



# WATERSHED NEWS

F O U N D A T I O N

SEPTEMBER 28, 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).

Volunteers needed for Clean Water National Tour coming to Wonders of Wildlife **October 13-22, 2006** – interactive exhibits for children & adults. If interested in volunteering, please contact [tfrey@missouristate.edu](mailto:tfrey@missouristate.edu) or phone 417-836-6183.

WITH YOUR HELP  
WE WILL WORK  
TOGETHER TO  
MAKE BEAVER,  
TABLE ROCK,  
TANEYCOMO AND  
BULL SHOALS  
LAKES THE FOUR  
CLEANEST  
MANMADE LAKES IN  
NORTH AMERICA.

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## ARKANSAS SAYS WATERS ON MEND

By ROBERT J. SMITH Arkansas Democrat Gazette  
Posted on September 28, 2006  
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/adg/News/167984/>

MONKEY ISLAND, Okla. — The Arkansas-Oklahoma Arkansas River Compact Commission will hear a report today about a decrease in phosphorus levels in the Illinois River.

It's the first time a portion of the Illinois River on the Arkansas side of the state line has reached the commission's 1996 goal of reducing phosphorus by 40 percent at various sampling sites from the average measured between 1980 and 1993.

The commission holds its annual meeting at 9 a. m. today at Shangri-la, a golf resort on Grand Lake in northeastern Oklahoma.

Steve Loop, an engineer with the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, told members of two commission committees Wednesday that the annual water quality monitoring report carries good news for the river that flows from Arkansas into Oklahoma.

"The trend is phosphorus is coming down," Loop said at the joint meeting of the environment and engineering committees.

The goal of 40 percent reduction was meant to protect Lake Tenkiller, which forms near Tahlequah, Okla., where the Illinois River is dammed.

Derek Smithee, water quality chief for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, said he didn't know why two sampling sites on the river downstream on the Oklahoma side of the state line didn't make the 40 percent goal. One possibility is that a breached dam caused Lake Frances to retain large amounts of water and sediment. The Illinois River flows through that lake, which is along the Arkansas-Oklahoma border just south of Siloam Springs.

"We don't show the significant phosphorus reductions Arkansas is showing," Smithee said. "You've got to take any of it with a grain of salt."

The Illinois River met the 40 percent goal at an Arkansas sampling site between Siloam Springs and Lake Frances.

The state measured an average of 98,479 pounds of phosphorus during the most recent five-year period. To reach 40 percent reduction, the 190,577 pounds of phosphorus had to be cut to 114,346 pounds.

The 40 percent goal has taken a back seat in recent years to a more restrictive limit established by Oklahoma in 2003. A state law approved that year says Oklahoma's six scenic rivers, including the Illinois, must carry a phosphorus concentration of less than 0.037 milligrams per liter.

At the same Arkansas site where the 40 percent goal was accomplished, the concentrations have decreased from 0.47 milligrams per liter in 1980 to 0.12 milligrams in 2005, according to Loop's report.

Martin Maner, water division chief for the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, said reductions in phosphorus are fueled by Northwest Arkansas cities that spent millions of dollars upgrading their sewer plants. Sewer plants at Springdale and Rogers are among several discharging far less phosphorus than they did a couple of years ago, Maner said.

The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and poultry companies centered in Northwest Arkansas have worked to remove excess poultry litter from the Illinois River watershed, paying to truck it to other watersheds where it can be spread to help crops grow.

Poultry litter and discharges from sewer plants are major sources of the phosphorus in the Illinois River and its tributaries. In streams, phosphorus helps algae grow, which depletes oxygen and can harm fish and other aquatic life.

Oklahoma officials reported decreases in how many pounds of phosphorus flowed past two sampling sites on the Illinois River that are downstream from Siloam Springs. Neither site, one near Watts and the other near Tahlequah, accomplished the 40 percent goal.

Water quality experts from both states share the results of their water sampling each year, often disagreeing on the significance.

After wet years, Arkansas officials point to the rain as a reason why phosphorus levels rose. In years with lower phosphorus, Oklahoma officials note that it was dry. Last year, by all accounts, was a dry year in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas.

Julie Chambers, lake monitoring coordinator for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, said the report to be delivered today will carry mostly good news.

“It speaks to a little bit of progress,” Chambers said. “We are in a drought, though.”

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## **SEAT CONTESTED FOR THE FIRST TIME**

By Jennifer Turner The Benton County Daily Record  
Posted on September 28, 2006  
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/bcdr/News/40229/>

**BENTON COUNTY** — A Benton County seat on the Beaver Water Board of Directors will be contested in November — something that’s never happened since the board’s inception nearly 50 years ago.

W. Herb Hawkins of Avoca will contest incumbent Hardy “Casey” Croxton Jr. of Rogers for one of three Benton County seats on the board.

The Beaver Water District, formed in 1957, is the oldest regional water district in the state, according to the district’s Web site.

The district is governed by a sixmember elected board of directors, with three members from Washington County and three from Benton County. Board members serve sixyear terms, staggered by two years in each county.

There have been two contested races for seats in Washington County positions since 1957.

Croxton has served on the board for six years, filling the seat left vacant by his father, Hardy Croxton Sr., who was an original member of the board and served as its chairman until he retired in 2000.

Hawkins will contest Croxton in an effort to “shake up” the long-standing board.

Hawkins, whose family sold land to developers of Grandview Heights — high-rise condominiums on Beaver Lake — has lived in Benton County for 11 years, first near Beaver Lake, now inside the city limits of Avoca. He is also running uncontested for an alderman position there.

Members of the Northwest Arkansas Property Rights Association, among others, urged Hawkins to run for the position on the Beaver Water District Board and even helped him gather the 50 signatures needed to file as a candidate.

The NWAPRA formed in response to rumors of impending countywide zoning and a proposed zoning ordinance for the Beaver Lake watershed. The creation of that proposal was spearheaded and funded by the Beaver Water District.

It was through public outcry of the condo project that Hawkins got to know some of the NWAPRA members and was eventually urged to run for the open seat on the board.

Despite his association with the NWAPRA, Hawkins said his decision to run for the spot isn't based on property rights or the watershed protection proposal.

“I just see the need for more accountability and maybe a shakeup of a board that hasn't had any contested races,” he said. “I think maybe they have gotten a little loose just because nobody's watching.”

Hawkins is also concerned that the board might be losing its focus on conserving water and maintaining the lowest possible water rates.

“They've spent some big money on consulting fees, yet they still have these high, high reserves,” he said.

The Beaver Water District hired a consulting firm to create the watershed protection ordinance it presented to Benton County officials last year.

Hawkins also said that with no contested races, the public is at risk of losing interest in the Beaver Water District and even forgetting that the district is a public entity with publicly elected board members.

“I think that's another thing that I am wanting to do is bring some awareness to it,” he said. “I think if anything, it might wake the board up to know people are watching.”

Croxton, who lives and practices law in Rogers, said the board does not need a shakeup.

“I think it would be a concern if the board members were heading the district in the wrong direction,” he said, “but I think collectively we have shown a lot of foresight.”

He said the single biggest issue facing the board is being able to partner with communities to help them serve their citizens in the face of huge population growth.

Currently, communities pipe water in from the water treatment plant in Lowell, but as more and more land gets developed, Croxton said, cities are going to need a new method of reaching the water.

The board of directors is currently considering a tank farm west of Interstate 540 to be used by Fayetteville, Springdale, Bentonville and Rogers, who would then partner with smaller surrounding cities.

Croxton said zoning areas around the lake for watershed protection is not the main focus of the board.

“ I certainly respect the property rights of people. I own property, ” he said. “ But there needs to be a consensus. We need to sit down and get everybody at the table. ”

Croxton said he believes the board has been successful at thinking regionally.

“ If I thought that I wasn’t honestly serving the needs of the people I represent, I would be the first to step aside, ” he said. “ We’ve had to act like stewards, I guess, and try to act and do and balance what’s best for the entire region. ”

Other Benton County representatives on the board are Arvest Bank CEO David A. Short and Rogers attorney Bill Watkins. John M. Lewis, Christopher Weiser and Curtis Shipley represent Washington County.

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## **POA MULLS HIRING SCIENTIST**

By Belinda Ostrowski The Benton County Daily Record  
Posted on September 28, 2006  
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/bcdr/News/40248/>

BELLA VISTA — The hiring of an aquatic ecologist / fisheries biologist is one of the top priorities of the Bella Vista Property Owners Association, but the hiring still may be delayed. Budget constraints forecast for 2007 require the POA to proceed cautiously, said POA Board member Roger Norbeck at the meeting of the POA Utilities and Environment Committee on Wednesday.

Board member George De-Groot agreed.

“ It would not be ethical to hire someone this year if the position won’t be funded next year, ” DeGroot said.

The person hired would be responsible for implementing a management plan for Bella Vista’s lakes.

Also discussed was the delivery of the findings from February’s thermal imaging by AW Research Laboratories. The report is not expected before the end of the year, Norbeck said. It is expected to show areas where pollutants are entering the lakes and includes land up to 1, 250 feet from the shorelines.

AW performed a flyover of all seven village lakes, using thermal and chlorophyll imaging with low altitude remote sensors and seven to nine cameras recording images of the lakes and accompanying shorelines. Visible, infrared and hyperspectral band cameras should give AW’s staff a clear picture of the contents of the lakes.

Norbeck also noted the turnkey operation for water sampling the committee had recommended isn't possible now because of limited funds. However, suggested improvements, including maintaining the samples at a proper temperature and delivering them in a more timely manner, have been implemented. This has resulted in more accurate results from the testing, he said.

Larry Wilms, POA Utilities Director, reported that negotiations to execute easements for the Westside Water Line Project have been completed on all but four properties. Owners of those properties believe their land is worth more than what they've been offered.

"I feel we've been fair and equitable," said Wilms, basing that statement on the results of appraiser's reports.

Committee Chairman Wallace Evans reminded current members that anyone whose committee membership ends this year will need to apply for a renewal of their membership. Applications are available in the POA General Offices.

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## **FARMINGTON PLEASSED WITH SEWER AGREEMENT**

By SUSANNAH PATTON Northwest Arkansas Times  
Posted on September 28, 2006  
URL: <http://www.nwanews.com/nwat/News/45342/>

Farmington City Council members gave their preliminary approval Wednesday to a long-awaited sewer service agreement with Fayetteville. Both cities still need to sign a contract, but aldermen said they were pleased with the settlement reached.

The agreement includes a refund to Farmington sewer customers of about \$ 264, 000.

The city is requesting that Fayetteville amend the sewer rate charged to Farmington customers to \$ 4. 66 per 1, 000 gallons effective January 2004 and refund the difference from 2004 to the implementation date of the new rate.

The two cities also came to an agreement on sewer capacity. Fayetteville will provide 8. 2 percent of the West Treatment Plant's operational capacity for Farmington.

Farmington Mayor John Harris said the capacity will give the city room to grow.

"We're in a position now where we'll be able to grow and we're not adding to the watershed," he said. "If we were to build another plant, that would be another discharge into the watershed that's not needed."

The cities will share the cost of building a new lift station, estimated at \$ 7. 2 million. The cost to Farmington will be between \$ 3. 8 million and \$ 4. 8 million, based on the outcome of the upcoming annexation election.

Farmington will also pay 50 percent of the engineering cost for Lift Station 12 and associated pipes, with the city's share not to exceed \$ 480, 000.

Farmington will also fund the remaining cost of the sewer rehabilitation project — about \$ 400, 000 — agreed to in 2004 mediations between the two cities.

Alderman Ernie Penn, also a member of Farmington's negotiating team, said he is happy with the agreement reached after a year and a half of negotiations.

" We probably came to the best solution we could have for both parties, " he said. " It was a long, tough negotiation. "

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## FISHING REPORT

Compiled by BRENT FRAZEE The Kansas City Star

Posted on September 28, 2006

URL: <http://www.kansascity.com/mld/kansascity/sports/15625045.htm>

### BRENT'S BEST BET

*(Watershed News editor's note: In the interest of space and applicability, this article has been shortened. To read article in its entirety, click on URL link above.)*

The fall bass fishing is picking up in the Ozarks. At Table Rock Lake, fishermen are catching largemouths on drop-shot rigs with small plastic worms in deep water. And at Bull Shoals, the action for Kentucky bass has been good on crawdads along bluffs.

#### Missouri

•TABLE ROCK: 75 degrees, clear, 5 feet low. Outlook: Baxter Boat Dock reports: black bass good on drop-shot rigs in 40 to 60 feet of water off main-channel points; white bass good on spoons, Rat-L-Traps on the flats.

•BULL SHOALS: 70 to 74 degrees, clear, 5 feet low. Outlook: Buck Creek Marina reports: Kentucky bass good on crawdads in 25 to 30 feet of water along bluffs; smallmouth bass fair to good on crankbaits along chunk-rock banks; walleyes fair on night crawlers on the flats; crappies fair on minnows in 25 feet of water in the brush.

•TANEYCOMO: 49 degrees, clear, very little power generation. Outlook: Lilley's Landing reports: all species poor.

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