

**MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
NOVEMBER 6, 2025
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA**

Official EQB Approved
On January 21, 2026

Notice of Public Meeting – The Environmental Quality Board (Board) convened for a Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m., at the Northeastern State University – Event Center, Community Room, 1205 N. Grand Avenue, Tahlequah, Oklahoma. This meeting was held in accordance with 25 O.S. Section 311, with notice of the meeting given to the Secretary of State on October 24, 2024. The agenda was mailed to interested parties on October 27, 2025 and was posted at the DEQ and the facility on November 5, 2025. Ms. Alexandria Kindrick, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order. Also, she went over safety and housekeeping rules. Ms. Fields called roll and a quorum was confirmed.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Auer
Katlin Esteph
Ken Hirshey
Jimmy Kinder
Alexandria Kindrick
Brandi Lowry
Steve Mason
Tim Munson
Kim Peterson
Pete Schultze
Sheldon Tatum

DEQ STAFF PRESENT

Rob Singletary, Executive Director
Madison Miller, Deputy Executive Director
Jonathan Allen, General Counsel
Ryan McIntosh, Legislative Liaison
Gary Henry, Deputy General Counsel
Mark Hildebrand, Chief of Staff
Karen Steele, Water Quality Division
George Russell, Water Quality Division
Kathy Aebischer, Administrative Services Division
Kelly Dixon, Land Protection Division
Kendal Stegmann, Air Quality Division
Vance Pennington, Environmental Complaints & Local Services
Travis Mensik, Environmental Complaints & Local Services
Dustin Davidson, State Environmental Laboratory Services
Malcolm Zachariah, Air Quality Division
Mark Stasyszen, Water Quality Division
Rachel Hildebrand, Legal Secretary
Quiana Fields, Office of the Executive Director/Board & Council Secretary
Amanda Baker, Environmental Complaints & Local Services
Robin Stratton, Environmental Complaints & Local Services

MEMBERS ABSENT

Shannon Ferrell
Mike Paque

OTHERS PRESENT

Addison Gaut, Office of the Attorney General
Sec. Christina Justice, Secretary of Natural Resources of the Cherokee Nation
Jenny Longley, Court Reporter

Approval of Minutes – Ms. Kindrick called for a motion to approve the September 9, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Mr. Hirshey moved to approve and Mr. Auer made the second.

See transcript pages 7-9

Rich Auer	Yes	Steve Mason	Yes
Katlin Esteph	Yes	Tim Munson	Yes
Ken Hirshey	Yes	Kim Peterson	Yes
Jimmy Kinder	Yes	Pete Schultze	Yes
Alexie Kindrick	Yes	Sheldon Tatum	Yes
Brandi Lowry	Yes		

Consideration of and Action on the Annual Environmental Quality Report – Ms. Kindrick called upon Ms. Madison Miller, Deputy Executive Director of the DEQ. Ms.

Miller gave a presentation on the Annual Environmental Quality Report, that must be approved by the Board prior to its submission to the Governor, Speaker of the House and Senate President Pro Tempore by January 1st of each year. The statutorily prescribed purpose of this report is to outline DEQ's annual funding needs for providing environmental services within its jurisdiction, reflect any new federal mandates and summarize DEQ-recommended statutory changes. The Environmental Quality Board is authorized to review, amend (as necessary) and approve the report. Following questions and comments by the Board and none by the public, Ms. Kindrick called for a motion to approve the report. Mr. Kinder moved to approve and Mr. Hirshey made the second.

See transcript pages 9-32

Rich Auer	Yes	Steve Mason	Yes
Katlin Esteph	Yes	Tim Munson	Yes
Ken Hirshey	Yes	Kim Peterson	Yes
Jimmy Kinder	Yes	Pete Schultze	Yes
Alexie Kindrick	Yes	Sheldon Tatum	Yes
Brandi Lowry	Yes		

Executive Director's Report – Mr. Rob Singletary, Executive Director of the DEQ, discussed agency accomplishments and activities since the last Board meeting, as well as information pertaining to budgetary and/or legislative or related matters.

See transcript pages 32-48

Budget Update and Financial Overview (FY 2026) – Ms. Kindrick called upon Ms. Kathy Aebischer, Chief Financial Officer and Director of Administrative Services Division. Ms. Aebischer gave a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget update. No action by the Board is required.

See transcript pages 48-53

New Business – None

Next Meeting – The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026 at 9:30 a.m., at the Department of Environmental Quality, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Adjournment – Ms. Kindrick called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Munson moved to adjourn and Mr. Hirshey made the second. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

transcript pages 54-55

Rich Auer	Yes	Steve Mason	Yes
Katlin Esteph	Yes	Tim Munson	Yes
Ken Hirshey	Yes	Kim Peterson	Yes
Jimmy Kinder	Yes	Pete Schultze	Yes
Alexie Kindrick	Yes	Sheldon Tatum	Yes
Brandi Lowry	Yes		

Public Forum – Mr. Ed Brocksmith, Save the Illinois River (STIR), spoke on STIR during the public forum.

See transcript pages 55-61

The transcript and sign-in sheet become an official part of these Minutes.

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1 REGULAR MEETING, DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
 2 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
 3 BEGINNING AT 9:30 AM ON NOVEMBER 6, 2025
 4 IN TAHLEQUAH, OKLAHOMA
 5
 6
 7 MEMBERS PRESENT:
 8 Richard Auer
 9 Kenneth Hirshey, Jr.
 10 James Kinder
 11 Alexandria Kindrick
 12 Steve Mason
 13 Brandi Lowry
 14 Peter Schultze
 15 Tim Munson
 16 Sheldon Tatum
 17 Katlin Esteph
 18 Kim Peterson
 19
 20 MEMBERS ABSENT:
 21 Shannon Ferrell
 22 Mike Paque
 23
 24
 25 REPORTED BY: Jenny Longley, CSR

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1 PROCEEDINGS
 2 MS. KINDRICK: Okay. Good morning,
 3 everyone. Let's go ahead and get started, so Call
 4 to Order. The November 6, 2025 regular meeting of
 5 the Environmental Quality Board has been called
 6 according to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section
 7 311 of Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Notice
 8 was filed with the Secretary of State on October 24,
 9 2024. Agendas were mailed to the interested parties
 10 on October 27, 2025 and were posted at the DEQ and
 11 the facility on November 5, 2025. Only matters
 12 appearing on the posted agenda may be considered.
 13 If this meeting is continued or
 14 reconvened, we must announce today the date, time
 15 and place of the continued meeting and the agenda
 16 for such continuation will remain the same as
 17 today's agenda.
 18 So let's start with the
 19 Announcements. So just a few housekeeping things,
 20 you guys can see the exits. There's one behind
 21 y'all right here, one over to the right. Restrooms,
 22 you can enter through any of these doors and it's
 23 all the way down the hallway.
 24 And then I want to go ahead and
 25 introduce Secretary Christina Justice. She is the

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1 Secretary of Natural Resources of the Cherokee
 2 Nation, and I wanted to give her an opportunity to
 3 come and give a few remarks of welcome for today.
 4 So, Secretary Justice.
 5 SECRETARY JUSTICE: Good morning. Thank
 6 you all so much for having me this morning, it's
 7 just a delight to be here. It's always meaningful
 8 for me to return to Northeastern State University,
 9 it's a place that shaped so much of who I am.
 10 I'm proud to have graduated from this
 11 institution and also have been recognized as
 12 distinguished alumni in 2024, which was pretty cool.
 13 This campus is where I earned my criminal justice
 14 degree and also a minor in environmental management,
 15 and it's where it built the foundation that guides
 16 my service to the Cherokee Nation and our shared
 17 responsibility to the land and waters and air that
 18 we all enjoy.
 19 Today's meeting of the Oklahoma
 20 Department of Environmental Quality underscores the
 21 importance of collaboration, partnership, and
 22 responsible stewardship. The decisions that are
 23 made in these rooms right here in our communities
 24 have real, lasting impacts.
 25 Clean water, clean air, and healthy

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1 ecosystems are not abstract concepts. They are
 2 central to our health, to our economy, and our
 3 cultural identity and our future.
 4 As the Secretary of Natural Resources
 5 for the Cherokee Nation, I see firsthand how
 6 important this work is. Within my department, we
 7 have the Environmental Protection Commission, which
 8 permits the Cherokee Nation Sanitary Landfill in
 9 Stilwell, Oklahoma, which is critical infrastructure
 10 that supports families, businesses, and municipal
 11 services across that region.
 12 We're also responsible for oversight
 13 of the newly installed wastewater treatment facility
 14 at the Sallisaw Creek Park in Sallisaw, Oklahoma.
 15 It's a major investment in improving water quality,
 16 restoring ecosystems, and strengthening the longterm
 17 environmental health of our communities.
 18 These projects are not merely
 19 technical or regulatory accomplishments, they
 20 reflect our responsibility to steward the land for
 21 future generations.
 22 I really want to take a moment to
 23 acknowledge something that is really important.
 24 It's really encouraging to see DEQ here, engaging
 25 directly and responsibly with the Cherokee Nation at

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1 a time when Tribal and State relations in Oklahoma
 2 have been, at times, a little bit strained.
 3 It matters, your presence matters.
 4 It reaffirms a truth that's always been clear to us.
 5 The Cherokee Nation is not new to this land. We've
 6 been here, we are here, and we will remain here.
 7 We're strong, we're sovereign, but we're a resilient
 8 and reliable partner.
 9 Our shared future environmentally,
 10 culturally, and economically is stronger when Tribal
 11 Nations and the State of Oklahoma can work together.
 12 When we combine our regulatory expertise and our
 13 cultural knowledge and our shared commitment to
 14 public health, we improve environmental quality and
 15 policy for everyone in the entire state.
 16 I want to say that I'm glad that some
 17 of you will get to join us for lunch at the Cherokee
 18 Nation Career Readiness Center. The center sits on
 19 the site of a former brownfield. It's land that was
 20 once burdened with environmental challenges and it's
 21 now transformed into a place of opportunity,
 22 learning, and growth for our Cherokee citizens.
 23 It stands as a living example of what
 24 restoration, vision, and partnership can achieve. I
 25 hope that the time that we share today will continue

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1 the spirit of collaboration reflected in today's
 2 discussions.
 3 Thank you so much for your service,
 4 what you guys do every day. You're protecting our
 5 lands and you're protecting the communities that we
 6 all call home.
 7 It's really good to be here, it's
 8 really good to be back at NSU, and I thank all of
 9 you again for your commitment and I hope that you
 10 have a really productive and wonderful meeting
 11 today. Thank you so much.
 12 MS. KINDRICK: Thank you very much.
 13 [Applause.]
 14 MS. KINDRICK: Okay. Thank you so much.
 15 Before we head into roll call, I do want to point
 16 out that not all of us have microphones. So as we
 17 go into this, if we all have any comments or
 18 questions, et cetera, please make sure to project.
 19 I know that most of the time we don't have a problem
 20 with that, I just want to make note of it for today.
 21 So Quiana, roll call, please?
 22 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?
 23 MR. AUER: Here.
 24 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?
 25 MS. ESTEPH: Here.

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1 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?
 2 MR. HIRSHEY: Here.
 3 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?
 4 MR. KINDER: Here.
 5 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Kindrick?
 6 MS. KINDRICK: Here.
 7 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Lowry?
 8 MS. LOWRY: Here.
 9 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Mason?
 10 MR. MASON: Present.
 11 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Munson?
 12 MR. MUNSON: Here.
 13 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Paque is absent.
 14 Mr. Peterson?
 15 MR. PETERSON: Here.
 16 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?
 17 MR. SCHULTZE: Here.
 18 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?
 19 MR. TATUM: Here.
 20 MS. FIELDS: Dr. Ferrell is absent.
 21 We have a quorum.
 22 MS. KINDRICK: Thank you.
 23 Okay. Next up we have the approval
 24 of the minutes of the September 9, 2025 regular
 25 meeting. Those minutes were sent out in our normal

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1 meeting packet that we received.
 2 Any discussion of those minutes?
 3 Comments, questions?
 4 Hearing none, I'd like to entertain a
 5 motion.
 6 MR. HIRSHEY: I move to approve the
 7 minutes as stated.
 8 MR. AUER: Auer, second.
 9 MS. KINDRICK: Thank you. Quiana?
 10 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?
 11 MR. AUER: Yes.
 12 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?
 13 MS. ESTEPH: Yes.
 14 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?
 15 MR. HIRSHEY: Yes.
 16 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?
 17 MR. KINDER: Yes.
 18 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Kindrick?
 19 MS. KINDRICK: Yes.
 20 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Lowry?
 21 MS. LOWRY: Yes.
 22 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Mason?
 23 MR. MASON: Yes.
 24 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Munson?
 25 MR. MUNSON: Yes.

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1 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Peterson?
 2 MR. PETERSON: Yes.
 3 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?
 4 MR. SCHULTZE: Yes.
 5 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?
 6 MR. TATUM: Yes.
 7 MS. FIELDS: Motion passed.
 8 MS. KINDRICK: Perfect. Thank you very
 9 much.
 10 Okay. Next on the agenda is the
 11 Consideration of and Action on the Annual
 12 Environmental Quality Report. The Oklahoma
 13 Environmental Quality Code requires DEQ to prepare
 14 an "Oklahoma Environmental Quality Report" and to
 15 submit it to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and
 16 Senate President Pro Tempore by January 1st of each
 17 year. The statutorily prescribed purpose of the
 18 report is to outline the DEQ's annual funding needs
 19 for providing environmental services within its
 20 jurisdiction, reflect any new federal mandates, and
 21 summarize DEQ-recommended statutory changes. The
 22 Environmental Quality Board is authorized to review,
 23 amend as necessary, and approve the report.
 24 I invite Ms. Miller, the Deputy
 25 Executive Director, up for a presentation.

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1 MS. MILLER: Thank you very much. My name
 2 is Madison Miller, Deputy Executive Director of DEQ.
 3 It is the most wonderful time of the year, I will
 4 present the Environmental Quality Report. And
 5 before I get started, I just want to say thank you
 6 to Secretary Justice for your remarks, we're happy
 7 to be here.
 8 At our last board meeting in
 9 September, I went through a bunch of federal rules
 10 and talked all about them, and today in this
 11 Environmental Quality Report, there is a section for
 12 federal mandates.
 13 And I'm not going to go as in depth
 14 as I did last time, but I am going to provide some
 15 background just so we can all get our minds wrapped
 16 back around the concepts as I talk about them.
 17 And my slides are behind you, I don't
 18 know if you can see -- if the board can see -- you
 19 can't see anything over there, but -- yeah, you
 20 might come out here, so...
 21 So the first section of your report
 22 is DEQ's Annual Budget Request, and this one is
 23 simple and easy. Last year, Fiscal Year '25 - which
 24 we're currently in, still - DEQ requested
 25 \$21,447,676, and for the next Fiscal Year of '26 --

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1 sorry, I think the slide is incorrect.
 2 So for Fiscal Year '26, which is what
 3 we're currently in, that orange box is -- that was
 4 our request for last year, which is what we're
 5 currently in, and for next year, Fiscal Year '27, it
 6 is the same, it is a flat budget. So that is really
 7 simple, straightforward.
 8 Going into the Federal Mandates
 9 section of your report, which you all should have at
 10 your seats, I again am just going to touch on a few
 11 things. There are a lot of air rules, so this is
 12 the most rules in a particular section, but they're
 13 all really important.
 14 So to begin, the Particulate Matter
 15 National Ambient Air Quality Standard that EPA
 16 finalized on February 7th of 2024 lowered that
 17 standard to 9 micrograms per cubic meter. All
 18 monitors in the state show attainment with that
 19 standard. So Oklahoma recommended to EPA that all
 20 77 counties in Oklahoma retain a designation of
 21 attainment or unclassifiable.
 22 And the EPA came out with a
 23 regulatory agenda, its Spring 2025 Regulatory Agenda
 24 came out in September of 2025, and on that list EPA
 25 has stated that it plans to reconsider the PM2.5

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1 standard, and that is all we know about that at this
 2 time.
 3 There is litigation over this rule,
 4 over the 2024 rule that EPA finalized that lowered
 5 the standard that DEQ is party to, and that case is
 6 in abeyance and also is on hold for the federal
 7 shutdown, so there's nothing really to report there.
 8 The next item on the list is ozone
 9 NAAQS. So EPA had previously announced that it
 10 would reconsider the ozone NAAQS, but ozone NAAQS is
 11 not on EPA's 2025 Spring Agenda, so as far as we
 12 know, that standard will not be being reconsidered.
 13 Currently, all of Oklahoma is
 14 designated as in attainment for ozone, but due to
 15 2023 and 2024 data, the NAAQS has been exceeded in
 16 Oklahoma City and Tulsa Metro Areas.
 17 So it's not expected that EPA will
 18 redesignate any areas until, if and when, it
 19 formally reconsiders the NAAQS at some point in the
 20 future and its review process is complete, but it's
 21 important to continue to reduce emissions of ozone
 22 precursors in the interim.
 23 Next on the list, ozone transport
 24 SIP. And we've talked about this one a lot and
 25 there is a lot of procedural detail about this one

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1 that I won't go into, but basically the Clean Air
 2 Act includes a provision that prohibits states from
 3 contributing significantly to NAAQS nonattainment in
 4 another state, and that's under Clean Air Act
 5 Section 110.
 6 Oklahoma developed a SIP using
 7 modeling and approved data and advice in an EPA
 8 guidance document that determined that no
 9 significant contributions will be made to downwind
 10 states.
 11 EPA disapproved Oklahoma's SIP and 20
 12 other states' SIPs and subsequently promulgated a
 13 FIP, a Federal Implementation Plan, and EPA stated
 14 that that rule would be only reviewed in the D.C.
 15 Circuit Court of Appeals.
 16 There is litigation over this rule
 17 that Oklahoma is party to. So the case was
 18 originally brought in the Tenth Circuit Court of
 19 Appeals, but was transferred to the D.C. Circuit by
 20 EPA, according to a statement that they made in the
 21 Final Rule.
 22 The Supreme Court remanded that case
 23 to the Tenth Circuit, and the D.C. Circuit has
 24 transferred that case back to the Tenth Circuit, so
 25 it's really only been through a procedural kind of

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1 process at this point and the merits have not been
 2 heard, and this on EPA's Spring 2025 Agenda to
 3 reconsider, as well.
 4 Next item is Regional Haze. EPA
 5 still has Oklahoma's regional haze round-two SIP for
 6 review and there has not been any action on that,
 7 but on October 2, 2025, EPA published an Advance
 8 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on how
 9 EPA can meaningfully revise the regional haze rule
 10 to streamline regulatory requirements impacting
 11 states' visibility improvement obligations under the
 12 Clean Air Act, and comments are due on that rule on
 13 December 1st of 2025.
 14 The Oil & Gas Methane Rules is the
 15 next on the list, and the EPA's Spring 2025 Agenda
 16 includes a reconsideration of NSPS for the oil and
 17 natural gas sector. And this constitutes -- NSPS
 18 OOOOb and OOOOc, which is the 111(d) plan the states
 19 are required to put together. They were published
 20 as final on March 8, 2024.
 21 OOOOb contains new requirements for
 22 oil and gas facilities, including a significant
 23 number of facilities that have not been previously
 24 regulated by DEQ, actually an order of magnitude
 25 increase in affected sources.

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1 And on July 31st of 2025, EPA
 2 published an Interim Final Rule to extend certain
 3 compliance deadlines within NSPS OOOOb and extend
 4 the deadline of submittal of the state 111(d) plan
 5 in OOOOc.
 6 So there are two sets of litigation
 7 on this rule. The first is on the 2024 rule, which
 8 Oklahoma is party to, challenging EPA's final
 9 decision-making to regulate in the way that it did.
 10 And then the second piece of
 11 litigation is new. It was filed by the
 12 Environmental Defense Fund concerning EPA's Interim
 13 Final Rule to extend the deadlines. And they are
 14 calling that the methane delay rule, but basically
 15 the Interim Final Rule mechanism can be used under
 16 the Administrative Procedures Act under Section 533
 17 if there's a good cause that there should be an
 18 exception to the Act's requirements to go through
 19 notice and comment procedure if it's impracticable,
 20 unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.
 21 So given that the deadlines were fast
 22 approaching and/or are past, EPA used this Interim
 23 Final Rule mechanism to extend the deadlines, which
 24 is not the first time that EPA, under any
 25 administration, has used this mechanism.

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1 The litigation is a procedural
 2 challenge and petitioners are arguing that the
 3 methane delay rule's blatantly illegal and that
 4 changes to implementation dates are substantive
 5 amendments requiring notice and comment.
 6 So EPA filed a motion in this case on
 7 September -- I didn't write it down, but
 8 September 25th, I think, of 2025, and it stated that
 9 it intends to issue a subsequent Final Rule in
 10 October of 2025, which has passed and that's -- you
 11 know, that probably didn't come out because of the
 12 federal shutdown.
 13 But EPA has stated in court filings
 14 that it plans to subsequently satisfy the APA's
 15 rulemaking requirements, and so the argument would
 16 be that the case is moot, and so we'll see what
 17 happens with that.
 18 Next item on the list is the Power
 19 Plant Greenhouse Gas Rules. In April of '24, EPA
 20 finalized greenhouse gas emission standards for
 21 fossil fuel-fired electric generating units, and
 22 this is sometimes referred to as Clean Power Plan
 23 2.0.
 24 And that included NSPS and emission
 25 guidelines for states to develop a plan for existing

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1 sources, which set forth basically that carbon
 2 capture and sequestration was the best system of
 3 emission reduction which was required under Clean
 4 Air Act Section 111.
 5 On June 17th of '25, EPA came out
 6 with a proposed rule to repeal all the greenhouse
 7 gas emissions standards for fossil fuel-fired
 8 plants, and that rule is not final yet. There is
 9 litigation over the 2024 rule that Oklahoma is party
 10 to.
 11 And then last time on the list of air
 12 rules is the Endangerment Finding. So on July 29th
 13 of 2025, EPA proposed to rescind the 2009 Greenhouse
 14 Gas Endangerment Finding as well as rules applicable
 15 to mobile sources that were based on that
 16 Endangerment Finding.
 17 The rules proposed to be rescinded by
 18 EPA are applicable to mobile sources under Clean Air
 19 Act Section 202, so not implemented by DEQ, but they
 20 include greenhouse gas emission standards for
 21 light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles and
 22 engines.
 23 So despite the fact that this is
 24 affecting mobile sources and DEQ regulates
 25 stationary sources only, this rescission of the rule

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1 will impact PSD permitting significantly. So by
 2 operation of law under the Clean Air Act, when
 3 greenhouse gases become subject to regulation
 4 through the Endangerment Finding and in particular
 5 the issuance of vehicle standards, it triggered
 6 permitting requirements for stationary sources.
 7 So under the Clean Air Act, PSD
 8 provision states, including Oklahoma, are required
 9 to evaluate and establish limits for any pollutants
 10 "subject to regulation" under the Clean Air Act that
 11 is emitted by a major source through either a major
 12 modification or new construction.
 13 And this requirement for limits isn't
 14 triggered in Oklahoma unless the source is major for
 15 another regulated pollutant, as is consistent with
 16 the Supreme Court's 2014 decision in Utility Air
 17 Regulatory Group v. EPA. Thus, if greenhouse gases
 18 are no longer subject to regulation under the Act,
 19 this permitting requirement will no longer be in
 20 effect.
 21 Moving on to Drinking Water. So, two
 22 rules to discuss here. The PFAS National Drinking
 23 Water Regulation is first. In April of 2024, the
 24 final PFAS National Drinking Water Standard was
 25 published that established maximum contaminant

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1 levels for six PFAS in drinking water, including a
 2 hazard index.
 3 In May of 2025, EPA announced its intent
 4 for the future of the 2024 rule, which was to retain
 5 the 4 parts per trillion MCL for PFOA and PFOS, but
 6 extend the compliance deadlines from 2029 to 2031,
 7 rescind the regulations, and reconsider regulatory
 8 determinations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and the
 9 hazard index mixture of these three plus PFBS. EPA
 10 also announced it would establish a federal
 11 exemption framework and initiate enhanced outreach
 12 to water systems.
 13 There's no proposed rule yet, and
 14 interestingly, the litigation that ensued over the
 15 2024 Final Rule could take care of that for EPA. So
 16 American Water Works Association v. EPA is the
 17 litigation over this rule, and on September 11th of
 18 2025, EPA filed a motion that asked the court to
 19 vacate the determination to regulate the three
 20 individual PFAS and the mixture of those PFAS plus
 21 PFBS - which is the hazard index - and two, the MCL
 22 standards and goals related to those PFAS.
 23 So basically, EPA said in order to
 24 expedite the process of reconsidering the rule, EPA
 25 wants the court to leave the rule -- the current

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1 rule standing, but strike the vacated portions, the
 2 portions they've requested to be vacated.
 3 For lead and copper, this one's pretty
 4 straightforward. The Lead and Copper Rule
 5 improvements were finalized on October 8, 2024
 6 which, most importantly, extended compliance
 7 deadlines for states and regulated entities. So
 8 there is litigation over this rule. EPA announced
 9 on August 25th of 2025 that it intends to defend the
 10 lawsuit.
 11 Importantly, if the LCRI - which is the
 12 Lead and Copper Rule Improvements rule - was
 13 rescinded without a replacement, the previous rule,
 14 which is called the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions,
 15 would be the default rule and everyone would be out
 16 of compliance with that rule.
 17 For Wastewater, just three things to
 18 discuss, quickly. EPA, according to its 2025 Spring
 19 Agenda, plans to review the Effluent Guideline
 20 Limitations for: PFAS Manufacturers Under the
 21 Organic Chemicals, Plastics, and Synthetic Fibers
 22 Point Source category; the Steam Electric power
 23 generating point source category; and the Oil and
 24 Gas Extraction category.
 25 And EPA is taking two actions related to

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1 these. On September 30th of 2025, EPA published a
 2 final action to withdraw its previous proposal for
 3 the Meat and Poultry category, and on October 2nd of
 4 2025, EPA published a Direct Final Rule to extend
 5 the date for existing Steam Electric Generating
 6 plants to decide whether to submit a notice of
 7 planned participation for the permanent cessation of
 8 coal combustion subcategory in the 2024 Supplemental
 9 Steam Electric Generating Rule.

10 With respect to Waters of the U.S., on
 11 March 25th of 2025, a notice was published in the
 12 Federal Register to invite stakeholder feedback on
 13 the definition of the waters of the U.S., and EPA
 14 has stated that it will align the WOTUS definition
 15 with the Supreme Court's holding in Sackett v. EPA,
 16 which stated that the Clean Water Act extends only
 17 to wetlands that have a continuous surface
 18 connection with Waters of the U.S., i.e., with a
 19 relatively permanent body of water connected to the
 20 traditional interstate navigable waters.

21 And this is important to Oklahoma because
 22 if continuous surface connection is interpreted
 23 liberally to include more than -- just about
 24 anything, it federalizes Waters of the State and
 25 could usurp the State's authority.

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1 And for 401 certification under the Clean
 2 Water Act, on July 7th of 2025, EPA established a
 3 public docket and announced listening sessions to be
 4 held regarding implementation challenges associated
 5 with Clean Water Act 401 certification.

6 EPA stated that it intends to realign 401
 7 certification considerations with the direct water
 8 quality impacts of the discharge rather than broader
 9 impacts of the activity as a whole.

10 And this is important to Oklahoma because
 11 it more closely aligns implementation of the statute
 12 with the rule of law and reduces the likelihood that
 13 states could delay or stop projects on any basis
 14 that is not actually related to the direct impacts
 15 to the waterbody from the discharge itself rather
 16 than secondary or proximate impacts from ancillary
 17 activities.

18 For PFAS-specific regulations, the first
 19 topic is testing for PFAS in drinking water, and I
 20 wanted to talk about what our state lab has been
 21 doing with that and kind of how -- what the sampling
 22 results look like across the state of Oklahoma for
 23 PFAS in drinking water.

24 There are two separate categories here,
 25 the UCMR 5 testing results and the Small and

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1 Disadvantaged Communities Emerging Contaminants
 2 grant testing results. So UCMR 5 is under large
 3 systems -- or, it's for large systems only, and that
 4 rule required large systems to test their drinking
 5 water for PFAS and they didn't necessarily have to
 6 send those samples to the DEQ state lab.

7 So those samples have been tested
 8 everywhere that they could find testing services.
 9 And granted, this program began before there was,
 10 you know, as widespread testing availability as
 11 there is now, which there's still not, you know,
 12 very widespread testing availability, so I'm told
 13 that EPA, you know, advised systems to just send it
 14 anywhere they can get it for testing. So these
 15 results are kept by EPA, stored on EPA's website,
 16 you can look them up.

17 DEQ provided testing services to two
 18 systems in the state under this program, and those
 19 systems did not have detects above the MCL. The
 20 remaining large systems sampled, which was 161, were
 21 analyzed elsewhere, and results with detects above
 22 the MCL include one system for PFOA and six systems
 23 for PFOS.

24 And for the Small and Disadvantaged
 25 Communities, our lab is running about 20 samples per

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1 week, and once we got this testing program up and
 2 running, this put us into full production mode in
 3 our State Environmental Lab.

4 So DEQ provided testing services to 317
 5 systems throughout the state and the results with
 6 detects above the MCL for PFOA is two systems and
 7 for PFOS is one system, and detections have been
 8 found in nearly all sampling groups and in most
 9 areas sampled in the program to date, and detection
 10 level was 1, so we could see down to 1, but the MCL
 11 is 4 parts per trillion.

12 And also, in my talk I didn't include
 13 this, but in your report it states, you know, there
 14 are, like I just explained under the National
 15 Drinking Water Standards for PFAS, there are other
 16 PFAS constituents that are regulated under that rule
 17 currently, still, because the rule's in effect and
 18 the standards for those other PFAS have not been
 19 vacated, and there were detects above the MCL for
 20 those other PFAS.

21 So moving on to the next subject, the
 22 listing of PFAS as a hazardous constituent under
 23 RCRA. So in February of '24, EPA proposed to list
 24 nine PFAS, as well as their salts and structural
 25 isomers, as Hazardous Constituents under RCRA.

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1 And this rule was never finalized, but if
 2 finalized it would subject these requirements to
 3 corrective action requirements and would be a
 4 necessary step for future work to regulate PFAS as a
 5 listed hazardous waste. EPA included this topic in
 6 its 2025 Spring Regulatory Agenda.
 7 And then the listing of PFAS as a
 8 hazardous substance under CERCLA, in May of 2024,
 9 EPA finalized the rule entitled Designation of PFOA
 10 and PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances.
 11 And so notice that PFOA and PFOS are the
 12 rules that EPA is wanting to only regulate under the
 13 National Drinking Water Standards, so this aligns
 14 with their plan for the National Drinking Water
 15 Standards and the MCLs for those.
 16 So the CERCLA rule designates two PFAS and
 17 their salts and structural isomers as hazardous
 18 substances. There's litigation over this rule, and
 19 on September 17th of 2025, EPA filed a motion that
 20 requested the court lift the abeyance and order the
 21 parties to propose an amended briefing schedule, and
 22 EPA specifically stated that it has reviewed the
 23 underlying rule and has decided to keep the rule in
 24 place. So it appears EPA will defend this lawsuit
 25 and it will not reconsider this rule.

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1 So one topic in the category of
 2 miscellaneous coal combustion residuals. On May 8th
 3 of 2024, EPA finalized a rule to establish
 4 regulatory requirements for legacy CCR facilities.
 5 So then in 2024, DEQ updated its rules to include
 6 the CCR requirements of that Final Rule, and those
 7 rules went into effect on September 15th of 2025.
 8 Before September 15th of '25 and after
 9 DEQ's rules had been promulgated, EPA published a
 10 rule on July 22nd of 2025 to extend the compliance
 11 deadlines in that 2024 rule.
 12 Thus, if EPA finalizes the extension of
 13 the deadline, DEQ's rules will require compliance
 14 earlier than EPA's rules, but DEQ will not evaluate
 15 compliance with those rules until the federal
 16 compliance deadline is in effect, and we have sent
 17 letters out to facilities that are subject to this
 18 rule stating as such.
 19 Okay. That's it for our rules, and moving
 20 into the Legislative Recommendations section of the
 21 report, we just have one, for the Uniform
 22 Environmental Permitting Act Reform.
 23 So to fulfill permit reform initiatives on
 24 the state and federal levels, DEQ plans to request a
 25 bill that would amend the Uniform Environmental

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1 Permitting Act in 27A to improve efficiency in the
 2 permitting process and reduce issuance times.
 3 Currently, newspaper publication is
 4 required for public notice at many steps throughout
 5 the process depending on the permit's tier, such as
 6 receipt of application, when the draft permit is
 7 issued and out for public comment, and when the
 8 final permit is issued, and the Act sets forth
 9 timeframes for each step in the process.
 10 So DEQ currently is building out its
 11 website so that every action is published on the
 12 website, thus at any time, a person could look up
 13 the progress of a permit application and see what
 14 step it is in in the process.
 15 And with respect to the statute, DEQ plans
 16 to request that newspaper publication be required at
 17 the first instance of public notice which would
 18 provide instructions to sign up for the electronic
 19 notations of future public notice periods and
 20 subsequent public notices for that permit may be
 21 made electronically rather than in the newspaper.
 22 This would provide direct and immediate notice to
 23 the public recipient rather than the public having
 24 to continually check the newspaper.
 25 And additionally, DEQ plans to shorten the

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1 timeframe set forth in the Act to still provide DEQ
 2 a reasonable amount of time to complete tasks, for
 3 instance responses to public comments, but
 4 nevertheless decrease the amount of time it takes to
 5 issue that permit.
 6 And that concludes my presentation.
 7 MS. KINDRICK: Okay. Wonderful, thank you
 8 so much.
 9 I'd like to entertain questions and
 10 discussion by the board.
 11 MR. HIRSHEY: So Madison, I have a quick
 12 question on the LCRIs. I know that in the state
 13 that there were certain deadlines in which each
 14 community was supposed to turn in an inventory. Do
 15 we know how many of those -- what personal we have
 16 filed, roughly?
 17 And then I know that, number two, the
 18 date has already passed for compliance with federal
 19 requirements. Is there any kind of unofficial
 20 update of how that is progressing regarding, you
 21 know, a probable outcome? Is there any feeling on
 22 that?
 23 MS. MILLER: Yes. So Mark Stasyszen, our
 24 Drinking Water Administrator, is going to answer
 25 this question for you.

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1 MR. STASYSZEN: Okay. I definitely caught
 2 the first question about where we're at with those
 3 initial Lead Service Line inventories. Right now,
 4 we had about 900 or so due from our community and
 5 non-transient non-community systems, and the number
 6 changes every day because we still get some coming
 7 in as we do more outreach and things, but we're
 8 sitting at about 200 that are still outstanding.
 9 And what was the second question?
 10 MR. HIRSHEY: A status, kind of like on
 11 the -- we've passed the compliance date with the
 12 EPA, it is in a lawsuit, etc. Is there any feeling
 13 on how that lawsuit is going? Are they -- do we
 14 think they're going to relinquish this and put some
 15 ease on it or do you think they're buckling down and
 16 really trying to be firm?
 17 MR. STASYSZEN: So I have to think that if
 18 we lost the LCRI, which is a very complex rule, that
 19 the LCRR, the previous rule, was even more complex.
 20 I think EPA is going to fight that and try to make
 21 sure that we keep that rule there.
 22 Now, they've communicated about
 23 having additional flexibilities with the rule and
 24 things like that, but we haven't really heard
 25 anything from EPA headquarters regarding what that

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1 might look like.
 2 MR. HIRSHEY: Because the cities that we
 3 deal with, you know, the inventory is not that --
 4 you know, that difficult, obtrusive to do if it's
 5 done, you know, based on age of lines, etc., and so
 6 -- but the next step of remedy and so forth is, and
 7 what they're trying to do.
 8 So that's why I was asking the
 9 question, is what can the cities anticipate? That's
 10 the question that I had.
 11 MR. STASYSZEN: I would anticipate that by
 12 2027 we'll have to have that updated baseline
 13 inventory, which really matches what we're asking
 14 for, that initial Lead Service Line Inventory, and
 15 that at some point, we're going to have to at least
 16 identify what those unknown service lines are.
 17 MR. HIRSHEY: Thank you.
 18 MS. LOWRY: I have a question about the
 19 111(d) plans. Are those all on hold right now
 20 completely --
 21 MS. MILLER: Yes.
 22 MS. LOWRY: -- no work being done on
 23 those?
 24 MS. MILLER: Correct.
 25 MS. LOWRY: Do you foresee any work

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1 starting in any of the timelines if the
 2 Environmental Defense Fund litigation is successful
 3 or do you think you'd be able to put those into
 4 place sometime?
 5 MS. MILLER: Well, I don't know if I'm --
 6 I try not to anticipate the outcome of litigation
 7 and so we think that we're okay, you know, keeping
 8 that in abeyance. We're not concerned about the
 9 legal -- any legal problems with that.
 10 MS. LOWRY: Okay.
 11 MS. KINDRICK: Any other questions? Okay.
 12 I'd like to entertain any questions, comments,
 13 discussion by the public?
 14 Okay. Hearing none, discussion and
 15 possible action by the board? Anything else?
 16 Okay. Hearing nothing, I'd like to
 17 entertain a motion to approve.
 18 MR. KINDER: I so move to approve the
 19 report.
 20 MR. HIRSHEY: Second.
 21 MS. KINDRICK: Okay. Roll call vote,
 22 Quiana?
 23 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?
 24 MR. AUER: Yes.
 25 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?

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1 MS. ESTEPH: Yes.
 2 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?
 3 MR. HIRSHEY: Yes.
 4 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?
 5 MR. KINDER: Yes.
 6 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Kindrick?
 7 MS. KINDRICK: Yes.
 8 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Lowry?
 9 MS. LOWRY: Yes.
 10 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Mason?
 11 MR. MASON: Yes.
 12 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Munson?
 13 MR. MUNSON: Yes.
 14 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Peterson?
 15 MR. PETERSON: Yes.
 16 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?
 17 MR. SCHULTZE: Yes.
 18 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?
 19 MR. TATUM: Yes.
 20 MS. FIELDS: Motion passed.
 21 MS. KINDRICK: Fantastic, thank you.
 22 Okay. Next, the Executive Director's
 23 Report with Robert Singletary, the Executive
 24 Director of DEQ. Mr. Singletary's report may
 25 include significant agency accomplishments and

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1 activities since the last board meeting, as well as
 2 information pertaining to budgetary and/or
 3 legislative matters. This report is for
 4 informational purposes only, and no action by the
 5 board is required.
 6 And you're up.
 7 MR. SINGLETARY: So I know I failed
 8 miserably at keeping my report brief at the last two
 9 board meetings. It's only two pages this time, so
 10 it's going to be brief, partly because Madison
 11 covered most of the really important stuff on the
 12 federal level.
 13 But I did want to start off and talk
 14 a little bit about the federal level and the
 15 shutdown. Currently, our federal funds we get
 16 through EPA continue to flow for our programs, our
 17 projects continue to be funded. We've been informed
 18 that as long as there's no affirmative action by EPA
 19 personnel that those funds will continue to flow
 20 throughout the shutdown.
 21 Obviously, if it's a continued
 22 shutdown and it goes for many more months,
 23 pass-through funds, you know, things that come
 24 through us to go to specific projects from the
 25 federal government, some of those projects will be

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1 paused, potentially, if that funding stops,
 2 obviously we don't have funds in-house to fund those
 3 projects.
 4 When it comes to funding our
 5 programs, if for some reason those funds were
 6 delayed, we do have -- we're in a pretty good
 7 position to handle that for a certain amount of time
 8 for, like, our Public Water Supply program.
 9 We have some unrestricted funds that
 10 we can shift around and use to keep those programs
 11 going, but obviously if it continued, you know for,
 12 six months or seven months or something like that,
 13 we would have a little bit of a different story, but
 14 currently we're in a really good position, the EPA
 15 going to keep things moving just like it always has.
 16 We have taken some steps to meet kind
 17 of discretionary travel or discretionary purchases
 18 or projects that we have around the building or
 19 elsewhere, we have paused on new projects during
 20 this time until we get things kind of squared away
 21 on the federal level.
 22 I want to give you an update on our
 23 permitting reform efforts. Madison mentioned
 24 proposed reform permitting act revision in her
 25 Environmental Quality Report.

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1 That is something that we are hoping
 2 to streamline some of the public notice requirements
 3 and make them more effective for the public, but
 4 also kind of shorten certain timeframes that kind of
 5 come in with multiple publications, and we're also
 6 shortening our timeframes to review the action on
 7 the permits. Because of some LEAN efforts that
 8 we're implementing through the agency, we can meet
 9 those different timelines and everybody will benefit
 10 from that.
 11 Speaking of those LEAN efforts, we've
 12 done a LEAN effort in the Air Quality Minor Source
 13 Construction Permitting program that -- the process
 14 is complete, now we're implementing it.
 15 Through that LEAN process, they
 16 identified about a 59-percent reduction in the
 17 number of days from the time we receive an
 18 application to when that application is issued.
 19 That's all on paper right now, so now
 20 we need to actually implement it and, you know, a
 21 year from now, we can go back and look at the data,
 22 but we're pretty excited of what they found in that
 23 whole process of kind of value mapping all the
 24 different pitch points in the process, and it's been
 25 very informative and actually has been just a great

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1 team-building response from programs that have been
 2 involved in it.
 3 We're in the process of doing
 4 something similar in the Water Quality Permitting
 5 section. It's very early in the process, but they
 6 have done some of that value mapping and they've
 7 identified some key areas that they think they can
 8 make some very significant reductions in, as well,
 9 so that's looking very promising, as well.
 10 Madison also mentioned our
 11 transparency initiative. So we've decided a while
 12 back that we were going to just -- actually not that
 13 long ago, a few months, that we're going to start
 14 putting all of our Tier II and Tier III permits, our
 15 major permits, on our website.
 16 As soon as we receive an application,
 17 that application goes on the website and any
 18 documentation received or issued related to that
 19 application will be in that docket for that
 20 permitting action.
 21 Ultimately, we think that's going to
 22 help with this effort to -- with the Uniform
 23 Permitting Act changes, just to kind of feed right
 24 into it. But at the very least, there's going to be
 25 transparency, we can see when the agency is kind of

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1 delinquent in moving things along, it's going to be
 2 super apparent.
 3 There's a next step in the process
 4 that's identified on the website, so it's going to
 5 hold us accountable, but then it'll also show if a
 6 consultant is kind of delinquent in getting a
 7 response in, that will be very apparent, as well, so
 8 it'll just be transparency for everybody.
 9 That is set to be -- all the work's
 10 been done, but we're troubleshooting it right now.
 11 I think we're looking at the 17th, so 10 days from
 12 now is when that should be fully live and you can
 13 get on the website and see that in action.
 14 Lastly, I mentioned our expedited
 15 permitting process that we're putting in place. So
 16 we were working with some of our industry partners
 17 kind of late last spring and one of them came up
 18 with the idea of putting together an expedited
 19 permitting process, and we took that, put a program
 20 together, and have now been implementing it.
 21 And we've got our first contract for
 22 services from that team, we're awaiting their
 23 application, so that's off and running and we've got
 24 several other entities that are wanting to take
 25 advantage of that, as well, so we think that's going

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1 to be widely utilized.
 2 Quick update on our hard
 3 infrastructure project, so our parking garage,
 4 you're well aware of. So since we last met, we've
 5 got a 190-foot crane in place for the new garage.
 6 The foundation is complete, they're working on that
 7 first level.
 8 The overall project, I've been told,
 9 is just over 16 percent complete, so things are
 10 moving really quickly and we're hoping to get to
 11 100 percent what would you say, Kathy, next spring?
 12 No, "E" is for effort. It's going to be a while,
 13 but I mean, the progress is great to watch.
 14 Elevators, you've heard a lot about
 15 the elevators, all five of our elevators, the four
 16 passenger elevators and the freight elevator, are
 17 going to have to be replaced.
 18 We were able to kind of declare an
 19 emergency with that and kind of have some expedited
 20 procurement process that we could utilize, so that's
 21 moving at warp speed.
 22 MR. MASON: What's the cost for the
 23 elevators?
 24 MR. SINGLETARY: I think it's going to be
 25 right at \$2 million, right? Initially, we were

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1 thinking closer to \$5 million, but it looks like
 2 it's going to be closer to \$2 million for all five
 3 of them.
 4 The final design has been submitted
 5 to the State Fire Marshal. Once we get that
 6 complete, we can start ordering materials and that
 7 will be, I think, going. So that will be a fun
 8 process.
 9 So we also announced at the last
 10 meeting that Shellie Chard is going to be retiring
 11 and that George Russell is our new Water Quality
 12 Division Director. During that last meeting, I also
 13 mentioned that Karen Steele is our new Clean Water
 14 Administrator.
 15 But since that time, you guys just
 16 met Mark Stasyszen, Mark is our new Drinking Water
 17 Administrator. Mark was a longtime senior manager
 18 with the Water Quality Division and -- well, not
 19 longtime, but a fairly good amount of time, had some
 20 great service. Unfortunately, he is a Texas
 21 longhorn.
 22 [Laughter.]
 23 MR. SINGLETARY: He does have a very, very
 24 impressive military background, so it kind of offset
 25 it. So we're happy to have him, we're really lucky

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1 that we have him in that position. So that's kind
 2 of an update on Water Quality.
 3 Last thing I wanted to mention was
 4 our Employee and our Team of the Year. So every
 5 quarter, we name an Employee of the Quarter and then
 6 we have a Team of the Quarter, and then just
 7 recently we made -- we're going do our -- for the
 8 year.
 9 So our Employee of the Year is Jody
 10 White. Jody works in the Administrative Services
 11 division, he was recently selected as the Employee
 12 of the Year for Fiscal Year '25. He was recognized
 13 for his outstanding leadership impact.
 14 His guidance led to our ASD division
 15 processing over or just about 15,000 transactions in
 16 the first quarter of the year and then, I mean,
 17 really kind of where 40 percent of the revenue comes
 18 in, in that short amount of time, and he did that
 19 while really helping foster a culture of efficiency,
 20 cross-training, and shared responsibility. So I'm
 21 excited -- I don't think Jody's in here, is he?
 22 Anyways, we want to recognize him.
 23 The Team of the Year is our Building
 24 Operations Team. They -- you know, we had -- once
 25 we took the old garage down, we discovered that when

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1 the building was built, the garage was in place and
 2 they never finished the exterior of the building.
 3 So there was no waterproofing, there
 4 was no sealing, there was nothing. There was tinder
 5 blocks, and from the basement you could see, where
 6 the ground had worn out, was daylight that you could
 7 see once they dug all that out.
 8 So the first giant rain we got in the
 9 building overflowed the basement of the building and
 10 actually different floors of the building, as well.
 11 So these guys, they did 24-hour shifts, seamless
 12 coordination, really protected the infrastructure of
 13 the agency and allowed us to continue our core
 14 operation without any interruptions.
 15 So that was over the weekend and then
 16 through that week is when we were really dealing
 17 with some major issues in terms of potential crisis
 18 and it was really just a great example of public
 19 service and commitment to the team, and so we wanted
 20 to recognize those guys, they really deserve it.
 21 So that's all I have.
 22 MR. KINDER: I've got a question, Rob. So
 23 we talked a lot about the federal environmental
 24 we've been working in, but I want to bring you back
 25 to state and are you aware of any studies that are

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1 being done in-state that could -- may affect the
 2 agency and then -- particularly about municipal
 3 sludge or effluent to land and can you talk to that?
 4 I know we've had a lot of discussions.
 5 MR. SINGLETARY: Yeah, there was an
 6 interim study last week. Representative Patzkowsky
 7 and Representative Shaw had kind of a joint interim
 8 study on biosolids, and we did testify and
 9 participate in that and we've participated in
 10 various meetings with them toward the buildup of
 11 that.
 12 Obviously, the concern for those are
 13 who are interested is -- or argument formed is that
 14 part of the wastewater treatment process, there is a
 15 significant amount of biosolids that is produced and
 16 because cities are receiving waste streams from all
 17 over the place, there's PFOS in that, and so that
 18 PFOS ends up in the biosolids.
 19 Historically, farmers have really
 20 embraced the utilization of those biosolids as a
 21 fertilizer, and it's a great commodity, it's a great
 22 way for the cities to take care of that and also
 23 it's a great method to the farmers, but there has
 24 been some concern that because there were PFOS in
 25 there that there could be potential health and

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1 environmental issues related to that.
 2 Like in the very end of the Biden
 3 administration, they dropped a draft environmental
 4 risk assessment related to biosolids and the
 5 application of biosolids that identified some
 6 concerns, but it doesn't look like that's going to
 7 be completed.
 8 They did finish a comment period on
 9 that under the new administration, but it doesn't
 10 look like that's ever going to be finalized.
 11 There's a lot of assumptions that were made in there
 12 that people disagree on, and in fact, one of the --
 13 I think it's the Senate funding bill actually
 14 precluded any funds going to finalizing that study.
 15 But that doesn't change the fact that
 16 there are concerns around the state, municipalities
 17 are very concerned because of the cost associated
 18 with it. If you can't land apply it, really the
 19 only other practicable thing to do with it is send
 20 it to a landfill.
 21 There's a lot of infrastructure, lot
 22 of improvements, I think in Oklahoma City -- don't
 23 quote me on this, but I think they're spending,
 24 like, \$80 million to upgrade those facilities so
 25 that they can dewater it and get it to a point that

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1 it could be sent to a landfill, then you have the
 2 ongoing offsets to do like transporting it and then
 3 the ticketing fees and things like that.
 4 So it's going to be a lot of
 5 increased cost for Oklahoma City, but they've
 6 committed within the next five years to no longer
 7 land apply, but there's a lot of small
 8 municipalities around the state that really can't do
 9 that, and so we're kind of watching what happens
 10 with this pretty closely.
 11 There are a few states that have
 12 banned it, I know Maine has completely banned
 13 biosolids; other states have said if it's, like,
 14 super high, you can't, but if it's in a moderate
 15 range that it's okay to land apply it; and then the
 16 vast majority of the states that actually have the
 17 program to permit an application are allowing it to
 18 continue as normal.
 19 And in fact, EPA -- so I think -- I
 20 don't remember the exact numbers, I think it's,
 21 like, 23, 24 states have the authority to do it,
 22 permit it themselves, and then EPA retains that in
 23 the rest of the states.
 24 And EPA hasn't changed their
 25 practice, so they're still allowing application of

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1 biosolids in the states that they actually implement
 2 it in.
 3 So it's just a few states that are
 4 really taking an aggressive stance on it. Our
 5 position has been kind of let's see what the science
 6 says and let's wait until we know for sure because
 7 it is -- it's going to be huge impacts.
 8 And I mean, truthfully when it comes
 9 to PFOS, there's so many different pathways to
 10 exposure that biosolids is not a major one in the
 11 general population. Obviously if it's applied on
 12 your land that's a personal decision, you know,
 13 those folks made.
 14 But you know, it seems, in our view,
 15 it's just a little bit early without the science to
 16 make some real drastic changes, but if it is ever
 17 closely linked, we'll have a plan. So we're trying
 18 to work with all the parties involved and just
 19 trying to educate them on the science and the
 20 information that we have so they can make those
 21 policies.
 22 MR. MASON: Rob, can you update us on two
 23 issues that are in the media right now, involving
 24 the agency?
 25 MR. SINGLETARY: Sure.

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1 MR. MASON: Including the illegal disposal
 2 of the hand sanitizer in Grady County and then the
 3 Nemaha waste pits near Burlington and which even
 4 Senator Pederson has commented on. And the agency's
 5 involved in both those topics.
 6 MR. SINGLETARY: I can definitely get you
 7 on the hand sanitizer. And so it looks like the
 8 individual that was involved in the fires that
 9 occurred several years ago in the Chickasha area,
 10 that person has pled guilty of some federal charges,
 11 so that's being resolved through our -- with our
 12 federal partners.
 13 We did have another entity that
 14 helped with the coordination and the identification,
 15 and that's the one that's been in the news recently.
 16 We had to file a lawsuit just to prevent that as an
 17 issue, so that filed will hopefully get us some
 18 resolution there. So that's been in the news.
 19 Madison, do you have an update on the
 20 burn pit?
 21 MS. MILLER: I think Kelly Dixon, our Land
 22 Protection Director, has an update on that.
 23 MS. DIXON: Good morning. Thanks for your
 24 question, Steve. The facility in Nemaha is
 25 regulated by the different state agency, Corporation

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1 Commission. The issues -- there was a lot of odor
 2 issues. We've looked into it, we've coordinated
 3 with EPA, and we're aligned in our determination
 4 that there's an exemption for this caustic material
 5 that's coming, it's being used as a substitute for a
 6 commercial -- an effective substitute for a
 7 commercial product and they're using it at this
 8 facility to emulsify the oily wastes in that pit.
 9 And we have met with conservation --
 10 I mean, I'm sorry, Corporation Commission and I
 11 believe, you know, they've taken some action against
 12 the facility and I think we've talked about closure
 13 requirements, I think they're closing that
 14 particular pit.
 15 But as you know, the Resource
 16 Conservation and Recovery Act, in addition to
 17 managing hazardous waste cradle to grave, also tries
 18 to allow for recycling and reuse of appropriate
 19 waste material, so that's where this waste fits
 20 into.
 21 MR. MASON: Thank you.
 22 MS. DIXON: Does that answer your
 23 questions?
 24 MR. MASON: Yes, ma'am.
 25 MS. KINDRICK: Any other questions? Okay.

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1 Hearing none, we can move on to
 2 agenda number 7. Okay. Number 7, Budget Update and
 3 Financial Overview for Fiscal Year '26. I have
 4 Kathy Aebischer of DEQ, Director of Administrative
 5 Services. Ms. Aebischer's report will include an
 6 update and overview of DEQ's current budget for
 7 Fiscal Year 2026. This report is for informational
 8 purposes only. Although discussion may occur, no
 9 action by the board is required.
 10 MS. AEBISCHER: Yes, thank you very much.
 11 Good morning.
 12 I'm going to report out as of
 13 September 30th, the first quarter has been
 14 completed, and there's a handout if -- you can go
 15 through the slides since it's kind of behind you.
 16 Everything is still looking really
 17 good. We've collected 55 percent of our
 18 projections. We are above last year's projections,
 19 and last year's collections were almost \$2 million
 20 above. We've done a lot of improvements on the
 21 invoicing side, that's made a lot of difference. So
 22 -- and the divisions are doing -- there's a lot of
 23 volume going on. So on that side, we're doing
 24 really well.
 25 Every division is up from last year

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1 except for land, and that's just pass-through money
 2 so it doesn't really affect their operations, it's
 3 just a project that they didn't -- they did more
 4 last year than they're doing this year. But every
 5 division is doing well, so that's really good news.
 6 On the expenditure side we're doing
 7 well, and as Rob stated, we're able to drawdown our
 8 federal funds so environmental activities are
 9 continuing as normal. The only thing affected is if
 10 we need to do a revision to the budget, but at this
 11 time, we don't have anything major that we're
 12 waiting on.
 13 So all activities are continuing as
 14 normal, and we've increased our draws just to make
 15 sure that we have a pulse on it and that, you know,
 16 we can immediately react if something should happen.
 17 But we're doing well, we have no concerns on the
 18 budget side and financial side.
 19 I know that some -- in the news, it's
 20 hard to determine which agencies are affected
 21 because you're hearing some agencies having to
 22 furlough; we are not. So just, you know, we're
 23 trying to make sure our staff knows we're in really
 24 good shape and we're pretty blessed. So activities
 25 are continuing, and we've expended almost \$23

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1 million of the budget to this point and, you know,
 2 we have no concerns.
 3 So if we look at the sources of
 4 funds, you'll see several -- your, like, 19 funds,
 5 those are state appropriations. If you remember,
 6 we've got state appropriations for the garage, so
 7 we've carried these funds forward because it's a
 8 multi-year project.
 9 So you'll see your garage funding,
 10 the first one of \$13 million that's left of the 16,
 11 and that will be a good portion of it expended out
 12 in that fiscal year.
 13 And then we also have -- we're
 14 carrying over the RIG -- the Oklahoma Rural Water
 15 Association that's doing the infrastructure grants,
 16 rural infrastructure grants, so those are carrying
 17 over.
 18 And then you'll see the 576. Those
 19 are general appropriations, but for this fiscal
 20 year, they gave us special funds, so what that means
 21 is we got all of our funding for this year in July.
 22 If you get it in the general appropriations you get
 23 1/12 throughout the year, so that's why it's a
 24 different fund, but it was what we were awarded
 25 through the state appropriation process.

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1 And then revolving funds of 58, we
 2 spent almost \$11 million on that. We still have the
 3 PREP Funds. If you remember, those were the funds
 4 for the Tulsa Levee and for Guymon water project.
 5 Guymon's moving along. Tulsa Levee, they haven't
 6 drawn anything down yet, but that's what that 69.4
 7 is, it's those two projects, they're in a separate
 8 fund. Federal funds, like I said, are moving along.
 9 We've spent \$4.7 million to date, and so things are
 10 looking really good.
 11 Do I have any questions?
 12 MR. HIRSHEY: Yeah, Kathy, just out of
 13 curiosity, like when you guys -- since you own your
 14 own building and you have to do maintenance and
 15 repair and all that, when there's a large expense
 16 like the elevators, is it a 19 fund, appropriation
 17 fund that has to go back and request or how does
 18 that work?
 19 MS. AEBISCHER: We absorb it in our
 20 budget. So we've kind of planned these building
 21 projects, we kind of have, like, a five-year plan,
 22 and we're just doing it with our own funds.
 23 Luckily, we got appropriations for the garage.
 24 MR. HIRSHEY: Yeah, that was a --
 25 MS. AEBISCHER: So that's supporting that,

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1 and we're just finding money for the elevators,
 2 which we have, we've planned for it. The roof will
 3 be next, and we're planning to do that. So we're
 4 slowly...
 5 And looking at the operations of the
 6 building, because if you remember, they've wanted to
 7 move us. So we've done a lot of analysis, okay,
 8 what is our operating cost of that building, would
 9 it be cheaper for us to move, and we actually are
 10 pretty -- it doesn't cost us a lot of money in
 11 comparison to what a lease would be.
 12 We've spent a lot of time on energy
 13 efficiency savings in the past year, so it's brought
 14 down those -- kind of, like, the utility costs, and
 15 we try to really watch those things to keep it where
 16 we're more efficient and then spend money on things
 17 that will continue that. So we just do it with what
 18 we have.
 19 MR. KINDER: So maybe for the west facade
 20 update on the -- is it the west side that's bare?
 21 MS. AEBISCHER: Say that again?
 22 MR. SINGLETARY: You mean the
 23 waterproofing --
 24 MR. KINDER: Yeah.
 25 MR. SINGLETARY: -- on that? That came

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1 out of the garage budget.
 2 MR. KINDER: That comes out of the garage
 3 --
 4 MR. HIRSHEY: Because a change order for
 5 the garage?
 6 MS. AEBISCHER: We didn't have to do a
 7 change order, it was within, like, the contingency.
 8 MR. HIRSHEY: Okay.
 9 MS. AEBISCHER: Yeah. And we're finding
 10 -- you know, we're being very logical, we're finding
 11 savings in other areas, so those unexpected things
 12 haven't really affected the budget to date. So --
 13 MR. SINGLETARY: So far, so good.
 14 MS. AEBISCHER: We have great partners
 15 with that, Lingo is a really good partner.
 16 MR. KINDER: Nice budget. Thank you.
 17 MS. KINDRICK: Any other questions? All
 18 right. Thank you very much.
 19 Okay. Item number 8, New Business,
 20 which is any matter not known about and which could
 21 not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the
 22 posting of the agenda. Any new business?
 23 Okay. Hearing none, we'll move to
 24 agenda item 9, which is the announcement for the
 25 next meeting. The next regular meeting of the

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1 Environmental Quality Board is scheduled to be held
 2 on January 21, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., at the offices of
 3 the Department of Environmental Quality, 707 North
 4 Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
 5 And then item number 10, I would like
 6 to entertain a motion for adjournment.
 7 MR. MUNSON: So move.
 8 MS. KINDRICK: Thank you.
 9 MR. HIRSHEY: Second.
 10 MS. KINDRICK: Second? Okay. Quiana,
 11 roll call?
 12 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?
 13 MR. AUER: Yes.
 14 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?
 15 MS. ESTEPH: Yes.
 16 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?
 17 MR. HIRSHEY: Yes.
 18 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?
 19 MR. KINDER: Yes.
 20 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Kindrick?
 21 MS. KINDRICK: Yes.
 22 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Lowry?
 23 MS. LOWRY: Yes.
 24 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Mason?
 25 MR. MASON: Yes.

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1 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Munson?
 2 MR. MUNSON: Yes.
 3 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?
 4 MR. SCHULTZE: Yes.
 5 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Peterson?
 6 MR. PETERSON: Yes.
 7 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?
 8 MR. TATUM: Yes.
 9 MS. FIELDS: Motion passed.
 10 MS. KINDRICK: All right. So the formal
 11 agenda is adjourned, thank y'all very much.
 12 (MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:35 AM)
 13 MS. KINDRICK: And now we will move on to
 14 our public forum.
 15 So welcome to this public forum of
 16 the Environmental Quality Board. Public input is
 17 valuable to the board and the department and we
 18 welcome your participation.
 19 Forums allow the public to make
 20 suggestions or express concerns about environmental
 21 laws, rules, or policy. However, concerns with an
 22 action or decision in a specific case or matter,
 23 such as pertaining to a particular permit
 24 application or enforcement case, should be
 25 communicated directly to the department. The board

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1 cannot and does not intervene in those case-specific
 2 decisions. We also ask that you not use the forum
 3 to advertise or publicize commercial products or
 4 services.
 5 Because of the nature of the issues
 6 that are appropriate for the forum, you may not
 7 receive an immediate response to your comments.
 8 Department staff and/or the board generally will
 9 need some time to evaluate the comments and respond
 10 to them. If you desire to make comments at today's
 11 forum, but did not sign in on the sheet at the
 12 information table when you came in, would you please
 13 raise your hand?
 14 Okay. Quiana, did we have anyone
 15 sign in today?
 16 MS. FIELDS: No.
 17 MS. KINDRICK: One last chance?
 18 MR. BROCKSMITH: Is this the public --
 19 MS. KINDRICK: Yes, the public forum.
 20 MR. BROCKSMITH: Oh, I'll say something.
 21 MS. KINDRICK: Okay. Go ahead.
 22 MR. BROCKSMITH: Good morning, thanks for
 23 coming to Tahlequah. We didn't have a whole lot of
 24 notice on this - I say "we", Save the Illinois
 25 River, Incorporated, STIR - in our local newspaper,

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1 but if we'd have known you were coming, we could put
 2 on a show for you.

3 We could have large welcome signs on
 4 every entrance to the city saying, "Welcome ODEQ
 5 Advisory Board", and we could have -- if we had had
 6 a bridge over any of the highways -- we don't have
 7 any bridges, but we could have had our brand new,
 8 3-and-a-half-million-dollar aerial ladder fire truck
 9 on top of the bridge with the ladders extended and a
 10 stream of water flowing over your cars as you
 11 arrived. But we are glad you're here.

12 STIR was founded in 1984 to protect
 13 the Illinois River, Baron Fork Creek, Flint Creek,
 14 and the Illinois River, all of the scenic rivers.
 15 It's merged into an expanded mission of protecting
 16 Lake Tenkiller and every river in Oklahoma because
 17 of their importance.

18 We're interested in things like
 19 nutrient limits, enforcing our phosphorus limit, on
 20 NPDES permits for cities, on a minimum flow for
 21 scenic rivers in Oklahoma and for the possibility of
 22 any other scenic rivers that might be approved by
 23 the State of Oklahoma.

24 We're interested in the waters of the
 25 United States, we're interested in PFAS, we're

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1 interested in stream bank stabilization, all those
 2 things that contribute to a clean river and a clean
 3 lake.

4 One of the great citizens of
 5 Tahlequah was Dr. James Boren, who was an
 6 internationally known humorist, and at a public
 7 meeting one time, he said, "I don't like clean water
 8 because it tastes funny". We'd like for you, in
 9 your capacity to advise the ODEQ, to keep us
 10 laughing. Every time we take a drink of water here
 11 in this beautiful area we call Green Country, we'd
 12 like to smile and we'd like to laugh because clean
 13 water tastes funny.

14 You are in the heart of the
 15 environmental movement in Oklahoma. It started here
 16 in the 1800s, when scouts from the Cherokee Nation
 17 came to select a new capitol for the Cherokees who
 18 were coming over on the Trail of Tears, not by their
 19 own volition, mind you.

20 And one of their missions was to find
 21 water because of their new capitol needed water, and
 22 they found it right here near where you are seated,
 23 just a block away, our beautiful springs that flow
 24 into Town Branch Creek, a tributary of the Illinois
 25 River.

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1 The story is that three scouts were
 2 sent out, only two of them showed up, and they
 3 waited a long time. They built campfires and they
 4 camped out here on the campus of what would become
 5 Northeastern State University, and the third scout
 6 never showed up. So they threw their hands up in
 7 the air and said, "Tahlequah", which means two is
 8 enough, the legend goes.

9 The earliest water protection
 10 organizations in Oklahoma began in Northeastern
 11 Oklahoma, in Green Country, because of the Illinois
 12 River and Lake Tenkiller. I'm talking about the
 13 Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Association, the Ozark
 14 Society, and a host of other organizations.

15 This is a discouraging time for
 16 people who like clean water and for
 17 conservationists. The news coming from the Nation's
 18 capitol and from Oklahoma is discouraging. When we
 19 hear that our Governor fired the Secretary of
 20 Environment because he attended a meeting - which
 21 happened to be in the courtroom of a federal judge,
 22 and he was a plaintiff in the suit that the judge
 23 was considering - fired him because he sat at the
 24 table for the other people from Oklahoma who were
 25 trying to defend our Illinois River from poultry

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1 waste.

2 We would ask you, since you guide the
 3 Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, to do
 4 one simple thing in your deliberations, and that is
 5 to follow the science. The science is there for
 6 clean water and clean lakes.

7 We've got to put the politics aside
 8 and just follow the science that tells us that our
 9 best streams are becoming shallower and wider and
 10 hotter, that the trees along the banks are
 11 disappearing and any stormwater carries a huge load
 12 of poultry waste nutrients into our stream and
 13 causes the river to become wider and shallower and
 14 the trees to disappear. You know those trees are
 15 there for a reason. They help keep the water clean
 16 and as good habitat for brown bass and goggle-eye
 17 and the other fish that we cherish.

18 Just please flow the science. If
 19 you're considering an NPDES permit, please, if you
 20 see that it is going to add to the nutrients that
 21 enter Lake Tenkiller, to stand up and say no, we've
 22 got to tighten up this permit and protect our water
 23 from phosphorus and from nitrogen.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. KINDRICK: Thank you very much.



ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
Attendance Record
November 6, 2025
Tahlequah, Oklahoma

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Name	Affiliation	Address and/or Phone and/or E-Mail
Malcolm Zachariah	DEQ	
Quiana Fields	DEQ	
Trickett Johnson	DEQ	
Wesley Bebeck	DEQ	
Kendal Segunnn	DEQ	
Pete Schultze	EQB	
Karen Steck	DEQ	
Madison Miller	DEQ	
George Russell	DEA	
Kathia Esteph	EQB	
Brandi Lowry	EQB	



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