



# WATERSHED NEWS

F O U N D A T I O N

SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Beaver Lake Clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, 2006. Call Alan for more information at 479-636-1210 ext. # 313, or send e-mail to [alan.p.bland@usace.army.mil](mailto:alan.p.bland@usace.army.mil).

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MAKE BEAVER,  
TABLE ROCK,  
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BULL SHOALS  
LAKES THE FOUR  
CLEANEST  
MANMADE LAKES IN  
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## OSAGE BASIN SEWER GROUP WILL SHUT DOWN

By ROBERT J. SMITH Arkansas Democrat Gazette  
Posted on September 8, 2006  
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/165936/>

TONTITOWN — All money and property held by the Osage Basin Wastewater District soon will shift to the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority, pending a judge's approval. The district's board voted Thursday night to give everything it holds to the conservation authority's regional sewer plant project.

Osage Basin attorney Curtis Hogue wants to meet with Washington County Circuit Court Judge Kim Smith about divesting. Smith signed the order establishing the district Jan. 6, 2000.

The district formed with three cities as members: Tontitown, Cave Springs and Elm Springs. Highfill joined later and Elm Springs left in 2004.

Their goal had been to build a sewer plant on 22 acres west of Tontitown along Osage Creek, but district members decided instead to partner with the conservation authority.

Now, the board's goal is to gain Smith's approval to get rid of everything the board owns and owes.

"I'll tell [Smith] we've divested ourselves and we own nothing else," Hogue told the board.

"I don't foresee a problem with that," said Chuck Bell, the Osage Basin district's president.

"It's better for everybody. Our plant still had a fight ahead of it if it was to get built," he said.

Bell said Oklahoma officials could have fought the Osage Basin district's plan to build a plant capable of treating 500,000 gallons of sewage.

The district gained a federal permit for the plant in 2002, giving it the right to discharge up to the 500,000 gallons a day. The creek flows into the Illinois River, which crosses into Oklahoma.

Member cities want to work with the conservation authority, which owns 472 acres upstream from the Osage district's land. The authority plans to build a sewer plant to treat 5 million gallons that could be expanded to 80 million gallons.

The conservation authority formed in 2002 and now has 10 member cities: Bentonville, Springdale, Rogers, Bethel Heights, Cave Springs, Elm Springs, Highfill, Centerton, Lowell and Tontitown.

The conservation authority, which voted July 20 to accept the debt and assets of the Osage Basin district, will receive three assets: The 22 acres that John Sampier, the conservation authority's director, said could be sold. A \$433,700 state tribal assistance grant that will transfer to the conservation authority and will go toward the Osage Basin members' expenses of being part of the conservation authority. \$55,193.47 held by the Osage Basin district at Regions Bank.

The conservation authority takes on the debt responsibility to repay a \$257,500 loan the Osage Basin district received from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission.

The loan has no interest until 2013.

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## BEE CREEK SEWER PROJECT ON HOLD

By Brandon Cone Branson Daily News

Posted on September 8, 2006

URL: <http://www.bransondailynews.com/story.php?storyID=1798>

Although the Taney County Sewer Board opened bids for a contractor to begin work on the Bee Creek Sewer project, officials say they are far from beginning that work after the Department of Natural Resources cited errors in the most recent agreement regarding the project.

The Bee Creek Sewer project has been a concern of both Branson city and county officials because of the hundreds of septic tanks in the Bee Creek area that are causing a hazard to nearby Lake Taneycomo, but the two governing bodies have not been able to iron out a satisfactory agreement.

“This issue should have been resolved a long time ago,” said Branson City Administrator Terry Dody. “There is no excuse for it taking this long.”

The sewer project will provide sewer service to 600 homes in an area north of Branson between Lake Taneycomo and Missouri 248. The county will pay for the project from bonds that will be paid for from a one-cent countywide sales tax. The sewer lines would lead to a Branson wastewater treatment facility, and users would pay the city for their sewer service.

In 2004 the county commission objected to a portion of a 2000 agreement that required residents of the Bee Creek Basin to be annexed into Branson once they were hooked up to sewer. In July 2005, the city, the county and the sewer board reached an agreement that does not require annexation into the city, but does require new structures and roads to be built to city code.

Commissioner Ron Herschend said at a county commission meeting on Monday that the county was advised by DNR late last week not to sign the most recent agreement with the city because of a lease agreement, and a statement in the newest agreement stating that the agreement would “supersede all previous agreements.”

Taney County Sewer Administrator John Soutee the newest agreement would give ownership of the sewer system to the city, even though DNR has loaned \$16.5 million to the county to build the project.

“I believe this was just an oversight of the city,” Soutee said. “The city won’t be able to take over ownership of the project until the bonds are paid off in 19 years.”

Dody said he didn’t believe the agreement posed any kind of problem.

“We have had attorneys look over the agreement, and they did not see any fault with it,” Dody said. “If this was an issue why did DNR already give the county the money to proceed with the project?”

Soutee said the district sewer board is expected to select a contractor to undertake the project at its meeting Sept. 19.

“One good thing is that the bids came in a lot lower than we expected. We knew that the costs would be higher due to the rising price of materials and petroleum, but it was lower than we expected,” Soutee said. “The bids came in at just over \$18 million and we were expecting over \$20 million.”

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## SALES TAX ISSUE DEBATED

By Dan Craft The Morning News

Posted on September 7, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwaonline.net/articles/2006/09/08/news/0908fzward3.txt>

FAYETTEVILLE -- Residents of Fayetteville's Ward 3 asked Thursday what improvements they could expect to see from a proposed sales tax increase.

Members of the Fayetteville City Council, city staff, proponents of the measure, and even the mother of an alderman encouraged passage of a sales tax to fund infrastructure improvement.

The proposition will be voted on Tuesday.

"This is something we need to do. I'm worried about the state of affairs of our infrastructure," said Jim Huffman, spokesman for Citizens 4 Fayetteville, a group promoting the measure.

"Even if you're not wild about a certain project, it's for the community. I think you can tell by looking at me that I'm no regular exerciser, and I don't use the trails, but I've promised that if all these pass, I'll be on the trail first thing Wednesday morning."

Growth in the city is inevitable, and infrastructure is already behind, said alderman Lioneld Jordan.

"We're long past the question of whether we're going to grow. The question now is how do we handle it," Jordan said. "I don't think anybody was prepared for the growth we've seen in the last 20 years, but we're looking to fix some problems and move toward the future."

The proposal would extend an existing 3/4-percent sales tax and add a new 1/4-percent sales tax to back \$100 million in bonds. The money would be used to cover escalating costs of the city's wastewater system upgrade and for street and trail work.

"We're getting a sewer plant, the question is just how we're going to pay for it," said alderman Bobby Ferrell.

If the measure fails, the city would not perform many of the road and trail projects and would pay for the sewer upgrades by raising rates. The paperwork for a 30 percent increase in sewer rates is already prepared in case the ballot measure fails, said David Jurgens, city water and wastewater director.

The actual impact to pocketbooks is small, said Bonnie Cook, mother of council member Kyle Cook.

"I think people will go along with this if you point out that it will only cost them a quarter for every hundred dollars they spend," Cook said.

Resident Lem Lorimer questioned whether slowing growth would serve the community better than increasing infrastructure.

"If we cut off the number of people coming in here, we wouldn't have these problems," Lorimer said. "Is there any way to dissuade them?"

People will continue to move to the Northwest Arkansas area for economic and quality of life reasons, said resident Conrad Odom. Keeping new residents outside of Fayetteville would keep them out of the tax base, but would not stop them from using roads and other infrastructure in town, Odom said.

"They are going to come here, and we're better off having them contributing to the community through the tax base than being outside the system," he said.

The new sewer plant and associated improvements are already under construction, and street projects would commence quickly if the measure passes, Jordan said.

"If we get the bond issue, we're going to put these projects on the front of a bullet and get them moving," Jordan said.

The sewer project is scheduled for completion in 2008. The street projects could be completed in as little as eight years, Jordan said.

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## SEWER STANDSTILL

By MARSHA L. MELNICHAK Northwest Arkansas Times  
Posted on September 8, 2006  
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/44638/>

Fayetteville and Farmington's negotiations on sewer issues are still moving at a snail's pace, though a little progress was made during a Thursday meeting.

The decisions reached by the negotiating teams will affect the final design of the Wastewater System Improvements Project to a limited extent, but the Sept. 12 deadline will likely not be met because the negotiating teams agreed to meet again Sept. 14.

Negotiations have been under way for about 18 months.

When the deadline was set it was intended to allow time for engineering and design work on a west side lift station so it can be built in the same time frame as the new wastewater treatment plant now under construction near Broyles Road.

If negotiations fail, the lift station would not be built, which would change where pipelines are laid. If the negotiating teams reach an agreement, their work will go to the two city councils for approval.

Farmington Mayor John Harris suggested "pushing" the negotiations so a proposed agreement could be brought before the Fayetteville City Council at its Sept. 12 agenda session.

"We're going to have to get with our team again and discuss more of this," said Harris, who is also a negotiator for his city.

The biggest point of contention Thursday was how much money Farmington should pay for lift station No. 12.

Fayetteville is asking Farmington to pay about 80 percent of the estimated \$ 7.2 million cost of the lift station.

Farmington representatives contend that their portion should be less because their citizens are already paying for it.

Gary Dumas, Fayetteville director of operations, said the lift station is included in the cost of the Wastewater System Improvement Project, but Fayetteville has no revenue to pay for it and it was never included as part of the Wastewater System Improvements Project bond issue.

He said it was listed as unfunded, to be paid by others.

“ It’s a lot of money that they’re asking us to fund. We feel we’ve contributed a lot of our portion in what’s already been done. We were hoping, I guess, for a little more break than that. That’s a lot of money to come up with, ” Harris said.

Joe Tarvin, president of EGIS Engineering, Inc., said a University of Arkansas study showed Farmington residents pay more sales tax per person to Fayetteville, than Fayetteville residents do.

“ If the Fayetteville capital improvement portion is being paid for by that sales tax, then why wouldn’t the capital cost of Farmington be included in the overall project cost, since they’re paying their share ? ” he said.

If Farmington doesn’t participate in the project, estimates are that Fayetteville would have to find about \$ 1. 4 million for pipes from lift station No. 11 back to the treatment plant.

One suggestion Thursday was that Fayetteville apply that amount to the cost of lift station No. 12, lowering Farmington’s percentage.

Another ongoing question for the negotiating teams is how far back a rebate to Farmington rate payers should go. The negotiating teams have agreed that a rate reduction is in order and that a rebate should be paid.

Fayetteville’s Ward 2 Alderman Kyle Cook thinks the rebate should go back to the spring of 2006 because that’s when the city knew what the difference in rates was.

Farmington’s position is that it should go back to January 2004 when Fayetteville was aware of a discrepancy.

Farmington residents pay a sewer rate of \$ 7. 16 per 1, 000 gallons, more than double the rate that Fayetteville residents pay, according to Cook.

Farmington Councilman Ernie Penn said Fayetteville had the use of the extra money from Farmington and did not use it for the Farmington system, while Farmington did not get any of the income from the sewer rates.

However, Dumas said Farmington always had the ability to start a fund for improvements.

On most other subjects, the negotiating teams reached some degree of agreement.

Cook suggested they could move ahead with discussions of the rebate and rate reduction even without an exact amount or date.

The negotiating teams appeared to agree that the system used to serve Farmington should be maintained in the same way that the system serving Fayetteville is maintained.

They also appeared to agree that as the wastewater treatment plant grows in capacity, that Farmington should be allowed adequate future capacity.

Exact and revised language will be provided at the Sept. 14 meeting for those and other topics on which the team members reached verbal understanding.

Impact fees and how future rate changes would be calculated were also discussed.

Dumas told the Farmington team, “ If Fayetteville sewage runs through your facilities, then those people would be subject to the Farmington impact fee. That sounds reasonable. ”

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## **‘STREAM TEAM’ MEMBERS HONORED FOR CONSERVATION**

Arkansas Democrat Gazette / The Associated Press

Posted on September 8, 2006

URL:

<http://www.ardemgaz.com/ShowStoryTemplate.asp?Path=ArDemocrat/2006/09/07&ID=Ar02602&Section=Sports>

Six Arkansas women recently received awards from President Bush for helping the environment in Arkansas.

Millie and Madeleine Hogue and their mom, Mavie, along with Katherine West and her daughters Margaux and Isabella Isaksen, represented Arkansas and the Stream Team program by receiving the 2005 President’s Environmental Youth Award from the president.

The PEYA is co-sponsored by the Office of the President and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is given to the youth or youth group that exemplify true conservation ethic and promotes environmental awareness of the nation’s natural resources.

The group calls Northwest Arkansas home and has adopted Parker Branch, a tributary of the Middle Fork White River near the community of White House near Elkins in Washington County. The group of four girls call themselves the Parker Branch Stream Team.

The two eighth-graders and two sixth-graders took on the challenge of doing a cross-curriculum project involving the environment. The girls began by conducting research on Parker Branch, attended community meetings involving those living in the watershed, and then began to utilize resources available through agencies such as the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission’s Stream Team Program.

The program helped train the team on how to sample the water quality and identify the macroinvertebrates of Parker Branch, according to assistant fisheries chief Steve Filipek.

“Both families took their stewardship responsibilities seriously,” Filipek said.

The team also nurtured a partnership with state, county and local officials by picking up litter on area creeks and helping to develop stabilization projects for streambanks in their watershed, Filipek said.

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## ENGINEERS WORK TO MAKE POULTRY WASTE MORE USEFUL

By STEPHANIE SCHUPSKA

Published in The News-Reporter

Posted on September 7, 2006

URL: <http://www.news-reporter.com/news/2006/0907/News/056.html>

Two and a half pounds of litter that's about how much one chicken produces in its lifetime. A team of University of Georgia scientists is working to turn the poultry state's waste litter into a valuable alternative fuel product.

That's good news in Georgia, where chickens, specifically broilers, rank No. 1 in the state's agriculture, with a leaving-the-farm value of almost \$4 billion. Poultry litter is mostly manure mixed with a bedding material such as wood shavings.

Two and a half pounds of litter per broiler is 2.5 pounds of by-product waiting to be converted into something usable, said Jimmy Palmer of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. With funding from an EPA grant, UGA researchers are searching for ways to add value to poultry waste.

"This will help us collectively deal with environmental issues of growing agriculture," said Palmer, an EPA regional administrator.

"A waste is a terrible thing to mind," he said, twisting a common phrase. "We're looking for better ways to deal with waste."

Through a process called fractionation, the UGA researchers plan to produce two types of materials from the poultry litter, separating the fine and coarse parts, said Mark Risse, a UGA Cooperative Extension engineer and member of the research team.

The scientists form the fine, nutrient rich material into pellets for fertilizer. Because the processed fertilizer pellets would allow a slower release of nutrients into the soil, pollution from pathogens and nutrients in the poultry litter would be reduced.

"Most poultry litter is currently being directly land-applied as fertilizer," said K.C. Das, coordinator of the UGA Biorefinery. "It makes sense to a point. But in north Georgia, there's not enough land to spread the litter. Through this process, we're producing a better energy product as well as a better fertilizer."

The research team puts the coarse, energy-rich poultry litter material through an intense heating process called pyrolysis to create char and bio-oil. The char can be used anywhere charcoal is used. Bio-oil can be refined further and used as diesel like fuel.

UGA engineers say developing a cheap source of energy from poultry litter would provide a cleaner source of energy, helping the state grow in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. They estimate that in the United States, using poultry litter as fuel could save 283 million gallons of fossil fuel.

"Two or three companies are looking at Georgia right now," Risse said. "They're looking at pelleting litter for fertilizer. There's a very real opportunity for research that can be used not 10 years from now, but now."

"A lot more is said than usually done, and we're about to do it," Palmer said of the project.

Besides Risse and Das, the UGA research team includes Cooperative Extension engineer John Worley, professor Sid Thompson and graduate student Kaushlendra Singh.

The project builds on work Thompson did 15 years ago and had to shelve due to a lack of application at the time. Now, with the demand for alternative fuels increasing, his halted research can continue.

The project team is in the process of showing they can break up poultry litter into two parts and use both. The researchers will also have to determine whether the processes should be done at centralized locations across the state or at individual farms.

"Poultry litter represents two times the energy consumption on a farm," Das said. "You have everything you need to produce energy on the farm already."

(Stephanie Schupska is a news editor with the University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.)

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## **'INTERSEX FISH' RAISING CONCERNS**

By The Associated Press

Posted on September 07, 2006

URL: <http://www.dailymail.com/news/News/2006090716/>

McLEAN, Va. -- Some species of male fish in the Potomac River and its tributaries are developing female sexual traits at a frequency higher than scientists have seen before, raising concerns about pollutants in a waterway that provides drinking water for millions of people.

The so-called "intersex fish," which produce immature eggs in their testes, were discovered in the Potomac rivershed in West Virginia in 2003 and have also been found in other parts of the country.

But the frequency that the U.S. Geological Surveys found last year is much higher than what has been found elsewhere, said fish pathologist Vicki Blazer.

In some Potomac tributaries, nearly all of the male smallmouth bass caught in last year's survey were the abnormal fish. In the Potomac itself, seven of 13 largemouth bass exhibited female characteristics, including three that were producing eggs.

Although the frequency discovered was surprisingly high, Blazer cautioned that the sample size was relatively small, with about 10 male and 10 female fish taken from each of eight locations in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Researchers were reluctant to remove large numbers of bass from the rivers because of conservation concerns, she said.

Female fish caught in the survey did not develop any unusual sex traits, though fish of both sexes exhibited lesions and other pollution-related problems, said Blazer, who coordinated the survey.

Smallmouth bass appear to be more susceptible to intersex development than largemouth bass, Blazer said.

Blazer said researchers are still waiting on data that would help them determine the water quality at the time the fish were caught, but preliminary data taken from the Potomac found a variety of chemical pollutants.

It is not exactly clear what is causing the changes, though it is likely a combination of pollutants, scientists say.

Certain chemicals and pesticides are believed to stimulate estrogen production. Also, estrogen from birth control pills and human waste can make its way from sewage treatment plants to the waterways.

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## **FISHING REPORT: BRENT FRAZEE'S BEST BET**

Compiled by Brent Frazee The Kansas City Star

Posted on September 07, 2006

URL: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/sports/15455953.htm>

*(Watershed News Editor's Note: This article has been shortened for applicability and space. To see article in its entirety, click on link above.)*

Missouri

TABLE ROCK: 83 degrees, murky, 4 1/2 feet low. Outlook: Baxter Boat Dock reports: black bass fair on topwater lures, Rat-L-Traps in the main-channel coves and feeder creeks; white bass fair on silver Rat-L-Traps, casting spoons on the main-channel flats.

TANEYCOMO: 49 degrees, clear, variable power generation. Outlook : Fall Creek Marina reports: trout good on Power Bait, scud flies, Puff Balls for rainbows and Rapalas for browns near the Highway 65 bridge and at the mouth of Fall Creek.

BULL SHOALS : 80 to 85 degrees, clear, 3 feet low. Outlook: Buck Creek Marina reports: crappies fair on minnows in 30 feet of water in the brush; black bass fair on topwater lures, shallow-running crankbaits in the creeks and coves with brush.

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## **THE MURKY DEPTHS: NWA FISHING REPORT**

By Bobby Hill Northwest Arkansas Times

Posted on September 8, 2006

URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/Sports/44665/>

Cool mornings and mild afternoons are dropping water temps but fishing hasn't caught fire. Not yet, anyway. It won't be long, however, until bass bunch up like grapes and chase shad around Beaver Lake. Until then, well ... squirrel season opens tomorrow.

Beaver Lake Southtown Sporting Goods — Frank Divis says daytime bass fishing is getting better. Topwater baits continue to produce early and late but spinnerbaits are working when fished in the cedars. At night, plastic worms and spinnerbaits are working near brush. Crappie action is good on minnows fished deep and trolled crankbaits. Blue gill fishing is excellent on crickets. White bass are beginning to gather in schools.

Hawg Country Bait and Tackle — Topwater lures and jigs are picking up a few bass according to Chris Johnson. Docks and points are good target areas. Nighttime bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits. White bass are really beginning to bite chrome or white jigging spoons fished near deep treetops. A few crappie are biting minnows fished deep.

Hook, Line and Sinker in Rogers — Aaron Jolliff says cooler weather is helping but the bite continues to be a little slow. Spoons and drop-shots are catching a few bass and there's a bit of a topwater bite early on small baits. Plastic worms are being used at night.

Beaver Tailwaters Beaver Dam Store reports good fly fishing on tan scuds and TDMs. Florescent yellow or white Power Bait is working well. The best lures right now are Colorado spoons and Roostertails.

Lake Fayetteville Dollie Black reports few anglers out and a tough bite when they are.

Lake Sequoyah Jackie Smith reports poor bass fishing but a few might bite a plastic worm, spinnerbait or buzzbait. Catfish action is fair on chicken liver, gold fish and worms. Bream are fair on worms and crickets. Crappie action is fair while trolling minnows in open water.

Bella Vista Lakes Fishing's decent according to Nick Gann at Hook, Line and Sinker in Bentonville. Four-inch plastics are working well on Loch Lomond, day or night. A pair of 6-pounders came in this past week. The best target area is from the bank out to 15 feet.

Prairie Grove Lake Bob Keen reports good bream fishing on crickets and jigs. Bass are taking plastic worms while crappie prefer jigs.

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