

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2012-13 Performance Report

Oklahoma Water Resources Board

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

Here a simple statement of the adopted mission of the agency should be provided, along with the entity or person(s) who adopted the mission statement and when it was adopted.

**To enhance the quality of life for Oklahomans by managing, protecting and improving the state's water resources to ensure clean, safe, and reliable water supplies, a strong economy, and a healthy environment.**

**The agency adopted the current mission statement (that was just a slightly modified version of previous mission statements) in August of 2010.**

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

Here the name, title and contact information for the lead administrative person should be listed.

**J.D. Strong, Executive Director  
405.530.8800  
jdstrong@owrb.ok.gov**

GOVERNANCE:

Here a brief description of the agency's governance structure should be provided. Is the agency headed by a Governor appointee? **No**. An appointee of an independent board? **Yes**. Who selects the board, **the Governor** and who are the current members of the board.

**Board information can be found here:**

**<http://www.owrb.ok.gov/about/management/board.php>**

Does the Board have any committees or subgroups? If so, please provide a detailed listing of the subgroups and their areas of focus.

**Please see attached information on 2012-2013 OWRB Ad Hoc Committees. The Committee assignments are reviewed by the Chairman following Board Officer elections each June.**



CommitteesAdHoc  
2012-13 FINAL 12jul1

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY:

Please provide copies of the minutes for any Commission/Board meetings the agency has had since July 1, 2010 in electronic format (Only in PDF format) Is there an attendance policy for board members/commissioners? If so, is it being followed? **Copies of the meeting minutes can be found here:**

**<http://www.owrb.ok.gov/news/meetings/board/board-mtgs.php>**

**There is no formal policy for attendance.**

**MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:**

Please provide a listing of all government modernization efforts undertaken by the agency since July 1, 2010. Additionally, please provide any authorizing statutory changes that prompted the modernization efforts and whether those efforts have led to cost savings or additional cost burden.

**The OWRB went on to Phase II in July 2011 (Grants, Projects and Contracts) of the PeopleSoft system that the state is eventually mandating for all agencies. This came at a slight cost increase to the agency.**

**In 2012, the OWRB continued to enhance customer assistance and visibility with Oklahoma's water user community. OWRB staff routinely participates in workshops and take advantage of other opportunities to educate and advise water user groups on water rights and permitting requirements, dam maintenance and safety regulations, community floodplain management tools, financial assistance opportunities, water quality standards development, and related issues. This information exchange ultimately results in accomplishment of two primary agency objectives: enhanced water management and an effective business climate. The OWRB has also developed online data and mapping tools that maximize agency transparency. The OWRB continues to advance state transparency goals through enhanced public access to the wealth of data and information collected during development of the 2012 OCWP. In addition to dozens of OCWP technical reports and background materials available online through the OWRB's website, Geographic Information System (GIS) staff have designed online interactive mapping applications that present comprehensive state water information in an easily accessible and understandable format.**

**The OCWP map viewer not only places all relevant state water information at the fingertips of citizens and water users, it helps ensure that the 2012 OCWP and its products are actively utilized and updated. For example, oil and gas companies can utilize this convenient tool to locate potential sources of water as well as local water right holders from whom they might purchase rights.**

**In response to the recent exponential increase in oil/gas production in Oklahoma and to meet the unique needs of the state's water user community, the OWRB has developed an online application to expedite temporary water use permits for oil/gas drilling. Through this application, developed in close cooperation with Oklahoma's oil and gas industry, staff are typically able to process permits within one day, thus maximizing development opportunities and further strengthening the state's economy.**

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**The OWRB is in the final stages of a comprehensive, multi-year document imaging initiative that not only maximizes staff productivity, but will soon provide the public with unprecedented access to current and archived agency records and documents through the OWRB's website. Companion online applications will also greatly reduce the time and effort required by Oklahoma's water rights holders to apply for permits or report annual water usage. The OWRB will also reduce or eliminate significant mailing costs.**

**The OWRB has made tremendous strides in public outreach related to information exchange concerning the agency's aquifer studies:**

- **Garber-Wellington Aquifer Study: The OWRB has contacted all of the larger public water supply systems in the aquifer region in an effort to inform and about them as the study progresses. Many cities are actively providing supporting data, information and assistance. As with all Board studies, continuous water-level recorder data is readily available on the OWRB's website.**
- **Rush Springs Study: The OWRB will be holding three public outreach meetings in coordination with the Fort Cobb and Foss Reservoir Master Conservancy Districts. The OWRB has also developed a study fact sheet specifically for stakeholders. The OWRB has also been communicating study results directly with local rural water districts and municipalities.**

What steps has the agency taken to cut costs and/or eliminate waste? Are there efforts that have been successful which you believe could serve as a model for other state agencies seeking to keep costs minimal?

**Please see prior question and answer on imaging.**

CORE MISSION:

What services are you required to provide which are outside of your core mission? **NONE**  
Are any services you provide duplicated or replicated by another agency? **NO**  
Are there services which are core to your mission which you are unable to perform because of requirements to perform non-core services elsewhere? **NO**

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

Are any of the services which are performed by the agency also performed in the private sector in Oklahoma? In other states? Has the agency been approached by any foundation, for-profit or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize some of the functions of the agency? **No**