

New Horizons Bring New Challenges

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FY 2010 General Revenue

As of August 24, 7% cut in funding from
FY 2009 = \$614,902

5% reduction in funding based on July 2009
revenue collections = \$40,000

Total cost for CD employee salaries, benefits
and operations = \$8.7 million

é Insurance and
Retirement Costs for
Conservation District
Employees have increased
65.8% in five years!

Funding Sources other than General Revenue

- \$ NRCS Contributions Agreement
- \$ Increased % of Admin. on revolving fund
- \$ One time interest from Cost-Share Fund
- \$ Earnings form administering federal contracts
- \$ Federal Indirect Costs

Expenses Funded with Sources other than General Revenue

- \$ District Operating Expenses
- \$ Election Expenses
- \$ Director Meeting Expense
- \$ District and Commission Information
Technology Expenses
- \$ Commission Operating and Travel
Expenses

\$25 Million - Conservation Bond Issue

\$22.9 million for operation & maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation of upstream flood control structures



\$25 Million - Conservation Bond Issue

\$2.1 million for conservation district cost-share program to assist in repair to damaged conservation practices and reduce flooding in the future



Challenges to Operating a Bond Issue

- Ø Bond must be repaid over a 15 year period
- Ø Bond repayments appropriated by the legislature are subject to budget cuts
- Ø The OK Capitol Improvement Authority gets their money “off the top”
- Ø Bond projects will have a 15 year life – Granting right of access for inspection and compliance

Districts Fostering New Partnerships

Partners:

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Conservation Commission
- Conservation Districts
- Prescribed Burn Assoc.

\$50,000 Partners for Wildlife
Grant

10,629 Acres native rangeland
burned to improve habitat



Partners:

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Craig Co. Conservation District

Partners for Wildlife Grant provided the district with 10-ft. native grass drill for restoration of wildlife habitat.



Land Donation for Muskogee Co.



No Till Drill Purchased

Partners:

- Muskogee Co. Conservation District
- Cherokee Nation
- Creek Nation
- Conservation Commission



Pottawatomie Co. Sales Tax

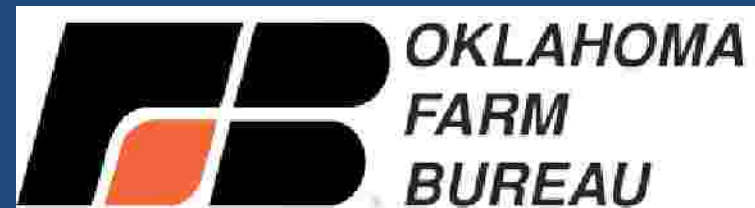
- 1 penny per dollar of sales tax in Pottawatomie County goes to two conservation districts
- permanent tax by vote of the people
- Districts share the benefits and expand their capacity to help land users



Scraper Purchased

Partners:

- Garfield County Conservation District
- local Oklahoma Farm Bureau
- Scraper purchased and insured by Garfield Co. Farm Bureau
- Conservation District rents to local cooperators and charges fee for upkeep and maintenance



Oklahoma Development Authorities

Oklahoma's Development Authorities, were created as a joint effort by municipalities, counties and conservation districts in a cluster of rural counties. From these governmental units and from other population segments in the each region, representatives are elected to serve on the governing board. The board of trustees determines policy for the development authority. Leaders in these communities recognized that some problems shared by many of these governments could be better solved if they worked together.

Rural Economic Action Plan Grants

What is REAP?

A grant program managed by the Oklahoma Development Authorities. These grants provide funding assistance to rural communities of less than 7,000 in population. Legislative intent was to increase the availability of capital and promote economic growth, community stability, and improve the quality of life. Rural communities have benefited greatly from such projects as street and utility system improvements, the purchase of updated fire fighting equipment, and the construction of modern community facilities.

Rural Economic Action Plan Grants

Partners:

- South Western OK Development Authority
- Assoc. of South Central Governments District
- 11 Conservation Districts

- approximately \$750,000 in grant funds have been received by districts to purchase much needed equipment for use in operation & maintenance of flood control structures and provide services to local cooperators



OACD & Chesapeake Energy



Pickup Raffle at State Meeting



Teacher of the Year Awards

But the Chief does not despair. He does not draw a curtain to shut off the view....

Hugh Bennett sees no overwhelming hopelessness. What he does see is the necessity of the same old kind of fight....

To this he adds in his every resolute action, "and we can do it!"

---excerpt from Big Hugh by Wellington Brink

