



**OKLAHOMA**  
**Water Resources Board**

# **COVID-19 Impacts and Stakeholder Needs**

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**Executive Director**

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# OWRB Mission

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

9 Board of Directors  
Governor-appointed,  
Senate-confirmed

Executive  
Director

Financial  
Assistance

Water Quality &  
Monitoring

Planning &  
Management

Administrative  
Services

Staff composed of scientists, engineers, financial, legal, and administrative professionals



# Who are OWRB's Stakeholders

- Water users
- Water suppliers
- Dam owners
- Water well drillers and Pump Installers
- Floodplain managers
- Water resource planners
- Water data users



# Water Resources Management

Water Rights Permitting & Administration

Well Drillers & Pump Installers Licensing

Technical Hydrologic Investigations- water availability

Water Resources Planning

Interstate Stream Compacts

Funding Sources—

- State Appropriations
- **Gross Production Tax**
- Fee revenue
- Federal cost share



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# Hazard Mitigation

Floodplain Management – State Floodplain Board and National Flood Insurance Oversight Agency- community assistance visits and inspection for FEMA

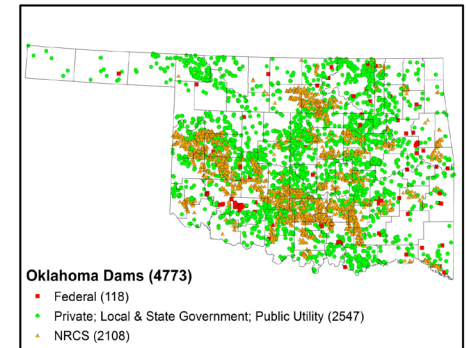
## Dam Safety

- Permitting, Inspection, and Technical Assistance
- Dam Breach Inundation Mapping & Analyses
- Owner/Engineer Training and Outreach



## Funding Sources—

- Federal - FEMA
- State Appropriations
- Fee revenue



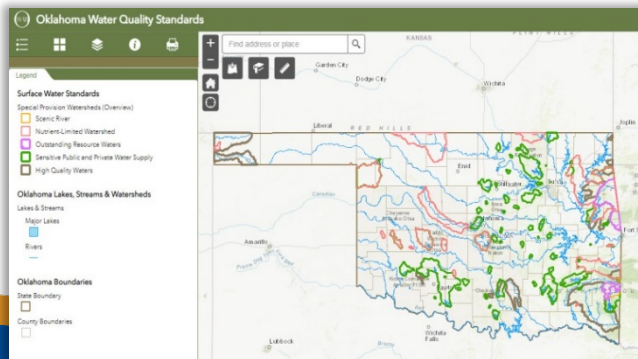
# Ground & Surface Water Quality

## Statewide Monitoring Networks

- Streams, Lakes, Groundwater wells
- Stream Gaging Program
- Technical Studies
- Water Quality Standards
- Water Data Management & Dissemination

### Funding Sources—

- State Appropriations
- Federal – EPA, USGS
- Contracts with local government and state agencies



# Financial Assistance Since 1983

- Water, water reclamation, storm water infrastructure financing
- OWRB provides application, construction, loan servicing oversight
- >\$5 billion funded since inception
- \$82 billion need identified in 2012 OWCP
- Funds:
  - Clean Water State Revolving Fund
  - Drinking Water SRF (w/ ODEQ)
  - State Revenue Bond Loan Program
  - REAP and Emergency Grants

## Funding Sources—

- Federal - EPA
- Debt Issuance
- Loan Repayments
- Interest on Bond Loan Program Reserve



# OWRB Response to COVID-19 Impacts

- Expanded mobile operations, online service to increase accessibility/lower costs
- New Virtual public/stakeholder meetings: Board Meetings
- New OWRB Help Desk and Complaints Reporting Portal
- New Licensing, Exams, and Continuing Education— well drillers, floodplain management, dam safety
- New Dashboards with mapping: Financial Assistance, Pending Water Permit Applications
- New Grant Application Forms and increased assistance to water suppliers/borrowers
- New inspection techniques, including drone technologies and virtual





# COVID Impacts to OWRB Borrowers

- Starting to see late submittal of required loan servicing documentation
  - We don't have a majority of 2021 audits in yet and won't know financial impacts from covid until we see those
- Operator's licenses expired due to executive order and lack of training opportunities
  - Tracking 361 licenses
    - Aug. 2019: 9 were missing (2.49%)
    - Aug. 2021: 39 were missing (10.8%)
- Seeing some communities switch from pledged sales tax to use tax due to increasing online sales



# Covid-19 Impacts to Rural Utilities

- Reduced revenue
- Personnel shortages
- Shutoff moratoriums
- Customer job loss
- Reduced economic activity
- Increased cost of construction projects due to material shortages and inflation

\*Information provided by ORWA & OWRB survey of borrowers



# Historic Lack of Infrastructure Funding

- Oklahoma small communities and rural districts face issue of aging water, sewer, dam infrastructure
  - Water loss 30% or greater
  - Lack of basic knowledge of system (e.g. location of pipes)
  - Lack of revenue base to rehabilitate critical infrastructure
- Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan identified \$82 billion of need through 2060
- Federal funding increasing but many small communities cannot access due to debt coverage requirements

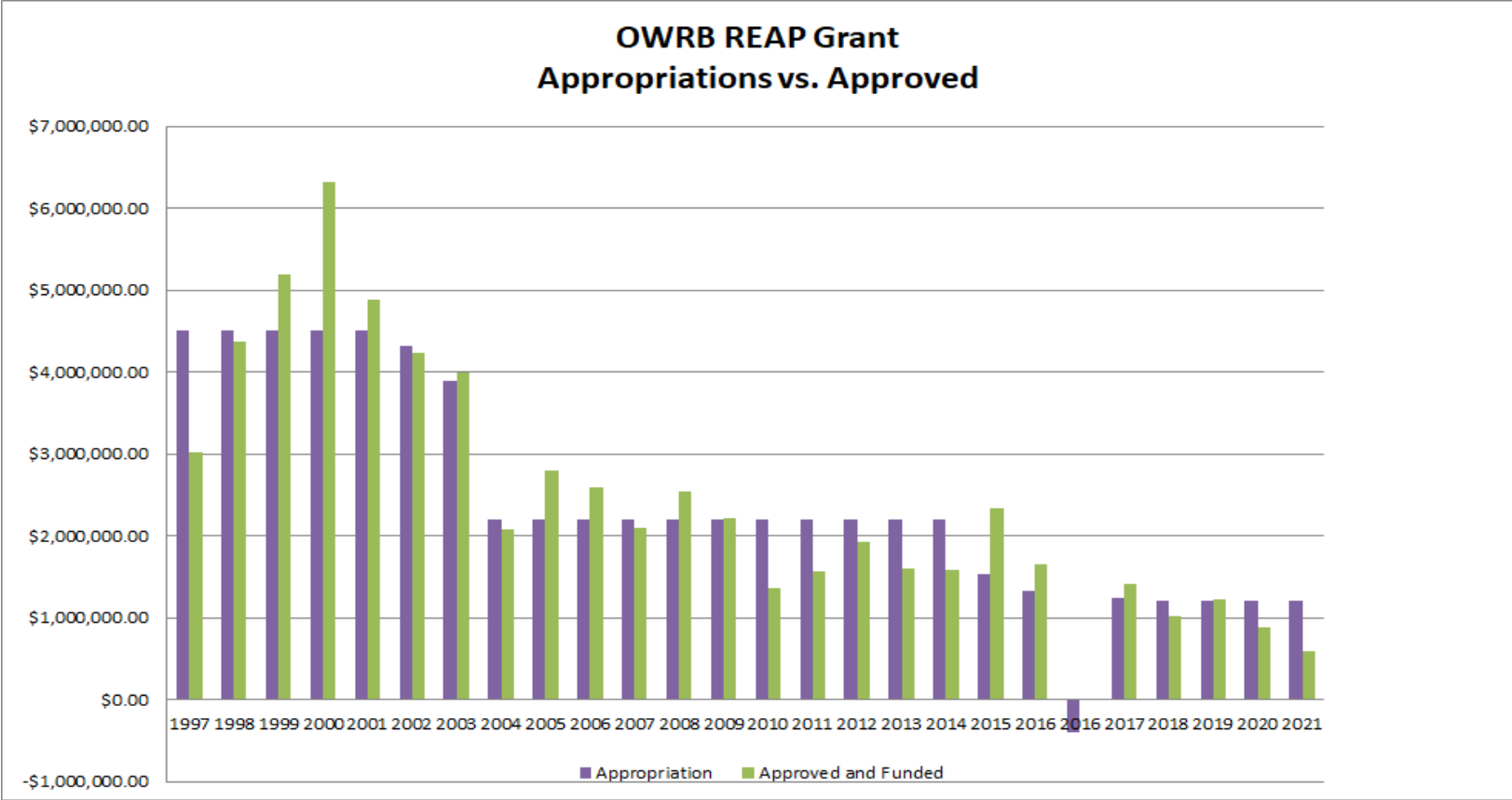


# OWRB Rural Economic Action Plan Grant Program

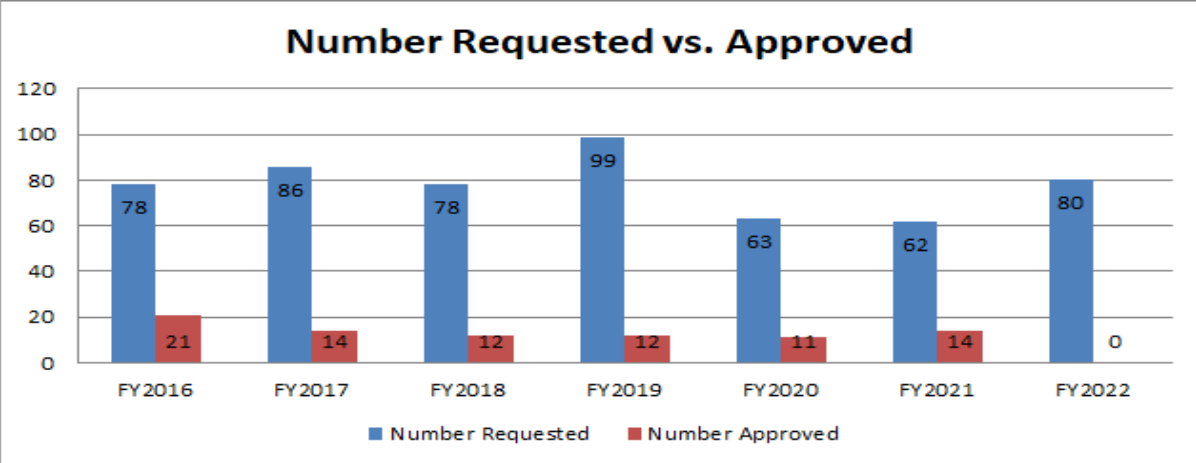
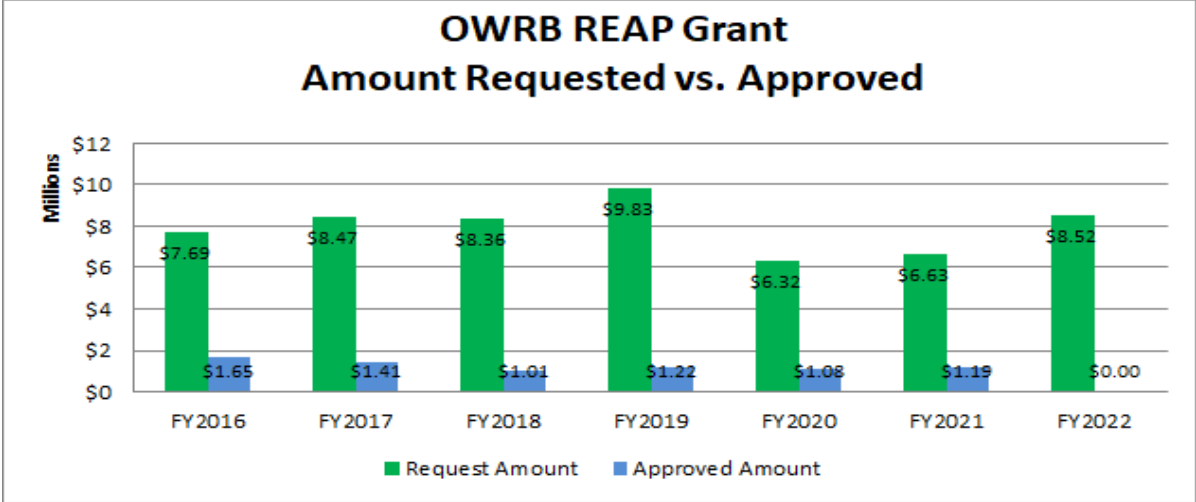
- Maximum grant available \$150,000 (no match required) for water/sewer projects
  - Extra points for requests under \$100,000
- Population Restrictions
  - 7,000 or less
    - 1,750 or less given preference
  - RWD with less than 525 non-pasture taps



# Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grants- Historical Appropriations



# OWRB REAP Requests vs. Approved



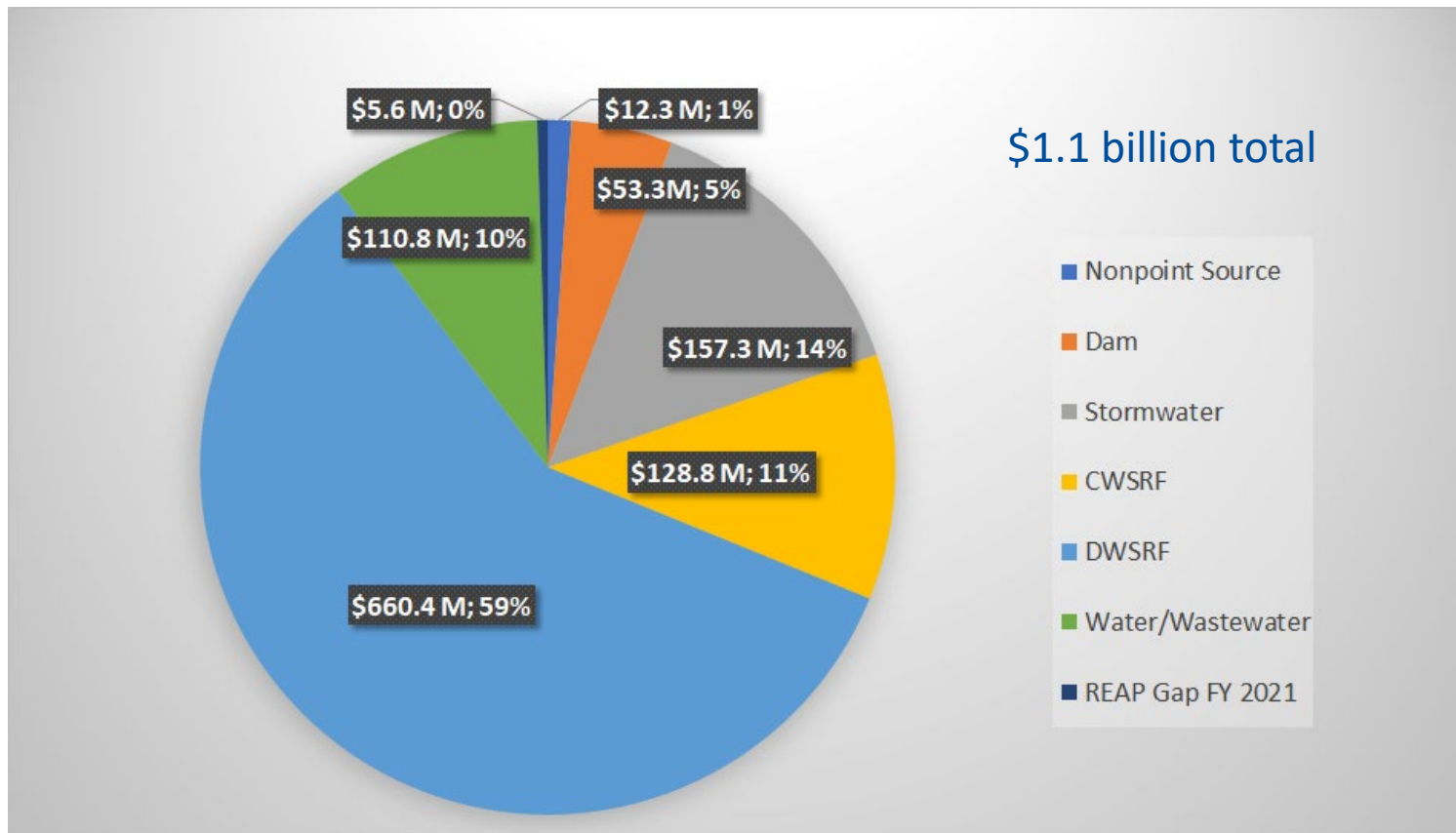
# Dam Rehabilitation Identified Need

Dam Safety Inventory shows 26 priority projects based on condition assessment and Population at Risk

		Population at Risk (PAR)			
		1 - 10	10 - 100	101 - 1000	1001+
NID Condition Assessment	Unsatisfactory		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cushing Lake (OK10642)</li> <li>• Waxhoma Lake (OK10731)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pawhuska Lake (OK11044)</li> </ul>	
	Poor			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sahoma Lake (OK00566)</li> <li>• Stigler Lake (OK00699)</li> <li>• Hominy Lake (OK01344)</li> <li>• Okmulgee Lake (OK01362)</li> <li>• Lacy Lake (OK11016)</li> <li>• Regal Lake (OK02418)</li> <li>• Sportsman Club (OK02426)</li> <li>• Weleetka Lake (OK10076)</li> <li>• Wewoka (OK10487)</li> <li>• Pines West (OK11006)</li> <li>• Pines East (OK11007)</li> <li>• Templo de Alabanzo (OK11089)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lake Carl Blackwell (OK1388)</li> <li>• Overholser (OK02537)</li> <li>• Nichols Lake (OK11079)</li> </ul>
	Fair				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawtonka Lake (OK00450)</li> <li>• Lake Ellsworth (OK00452)</li> <li>• Chickasha Lake (OK02562)</li> <li>• Bluestem Lake (OK02570)</li> <li>• Tecumseh Lake (OK02593)</li> <li>• Shawnee City Lake No.1 (OK11024)</li> <li>• Shawnee City Lake No.2 (OK11039)</li> <li>• Will Rogers Holding Pond (OK11069)</li> </ul>
	Satisfactory				



# Current Construction Project Demand Estimates by Category





# Eligible Uses of ARPA

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, and more equitable economy as the country recovers. Recipients may use these funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures**, by, for example, funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff
- **Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet

**OWRB's recommends focus on water and sewer infrastructure assistance to small communities and rural districts!**



# Thank You

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