

UPDATE

Meetings & Events--

*ORWA Fall Management
Conference
September 8-10, 2004
Western Hills Lodge*

*National Rural Water
Association Annual
Conference
October 10-13, 2004
Biloxi-Gulfport,
Mississippi*

RURAL WATER RALLY

Rural Water Rally was held April 18-20, 2004 in Washington, D.C. Attending from Oklahoma were; Wallace and Doris Lee Howard; Boyd and Nelwyn Hughes; Bill and Jackie Porter; Darrell and Debbie Wootton; Bill and Bonnie Sims; Leslie, Karen and Whitney Gray; Bob Chase; James Gammill and Gene Whatley. Rally attendees met with members of the congressional delegation and their staff regarding funding for the Rural Development Rural Water

Loan and Grant Program and rural water technical assistance and training programs. We would like to recognize and express our appreciation to Senator James Inhofe, Senator Don Nickles and Representatives Frank Lucas, Tom Cole and Brad Carson for signing dear colleague letters in support of our funding requests. We would also like to thank all of the Rally attendees for their support and assistance on these critical issues.

TIME RUNNING OUT: VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS DUE BY JUNE 30

Water systems serving 3,300 to 50,000 people are required to complete a vulnerability assessment of their water system and submit a certificate of completion to the Environmental Protection Agency by June 30, 2004. A certificate of completion of your Emergency Response Plan must be sent to EPA within six months

after submitting the vulnerability assessment. Contact ORWA for more information or assistance in completing your assessment. There is no charge for this service. ORWA is also conducting security workshops around the state. Check our training schedule for the workshop nearest you.

RICK STEBBENS JOINS ORWA STAFF

ORWA is pleased to announce the addition of Rick Stebbens to the ORWA staff. Rick is a double "A" operator with over 25 years experience in water and wastewater. He is also a DEQ certified instructor. Rick is past president of the Oklahoma Water Pollution Control Association and is a current member and past president of the DEQ Water and Wastewater Advisory Council. He was previously employed by the Quartz Mountain Regional Water Authority, which serves eight wholesale water customers with a 1.3 mgd reverse osmosis treatment plant. Honors that Rick has received include Water Plant Operator of the Year (City of Altus), Instructor of the Year (OWPCA), Water Plant of the Year and Plant Manager of the

Year (OWPCA) and Outstanding Rural Water System and Outstanding Manager, 2004 (ORWA). Rick started work with the association on June 1.

Rick will work in the small water system training and technical assistance program. He will replace Marc Davis who has moved to the ORWA Ground Water Wellhead Protection Program. Rick will provide on-site technical assistance throughout the state to water systems that serve less than 3,300 people and non-transient, non-community water systems. Give Rick a call at the ORWA office if you need help with an operational, maintenance or water treatment problem.



ORWA WORKSHOPS

BOARD MEMBER TRAINING

Rural water district board members can fulfill their six hour statutory training requirement by attending one of the training sessions listed below. Board member training is also approved by DEQ to fulfill renewal training for operators. All sessions are evening sessions, unless otherwise indicated) lasting from 6:30PM till 9:30PM for two consecutive nights.

June 9-10, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Pontotoc Tech Center, 601 W. 33rd St.	Ada
June 15-16, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	NE Tech Center, 6 1/2 miles W. of Pryor Hwy 20	Pryor
June 21-22, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Green Co. Tech Center, 1100 N. Loop 56	Okmulgee
June 21-22, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Atoka Co. RWD #4 office, 211 E. Hwy 3	Atoka
June 23-24, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	McCurtain Co. RWD #8 Office, 1.25 miles N. of Hwys 59&70	Broken Bow
July 26-27, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Longtown RWD #1 Office, 2nd & Greer	Eufaula
August 10-11, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Western Tech Center, 2605 E. Main	Weatherford
August 17-18, 2004	6:30 PM-9:30 PM	Indian Capitol Tech Center, Hwy 59 & Maryetta Rd.	Stilwell
September 9, 2004	8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Western Hills Lodge, 8 miles E. of Wagoner on Hwy 51	Wagoner
September 10, 2004	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Western Hills Lodge, 8 miles E. of Wagoner on Hwy 51	Wagoner

OPERATOR RENEWAL CLASSES

June 8, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Fire Station	Hwy 85 (Ketchum Ave)	Ketchum
June 22, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Town Board Room	220 S. Broadway	Skiatook
August 10, 2004	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Fairgrounds	66 Hwy & Rozell Lane	Chandler
September 7, 2004	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Cherokee Co. RWD 11 office, 117 E. Main		Hulbert
September 9, 2004	8:00 AM-5:00 PM	Western Hills Lodge, 8 miles E. of Wagoner on Hwy 51		Wagoner
September 9, 2004	8:00 AM-12:00 PM	Western Hills Lodge, 8 miles E. of Wagoner on Hwy 51		Wagoner
September 15, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	City Hall	Hwy 70	Lone Grove
October 5, 2004	8:30 AM-12:30 PM	Public Works Building	303 W. Main	Marietta

SECURITY TRAINING

All classes 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

June 10, 2004	City Warehouse	408 NE 6th Street	Guymon
June 11, 2004	High Plains Tech Center	3921 34th Street	Woodward

DISINFECTION

All classes 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

June 22, 2004	Atoka Co. RWD #4 Office	211 E. Hwy 3	Atoka
June 24, 2004	McCurtain Co. RWD #8 Office	1.25 miles N. of Hwys 59&70	Broken Bow

CLASS "B" WATER LAB CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

July 19-22, 2004	Pontotoc Vo-Tech	601 W. 33rd Street	Ada
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CLASS "B" WASTEWATER LAB CERTIFICATION

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

July 5-8, 2004	Water Treatment Plant	13700 S. Douglas Blvd.	Oklahoma City
July 12-15, 2004	Wastewater Treatment Plant	1002 "H" St. S.E.	Miami

CLASS "C" WATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

July 7-8, 2004	Central OK Tech Center	1720 S. Main	Sapulpa
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CLASS "D" WATER & WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

June 8-10, 2004	City Hall	102 N. 5th	Jay
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CLASS "D" WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION CLASS

All classes 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

August 4-5, 2004	Panhandle State University	333 Eagle Blvd	Goodwell
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NEW SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

ORWA initiated a new Source Water Protection Program on May 1, 2004. Under the program, ORWA will work with local water systems, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, local farmers and ranchers and other producers to assist with the development of source water protection plans. These plans will outline voluntary measures that can be administered within water sheds to prevent source water pollution and protect vulnerable water resources. The program is funded by the National Rural Water Association through an agreement with the USDA Farm Service Agency.

Scott Roberson will administer the new source water program. He will work with the Farm Service Agency county execu-

tive directors and state conservation specialist with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to identify priority areas where local pollution prevention efforts are needed most. Scott will facilitate the creation of local teams comprised of citizens with diverse backgrounds who will collaborate in the development of Rural Source Water Protection Plans. Additionally, he will provide resources and other assistance to local participants when help is needed.

Scott worked previously on the Ground Water Wellhead Protection Program. He was replaced on the Ground Water program by Marc Davis. Contact Scott or Marc if you are interested in evaluating and developing a protection plan for your water supply.

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR



Senator Mike Morgan, Stillwater, was recognized at the ORWA Annual Meeting as the ORWA Legislator of the Year. The award was presented in recognition and appreciation for Senator Morgan's support and assistance with legislation and funding issues in the state legislature.

Senator Morgan chairs the Senate Appropriations Commit-

tee, which oversees all state appropriations, including funding for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Department of Environmental Quality and the REAP Program. ORWA President Bill Secret expressed appreciation for Senator Morgan's efforts to ensure that the funding needs for water resource development in the state are addressed and noted his support for ORWA programs, which insure that critical training and on-site technical assistance is available to help small water and wastewater system throughout the state. Senator Morgan was also recognized for his assistance in defeating Senate Bill 898.

ORWAMAN OF THE YEAR



Pictured L-R: Bill Secret, ORWA President, Anthony Vaughn, Linda Vaughn

The 2004 ORWA Man of the Year Award was presented to Terry Walker and Jesse Vaughn in recognition and appreciation for their substantial contributions to development and advancement of rural water in Oklahoma. Terry and Jesse were two very special individuals who exemplified what ORWA and rural water is all about. They were teachers, mentors and friends to hundreds of people around the state and highly regarded for their knowledge and professionalism. They contributed enormously to ORWA's success and helped improve the operation, maintenance and management of hundreds of systems around the state.



Pictured L-R: Bill Secret, ORWA President, Helen Walker

Terry Walker passed away on April 16, 2003. He was 52 years old. Jesse Vaughn died on October 6, 2003 at the age of 66. Terry and Jesse are greatly missed by their many friends and colleagues in rural water. They had a positive influence on our lives and they will always be remembered as beloved friends, teachers and leaders who enriched our lives with their knowledge, good humor and friendship.

The awards were accepted by Terry's wife Helen and Jesse's wife Linda.



For emergency calls after office hours, nights, weekends and holidays, contact Gene Whatley at 405/794-0841



ORWA/OML NEGOTIATIONS

Legislation introduced this year by Senator Scott Pruitt (SB 898) and Senator Richard Lerblance (SB 1258) contained provisions that were extremely detrimental to rural water systems. Both bills were requested by the Oklahoma Municipal League. Senate Bill 898 died in Senate Committee and Senate Bill 1258 was withdrawn by Senator Lerblance. We appreciate your assistance and support in defeating these two abominable pieces of legislation.

We were told that the intent of the bills was to make rural water negotiate with the Municipal League to resolve conflicts between rural water districts and municipalities and put an end to costly law suits. It has never been necessary to force ORWA to the negotiating table. We have always been ready and willing to work for an **equitable** solution to territorial and water contract problems. We wonder how serious the Municipal League is about a fair resolution to disputes when they con-

tinue an aggressive lobbying campaign in Congress for repeal of federal 1926 (b) protection. There is little support in Congress for 1926 (b) repeal, however if the League were to have their way, all of the efforts to negotiate a fair settlement will have been useless.

ORWA is committed to resolving problems, creating better working relationships and improving cooperation between districts, cities and towns. During the legislative interim, our attorneys' will continue to meet periodically with the League in an effort to work out details of possible legislation that could be introduced next year. We will seek your input and keep you informed on the progress of negotiations. A series of regional meetings will be scheduled around the state this summer and fall to review issues and receive your ideas on legislation and other issues. Check future issues of the Update for dates and locations.

ORWA AWARDS

Each year ORWA is pleased to recognize outstanding rural water systems and individuals for their commitment to excellence, outstanding performance and achievements in providing safe drinking water and quality service to their customers. The following individuals and systems were recipients of 2004 ORWA Awards:

Outstanding Rural Water System

Wagoner County RWD 5
Quartz Mountain Regional Water Auth

Outstanding Office Manager

Lori Lenhart, Wagoner County RWD 5
Joyce Landis, Kay County RWD 6

Outstanding Operator

Merle Pearce, Bryan County RWD 2

Friends of Rural Water

Christy Rard, Rural Development
Pat Myers, American Waterworks

Outstanding Manager

Clinton Hucks, Garvin County RWD 7
Rick Stebbens, Quartz Mt. Regional Water

Outstanding Bookkeeper

Barbara Topping, Pawnee County RWD 1
Nelwyn Hughes, Woodward County RWD 1

Outstanding Water Treatment Operator

Dale McInnis, Sardis Lake Water Authority

ORWA Service Awards

Donald Spence, 10 years
Jennifer Alig, 5 years