

AGENDA
OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Agriculture Building Board Room • 2800 N. Lincoln • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Monday, September 9, 2019 - 9:30 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Discussion and possible approval of the August 1, 2019 regular meeting minutes.
5. Discussion and possible approval of Claims, Financial Statement and Purchase Card Summary (Exhibit #1).
6. Presentation of Commission Agreements (Exhibit #2):
Discussion and possible ratification of the following amended agreement:
 - a. Natural Resources Conservation Service (69-7335-14-12 / OCC-381) for rehabilitation of Fourche Maline Creek Site 7M in Latimer County. **Amendment #4** adds funds to the agreement.
Discussion and possible ratification of the following new agreements:
 - b. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NR197335XXXXC020 / OCC-595) for rehabilitation planning of Sallisaw Site 36 in Sequoyah County.
 - c. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NR197335XXXXC021 / OCC-596) for rehabilitation planning of Caston Mountain Sites 1 and 2 in LeFlore County.
Discussion and possible approval of the following new agreements:
 - d. Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (OCC-591) to provide financial management and human resources services to the Conservation Commission for Fiscal Year 20.
 - e. Coal County Conservation District (OCC-592) to provide funds for a full-time Watershed Aide with the majority of time dedicated to O&M program duties. The work area for this agreement is all of Coal and Johnston Counties; with the aide headquartered in Coal County Conservation District.
 - f. East Canadian County Conservation District (OCC-593) to provide funds for a full-time Watershed Aide with the majority of time dedicated to O&M program duties. The work area for this agreement is all of Central North Canadian River CD, East Canadian County CD, Kingfisher, Logan and Oklahoma County; with the aide headquartered in East Canadian County Conservation District.

- g. Wagoner County Conservation District (OCC-594) to provide funds for a full-time Watershed Aide with the majority of time dedicated to O&M program duties. The work area for this agreement is all of Caney Valley CD, Wagoner, Muskogee, Sequoyah, Nowata, Mayes, Delaware, Craig and Cherokee County CD's; with the aide headquartered in Wagoner County Conservation District.
 - h. Science in Motion, LLC. (OCC-597) to utilize funds, as received from a lawsuit settlement, to reimburse OCC and GRDA for development of Lake Hudson Watershed Based Plan.
7. Out of State Travel Requests (Exhibit #3):
Discussion and possible ratification of the following out-of-state travel:
- a. National Association of Conservation Districts – NRCS National Conservation Planning Boot Camp – September 9-26, 2019 – Lincoln, Nebraska
- Discussion and possible approval of the following out-of-state travel:
- b. Environmental Protection Agency – Exploring and Applying Surface Water Modeling Tools to Achieve Program Goals – October 28 – November 1, 2019 – Dallas, Texas
 - c. Office of Surface Mining – Autodesk University – November 18-22, 2019 – Las Vegas, Nevada
8. Discussion and possible approval of Recommendations for Appointment of Conservation District Director (Exhibit #4).
9. Discussion and possible approval of Conservation District Long Range Plans (Exhibit #5).
10. Discussion and possible approval of Conservation District Joint Plans of Operations (Exhibit #6).
11. Discussion and possible approval to co-sponsor the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts Area Meetings:
 Area I – November 13 – Medford (Grant County CD host)
 Area II - November 5 - Oklahoma Electric Co-op OKC (Oklahoma County CD host)
 Area III – November 21 – Location TBA (Muskogee Creek Nation host)
 Area IV - November 7 - Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center, Ft. Cobb (North and West Caddo CDs host)
 Area V - November 18 - Kiamichi Technology Center, McAlester (Pittsburg County CD host)
12. Presentation of 2019 EPA – 319 Non-Point Source Success Stories
13. Public Comments
14. New Business
15. Break (at option of the Chair)

16. Partnership Reports:
 - a. Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
 - b. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - c. Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts

17. Status Reports:
 - a. Oklahoma Conservation Commission Members
 - b. Oklahoma Conservation Commission Staff
 1. Trey Lam, Executive Director
 2. Shanon Phillips, Water Quality Director
 3. Mike Sharp, Office of Geographic Information and Technical Services Director
 4. Robert Toole, Abandoned Mine Land Program Director
 5. Tammy Sawatzky, Conservation Programs Director
 6. Lisa Knauf Owen, Assistant Director

18. Next Meeting: Monday, October 7, 2019, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Board Room, 2800 N Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at 9:30 a.m.

19. Adjournment

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission met Thursday, August 1, 2019, in the Agriculture Building Conference Room located at 2800 N. Lincoln in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Karl Jett. He stated this was a regular scheduled meeting held in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, Title 25, Oklahoma Statutes, Sections 301 and following as amended. The agenda for this meeting was posted at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, July 31, 2019, at the front entrance of the Oklahoma Agriculture Building.

ROLL CALL

Clancy Green, Administrative Programs Officer, took roll call and the following members were in attendance:

Karl Jett, Chair, Area 1 Member
Phil Campbell, Vice Chair, Area 2 Member
Scotty Herriman, Secretary, Area 3 Member
Bill Clark, Jr., Area 5 Member

Members Absent:

Clay Forst, Area 4 Member

Others in attendance were:

Trey Lam, Executive Director
Lisa Knauf Owen, Assistant Director
Clancy Green, Administrative Programs Officer
Bryan Painter, Public Information Officer
Mike Sharp, Office of Geographic Information and Technical Services Division Director
Greg Kloxin, Water Quality Division Assistant Director
Robert Toole, Abandoned Mine Land Division Director
Tammy Sawatzky, Conservation Programs Division Director
Shanon Phillips, Water Quality Division Director
Karla Spinner, Water Quality Environmental Scientist and Records Manager
Janet Stewart, General Counsel
Henry Roye, Abandoned Mine Land Emergency Coordinator
Dianne Ireton, Abandoned Mine Land Operations Manager
Shellie Willoughby, Office of Geographic Information and Technical Services GIS Specialist
Blane Stacy, Water Quality Soil Health Educator
Nancy Tackett, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry Comptroller
Bob Richardson, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry Assistant Comptroller
Morgan Vance, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food and Forestry Public Information Officer
Gary O'Neill, Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist for Oklahoma
David Oakley, LegisOK

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Bill Clark led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Herriman to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2019 Commission meeting as written. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF COMMISSION EMPLOYEES

Shannon Phillips, OCC Water Quality Division Director, presented Blane Stacy with an award for five years of service at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. She stated that Mr. Stacy has been instrumental in the success of the Soil Health program and that our agency is lucky to have him on board.

Trey Lam, OCC Executive Director, presented Robert Toole with an award for twenty years of service at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. He read a brief statement reviewing Mr. Toole's service and noting Mr. Toole was instrumental in the adoption of Port Silt Loam as the state soil.

Robert Toole, OCC Abandoned Mine Land Division Director, presented Henry Roye with an award for thirty years of service at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. He read a brief statement reviewing Mr. Roye's service. Mr. Roye thanked Toole, Mike Sharp, and Dianne Ireton for all their assistance over the years.

Shellie Willoughby, chair of the Awards and Recognition Committee, presented Karla Spinner, WQ Environmental Scientist and Records Manager with an award for Employee of the Quarter at the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. She read a brief statement submitted on Mrs. Spinner's behalf.

CLAIMS/FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Bob Richardson, Assistant Comptroller, presented the claims, purchase card summary and financial statement as listed in Exhibit #1. A motion was made by Mr. Herriman and seconded by Mr. Campbell to approve the claims and financial statement. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION OF AGREEMENTS

Mrs. Owen presented two new agreements listed as "a" and "b" in Exhibit #2. She recommended approval of these new agreements as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Herriman to approve these new agreements. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS

Trey Lam, Executive Director, presented the out of state travel request for approval as listed in Exhibit #3. Mr. Lam recommended the approval of the out of state travel request as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Campbell to approve the travel requests. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Mrs. Owen presented the recommendation for appointment of conservation district directors as listed in Exhibit #4. She recommended approval as presented. A motion was made by Mr. Herriman and seconded by Mr. Clark to approve the recommendations as presented. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

REVIEW OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS FOR DISTRICT DIRECTION ELECTION FOR POSITION #3 (EXHIBIT #5)

Mrs. Owen presented the results of the special election held in the Wagoner County Conservation District. No action was required to be taken.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF FY2020 – FY2024 LONG RANGE PLANS (EXHIBIT #6)

Mrs. Owen recommended approval of the FY2020 – FY2024 Long Range Plans as listed in Exhibit #6. Mrs. Owen also noted that submission of the Long Range Plans is currently 87% complete. A motion was made by Mr. Campbell and seconded by Mr. Clark to approve the plans as presented. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF JOINT PLANS OF OPERATION FOR JULY 1, 2019 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 (EXHIBIT #7)

Mrs. Owen recommended approval of the Joint Plans of Operation as listed in Exhibit #7. Mrs. Owen also noted that submission of the Joint Plans of Operations is currently 67% complete. A motion was made by Mr. Herriman and seconded by Mr. Campbell to approve the plans as presented. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE STATE COST SHARE PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR SOIL HEALTH INITIATIVE PROGRAM YEAR 21 (EXHIBIT #8)

Mrs. Sawatzky, Conservation Programs Director, presented to the board the guidelines for the Oklahoma Cost Share Program Soil Health Initiative Program Year 21. She stated that this program year is the pilot for the Soil Health Initiative focus and that the program will be run somewhat differently than a standard program year. The largest difference being that the districts within each NRCS team will work together to administer the program rather than individually. Mrs. Sawatzky further stated she anticipates holding at least two teleconference trainings to help assist districts in rolling out the program. The soil health initiative program has a funding amount of one million and eight thousand dollars (\$1,008,000). A motion was made by Mr. Herriman and seconded by Mr. Clark to approve the cost share guidelines as presented. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RATIFICATION OF THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION OF ABANDONED COAL MINE EMERGENCIES (EXHIBIT #9)

Robert Toole, Abandoned Mine Land Division Director, led a brief discussion of the Ashley, OK 2019-04-04 and Wagner, OK 2019-05-05 emergencies. He stated that in both instances there was a mine collapse in an active hay meadow and active cattle feeding area. The Ashley emergency occurred near Bokoshe, Oklahoma; the Wagner emergency occurred near

Wilburton, Oklahoma. Mr. Toole would recommend ratification of the emergency declarations as presented in Exhibit #9. A motion was made by Mr. Clark and seconded by Mr. Herriman to ratify the declaration as presented. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

ABANDONED MINE LAND DIVISION EMERGENCY PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Mr. Roye, Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Division Emergency Coordinator, gave a presentation providing an overview of how the AML emergency program is conducted and the process of reclamation. No action required.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry: Morgan Vance, ODAFF Public Information Officer, provided no report, but asked if the board had any questions.

Natural Resources Conservation Service: Gary O'Neill, NRCS State Conservationist for Oklahoma, provided the following report:

- NACD South Central Meeting was successful
- Conservation Innovation Grant application period closed on August 30
- New CART tool will roll out October 1; tool to integrate technical and ranking applications all into one; national training meeting will be held in Norman August 27 - 29
- Farm Bill slated 10% of EQIP funding for addressing groundwater concerns – meetings will be held to discuss implementation, NWQI process; hope to roll out with 2020 EQIP
- EQIP flood initiative has 35 sign-ups for cover crop plantings; may need additional funding
- Landowner meetings for ECP and EWP easements will be held
- Obligation of contracts is well underway: EQIP currently has 725 contracts obligated at \$18,000,000; CSP has 325 regular program and 1645 Grassland Conservation Initiative contracts pre-obligated at \$19,000,000 – final funding will be distributed by team
- 21 summer interns visited the state office to make their final presentations; many of the presentations were on flood control structures. August 1 ends the tour of duty for most of the interns.
- The 8th annual Nation to Nation conference will be hosted by the Quapaw Nation August 19 & 20

Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts: A written report was provided and is attached.

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mr. Jett stated that the South Central meeting seemed a success and he especially appreciated the commentary during the bus ride.

Mr. Campbell stated that the Arcadia outreach meeting was a success and thanked Blane

Stacy for assisting with the plant ID during the event; he also thought the South Central meeting was excellent.

Mr. Herriman stated that he enjoyed the South Central meeting and thanked the staff and partners for putting together a great event.

Mr. Clark stated that he also enjoyed the South Central meeting and is excited to see how the new Cost Share program goes. He also stated Amy Seiger is working with his home district for a soil health grazing workshop on September 7.

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION STAFF

Executive Director: Mr. Lam stated a written report is in the packet. Mr. Lam also thanked the staff and partnership for the work that went into the South Central Meeting; he felt it was a great showcase of Oklahoma.

Water Quality Program: Mrs. Phillips stated a written report is in the packet. Mrs. Phillips reported that there were 12 new Non Point Source Success Stories; she provided an updated Success Stories map also, which is attached.

Office of Geographic Information and Technical Services: Mike Sharp, Director, stated a written report is in the packet. Mr. Sharp also reported the following:

- OKMaps layers for AML projects have been added

Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Program: Robert Toole, AML Program Director stated that a written report was in the packet of information and he would answer questions anyone had. In summary he said that the AML Program continues to advance their mission of protecting lives, repairing scarred land, and improving the environment. Hearing no questions, he concluded by informing the Commission that a discussion paper has been circulated to the U.S. House of Representatives that will hopefully be introduced as legislation after the recess. The paper is proposed legislation to reauthorize and extend the collection of fees that fund the AML Program. He stated that he and Trey Lam have already been discussing strategy and that as soon as the legislation is introduced in the House we will activate a campaign. He said conservation districts have been visited and solicited for support and all have expressed support to date. He said companion legislation has already been introduced in the Senate.

Conservation Programs: Tammy Sawatzky, Director stated that a written report was in the packet. Mrs. Sawatzky reported the following items:

- Lots of time spent on drafting the new SHI program guidelines
- Processing quite a few operation and maintenance requests
- South Central meeting was successful; felt the visit to Rock Creek went well

Assistant Director: Lisa Knauf Owen reported on the following items:

- Thanked Carol Crouch for all her assistance with South Central meeting, especially with the Monday night dinner and site visit at the Chickasaw Cultural Center
- Trey Lam was honored by the South Central Employees Association with the Distinguished Service award
- Has been working with Districts regarding new hires and OPERS retirement issue
- FY19 claims for reimbursement are due August 2

- Feral Swine grant proposals are due August 19

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission will be held on Monday, September 9, 2019 in the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Board Room. 2800 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma at 9:30am.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Campbell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Clark, to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m. Those voting aye were: Jett, Campbell, Herriman, and Clark. Nay votes: none. Motion carried.

Approved by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission on September 9, 2019.

Chair

OCC AGREEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

OCC PARTY ID	NO	PURPOSE	AMENDMENT PURPOSE	BEGIN DATE	END DATE	AMOUNT TO		AMOUNT FROM		FUNDING SOURCE
						OCC	OCC	OCC	OCC	
a	NRCS	69-7335-14-12 (OCC-381)	Rehabilitation of Fourche Maline Creek Site 7M, Latimer County.	Amendment 4 adds \$511,860	9/1/2014	9/30/2020	\$8,907,720	\$4,260,230		Federal Funds
b	Natural Resources Conservation Service	NR197335XXXXC 020 (OCC-595)	Rehabilitation planning of Sallisaw Site 36 in Sequoyah County.		9/9/2019	9/30/2020	\$190,000			Federal Funds
c	Natural Resources Conservation Service	NR197335XXXXC 021 (OCC-596)	Rehabilitation planning for Caston Mountain Site 1 and 2 in LeFlore County.		9/9/2019	9/30/2021	\$240,000			Federal Funds
d	OK Dept. of Ag, Food & Forestry	OCC-591	To provide financial and human resources services to the Conservation Commission for FY20.		7/1/2019	6/30/2020		125,000		GR
e	Coal County Conservation District	OCC-592	Provide funds for a full-time watershed aide, with the majority of time dedicated to O&M program duties. The work area for this agreement is all of Coal and Johnston Co CDs. Headquartered in Coal Co.		7/1/2019	6/30/2020		\$15.25 / hour + benefits		GR

OCC ID	PARTY	NO	PURPOSE	AMENDMENT PURPOSE	BEGIN DATE	END DATE	AMOUNT TO OCC	AMOUNT FROM OCC	FUNDING SOURCE
f	East Canadian County Conservation District	OCC-593	Provide funds for a full-time watershed aide, with the majority of time dedicated to O&M program duties. The work area for this agreement is all of CNCR, E. Canadian, Kingfisher, Logan and Oklahoma Co CDs. Headquartered in East Canadian Co CD.		7/1/2019	6/30/2020		\$15.25 / hour + benefits	GR
g	Wagoner County Conservation District	OCC-594	Funds for a FT watershed aide, with the majority of time dedicated to O&M program duties. The work area for this agreement is all of Caney Valley, Wagoner, Muskogee, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Nowata, Mayes, Delaware, Craig Co CDs. Headquartered in Wagoner Co		7/1/2019	6/30/2020		\$15.25 / hour + benefits	GR
h	Science in Motion, LLC.	OCC-597	To utilize funds, as received from a lawsuit settlement, to reimburse OCC and GRDA for development of the Lake Hudson Watershed Based Plan.		9/9/2019	12/31/2021	Up to \$107,980		245 Fund

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL REQUESTS

OCC ID	DATES	SPONSOR	NAME OF MEETING	LOCATION	ATTENDANCE	EST COST	FUNDING SOURCE
a	September 9 - 26, 2019	National Association of Conservation Districts	NRCS National Conservation Planning Boot Camp	Lincoln, NE	Stacy	\$1,900.00	Federal EPA 319
b	Oct. 28 - Nov. 1, 2019	Environmental Protection Agency	Exploring and Applying Surface Water Modeling Tools to Achieve Program Goals	Dallas, TX	Kloxin and Rogers	\$1,784.00	Federal EPA 319
c	November 18-22, 2019	Office of Surface Mining	Autodesk University	Las Vegas, NV	Mike Sharp	\$0.00	Federal Funds - Office of Surface Mining

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTOR

DISTRICT	NAME	SUCCEEDS	TERM EXPIRES	# OF MTGS	POS#
Kiowa County	Randy Squires	Ben Meinert	June 30, 2021	---	A
Little River	Roger Woods	Clarence Pratt	June 30, 2021	---	A
Murray County	Bruce Reynolds	John Cagle	June 30, 2020	---	A
Tulsa County	Sherry Laskey	Melissa Gray	June 30, 2021	---	E2

**Conservation District
Long Range Plans
FY2020 – FY2024
Recommendations for Approval**

Area I

Beaver
Cimarron
Texas
Woodward

Area II

Logan
Noble

Area III

Cherokee
Mayes
Osage

Area IV

Grady
Upper Washita

Area V

Bryan
Haskell
Johnston
Okfuskee

**Conservation District
Joint Plans of Operation
July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020
Recommendations for Approval**

Area I

Alfalfa
Beaver
Blaine
Central N. Canadian River
Cimarron
East Canadian
Grant
Texas
Woodward

Area II

Arbuckle
Konawa
Lincoln
Logan
Love
Noble

Area III

Cherokee
Mayes
Muskogee
Tulsa
Wagoner

Area IV

Grady
Jackson
South Caddo
Upper Washita

Area V

Bryan
Checotah
Haskell
Johnston
Kiamichi
LeFlore
McIntosh

OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATION STAFF – SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
Monday, September 9, 2019

Executive Director/Assistant Director/Programs Officers

- Participated in multiple conference calls with various Oklahoma and Arkansas state agencies related to the Illinois River.
- Attended the NACD Summer Meeting in Santa Fe, NM. Participated in the Tribal RPG meeting and gave a presentation during the NWC listening session.
- Participated in the Leopold Award selection process.
- Attended the Little River CD board meeting.
- Attended the OACD executive board meeting.
- Met with Bo Reese, OMES IT Director, to discuss continued issues with IT services.
- Attended the Nation to Nation meeting at Quapaw, OK.
- Toured AML sites in and around Porum, OK with Congressman Mullin.
- Participated in Area Meeting planning.
- Developed and submitted grant proposals (2) for Feral Swine Eradication pilot projects.
- Attended the Woodward County CD board meeting.
- Participated in meeting conducted by CPD with Conservation District watershed aides.
- Attended retirement reception for Frank Acker, Little River Conservation District – Idabel, Oklahoma.
- Continued working with districts that have part-time employees exceeding 999 hours to enroll them in OPERS. Beginning to process delinquent service billings from OPERS.
- Working with various districts to get new hires processed.
- Developed confirmation of benefits for new employees.
- Delivered minutes to the bindery.
- Long Range and Joint Plan reviews continue. Getting closer to having them all finished. Corresponded with districts on updates and changes that need to be made.
- Updated preclaim forms; rolled out new PT pre-claim for use.
- Attended website meetings; attempted to navigate the “site factory” platform (content management area): updated current website as needed.
- Provided training to new Harper County CD secretary, Amanda Spradlin.
- Assembled and mailed new director and new employee binders.
- Posted vacancy announcements on Indeed for CDs as requested.
- Worked on director database design.

- Assisted Okfuskee CCD with shared technician interviews.
- Printed Osage CCD minutes from microfilm records.
- Provided training to Bryan CD secretary, Vickie Landers.
- Received and tracked budget requests and audit forms from districts.
- Updated fund balances
- Ordered office supplies
- Booked travel as needed
- Work with Dept. of Agriculture Financial Management staff daily to process claims and bills for agency operations
- Worked with ODAFF Human Resources staff to reconcile OPERS payments for July.
- Logged district preclaim summaries data into Access; contacted districts with discrepancies.
- Reconciled the AFLAC billing for agency and district employees.
- Processed invoices.
- Reviewed conservation district claims prior to processing.
- Processed district cost-share claims.
- Updated the Commission's Agreements, travel and District Director's databases.
- Prepared the Commission Meeting minutes from the previous regular scheduled meeting for review and approval
- Finalized September Commission meeting packet: Prepared tentative meeting agenda; Agreements exhibit, Out of State Travel exhibit, Recommendations for Appointment exhibit, Administration Division Monthly Summary, Commissioner Travel Claims
- Compiled the tentative meeting packet for hard-copy and email distribution to Commission members and principal staff
- Sent email Meeting Notice

OCC/NRCS COMMUNICATIONS OVERVIEW

Communications April 1-August 14:

55 press releases

326 Facebook posts.

Through August 14, likes of the OCC Facebook page have increased by 656 (likes) or 34 percent (33.5378) percent since April 1 (4 ½ months).

A closer look at Facebook:

Total Facebook posts: 326

Posts with 500 or more people reached: 154 posts (47 percent)

Posts with 1,000 or more people reached: 54 posts (17 percent)

Those posts with 3,000 or more people reached:

Wildfire anniversary, with Jimmy Emmons -- 10,700 people reached

Land and Range Judging Contest Champions – 6,400

Land and Range Judging first day practice – 6,100

Land and Range Judging day of competition – 5,200

Land and Range Judging award ceremony – 4,700

Importance of watershed dams – 4,400

Watershed dams doing their jobs – 4,400

Wildlife Conservation Field Day Announcement – 4,200

Deer Creek Outstanding Steward of the Land – 4,100

South Central Region of the National Association of Conservation Districts Employees presented a Distinguished Service Award to Trey Lam – 3,700

Eastern Oklahoma flood trip, Soil scientists and Scotty Herriman and Brian Sheffield – 3,600

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Program announcement – 3,100

Soil health educator rodeos – 3,000

A closer look at Press Releases:

Top 5 most opened press releases

- Oklahoma watershed dams historically significant and critical to future
- Conservation District Employees gather information and ideas at statewide training
- Farmer and rancher offers windshield perspective a year after 2018 wildfires.
- Oklahoma Conservation deeply rooted and getting stronger according to U.S. Census of Agriculture
- Sale of bonds this week great in a physical and financial sense for rehabilitation of some flood control structures in Oklahoma.

General Counsel

August 2019 Summary

Meetings Attended:

- **August 1** Commission Meeting
- **August 2** Landowner Meeting on Bear Fall Coon Creek Site 20 – Logan County CD
- **August 6** Landowner Meeting on Bear Fall Coon Site 7
- **August 7** Conference call with Mayes County CD Board of Directors
- **August 8** Logan County CD Board Meeting
- **August 19** Nation to Nation Conference – Quapaw, Oklahoma
- **August 20** Rep. Frank Lucas Town Hall Meeting (Upper Black Bear Site 62), Perry, Ok
- **August 21** PDM Meeting with NRCS – Stillwater, OK

Conservation District Issues:

- Responded to issues and questions for or on behalf of the following conservation districts: Arbuckle CD, Central North Canadian River CD, Comanche County CD, Custer County CD, Deer Creek CD, East Canadian County CD, Garfield County CD, Grady County CD, Johnston County CD, Kiowa County CD, Latimer County CD, Lincoln County CD, Logan County CD, Love County CD, Mayes County CD, Murray County CD, Noble County CD, North Fork of Red River CD, Payne County CD, Rogers County CD, Seminole County CD, Wagoner County CD, and Woodward County CD
- Responded to questions by conservation districts regarding the following topics: easement violation questions; formal employee complaints; dispute between districts; conservancy district issue; flood control shape files for energy companies; phone line issues with ATT&T; channel work easements; District Attorney Office assistance; O&M follow-up; request for information on OCC and District employee hires; and shared templates of consent agreements and violation letters
- Rehabilitation Projects:
 - Upper Elk Creek Watershed Site 23D – correspondence with the District regarding easements. Discussed Mr. Hall and making a written request and if no response then getting the property appraised; discussed the road issue with the County and

discussed guard rails. Sent information to the County Commissioner about the guard rails as well as dirt prices. Still waiting on response.

- Upper Black Bear Creek Site 62 – follow-up with the City
- Other Flood control Issues:
 - Caddo Creek Sites – Spoke to the ADA on August 30 and she shared her concerns on handling these issues. We set a conference call for September 5th to discuss further. Also contacted the Attorney General’s Office to discuss the issues. Will be following up with their office on Wednesday September 4.
 - Midship Pipeline – all addendums signed and shred; pipeline construction is in progress
 - King Plains Wind Project for Garfield and Noble County – started review of the easements in and around the proposed project
 - Stillwater 24 – Received the last survey information from ODOT and will be discussing compensatory storage with NRCS and the District
 - Stillwater 46 (Karsten Creek) – Spoke with the attorney for OSU regarding the draw down time of this site. NRCS is looking at different options that could be looked at to increase the speed of draw down from the golf course. The options would all require improvements downstream of the plunge basin.
 - EWP Uncle John Creek Site 9 – reviewed the land records regarding land rights and prepared the attorney letter and draft NRCS Form ADS-78 for the East Canadian County CD Board’s consideration.
 - EWP Upper Black Bear Creek Sites 50, 51, 64, & 76 - Started gathering the information for review for these EWP projects.
 - Lower Bayou Creek Site 8 – Spoke to the landowner regarding the damages to the principle spillway tower and the next actions

AML:

- Worked on a new emergency or immediate action consent from landowners for right of entry to investigate and possibly remediate subsidence
- Personnel issue

- Robson: discussion with Ranch Manager on the status of the Robson project being split into 3 separate projects and he shared he preferences on the phases; also sent maps to Davis Consulting showing the 3 different phases

General Commission Issues:

- Assisted with 1 media request and its follow-up
- Policy question
- Conservancy District abstract request - 1
- Work on language for webpage with links for energy companies planning projects in Oklahoma that provides information on the state's small flood control watershed structures; once completed then will try to get this page linked to a page with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission
- Worked on draft Shared Services Agreement with OMES and spoken with OMES legal counsel
- Started re-review of draft employee handbook
- Researching the USDA-NRCS process for finalizing a guidance document

**OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WATER QUALITY DIVISION
AUGUST MONTHLY SUMMARY**

Shanon Phillips, Director
September 9, 2019

Illinois River Riparian Easement Program

- **Cherokee County** – Five Claims have been paid for a total of 345.4 acres of riparian exclusion with a total payment of \$21,759.30. Payment of three agreements are pending, which include 117.7 acres of riparian exclusion for a total potential payout of \$7,415.10.
- **Delaware County** – Three claims have been paid for a total of 74.9 acres of riparian exclusion with a total payout of \$4,943.40. One claim is pending for 7.1 acres of riparian exclusion for a total potential payout of \$468.60.
- **Adair County** – 31 claims are in process awaiting final approval. These claims are for 1,369 acres and a total potential payout of \$82,128.

Elk City Lake Regional Conservation Partnership Program

- Checking on work completion on several contracts
- Monte and Jerry are working on plans for several projects

Blue Thumb August Report

Blue Thumb Water Quality Education Program

Water Quality Division, Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Report for Cheryl Cheadle, Candice Miller, Kim Shaw, Becky Zawalski, Rebecca Bond

Compiled activity for July: +577

Ongoing Activities:

- Fish collections, habitat assessments, summer macroinvertebrate collections and quarterly Q/A are ongoing.

August Activities:

- 8/1: Lake of the Arbuckles Watershed Association (LAWA) meeting, Davis
- 8/5: Water/Ways book discussion, Norman (volunteer-led event, 6 attendees)
- 8/6: Blue Thumb staff meeting
- 8/7: GSCA Training (Cheryl and Rebecca presented)(7 attendees)
- 8/8: Riverology 101 conference call
- 8/9: Water/Ways book discussion, Norman (volunteer-led event, 19 attendees)
- 8/10: Water/Ways book discussion, Norman (volunteer-led event, 35 attendees)

- 8/10-11: Blue Thumb Training (Day 1 and Day 2), Tulsa (28 participants for Day 1, 23 participants for Day 2)
- 8/13: Meeting at ODEQ about Crow Creek watershed based plan
- 8/14: Meeting with John Harrington about Crow Creek watershed based plan
- 8/19: Educational outreach with Boy Scout troop, Guthrie
- 8/20: Blue Thumb staff meeting
- 8/21: WET team conference call
- 8/21: Horse Creek planning meeting, Miami
- 8/21: SWOSU Mini-Academy, Weatherford
- 8/22: NPS Tribal Workshop, Ottawa County (Cheryl will present)
- 8/23: OCLWA conference debriefing meeting, Stillwater
- 8/23: OSIEL Mini-Academy, Tulsa
- 8/26: Mini Workshop for Education, Ada
- 8/27: Water/Ways Open House, Ada
- 8/27: LAWA education and outreach follow-up, Ada
- 8/28: Rewilding, OKC Zoo
- 8/28: AWQMS/Mobile App meeting

Activities Scheduled for September:

- 9/3: Blue Thumb staff meeting
- 9/3: Planning meeting for joint Blue Thumb/Soil Health training
- 9/4-9/5: Recruitment trip to NW Oklahoma
- 9/4: Groundwater screening, Harper County CD
- 9/5: Camp Eagan creek walk, Tahlequah
- 9/6: Lost Creek Festival, Seneca, MO
- 9/7: Information table at ODEQ event, Pauls Valley
- 9/9: OKEECC meeting, OKC
- 9/9: Crow Creek Community meeting, Tulsa
- 9/12: Mini-Academy, El Reno
- 9/16: International Water Conference, Norman (Cheryl will present)
- 9/17: Blue Thumb staff meeting
- 9/17: Little Beaver Creek WAG meeting
- 9/18: WET team conference call
- 9/19: OSU College of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources Fair, Stillwater
- 9/19: WET Education Day, Perry
- 9/21: Nature Center Rededication, Sulfur
- 9/23-9/27: WET National Conference, Arizona
- 9/24: Groundwater screening, Creek County CD
- 9/28: Friends of Blue Thumb Craft Fair, Lawton

Management Staff

- Participated in the following meetings:
 1. Commission (08/01)
 2. HRDS Course (08/13)
 3. OMES meeting on website (08/14)
 4. Keep Oklahoma Beautiful board (08/15)
 5. RARE Project call (08/22)
 6. OCLWA Board special meeting (08/23)
 7. Keep Oklahoma Beautiful banquet meeting (08/29)
 8. Meetings with various Division staff
- LBC WAG meeting coordination work
- Performed routine administrative tasks
- Worked on numerous IT related issues
- Responded to numerous internal and external info requests throughout the month
- Prepared Water Quality Draw
- Gathered documents for Water Quality Auditor
- Tasked invoices received

Soil Health Education Program

- Provided soil health education to the Kiamichi Vocational Schools in Durant and Idabel, Oklahoma
- Presented options for tribes at the Nation to Nation meeting
- Provided assistance to districts to establish upcoming soil health events in September
- Updated monthly calendar of events and social media
- Presented at the South Central Regional NACD meetings
- Developed the design and provided updates for the soil health app
- Presented at the ITEC conference
- Presented at the Wyandotte Nation Environmental workshop
- Provided technical assistance to land owners
- Nowata County plant ID

Monitoring

- Continued routine water quality monitoring and summer macroinvertebrate sampling for the Rotating Basin Project 3.4 (RBP 3.4) (Lower Arkansas, Lower North Canadian and Lower South Canadian Basins) cycle
- Continued routine water quality monitoring, completed 48 fish collections and continued summer macroinvertebrate collections for the Rotating Basin Project 4.4 (RBP 4.4)(Upper Red and Washita Basins) cycle
- Continued monthly water quality sampling at 5 stream sites in the Neosho River Basin Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project area and one site on West Elk Creek in the Elk City Lake RCPP Project area
- Continued monthly water quality sampling at 3 stream sites in the Little Beaver Creek watershed in support of the Little Beaver NRCS National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

- Continued support for the monitoring of Holi-Tuska Creek in support of the New Spiro Lake Project in LeFlore County
- Continued subsampling macroinvertebrate collections in preparation for identification by the taxonomist
- Initiated fish ID for Rotating Basin 4.4 project

Wetlands

- Completed approximately 20 wetland determinations.
- Responded to citizen requests for locating restorable wetlands through the Wetland Registry hosted on the Wetlands Program Website.
- Continued running analyses to determine the location of restorable wetlands across Oklahoma, for a project applying the Restorable Wetland Identification Protocol statewide.
- Coordinated with Oklahoma State University on designing a sampling protocol for validation of the Oklahoma Rapid Assessment Method (OKRAM) at riverine wetlands.
- Conducted mitigation plan review for potential wetland mitigation properties for an *In-Lieu-Fee* program and wetland mitigation banks.
- Coordinated with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation on the potential for OCC management of stream and wetland mitigation projects.
- Continued drafting a new Wetland Program Plan that will serve as a strategy document from 2020-2025.
- Received two USEPA 104(b)(3) Wetland Program Development grants for FY2019 (Improving Wetland Maps for Floodplains of the Canadian and Arkansas Rivers and Associated Tributaries) and FY 2020 (Development of a Guidebook and Conducting Training for the Oklahoma Rapid Assessment Method).

Technical Writing & Records Management

Staff conducted the following activities:

- Fulfilled multiple information requests
- Entered sampling information
- Performed routine quality assurance on monitoring data
- Continued working to change database from Access to AWQMS
- Coordinated with OWRB, Tetrattech and USEPA to update biocriteria for macroinvertebrates and fish
- Continued analyses to track trends in stream health across the state using the last 20 years of Rotating Basin Program monitoring data.
- Began preparing a document updating Quality Assurance and Quality Control procedures.

**OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION & TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION
MONTHLY SUMMARY**

Mike Sharp, State Geographic Information Coordinator & Director

August, 2019

OGI & TS Activity

- Worked on various hardware and software support issues for OCC non-OMES computer systems.
- Followed up on and provided assistance regarding OMES helpdesk tickets submitted by OCC and District staff.
- Routine server, software and anti-virus and anti-spam maintenance on OGI computer systems.
- Worked with various conservation districts on IT issues.

Geographic Information System (GIS) Activity

- Provided GIS services to AML, WQ, Conservation Districts and Administration.

Office of Geographic Information/State Geographic Information Council

- Worked on OKMaps servers, software and data.
- Worked on compiling parcel data for statewide parcel data layer.
- Provided support to OKMaps users.
- Attended several meetings with 911 Management Authority (911MA) staff.
- Attended meeting of the Oklahoma Incident Management Team by conference call.
- Coordinated and attended Mid America GIS Consortium (MAGIC) Clearinghouse meeting in OKC.
- Deployment of two new Dell R640 servers including configuration of virtual computing environment and virtual machines (web servers) for OKMaps upgrade.
- Participated in the NG911 GIS Workgroup meeting.
- Met with Oklahoma Tax Commission and 911MA staff to discuss Municipal Boundaries procedures.
- Prepared FY'21 draft budget for the Office of Geographic Information to be considered by GI Council in September.
- Prepared agenda and minutes for September 6 GI Council meeting.

**OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
ABANDONED MINE LAND DIVISION MONTHLY SUMMARY**

Robert W. Toole, AML Program Director

September 9, 2019

AML Project Management

Wagner Emergency (Latimer County)

The project was declared an emergency by the Conservation Commission on July 26, 2019. This project addressed the sudden collapse of an abandoned underground coal mine creating a dangerous vertical opening. Project was completed on August 16, 2019, at a cost of \$11,617.

Ashley Emergency (LeFlore County)

Project was completed on August 9, 2019, at a cost of \$12,241.

Moore North (Rogers County)

Construction was completed on July 30, 2019, at a cost of \$791,079. A total of 102 acres were reclaimed. Hazards eliminated included 4,800 linear feet of dangerous highwall and 3 hazardous water bodies. Vegetation is in progress.

Moore South (Rogers County)

Construction contract was awarded to Stewart Excavation, LLC, for \$1,020,855. The Notice to Proceed date is January 8, 2019. The contract time is 504 calendar days with a completion date of May 25, 2020. Construction has been delayed by rain.

McMillin-Graf (LeFlore County)

Construction was completed on July 31, 2019, at a cost of \$188,502.90. A total of 17 acres were reclaimed. Hazards eliminated included 1,260 linear feet of dangerous highwall and 3 hazards water bodies.

Pryor South (Muskogee County)

Reclamation construction completed. Vegetation completed. Vegetation and project site are being monitored for maintenance. Site will be fertilized and release letter will be sent to landowner.

Pryor (Muskogee County)

Reclamation construction completed. Vegetation completed. Project site required maintenance due to heavy rainfall. Maintenance pending completion due to additional rain and site is being monitored.

Sparks (Muskogee County)

Reclamation construction completed. Vegetation completed. Required maintenance due to rain has been completed. Site will be fertilized and release letter will be sent to landowners.

Greer Phase 3 (Rogers County)

Reclamation and initial vegetation completed. Project site required maintenance due to multiple heavy rainfall events. Maintenance and revegetation have been partially completed with remaining needs delayed by rain and rescheduled for January, 2020.

Selrahc (Haskell County)

American Burying Beetle (ABB) survey is complete. No ABB were found. Request to Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) for Authorization to Proceed (ATP) with construction is pending U.S. Fish and Wildlife response to project review.

Fowler (Haskell County)

American Burying Beetle (ABB) survey is complete. No ABB were found. Request to Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) for Authorization to Proceed (ATP) with construction is pending U.S. Fish and Wildlife response to project review.

Cherokee West OSMRE Cooperative Project (Muskogee County)

Project construction rescheduled for 2020 due to positive American Burying Beetle (ABB) survey. Construction in 2020 will be pending results of ABB survey in August 2020.

McSpadden East (Rogers County)

American Burying Beetle (ABB) survey is complete. No ABB were found. Contracting for construction is planned for September.

Taloka Creek South (Haskell County)

Design is in progress with Freese & Nichols for \$50,941.

Loudermilk Phase 1 (Rogers County)

Design is in progress with CEC Corporation for \$51,500.

Loudermilk Phase 2 (Rogers County)

Design is in progress with CEC Corporation in conjunction with Loudermilk Phase 1.

Robson (Wagoner County)

Realty is cleared pending signed ROE from Turnpike Authority. Aerial and bathymetric surveys have been completed. Design is in progress by AML staff.

West Chelsea East (Rogers County)

Rights-of-Entry received from all landowners and environmental clearances are in progress. Design in progress by AML staff.

West Chelsea West (Rogers County)

Rights-of-Entry are being solicited from landowners and environmental clearances are in progress. Design will be in-house by AML staff.

Williams-Talala (Rogers County)

Preliminary design approved by landowners. Final design pending completion by AML staff.

Woytas (Rogers County)

Realty verifications completed. Landowner meeting is in planning. Project moved to selection status.

Busby (Rogers County)

Assessment completed; project selection pending.

Ryan Williams (Rogers County)

Assessment completed; project selection pending.

Johnny Patterson (Haskell County)

Assessment completed; project selection pending.

AML Administration

- Underground mine mapping and inventory update: on-going.
- Surface mine assessments and inventory on-going in Coal County.
- AML data entry on OK Maps: on-going.
- Realty Research & Verification: on-going.
- Budget Management: on-going.
- Personnel Management: on-going.
- Equipment Management: on-going.
- Operations Management: on-going.
- Update federal Abandoned Mine Land Inventory System: on-going.
- Professional Development: Two AML staff completed OSMRE National Technical Training Program (NTTP) courses on NEPA Handbook and Historical & Archeological Resources.

**OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 CONSERVATION PROGRAMS DIVISION
 Tammy Sawatzky, Director
 September 9, 2019**

Administration

- Reconciled O&M and rehab financial records.
- NRCS agreement management for remedial repairs, EWP repairs and new construction.
- Prepared and submitted division’s monthly fleet management report.
- Attended the following conservation district board meetings: East Canadian County
- Conducted What it Means to be a Watershed Aide workshop.
- Claims processed:

	# of Claims	Amount
CPD Administration	15	\$756,430.68
EWP	1	43,134.09
District O&M	10	19,401.95
	TOTAL	\$818,966.72

Watershed Rehabilitation

- NRCS rehabilitation agreement management
- Administrative, technical and land rights assistance to

Sequoyah County – Sallisaw 33	Logan County – Cottonwood 54
Town of Wilburton – Fourche Maline 7M	Town of Meeker – Quapaw 15
City of Perry – Upper Black Bear 62	NFRR – Upper Elk 23D
- Cottonwood 54 – July 23 the boring contractor encountered rock. August 19-21 NRCS used Electrical Resistivity Imaging equipment to perform a subsurface investigation. The results show 20-30 feet of additional rock. August 27 construction was suspended until a plan of action can be worked out with the contractor.
- Attended meeting with landowners involved in the Upper Black Bear Creek Site 62 rehabilitation project in Noble County.

Operation & Maintenance

- Technical, administrative, and legal/easement assistance to 27 Conservation Districts:

Garvin	Little River	Grady County	Custer County
Kiowa County	Alfalfa County	Comanche County	Lincoln County
Dewey County	McClain County	Nowata County	Muskogee County
Pontotoc County	Arbuckle	Payne County	Wagoner County
Logan County	Washita County	South Caddo	Coal County
Love County	Okfuskee County	North Caddo	Murray County
East Canadian County	Noble County	Atoka County	

- Attended What it Means to be a Watershed Aide workshop.
- Watershed Technicians and Aides used their skid steers to assisted the following conservation districts to perform O&M:

District	Dam
Little River	Whitegrass-Waterhole 8 – brush control
Muskogee County	Cane 24, 26A, 27, 29 – brush control

- Attended the following conservation district board meetings: Konawa, Alfalfa County, Jackson County, Wagoner County
- Provided training for Garvin CD’s new watershed aide.

Cost-Share Program

- Prepared Cost Share Program Soil Health Initiative guidelines for consideration and approval at the August 1 OCC meeting.
- Attended NRCS Team 21 meeting to discuss Cost Share Soil Health Initiative.
- Assistance: Provided Cost-Share Program assistance to 8 Conservation Districts:

Major County	Shawnee	Garfield County	East Canadian County
Latimer County	Seminole County	Ottawa County	Woods County
Cherokee County	Pontotoc County	Payne County	Harper County
Beaver County	Kingfisher County	Noble County	Central North Canadian River
Dewey County	North Caddo		East Canadian County

# of Claims	# of Districts	Claim Amount		
<u>PY 19</u>				
43	25	\$114,315.85		
	Brush Management	296.2 acres	Pasture Planting	115 acres
	Cover Crop	153.7 acres	Pond	33,161.1 cy
	Fencing	3,188 lf	Pumping Plant	1
	Herbaceous Weed Control	334 acres	Range Seeding	26 acres
			Well	3
<u>PY 20</u>				
38	15	\$58,877.67		
	Brush Management	298.3 acres	Pasture Planting	196.18 acres
	Cover Crop	65.9 acres	Pond	7,610.3 cy
	Herbaceous Weed Control	1,194.48 acres	Well	1