs vary in size and design, often using metal or gas cooling systems. However, waste heat removal in these systems can still use large amounts of water. Dry cooling setups reduce this usage but are less efficient in warm temperatures.

ALWRs and SMRs both have an additional consideration: whether they use a **boiling water reactor** (BWR) or a **pressurized water reactor** (PWR) setup. The greatest difference in these systems is how their water interacts with the nuclear core. Each system also has different safety and operating considerations, but both require specialized wastewater treatment and management.

Based on all this, communities near potential nuclear facilities should ask a few key questions:

- What setup will be used, and how much water will be withdrawn and consumed?
- What sources of water will be used?
- What are the expected contaminants and levels for water used?
- What amount of water is expected to be discharged into the environment vs. reused?
- What byproducts will require stricter disposal, and how much is expected?
- What safeguards and monitoring programs will be implemented to prevent groundwater and surface-water contamination?

If confirmed as a host state, Oklahoma communities will compete to house these nuclear facilities.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

ATTACHMENT 3-C

SUBJECT:

WHAT'S IN A WATER MODEL?

DATE:

OCTOBER 29, 2026

FROM:

BENJAMIN MATSUMURA
Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION

Computer modeling has become an essential part of many jobs, including traffic planning, weather forecasting, and even market analysis. While no model is perfect, they still make excellent planning tools when employed properly. But how can a system of numbers and equations replicate something natural and fluid like water? With the right data, and a few reasonable assumptions, water models can get quite close.

Most natural interactions can be broken down into a process, and from that process into some set of equations. Calculating aquifer flow rates is a perfect example of this, with multiple physical measurements culminating in a single variable. The careful and deliberate collection of key variables can make or break a water model. Too much data makes for unnecessary costs and unreasonable timelines. Too little or inaccurate data and your model could miss key predictions and be indefensible under review.

So how do we determine our data needs and balance our models? To start, a good model is tailored around a specific purpose or question. A simple model may center around the construction of a new roadway or wastewater discharge, while a complex model may cover long-term drought scenarios or watershed contamination. In both cases, some baseline data is required to build a **conceptual model**, which is the simplest representation of all key components. Once the critical information is addressed, additional data is brought in as needed to address project goals.

All this still leaves the question, how does a model use this data? In most cases, models break calculations down into **segments**. Each segment represents an area with similar characteristics, or distinct features that must be accounted for. Models pass calculations between segments so that the appropriate variables can be applied. For example, a segment containing a well could pass on groundwater withdrawal rates to nearby segments, allowing flow direction to be calculated. Through this process, changes across a large area can be accurately captured.

The last step in any good modeling is **calibration**. Model calibration ensures that outputs closely reflect measured data. Where measured data is not available it is the modeler's job to confirm that outputs are, at the very least, reasonable. Again, no model is perfect, but a good model must be defensible and resemble real world conditions.

Models are a powerful tool, and ACOG's Water Resources Department strives to provide accessible and reliable models for water quantity and quality planning.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information only.

PROGRESS REPORT

ATTACHMENT 4

SUBJECT:
PROGRESS REPORT

DATE:
OCTOBER 29, 2026

FROM:
BENJAMIN MATSUMURA
Water Resources Manager

INFORMATION
In addition to attending both groundwater and surface water modeling courses this September, the Water Resources Department has worked on the following since August's GWAPC meeting:

- The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Planning Project continues, with the second stakeholder meeting having occurred on October 7th. This meeting once again brought state, non-profit, and municipal leaders together to discuss management goals and solutions for improving their watersheds. Discussions included:
    - Implementation challenges to best management practices.
        - Budgets, community buy-in, and regulations are all obstacles.
    - How can we measure and quantify benefits, especially in relation to municipal water quality and groundwater quality?
    - How can watershed projects support sustainable city growth and help reduce the effects of drought?

  This work supports ACOG's climate resiliency goals, established via feedback from member communities. Through this regional watershed plan, ACOG strives to help members decrease water treatment costs, improve coordination on stormwater infrastructure projects, prevent repeated infrastructure failures, reduce local flooding, and produce consistent standards across city and county lines.

- Thanks to the recent storms, sampling for Newcastle's wastewater treatment plant modeling can continue. With streamflow restored, the Water Resources Department will use newly obtained data to calibrate and finalize its surface water quality model.

- The Water Resources Department is working with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Guthrie on a wastewater discharge relocation project.

- The Water Resources Manager will be meeting with teams from the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to discuss questions and potential collaboration surrounding the ongoing Cedar Lake water situation in Canadian County.

ACTION REQUESTED:
For information only.