

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD
JUNE 10, 2025
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Official EQB Approved
On September 9, 2025

Notice of Public Meeting – The Environmental Quality Board (Board) convened for a Regular Meeting at 9:30 a.m., at the Department of Environmental Quality, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, 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 May 30, 2025 and was posted at the DEQ on June 9, 2025. Dr. Shannon Ferrell, Chair, called the meeting to order. Also, he went over safety and housekeeping rules. Dr. Ferrell welcomed new Board members, Ms. Katlin Esteph and Mr. Kim Peterson to the meeting. Ms. Fields called roll and a quorum was confirmed.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Auer
Katlin Esteph
Shannon Ferrell
Ken Hirshey
Jimmy Kinder
Brandi Lowry
Tim Munson
Kim Peterson
Peter 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
Erin Hatfield, Office of Communications
Stacey Tucker, Administrative Services Division
Kathy Aebischer, Administrative Services Division
Kelly Dixon, Land Protection Division
Melanie Foster, Air Quality Division
Beverly Botchlet-Smith, Air Quality Division
George Russell, State Environmental Laboratory Services
Dustin Davidson, State Environmental Laboratory Services
Kambridge Stephens, Environmental Complaints & Local Services
Travis Mensik, Environmental Complaints & Local Services
Vance Pennington, Environmental Complaints & Local Services
Nicholas Huber, Environmental Complaints & Local Services
Lee Dooley, Environmental Attorney
Angela Hughes, OGFR
Travis Couch, Environmental Attorney
Greg Carr, Water Quality Division
Malcolm Zachariah, Air Quality Division
Owen Mils, PAPOT
Chris Robinson, Environmental Attorney
Kylan Huffman, Environmental Attorney
April Eberle, Environmental Attorney
Susan Mensik, State Environmental Laboratory Services
Othman Shahin, Environmental Attorney
Nick Hazelrigg, Environmental Attorney
Andrew McClary, Legal Services Division
Afiya Wilkins, Environmental Attorney
Patrick Riley, Land Protection Division
Quiana Fields, Office of the Executive Director/Board & Council Secretary

MEMBERS ABSENT

Steve Mason
Alexandria Kindrick
Mike Paque

OTHERS PRESENT

Addison Gaut, Office of the Attorney General
Michelle Wynn, Office of the Secretary of Energy & Environment
Lacie Bradshaw, Court Reporter
Bud Ground, Environmental Federation of Oklahoma
Marla Peek, Ok Farm Bureau

Approval of Minutes – Dr. Shannon called for a motion to approve the January 21, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Mr. Hirshey moved to approve and Mr. Auer made the second.

transcript pages 5 – 7

Richard Auer	Yes	Tim Munson	Yes
Katlin Esteph	Yes	Kim Peterson	Yes
Ken Hirshey	Yes	Peter Schultze	Yes
Jimmy Kinder	Yes	Sheldon Tatum	Yes
Brandi Lowry	Yes	Shannon Ferrell	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.

transcript pages 7 – 35

Budget Update and Financial Overview (FY 2026) – Dr. Ferrell 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.

transcript pages 35 – 38

Legislative Report – Mr. Ryan McIntosh, Legislative Liaison of the DEQ, gave a presentation on information pertaining to new legislation that may affect the Board or the Department.

transcript pages 38 – 46

Executive Session – Annual Performance Review of Executive Director – Among the statutory duties of the Board are the responsibilities to appoint and set compensation of the Executive Director and to assist the DEQ in conducting periodic reviews and planning activities related to the goals, objective, priorities and policies of the DEQ. Dr. Ferrell called for a motion to go into Executive Session, Mr. Kinder moved to go into Executive Session and Mr. Hirshey made the second.

transcript pages 46 – 48

Richard Auer	Yes	Tim Munson	Yes
Katlin Esteph	Yes	Kim Peterson	Yes
Ken Hirshey	Yes	Peter Schultze	Yes
Jimmy Kinder	Yes	Sheldon Tatum	Yes
Brandi Lowry	Yes	Shannon Ferrell	Yes

Reconvene into open session – In open session, Dr. Ferrell called for a motion to reconvene the Regular Board meeting. Mr. Hirshey moved to approve and Mr. Munson made the second.

transcript pages 49 – 50

Richard Auer	Yes	Tim Munson	Yes
Katlin Esteph	Yes	Kim Peterson	Yes
Ken Hirshey	Yes	Peter Schultze	Yes
Jimmy Kinder	Yes	Sheldon Tatum	Yes
Brandi Lowry	Yes	Shannon Ferrell	Yes

Consider taking action on the following – No action was taken but, Dr. Ferrell thanked Mr. Singletary for his first year in the Executive Director position.

transcript pages 50 – 51

New Business – None

Next Meeting – The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The meeting will be held in the Oklahoma State University Student Union, 110 S. Hester Street, Stillwater, OK 74078, in Room SU 416 (Case Study 2).

Adjournment – Dr. Ferrell called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Munson moved to adjourn and Mr. Hirshey made the second. Meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

transcript pages 52 – 53

Richard Auer	Yes	Tim Munson	Yes
Katlin Esteph	Yes	Kim Peterson	Yes
Ken Hirshey	Yes	Peter Schultze	Yes
Jimmy Kinder	Yes	Sheldon Tatum	Yes
Brandi Lowry	Yes	Shannon Ferrell	Yes

Public Forum – No public forum issues were raised.

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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 1</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 *****</p> <p>4 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</p> <p>5 REGULAR MEETING</p> <p>6 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD</p> <p>7 BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M. ON JUNE 10, 2025</p> <p>8 IN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA</p> <p>9 *****</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 MEMBERS PRESENT: MEMBERS ABSENT:</p> <p>12 Richard Auer Alexandria Kindrick</p> <p>13 Katlin Esteph Steve Mason</p> <p>14 Kenneth Hirshey, Jr. Mike Pague</p> <p>15 Dr. Shannon Ferrell</p> <p>16 Brandi Lowry</p> <p>17 Tim Munson</p> <p>18 Kim Peterson</p> <p>19 Peter Schultze</p> <p>20 Sheldon Tatum</p> <p>21 Jimmy Kinder</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24 REPORTED BY:</p> <p>25 Lacie Bradshaw, CSR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 happening both on the federal and state levels.</p> <p>2 On that front, I just want to say that we have seen a</p> <p>3 lot of, shall we say, energetic public sentiment about</p> <p>4 public servants in general, about the environmental</p> <p>5 regulatory system specifically. I just want to say, on the</p> <p>6 record, that I am extraordinarily proud of the very balanced</p> <p>7 relationship that our agency has with our regulated</p> <p>8 community with the dedication and the professionalism of</p> <p>9 everyone here at DEQ and their work to further our mission</p> <p>10 of stewarding the resources of the State.</p> <p>11 So for those of you that are here that work for the</p> <p>12 Agency, I want to extend that sentiment directly to you and</p> <p>13 ask that you please carry that sentiment back to the folks</p> <p>14 that work under you as well.</p> <p>15 (Applause.)</p> <p>16 DR. FERRELL: With that, I have to use one of my</p> <p>17 favorite token quotes of all time, "All we have to decide is</p> <p>18 what to do with the time that is given to us," so here we</p> <p>19 are, right?</p> <p>20 Really quickly in terms of safety today, this may</p> <p>21 sound shocking, but there is actually no severe weather in</p> <p>22 the forecast for today. In the event that that should</p> <p>23 happen, if you could exit through the doors either here or</p> <p>24 here, there's a stairwell immediately across the way that</p> <p>25 you can proceed to the basement. (Indicating.)</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <p>1 PROCEEDINGS</p> <p>2 (Whereupon, the meeting convened at 9:30 A.M.)</p> <p>3 DR. FERRELL: Good morning, everyone.</p> <p>4 The June 10, 2025, regular meeting of the</p> <p>5 Environmental Quality Board has been called according to the</p> <p>6 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, Section 311 of Title 25 of the</p> <p>7 Oklahoma Statutes. Notice was filed with the Secretary of</p> <p>8 State on October 24, 2024. Agendas were mailed to</p> <p>9 interested parties on May 30, 2025, and were posted at the</p> <p>10 DEQ on June 9, 2025. Only matters appearing on the posted</p> <p>11 agenda may be considered.</p> <p>12 If this meeting is continued or reconvened, we must</p> <p>13 announce today the date, time, and place of the continued</p> <p>14 meeting and the agenda for such continuation will remain the</p> <p>15 same as today's agenda.</p> <p>16 With that, welcome to our summer blockbuster</p> <p>17 Environmental Quality Board meeting. We have thrills,</p> <p>18 excitement, budget reports, regulatory changes, and if you</p> <p>19 look at the parking garage, even explosions. We've provided</p> <p>20 you the whole seat, but you'll only need the edge. I know</p> <p>21 that typically we will sometimes skip our June board</p> <p>22 meeting, but we had so many developments both at the federal</p> <p>23 and state level, even though we don't have a regulatory</p> <p>24 approval docket for today, we thought it was important to</p> <p>25 have a meeting just to keep everybody up to date on what was</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 In the event of fire or other emergencies, those two</p> <p>2 exits will also serve you as well. You could exit out there</p> <p>3 toward the street exit there that will be around there to</p> <p>4 your right.</p> <p>5 With that, one other thing that I want to announce</p> <p>6 before we actually get to the business at hand, I want to</p> <p>7 welcome our new board members. We have Ms. Katlin Esteph</p> <p>8 representing the manufacturing sector from Idabel. Welcome</p> <p>9 aboard.</p> <p>10 MS. ESTEPH: Thank you.</p> <p>11 DR. FERRELL: And then just to make sure that</p> <p>12 we're making marks on the exact antipodes of the state,</p> <p>13 going from Idabel to Guymon, we have Kim Peterson, who is</p> <p>14 representing the local government sector. Welcome aboard.</p> <p>15 MR. PETERSON: Thank you.</p> <p>16 DR. FERRELL: We are glad to have you guys as part</p> <p>17 of the group today.</p> <p>18 With that, Ms. Quiana, may we please have the roll</p> <p>19 call?</p> <p>20 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?</p> <p>21 MR. AUER: Here.</p> <p>22 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?</p> <p>23 MS. ESTEPH: Here.</p> <p>24 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?</p> <p>25 MR. HIRSHEY: Present.</p>

<p>Page 5</p> <p>1 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?</p> <p>2 MR. KINDER: Here.</p> <p>3 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Kindrick is absent.</p> <p>4 Ms. Lowry?</p> <p>5 MS. LOWRY: Here.</p> <p>6 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Mason is absent.</p> <p>7 Mr. Munson?</p> <p>8 MR. MUNSON: Here.</p> <p>9 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Paque is absent.</p> <p>10 Mr. Peterson?</p> <p>11 MR. PETERSON: Yes.</p> <p>12 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?</p> <p>13 MR. SCHULTZE: Here.</p> <p>14 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?</p> <p>15 MR. TATUM: Here.</p> <p>16 MS. FIELDS: Dr. Ferrell?</p> <p>17 DR. FERRELL: Here.</p> <p>18 MS. FIELDS: We have a quorum.</p> <p>19 DR. FERRELL: Excellent. Thanks, Quiana.</p> <p>20 Up next, agenda item number 4 is the approval of the</p> <p>21 minutes from our January 21st, 2025, board meeting. Board</p> <p>22 members, those should be in your packets. Those were posted</p> <p>23 and made available on the Department's website as well.</p> <p>24 We'll give you a moment to review those, but upon that</p> <p>25 review, we would entertain the motion to approve those</p>	<p>Page 7</p> <p>1 MS. LOWRY: Yes.</p> <p>2 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Munson?</p> <p>3 MR. MUNSON: Yes.</p> <p>4 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Peterson?</p> <p>5 MR. PETERSON: Yes.</p> <p>6 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?</p> <p>7 MR. SCHULTZE: Yes.</p> <p>8 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?</p> <p>9 MR. TATUM: Yes.</p> <p>10 MS. FIELDS: Dr. Ferrell?</p> <p>11 DR. FERRELL: Yes.</p> <p>12 MS. FIELDS: Motion passed.</p> <p>13 DR. FERRELL: Excellent.</p> <p>14 That moves us then on to agenda item number 5. This</p> <p>15 is one of the most important things that we really wanted to</p> <p>16 relate to you all today because I note that, in the report,</p> <p>17 it encompasses a lot of the things that we discussed earlier</p> <p>18 in terms of changes, both in the federal and the state level</p> <p>19 and along with a, again, I will use the word very energetic</p> <p>20 legislative session this time around. So without further</p> <p>21 adieu, Mr. Singletary?</p> <p>22 MR. SINGLETARY: Good morning, everyone. I'm</p> <p>23 going to go ahead and apologize straight off because this is</p> <p>24 probably going to be the longest executive director's report</p> <p>25 in agency history. I'm going to try not to bore you too</p>
<p>Page 6</p> <p>1 minutes or make any corrections as needed.</p> <p>2 MR. HIRSHEY: So moved.</p> <p>3 DR. FERRELL: I have a motion to approve.</p> <p>4 MR. AUER: Auer second.</p> <p>5 DR. FERRELL: Is there a second?</p> <p>6 Is there any discussion on the motion?</p> <p>7 (No indications given.)</p> <p>8 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>9 (No indications given.)</p> <p>10 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>11 (No indications given.)</p> <p>12 DR. FERRELL: Any comments or discussion from the</p> <p>13 public?</p> <p>14 (No indications given.)</p> <p>15 DR. FERRELL: Seeing none, Quiana, would you</p> <p>16 please call roll on the motion to approve the minutes?</p> <p>17 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?</p> <p>18 MR. AUER: Yes.</p> <p>19 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?</p> <p>20 MS. ESTEPH: Yes.</p> <p>21 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?</p> <p>22 MR. HIRSHEY: Yes.</p> <p>23 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?</p> <p>24 MR. KINDER: Yes.</p> <p>25 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Lowry?</p>	<p>Page 8</p> <p>1 much, but there really has been quite a bit that's been</p> <p>2 going on, a lot of developments since we met last in -- in</p> <p>3 January and a lot of it's potentially going to have</p> <p>4 significant impacts on our operations here at the DEQ, so of</p> <p>5 course we want to keep you all informed on everything that's</p> <p>6 going on.</p> <p>7 Some of the highlights that I want to provide updates</p> <p>8 on are related to our SAFETEA approval; changes in our</p> <p>9 telework status; our parking garage status, which is always</p> <p>10 of interest; status of our DEQ request bills that you all</p> <p>11 authorized last fall; the state budget; EPA's fiscal year</p> <p>12 2026 budget request and kind of the status of that request;</p> <p>13 EPA's reorganization; EPA's rulemaking and policy reforms;</p> <p>14 DEQ's permitting reform efforts; and, finally, I want to do</p> <p>15 some staff introductions and then some staff recognitions</p> <p>16 also.</p> <p>17 Before I jump into that, I -- we had one other</p> <p>18 highlight I wanted to mention. We had the opportunity,</p> <p>19 which was kind of fun, to host EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin.</p> <p>20 So Mr. Zeldin -- or Administrator Zeldin came in, it was</p> <p>21 back in April, April 24th, I think, and we were able to host</p> <p>22 a Brownfield tour for him. So he was in attendance. You</p> <p>23 can see Scott Mason, our Regional Administrator was there.</p> <p>24 Congresswoman Stephanie Bice was there as well.</p> <p>25 It was made possible by -- I don't know if she's here</p>

<p>Page 9</p> <p>1 -- Aron Samuel. Aron Samuel is one of our Brownfield 2 managers. That's her talking to Administrator Zeldin right 3 there. We had about a day and a half notice before he was 4 going to be in Oklahoma and Aron put together this tour in, 5 like, a day and a half and really knocked it out of the 6 park. It was kind of a fun thing. It's not very often that 7 we get to host an EPA Administrator here in Oklahoma, so it 8 was great. So kudos to Aron.</p> <p>9 So the first thing on my agenda is the SAFETEA 10 approval. We've been provided some updates over the years. 11 There's been some significant developments with SAFETEA that 12 have occurred in the last five or six months.</p> <p>13 For board members who weren't here previously, the 14 vast majority of our programs are federal programs that we 15 implement on behalf of the federal government. When we get 16 those approvals from EPA to do that, there's usually a 17 carveout in those approvals that excludes Indian Country. 18 Pre2020, it wasn't a big deal. It was kind of limited to 19 about 100,000 acres approximately of Indian Tribal Trust 20 Land that was scattered across the state.</p> <p>21 After 2020 and the Supreme Court's decision in McGirt 22 and some subsequent related cases, essentially the eastern 23 half of Oklahoma was determined to be Indian Country. So, 24 by operation of law, you know, those approvals that excluded 25 Indian Country now excluded eastern Oklahoma as well.</p>	<p>Page 11</p> <p>1 compliant with those conditions.</p> <p>2 We worked with the current administration. On the 3 120th day, that evening, I got a text from the regional 4 administrator saying that they had revoked the previous 5 determination and determined that it was unlawful because 6 the statute really does say "shall approve." There's no 7 conditional approval. It's just straight up approval. Then 8 they ended it. So at the very last minute, they gave us 9 that new authorization, and so it's coming back to the way 10 it was prior to January after all that.</p> <p>11 It is something that's pretty concerning for us 12 because, you know, absent SAFETEA, we wouldn't be able to 13 operate in eastern Oklahoma. The Department of Mines is a 14 great example. So the Department of Mines, they -- they got 15 delegation from the Department of Interior to implement 16 mining operations throughout the state -- or mining 17 regulations. When SAFETEA came, Indian Country didn't 18 apply. That's all of eastern Oklahoma. That's mostly where 19 the mines are, so about half that agency just disappeared 20 overnight. There's a big lawsuit involved, but the State 21 ultimately lost and half the Department of Mines ceased to 22 exist.</p> <p>23 SAFETEA didn't apply to them. SAFETEA only applied to 24 EPA-administered programs. So the Department of Interior 25 administered programs, it didn't apply to, and so that's</p>
<p>Page 10</p> <p>1 Fortunately for us, Senator Inhofe, back in 2005, put 2 a rider on the Transportation Bill referred to as "SAFETEA." 3 It contained a provision whereby if the state of Oklahoma 4 requested EPA to approve and administrate programs in Indian 5 Country and those approved -- we already had approval 6 elsewhere in the state for that same program, EPA shall 7 approve that request.</p> <p>8 I had the opportunity to draft a letter for the 9 governor's signature back in 2020 in July and sent that to 10 EPA pretty quickly thereafter. October 2nd of 2020, we got 11 an unconditional approval from EPA to do that. Importantly, 12 we didn't try to extend the State's jurisdiction. We didn't 13 try and, you know, touch Tribal Trust Lands that were 14 previously not included. We just wanted to keep the 15 historic implementation across the state as it had always 16 been done.</p> <p>17 Things went great for three and a half years until, in 18 January, the Biden Administration, during their last week in 19 office, issued a decision where they revoked that 20 unconditional approval and then issued a conditional 21 approval that had some pretty onerous conditions in it. Our 22 ability to operate in the eastern half of the state was 23 conditioned on the Agency and the State meeting those 24 conditions, which obviously was a big concern for us. So 25 Biden's conditional approval gave us 120 days to be</p>	<p>Page 12</p> <p>1 kind of what we were facing but for that SAFETEA provision 2 and approval.</p> <p>3 I did also want to mention that, you know, kind of 4 voluntarily, the Agency developed, back in 2021 even after 5 we had our unfettered SAFETEA approval, an Enhanced Tribal 6 Engagement Policy, which we are continuing to follow. It's 7 -- we do value the participation from our tribal partners 8 and we're going to continue that policy indefinitely. So 9 even though we've got that unfettered SAFETEA approval, 10 we're going to continue implementing that project as we do 11 value that input.</p> <p>12 So that's SAFETEA. We're kind of back to where we 13 were.</p> <p>14 Telework update. Scott Thompson was a big believer in 15 telework, so he provided a lot of opportunities for our 16 staff. Our post-COVID policy allowed for most staff, 17 depending on their job, to telework two to three days per 18 week. The governor issued an executive order back in 19 December of this year that required all state employees to 20 come back into the office.</p> <p>21 It did provide some exceptions to that order. After 22 talking with the secretary's office, I certified an 23 exception based on our parking garage situation and 24 essentially allowed certain employees, non-managerial staff, 25 to continue to telework during the duration of the project,</p>

<p>Page 13</p> <p>1 probably an 18-month period. It's about a third of our 2 staff that was going to be able to continue and it was going 3 to save us approximately \$200,000.</p> <p>4 However, back in April we got an e-mail from the 5 governor and he determined that it would be prudent to have 6 all DEQ staff back in the office almost immediately. So 7 currently 100 percent of our staff are back in the office. 8 There's a few exceptions related to medical issues and 9 stuff, but for the most part everybody is back 100 percent 10 of the time. A little bit of adjustment for staff, but I 11 think folks are finally kind of getting used to seeing each 12 other more often.</p> <p>13 That did create some challenges when it came to 14 parking, so we had to acquire some additional spots. We're 15 now spread out over seven different locations around 16 downtown, but it's, you know -- it's, you know, a bit of a 17 hike for some folks. I think the furthest is maybe 18 four-tenths of a mile or something like that. So it's not a 19 terrible deal unless it's raining, which it has been a lot 20 lately. Anyway that's the telework update. Everybody is 21 back in the office now.</p> <p>22 Speaking of parking, I have our parking garage update. 23 Malcolm has got some pictures for us here. Just in the last 24 few weeks, you can see the before shot and then that's where 25 we are. I think Gary took that picture for us sometime last</p>	<p>Page 15</p> <p>1 over the weekends there was some 24-hour shifts trying to 2 just shop vac all that water and mitigate some of the damage 3 that was being done.</p> <p>4 So construction status, we are on par -- or we're on 5 schedule to begin construction of the new garage in August 6 sometime. We're hopefully going to get all that debris 7 moved out through some underground storage tanks and 8 underground structures that are going to have to be removed, 9 but hopefully we're going to be working towards that maybe 10 in the next 14 months, Kathy? I'm trying to -- 11 (Indiscernible crosstalk.) 12 (Laughing.)</p> <p>13 MR. SINGLETARY: So, anyway, things are really 14 progressing nicely on that front.</p> <p>15 Legislative update. So you all authorized us to 16 pursue some statutes during the -- during the, I guess it 17 was, September or November board meeting. The three things 18 -- the concepts that you authorized us to pursue legislation 19 on were to try and connect our fees to a CPI so we didn't 20 have to keep going back and increase our fees. 21 Unfortunately, we -- we met with several of the legislators 22 that we work with a lot and none of them felt like this was 23 a good session to try and do that, and so we weren't able to 24 get a sponsor this time around on that.</p> <p>25 The second one was water quality monitoring. We were</p>
<p>Page 14</p> <p>1 week, yesterday. Yeah, yesterday. So it's -- that doesn't 2 happen -- the bulk of it came down in, like, a two-week 3 period. So it's really fun to see after all these years the 4 progress. It's kind of exciting to watch, but that is where 5 we are and that's where we want to be. So hopefully we're 6 kind of on par there.</p> <p>7 Well, let me go back. Let's go back to that previous 8 picture, Malcolm. You can see where the garage was in 9 place, so we've had some unexpected challenges related to 10 taking that garage down. So the garage was actually in 11 place when the building was being built, so you can see 12 there's no weatherization, no waterproofing, no brick 13 veneer, nothing on that part of the garage.</p> <p>14 So we take it down and then we had all this weather 15 come in. We've got flooding in the basement. We've got 16 flooding on some of those floors, up until about the fourth 17 floor on that western wall. So our building op staff, you 18 know, they've been working around the clock trying to 19 mitigate some of the damage that's being done. Once we get 20 this -- they've done some interim measures too, some 21 expandable foams, some things, but once we get the debris 22 out of the way, that's all gotta be weatherized and it's 23 going to be waterproofed, so we're going to stop those 24 problems.</p> <p>25 Those folks really did step up. I mean, like I said,</p>	<p>Page 16</p> <p>1 trying to move -- so we got -- obviously, all the water 2 quality permitting is at DEQ. Several years ago the 3 legislature moved water quality standards to the Agency, so 4 we thought it just made sense to go ahead and move the 5 [indiscernible] water quality and beneficial use water 6 quality monitoring to DEQ as well from the OWRB. Senator 7 Green actually agreed to run that bill for us. The Water 8 Board was a little resistant to that idea, so we decided to 9 go ahead and pull that bill, try and work with them, and see 10 if we can come to some kind of agreement. We may pursue 11 that bill again in the future.</p> <p>12 It does just make sense that we need to have that 13 piece in -- in our portfolio so we can -- you know, so it 14 can help us with water quality standard setting, help us 15 when we issue permits, and that kind of thing. We haven't 16 given up, but we're going to keep going on that.</p> <p>17 One of the main bills we were trying to work on this 18 year was the PFAS bill. Senator Rader was our sponsor on 19 that bill again. I think we had -- we had -- all the 20 stakeholders were in support of that bill. I think we got 21 all the language worked out, but then it kind of got caught 22 up. Senator Green had some major concerns with biosolid 23 application, PFAS in biosolids. He was afraid -- I'm 24 assuming he was afraid -- but it never made the agenda for 25 the Energy Committee, so it never made it out of committee.</p>

<p>Page 17</p> <p>1 Within that bill, we provided state liability</p> <p>2 protection for passive receivers of PFAS that are performing</p> <p>3 essential public functions like water supplies, wastewater</p> <p>4 treatment plants, municipal landfills, and those kind of</p> <p>5 folks who are dealing with PFAS, not because they're</p> <p>6 creating it or using it, but because they're performing</p> <p>7 these functions. As long as they're doing what they should</p> <p>8 do and, you know, meeting all the obligations under the law,</p> <p>9 we thought it would be appropriate not to, you know, make</p> <p>10 them subject to the state liability. So I think that was a</p> <p>11 concern of the senator's because of the biosolids issue.</p> <p>12 We're going to try and alleviate some of his concerns in the</p> <p>13 next session and kind of give it another run.</p> <p>14 We were unsuccessful with those, but despite that, it</p> <p>15 was a pretty darn active legislative session. We have a new</p> <p>16 legislative liaison, Mr. McIntosh. I'll introduce him in</p> <p>17 just a minute, but he's going to provide an overview of the</p> <p>18 legislative session for you guys. Those were just the three</p> <p>19 bills that we were hoping to get some success on. We didn't</p> <p>20 quite get there this time, but we'll try it again next</p> <p>21 session.</p> <p>22 One piece I am going to talk about though is the state</p> <p>23 budget. The state budget this year was actually really good</p> <p>24 for us. There was a lot of talk about a potential revenue</p> <p>25 shortfall. In fact, somewhere in the middle of the session,</p>	<p>Page 19</p> <p>1 \$20 million for the City of Guymon's Mesa Water Project.</p> <p>2 That's coming through the DEQ as well. Another big part of</p> <p>3 our budget, about \$33 million, comes from the federal</p> <p>4 government through EPA. Just over 10 to \$12 million of that</p> <p>5 goes to cover about a quarter of our federal expenses.</p> <p>6 We're really focused and interested in what's happening at</p> <p>7 the national level when it comes to the EPA budget.</p> <p>8 I'm actually -- I have the -- the responsibility to</p> <p>9 serve as the chair of the Budget and Management Committee</p> <p>10 for ECOS, the Environmental Council of the States. One of</p> <p>11 the main focuses we have going on right now is focusing on</p> <p>12 that EPA budget and being very hyperaware of everything</p> <p>13 that's going on in Congress. So we're going to meet on</p> <p>14 Capitol Hill with some of our Oklahoma delegation as well as</p> <p>15 different Senate congressional staffs on budget issues. One</p> <p>16 thing we're trying to do is just to make sure folks realize</p> <p>17 and understand the local impacts related to different</p> <p>18 proposed funding levels.</p> <p>19 The President's budget, the White House budget, which</p> <p>20 was released by OMB on May 2nd, it's what's being referred</p> <p>21 to in the media as a "skinny budget." It contains a pretty</p> <p>22 significant cut -- overall cut to EPA. It's about a 55</p> <p>23 percent cut. That includes some significant cuts to several</p> <p>24 critical programs that would directly impact our operations</p> <p>25 at the DEQ and impact a lot of folks here in Oklahoma. That</p>
<p>Page 18</p> <p>1 all the agencies were asked to take a look at what a 2</p> <p>2 percent reduction in appropriations would look like for us.</p> <p>3 Not only did we not receive a reduction, but the legislature</p> <p>4 provided the funding of three additional FTEs, to the tune</p> <p>5 of about a quarter million dollars per year, just under --</p> <p>6 to implement some new EPA regulations that are related to</p> <p>7 lead and copper.</p> <p>8 That wasn't something that we were able to do</p> <p>9 previously, but it -- it's really -- there's going to be a</p> <p>10 lot of focus on technical assistance and helping systems</p> <p>11 throughout the state. So the legislature was supportive of</p> <p>12 that and provided those FTEs to us. We're pretty</p> <p>13 appreciative of the legislature's recognition of the</p> <p>14 importance of these programs that we're responsible to</p> <p>15 implement.</p> <p>16 Total state appropriations this year was just -- just</p> <p>17 under 21 and a half million dollars. Last year it was just</p> <p>18 over \$38 million. That included 16 million for the garage</p> <p>19 and 1 million for the Blue River Study. Of course that</p> <p>20 21.5 million of state appropriations is just one part of our</p> <p>21 overall budget.</p> <p>22 This year, our fiscal year, 2025, our overall budget</p> <p>23 is approximately \$220 million, which includes some one-time</p> <p>24 funding: The garage and Blue River Study. There's</p> <p>25 \$50 million in there for the Tulsa Levees Project and</p>	<p>Page 20</p> <p>1 next slide up there, you can kind of see where</p> <p>2 appropriations have been all the way back to -- I think we</p> <p>3 go back to 2017 on that slide. You can see the proposed</p> <p>4 budget is the one on the far right.</p> <p>5 One of the big cuts there is in that top category,</p> <p>6 which is the state revolving funds. The White House budget</p> <p>7 requests an almost two and a half million -- or billion</p> <p>8 dollar cut in those SRF funds. Those are the funds that</p> <p>9 pass through either, you know, the Water Board for clean</p> <p>10 water programs, wastewater programs, or drinking water</p> <p>11 programs coming through us and that's what goes to the</p> <p>12 municipalities and different systems to help fund upgrades</p> <p>13 throughout the state. They're actually making, I think, a</p> <p>14 90 percent reduction from current levels.</p> <p>15 Within the budget, EPA kind of justifies those</p> <p>16 proposed cuts by -- for two ways: They say, well, Congress</p> <p>17 is already dipping into those and earmarking them for</p> <p>18 projects that they want funded, so the funds are already</p> <p>19 jeopardized to some degree.</p> <p>20 They also talk about the belief that the current</p> <p>21 administration feels that when it comes to water</p> <p>22 infrastructure, the State should be responsible for funding</p> <p>23 their own water infrastructure improvements, which, you</p> <p>24 know, that's fine if they want to do that, but that's going</p> <p>25 to be a huge change from what the current regime is and the</p>

<p>Page 21</p> <p>1 historical regime is. That's going to be a big adjustment 2 for folks to try and find funding elsewhere. You can see it 3 there. What is that? \$1.1 billion dollars? Or is that -- 4 I'm sorry. That might be -- Kathy, is that a trillion? I 5 know the cut is \$2.5 billion in these programs this year. 6 One of the other big things we're focused on are 7 categorical grants. There's a \$1 billion cut to categorical 8 grants. That's in the EPA budget. These are kind of 9 critical to our implementation of different programs within 10 the state. We're -- we're falling -- or following very 11 closely four different categorical grants that have been 12 completely zeroed out. There is the Resource Recovery and 13 Hazardous Waste Grant; pollution control, or 106 grants; 14 state and local air quality management grants, that funds 15 all our monitoring programs throughout the state -- or 16 monitoring system throughout the state. 17 Very importantly one of them is our public water 18 supply supervision system and grant. This is what we fund 19 our -- our public water supply programs. So we can't go out 20 and fee these small systems. They can't afford it, so we 21 don't. This is really the only funding source that we have 22 for that, which is through EPA. Obviously, I guess, if we 23 had to, we could go to the legislature and see if they would 24 be willing to fund that, but the way these cycles line up, 25 you know, this money potentially is going to run out</p>	<p>Page 23</p> <p>1 systems in the state use to replace some of those outdated 2 diesel busses in their fleet. There will be an impact here 3 in Oklahoma if that -- that reduction stands. 4 So that's what's being proposed by EPA and by the 5 White House. It's made it through the house of 6 representatives in Congress. It was a pretty close vote. 7 It was 215 to 214, but it did narrowly pass Congress. There 8 are some -- some deadlines coming up for some amendments 9 that can still be made to that, but I'm not sure exactly how 10 that process works, but either this week or next week are 11 some additional deadlines. We do expect more resistance in 12 the Senate, but there's still a lot of rhetoric out there 13 that the President's skinny budget didn't go far enough, so 14 we're not sure how that's going to end up. 15 Senate Republican leaders are hoping to send their 16 version to the President by July 4th. That seemed a little 17 unrealistic, but either way, there's not going to be a whole 18 lot of time to get some input on those -- on those budgets. 19 One thing with our messaging that we want to get out 20 there is we want to make sure everyone is aware, including 21 our federal delegation, that the states do 90 percent -- 22 over 90 percent of the environmental work on behalf of the 23 EPA. These are federally mandated tasks that have to be 24 completed that get delegated to the states. It doesn't, you 25 know, really make sense that, you know, some of that funding</p>
<p>Page 22</p> <p>1 October 1st. We'll be in a position where we don't have the 2 direct funds to cover that, so we're watching it really 3 closely. 4 You know, one of the statements in the proposed 5 judgment was that these different categorical grants become 6 a crutch for states at the expense of taxpayers, many of 7 whom receive no benefit from these grants. I would argue 8 there is a benefit to clean water and clean air, but -- and, 9 again, these are -- it's federal tax dollars that we're all 10 paying for these -- these services that we all benefit from 11 as well. 12 There's also some significant cuts to the Superfund 13 Program. It's about a quarter billion dollars being cut 14 from that program. This is the one that helps with 15 essentially abandoned hazardous waste sites like the 16 Superfund -- or the Tar Creek Superfund site here in 17 Oklahoma is a big one. 18 There's also been significant cuts to ORD, which is 19 EPA's research and development office. About a quarter of a 20 billion dollars are being cut from them. I think they're 21 dropping from just at about 1,200 employees down to 600 22 employees. 23 Then the DERA Program is another big one that's being 24 zeroed out. It's \$90 million in grants that help diesel 25 emission reduction, so this is something that our school</p>	<p>Page 24</p> <p>1 doesn't get sent down -- federal funding doesn't get sent 2 down to the states to help achieve these -- these federal 3 obligations. 4 Our hope is that the actual reductions are going to be 5 much less than what's been requested. We are considering a 6 lot of different actions that we can take to help better 7 position the Agency for any reductions in funding that are 8 going to need to be absorbed. 9 What we do want -- one thing I do want to highlight, 10 anytime we're talking about the budget is that we're a 11 pretty lean agency already. If you go back to 1995, shortly 12 after the Agency was created, we had 611 budgeted FTEs at 13 the DEQ. Currently in 2025, 30 years later, we have 550 14 budgeted FTEs. We've got three to five more coming after 15 this legislative session. I mean, from 611 to 550, that's 16 61 fewer FTEs over a 30-year period. 17 I can tell you that over that 30-year period, DEQs 18 mandated responsibilities, those mandated by state 19 government and those mandated by the federal government, 20 have increased substantially. You can ask any one of our 21 regulated community that are here today. There's been quite 22 a bit of additional regulations that's increased over the 23 last 30 years. So we -- we've been able to implement those 24 programs without increasing FTEs and, in fact, have shrunk 25 our FTE size by 61, folks.</p>

<p>Page 25</p> <p>1 During that period, EPA promulgated hundreds of 2 thousands of pages in Federal Register Notes related to new 3 rulemakings and the vast majority of that, we implement here 4 in Oklahoma. 5 Next topic: EPA'S reorganization. This is going to 6 have an impact on our operations. EPA is shifting research 7 functions to program offices. They're creating an office to 8 work with states on air policy. That's long overdue. We 9 truly welcome that change. 10 They're creating a science office within the Office of 11 the Administrator, so they can help manage the use of 12 science and rulemaking. They're sending research staff to a 13 separate chemical safety office, and they're also making 14 some changes to the Office of Water. So it's a pretty big 15 reorganization that's occurring at the federal level. 16 We interface with many of these folks routinely. So 17 we're going to have to kind of figure out the new 18 organizational structure and develop some new relationships 19 there. I'm going to spare you guys a lot of the details on 20 -- on some of that reorganization, but EPA is estimating 21 that it's going to save \$300 million annually and reduce 22 EPA's footprint by a couple thousand employees by going 23 through this reorganization. 24 EPA rulemaking and policy reforms comes as no surprise 25 as the Biden EPA greatly expanded the number in the reach of</p>	<p>Page 27</p> <p>1 -- we'll be watching that one pretty closely. It can change 2 things quite a bit. 3 There's the exceptional Events Rule. 4 There is Effluent Limitation Guidelines for power 5 plants or for oil and gas extraction. 6 Risk Management Program Rules, Coal Combustion 7 Residuals Rule. 8 The WOTUS definition, after the Supreme Court's 9 Sackett decision, EPA issued some rules. I tried to 10 implement that. That's up for reconsideration yet again. 11 There's the National Drinking Water Regulations for 12 PFAS and other activity related to PFAS. 13 We have the Environmental Justice and DEI initiatives 14 that are being rolled back, reconsidered or rolled back. 15 There's the Enforcement Discretion and National 16 Enforcement Compliance initiatives. They're reconsidering 17 how they're -- the effort they're putting forth on -- on 18 those -- those things. 19 Then there's a whole suite of actions related to the 20 Clean Air Act that are trying to advance cooperative 21 federalism principles. 22 Again, we support most of that activity, but it does 23 have a direct impact on DEQ in our operations. We're 24 navigating quite a bit of -- of change and quite a bit of 25 uncertainty right now. That's going to continue for -- for</p>
<p>Page 26</p> <p>1 different federal requirements and the Trump Administration 2 is now attempting to roll many of those back. Many of them 3 are very -- we support wholeheartedly, but it does make -- 4 create a challenge for us, operating in this transition 5 period. 6 I just want to list off a few of the major ones. 7 We've got the Clean Power Plan 2.0 reconsideration. There's 8 an Oil and Gas Methane Rule, NSPS OOOOb -- or OOOOb and c; 9 Mercury and Air Toxics Rule review. 10 The -- the new PM2.5 NAAQS that was set last year. 11 This is one that was set at a level that both Oklahoma City 12 and Tulsa are very likely to go down in payment as a result 13 of that. That's being reviewed by the current 14 administration. 15 The Ozone Transport or Good Neighbor Plan is being 16 reviewed. That's one that we're currently in litigation 17 with. The Attorney General's Office is helping us out on 18 that one. 19 Regional Haze Program is being reviewed. 20 There are multiple NESHAPs related to the energy and 21 manufacturing sectors that are being reviewed. 22 The 2009 Endangerment Finding, and the rules that rely 23 upon it, are being reviewed as well or reconsidered. That 24 Endangerment Finding is what the basis is for all of the 25 greenhouse gas regulations out there, so that will be a big</p>	<p>Page 28</p> <p>1 the -- until the courts kind of settle things out, but a lot 2 of activity going on at the federal level. 3 At the DEQ level, we're kind of focusing on permit 4 reform. That's been kind of a big initiative here at the 5 Agency. We've got several different things going on. Our 6 air quality permitting division -- or permitting program is 7 working with our Office of Continuous Improvement to do a 8 lean effort or a lean examination of their process. They're 9 looking at -- specifically looking at their individual Minor 10 Source Construction and Operating Permits, looking at 11 bottlenecks and duplicative reviews within that process. 12 On paper, they've identified streamlining -- 13 streamlining opportunities that are going to reduce the 14 permitting timeline by 75 days. It currently takes about 15 six months to a year to get one of these permits, so 75 days 16 is pretty substantial. We're hoping to get that narrowed 17 down or reduced even further. Hopefully by next year, you 18 know, we're going to have some real numbers that we can 19 report and show those reductions. That's just our agency. 20 That was the air quality. That's one specific program we're 21 looking at. Hopefully we can take some of those lessons 22 learned and apply them to other permitting programs within 23 the Agency. 24 We also have a broader DEQ permitting reform 25 initiative. Ryan McIntosh, who I mentioned previously, is</p>

<p>Page 29</p> <p>1 working with our Division Chief Engineers to identify 2 process, regulatory, and statutory changes that could 3 improve and streamline permitting efforts across the Agency. 4 Our hope is we can identify some changes and come up with a 5 bill that we can take to the legislature and potentially 6 some rulemaking that we can bring you all to help reduce and 7 streamline that permitting effort. So that's -- there's a 8 lot of folks working on that currently. 9 We're also considering an expedited permitting 10 process. We've been approached by several industry folks 11 wanting us to explore ways that will allow for expedited 12 permitting. So some states allow folks to pay a higher fee 13 to get their permits taken care of a little bit quicker. We 14 don't want a system in place where an applicant can pay more 15 and then jump to the front of the line. 16 However, we're exploring an expedited process that 17 would allow an applicant maybe to pay some additional amount 18 that would essentially allow us to pay a willing, voluntary 19 permit writer to work on their application after hours or on 20 the weekends. They would have to continue with the queue 21 they normally have during the workday, but if they want to 22 work overtime, they could work on that expedited permit, and 23 the additional costs that are collected would help fund 24 that. 25 There's a few issues we need to work out internally as</p>	<p>Page 31</p> <p>1 Almost finished. I wanted to make some staff 2 introductions. So first up, Jennifer Boyle has moved on and 3 Jonathan Allen has stepped up and is serving -- there he is 4 -- as our new General Counsel. Jonathan was previously our 5 Deputy General Counsel here at the Agency. He also served 6 as General Counsel at the Department of Mines during that 7 difficult time I was talking about and suing the federal 8 government over the SAFETEA -- or over the -- the McGirt 9 issues. 10 I also worked with Jonathan at the Water Board. He 11 was our assistant -- one of our Assistant General Counsels 12 there. He also served as an ALJ, administrative law judge, 13 there. We're very excited to have him in this new position. 14 His promotion opened up the Deputy General Counsel 15 position and Mr. Gary Henry has accepted that position. 16 Mr. Henry has been with us for over a decade. Prior to 17 that, he was actually the elected district attorney for the 18 Ardmore area, Carter County and -- 19 MR. HENRY: Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray, and 20 Carter. 21 MR. SINGLETARY: Yeah, so he's got quite a bit of 22 litigation experience. That's really what his focus has 23 been on DEQ since he came on, that and HR issues. Now he's 24 going to be helping Jonathan kind of run the General 25 Counsel's Office. We're excited to have him in that</p>
<p>Page 30</p> <p>1 well with OMES, just with the way things -- their system is 2 set up. So there will be more to come on that, but that is 3 something we're looking at currently. 4 I am actually working with the Secretary of Energy and 5 Environment's office as part of a National Governors 6 Association workgroup that's focused on identifying changes 7 in federal regulations and statutes, so -- and -- and ways 8 we can streamline that. So our DEQ process that we actually 9 started before this one started is focused on state law and 10 DEQ regulations. This one is focused on federal law and 11 federal regulations. We're participating, helping them 12 identify improvements that can be made. 13 Lastly on the topic of permitting reform, I had the 14 opportunity to testify on permitting reform before the U.S. 15 Congress's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's 16 Water and Environment Subcommittee in Washington, D.C., back 17 in February. I just found out, about two weeks ago, that my 18 testimony was actually quoted or -- or cited in an EPA memo 19 that was issued at the end of May that was related to the 20 Clean Water Act 401 Certifications and 402, 404 Water 21 Quality Permitting. 22 It's actually kind of exciting to provide testimony 23 and then somebody actually listen and then actually use it 24 in an EPA guidance memo. You always wonder if anybody is 25 listening. That was pretty cool to see.</p>	<p>Page 32</p> <p>1 position. 2 Then you guys remember Lloyd Kirk retired in February, 3 I think it was, so we were able to entice Owen Mills to come 4 over and serve as the head of our Permit Assistance and 5 Public Outreach team's efforts. Owen was previously at the 6 Water Board and served as the director of the Oklahoma State 7 Water Board. That was his big -- his big focus that went on 8 for decades it seemed like. We're super excited to have 9 Owen in that position. He's going to do fantastic. 10 Then, lastly, we have Ryan McIntosh. So Michelle Wynn 11 abandoned us. She was given a great opportunity to go work 12 for Secretary Starling as a Deputy Secretary of Energy and 13 Environment where she's focusing on agency -- as an agency 14 liaison and a legislative liaison for his office. That 15 provided a need for us. That happened, literally, I think 16 it was the week before the legislative session started. So 17 we're like, "Oh, great. What are we going to do?" Well, 18 Madison and Mark and I identified Ryan as a potential 19 candidate to kind of step up into that role. 20 Ryan was previously serving as a senior manager in our 21 Environmental Complaints and Local Services Division where 22 he regularly got to get his boots dirty. He's gotta shine 23 them up now. He's been over at the legislature this whole 24 session. He's very systematic in how he's approaching this. 25 He's actually met -- gone to every single office at the</p>


<p>Page 33</p> <p>1 legislature, both Senate and House, and has been really 2 great about developing some relationships over there. He's 3 done a great job during his first session. I think he's 4 learned quite a bit being over there. 5 He's also going to serve as a -- a special projects 6 lead for us as well, so that's why he's helping on the 7 permitting effort. We're super excited to have Ryan in that 8 position. We miss Michelle, but we're happy that he's here. 9 Staff recognitions: We're going to have an 10 agency-wide meeting on Thursday, so we're going to go 11 in-depth there on some staff recognitions during that 12 meeting, but I did want to identify just a few of those 13 recognitions for you today. 14 The first one is our employee of the quarter, Mark 15 Bersche. He's in the Environmental Complaints and Local 16 Services Division. He is our third quarter recipient of 17 this recognition. Not only does he have a very heavy 18 caseload, workload in the division, but he also takes time 19 every Friday to issue a -- a newsletter to the whole 20 division. It's usually very educational and entertaining as 21 well. These are just three different examples of some of 22 his recent newsletters warning folks about, you know, snake 23 encounters, all kinds of fun stuff that they run into out in 24 the field. 25 Nobody asked him to do this. He just kind of does it</p>	<p>Page 35</p> <p>1 awards, so we wanted to highlight those for you all today. 2 I should have mentioned -- please interrupt me at any 3 time during my presentation if you have any questions. I'm 4 happy to answer any. That's it. 5 MR. HIRSHEY: You might need a drink of water now. 6 MR. SINGLETARY: I warned you. 7 DR. FERRELL: Does anyone have any questions from 8 the Board? 9 (No indications given.) 10 DR. FERRELL: Any questions from the public? 11 (No indications given.) 12 DR. FERRELL: Rob, that was -- that was a 13 marathon, but I know that was very important because there 14 are so many matters both at the federal and state levels 15 that impact the Agency's mission, so we really appreciate 16 you doing that. Thank you for bringing us up to speed on 17 those issues. 18 Rob's report will be available both in hardback and 19 paperback and on your favorite e-reader device in the near 20 future. 21 With that, seeing no questions, we'll move on to item 22 number 6, which is our Budget Update and Financial Overview 23 provided by Kathy Aebischer. 24 Kathy, the floor is yours. 25 MS. AEBISCHER: Good morning, Members of the</p>
<p>Page 34</p> <p>1 on his own accord. It's been very well received by the 2 division staff, so we wanted to recognize Mark. I don't 3 think -- Mark's not here, is he? 4 (Negative indications given.) 5 MR. SINGLETARY: Okay. His bosses are back there. 6 Lastly -- or, secondly, I wanted to recognize the 7 building ops crew. We didn't get any pictures of them. 8 They really did step up without any hesitation and just 9 jumped into action, helping us when we were getting the 10 flooding. I mean, that's what they do every day. Kathy, is 11 like, "It's just a Tuesday. This is what they do." I'd 12 just like to say that it was very much appreciated. 13 Then, lastly, I just wanted to mention Shellie Chard. 14 So Shellie is kind of reaching the end of her state service. 15 She is eligible for full retirement at the end of the year. 16 She is already starting to rack up some of these 17 awards. These are just two of them. One of them she is 18 fixing to receive and one of them she just received. One is 19 a Lifetime Achievement award from the Oklahoma Water 20 Environment Association and the other one is the Exceptional 21 Service Award for the Association of Clean Water 22 Administrators. That's a nationwide organization where 23 she's represented us for many years there. We still have 24 her for a while. We're not letting her go just yet, but 25 she's starting to rack them up. These are two really big</p>	<p>Page 36</p> <p>1 Board. Kathy Aebischer, Chief Financial Officer and 2 Director of Administrative Services. I'm just going to go 3 over a quick update -- 4 DR. FERRELL: Let's get the mic on. 5 MS. AEBISCHER: There we go. Is that better? 6 (Positive indications given.) 7 MS. AEBISCHER: I'm going to go over a quick 8 update to the budget. Through April 30th, which is ten 9 months into this fiscal year. Revenue, we're looking really 10 good. The Agency is really healthy. We have collected over 11 projections already. 12 Part of that is a project that my comptroller 13 undertook. If -- if you remember, I was telling you about 14 the processes for EFT for payments. It goes into one 15 account for all agencies, and it's like a needle in a 16 haystack sometimes to find our payments. He's found some of 17 our money. He has really focused on finding money over the 18 last several years and trying to make sure we've collected 19 and pulled over everything that's DEQ. A good portion of 20 that is why we're over. There's other portions as well, but 21 they are collecting more than projected. 22 We are working with the treasury because they have 23 agreed to give us a virtual account, which means we can give 24 a different routing number to our customers and we will not 25 go through this nightmare all the time. We're excited about</p>

<p>Page 37</p> <p>1 that. They're also updating their system, which has not 2 been updated since the beginning of time, I think. So those 3 things should help us immensely on the financial side for 4 collecting payments and cash flow. 5 On the budget, we are a \$219 million budget. We have 6 expended 73 million. We have 118 million still encumbered 7 and a remaining of 28 million. 8 I'll go to the next slide to kind of explain why we 9 haven't expended as much. So if we kind of go through 10 there, 16 million, the 19,302 general appropriations. We're 11 just now finalizing numbers and a contract for starting the 12 construction of the garage. We're excited for that. They 13 went out for bid. There's a couple line items that we're 14 going to have to rebid, but it's looking really good, and 15 then we'll be able to commit the rest of that. We'll roll 16 it over into next year, those funds, and then start 17 expending those. 18 The other part of that, of course, is the Blue River. 19 We still got -- we got started late due to going out to bid, 20 and then the prep funds, the 386, the 70 million, those are 21 the two projects that Rob talked about. 22 Guymon, the 20 million. They've expended some money. 23 Like, 100,000. We expect that to ramp up. We'll roll it 24 over to next year's budget too, but they're -- they're 25 finalizing their numbers. We expect the first part of next</p>	<p>Page 39</p> <p>1 MR. McINTOSH: Good morning, Members of the Board. 2 I'm going to keep mine brief, but I can't promise you that 3 I'm going to beat Kathy. I'll do my best. 4 Like I said, my name is Ryan. I'm the new legislative 5 liaison. We will rollover some brief topics from session, 6 some of those things, you know. I'll tell you guys a little 7 bit more about me, who this new kid is up here. We'll talk 8 about some bills that went into law and some that didn't. 9 I'll have some general news from session, then some of my 10 other job duties, just administrative rules and approval 11 update. Obviously, we've heard about the budget. 12 So, obviously, we've talked about what happened to 13 Michelle. She went to the -- she's now the Deputy Secretary 14 of Agency and Legislative Affairs with the Secretary of 15 Energy and Environment's Office. She left some big shoes to 16 fill, but she was more than gracious in helping me along. 17 Even after she left, I could call her at any time and she 18 helped me along. I greatly appreciate that. 19 I've been with DEQ for a little over ten years now. I 20 was in our field division, Environmental Complaints and 21 Local Services. I started out in the Burns Flat office. We 22 eventually moved that to Weatherford. Then I eventually 23 came to Oklahoma City at some point, but I was just a field 24 guy. You know, I used to look at water systems, wastewater 25 systems, inspect a few septic, and work complaints. That</p>
<p>Page 38</p> <p>1 fiscal year, we'll expend those down. 2 Then the levee, they're trying to get their contract 3 together. Maybe by the end of next year, they'll start 4 expending some money. 5 So that's why we have -- we still have a lot of money 6 left in the budget that hasn't been expended. 7 That is all I have. Does anybody have any questions? 8 (No indications given.) 9 MS. AEBISCHER: I was shorter than Rob. That's 10 awesome. 11 DR. FERRELL: Any questions from the Board? 12 (No indications given.) 13 DR. FERRELL: Any questions from the public? 14 (No indications given.) 15 DR. FERRELL: Kathy, we know that you and your 16 team have done a lot of work, especially with those 17 payments -- I'll just call it forensic accounting -- just 18 trying to make sure that the payments we're supposed to 19 receive, we actually receive, especially when we have the 20 budget we have. Certainly we have -- that's a huge effort, 21 so our -- our appreciation and our congratulations to you 22 and your team for getting that done. We appreciate that. 23 All right. Moving on. Item number 7, our legislative 24 report provided by your favorite new legislative liaison for 25 the Agency, Mr. Ryan McIntosh.</p>	<p>Page 40</p> <p>1 was kind of my background. The week before session, I got 2 approached to, you know, do a new job and so it's been a 3 learning opportunity ever since. 4 We'll transition a little bit to the bills of 5 interest, some that directly impact DEQ. So Senate Bill 469 6 amended the Oklahoma Emission Reduction Technology Rebate 7 Program and now requires that all applications must be 8 submitted no later than six months before the cessation of 9 the program. This helps us get those applications and 10 process them and get the money to the prospective company a 11 little quicker. 12 Senate Bill 269 is dealing with carbon sequestration 13 and puts the sole jurisdiction to the Oklahoma Corporation 14 Commission. It kind of streamlines things, gets everything 15 to one agency. I felt like it was a good thing just so 16 companies aren't having to deal with two different agencies. 17 Lastly, Senate Bill 111, it amended Title 59 and 18 requiring anyone installing more than one septic system, 19 they now have to be licensed. Previously it was ten. This 20 was an industry bill from the Oklahoma Onsite Wastewater 21 Association. This is one that was ran last session and was 22 vetoed by the governor. This year it was allowed to go into 23 law without his signature. 24 Now some that didn't go. Rob had previously mentioned 25 our PFAS bill, Senate Bill 271, it did not get heard in the</p>

<p>Page 41</p> <p>1 Senate Energy Committee.</p> <p>2 There were four bills regarding biosolids. Three of</p> <p>3 them didn't get heard in their initial committees, but</p> <p>4 Senate Bill 3 did get heard in Senate Energy, passed, and</p> <p>5 then passed the Senate floor. It didn't get traction in the</p> <p>6 House, but there's still some more conversations going on</p> <p>7 about biosolids.</p> <p>8 Canine Grant Program, which was of interest to me</p> <p>9 because it had DEQ as the granting agency of -- of a Canine</p> <p>10 Search and Rescue Dog Program. I was able to talk with the</p> <p>11 author and we were able to put our heads together and figure</p> <p>12 out that Oklahoma Emergency Management would be a little bit</p> <p>13 better hands for this. Unfortunately that one didn't go</p> <p>14 into law, but that was just fun to be involved in the</p> <p>15 process.</p> <p>16 In some other news from session, budget negotiations,</p> <p>17 from what I'm told, went smoothly since I'm new to this, but</p> <p>18 it was agreed upon in mid-May. Some of the key measures</p> <p>19 that kind of shook out from that was a quarter point</p> <p>20 reduction in income tax, a path to zero. So if state</p> <p>21 revenue hits certain metrics, there will be further</p> <p>22 reduction in income tax.</p> <p>23 There was funding for the aluminum smelter in Inola,</p> <p>24 tort reform, business courts, and power behind the meter.</p> <p>25 Recently Chickasha, they just announced a project that will</p>	<p>Page 43</p> <p>1 which agency can help me with this issue, and sometimes,</p> <p>2 like I say, it's just what's the next step.</p> <p>3 I just assumed that everybody had our complaint</p> <p>4 hotline number because we get over 4,000 complaints a year.</p> <p>5 That's not true either.</p> <p>6 We were able to resolve a ton of constituent issues</p> <p>7 really quickly, you know, by being present, following up</p> <p>8 quickly, and just being -- being available is kind of the</p> <p>9 main thing.</p> <p>10 We would also do a lot of follow-up. So, like, when</p> <p>11 we have that constituent issue, follow-up with the</p> <p>12 legislator or their assistant. "Hey, this is what happened.</p> <p>13 This is what we did. This is -- you know, we feel like this</p> <p>14 is resolved. Do you need anything else?" So that really</p> <p>15 helped develop a bunch of relationships during the session.</p> <p>16 Kind of moving on to budget. We were in the General</p> <p>17 Appropriations Bill. We did not receive a cut. We actually</p> <p>18 received additional funding for positions in water quality</p> <p>19 as Rob had mentioned.</p> <p>20 Our rules in House Joint Resolution 1033, all of our</p> <p>21 rules were approved. We had a few questions from the House.</p> <p>22 They would come to Jonathan, and he did a great job of</p> <p>23 answering them promptly, but we did not have any -- no one</p> <p>24 had any issues with our rules in the House or the Senate, so</p> <p>25 it went very smoothly this session.</p>
<p>Page 42</p> <p>1 be utilizing a power plant.</p> <p>2 Other noteworthy things from session: The Department</p> <p>3 of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, there was issues with</p> <p>4 their budgets. There was some hearings and audits. That</p> <p>5 was kind of a big topic around the legislature.</p> <p>6 There were also a large number of vetoes, 68, and veto</p> <p>7 overrides at 47. Those were kind of some unprecedented</p> <p>8 numbers.</p> <p>9 Another thing that I did a bunch of, one of my primary</p> <p>10 functions was constituent issues. So every legislator gets</p> <p>11 calls from their constituents for a variety of issues. It</p> <p>12 feels like when you're working for one particular agency,</p> <p>13 it's just all your agency, but that's not the truth. They</p> <p>14 have constituents call. Because I'm over there every day,</p> <p>15 I'm in their office, I'm reaching out to them, talking with</p> <p>16 them, and seeing what the issues are. Oftentimes I'm</p> <p>17 talking with that constituent so I can get the problem</p> <p>18 straight from them.</p> <p>19 If I'm not able to answer the question, I'm able to</p> <p>20 pass it back to our technical folks here. Our divisions</p> <p>21 were great at getting me information very, very quickly.</p> <p>22 Sometimes it was just people didn't know which way to turn.</p> <p>23 Other situations they -- they didn't know -- they were maybe</p> <p>24 already working with us and they didn't know how to take the</p> <p>25 next step. So sometimes it's they're dealing with an issue,</p>	<p>Page 44</p> <p>1 So, just in summary, the 2025 legislative session, it</p> <p>2 went really well. We're excited for the next session. Due</p> <p>3 to our responsiveness and commitment, being good stewards of</p> <p>4 state dollars, we have a great reputation. We definitely</p> <p>5 want to keep it that way. We'll continue these efforts and</p> <p>6 look forward to our continued service to the citizens of our</p> <p>7 great state.</p> <p>8 So, again, thank you all. My contact information is</p> <p>9 there on the site if you have any questions.</p> <p>10 MR. KINDER: Thank you, Ryan. Thanks for stepping</p> <p>11 up for us in short notice.</p> <p>12 It looks like the PFAS, the biosolids deal are going</p> <p>13 to be worked on -- on the off session. What do you see</p> <p>14 happening with that language and legislation going forward?</p> <p>15 MR. McINTOSH: So right now we're kind of in a</p> <p>16 working group with Representative Patzkowsky, Representative</p> <p>17 George where we're having some conversations about PFAS and</p> <p>18 biosolids and just kind of catching everybody up to speed,</p> <p>19 where we are kind of at the federal level, and the different</p> <p>20 tactics that other states have used. We want to definitely</p> <p>21 get this thing right. We don't want to go too far. It's</p> <p>22 kind of a fine line. We're doing a lot of work with that</p> <p>23 group of people. We're excited to be part of that and</p> <p>24 hopefully get some good things that come from that.</p> <p>25 MR. KINDER: I expect EPA will have a say on this</p>

<p>1 too?</p> <p>2 MR. McINTOSH: I imagine so, sir.</p> <p>3 MR. KINDER: Thank you.</p> <p>4 DR. FERRELL: Any other questions from the Board?</p> <p>5 (No indications given.)</p> <p>6 DR. FERRELL: I'll ask one, Ryan, just really</p> <p>7 quickly. You can say "I don't know." That's a perfectly</p> <p>8 fine answer. Given all the issues that we do have kind of</p> <p>9 ongoing and the -- the churn, if you would, within the</p> <p>10 environmental regulatory realm, has there been any</p> <p>11 discussion with the legislature of any interim studies over</p> <p>12 the summer and fall aimed at some of these environmental</p> <p>13 issues that you're aware of or is that still to be</p> <p>14 determined?</p> <p>15 MR. McINTOSH: They talked about possibly doing an</p> <p>16 interim study with biosolids, but Chairman Patzkowsky</p> <p>17 elected to do this work [indiscernible], and so that was --</p> <p>18 that was his decision, but outside of that, I have not heard</p> <p>19 anything.</p> <p>20 DR. FERRELL: Any other questions from the Board?</p> <p>21 (No indications given.)</p> <p>22 DR. FERRELL: Any other questions from the public?</p> <p>23 (No indications given.)</p> <p>24 DR. FERRELL: Well, Ryan, we know this was a</p> <p>25 pretty plain-Jane, vanilla legislative session for you to</p>	<p>Page 45</p> <p>1 DR. FERRELL: Second.</p> <p>2 Is there any discussion on the motion from the Board?</p> <p>3 (No indications given.)</p> <p>4 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>5 (No indications given.)</p> <p>6 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>7 (No indications given.)</p> <p>8 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>9 (No indications given.)</p> <p>10 DR. FERRELL: Seeing none, will you please take a</p> <p>11 roll call vote to convene into executive Session?</p> <p>12 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?</p> <p>13 MR. AUER: Yes.</p> <p>14 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?</p> <p>15 MS. ESTEPH: Yes.</p> <p>16 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?</p> <p>17 MR. HIRSHEY: Yes.</p> <p>18 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?</p> <p>19 MR. KINDER: Yes.</p> <p>20 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Lowry?</p> <p>21 MS. LOWRY: Yes.</p> <p>22 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Munson?</p> <p>23 MR. MUNSON: Yes.</p> <p>24 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Peterson?</p> <p>25 MR. PETERSON: Yes.</p>
<p>1 cut your teeth on. You're really seasoned. All kidding</p> <p>2 aside, this was a heck of a way to get started in your</p> <p>3 position. Everyone that I have talked to has said nothing</p> <p>4 but positive things about the way that you conducted</p> <p>5 yourself and represented the Agency, so we really appreciate</p> <p>6 you. Thank you very much for that.</p> <p>7 MR. McINTOSH: Thank you, sir.</p> <p>8 DR. FERRELL: All right. Anything else?</p> <p>9 (No indications given.)</p> <p>10 DR. FERRELL: We will move on to agenda item</p> <p>11 number 8. Among the statutory duties of the Board are the</p> <p>12 responsibilities to appoint and set the compensation of the</p> <p>13 Executive Director and to assist the DEQ in conducting</p> <p>14 periodic reviews and planning activities related to the</p> <p>15 goals, objectives, priorities, and policies of DEQ. In</p> <p>16 connection with these responsibilities, the Board has</p> <p>17 determined that it should conduct a performance review of</p> <p>18 the Executive Director.</p> <p>19 With that, is there a motion from the Board to convene</p> <p>20 into Executive Session?</p> <p>21 MR. KINDER: Yes. I'll make a motion that we go</p> <p>22 into Executive Session at this time.</p> <p>23 DR. FERRELL: We have a motion.</p> <p>24 Is there a second?</p> <p>25 MR. HIRSHEY: Second.</p>	<p>Page 46</p> <p>1 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?</p> <p>2 MR. SCHULTZE: Yes.</p> <p>3 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?</p> <p>4 MR. TATUM: Yes.</p> <p>5 MS. FIELDS: Dr. Ferrell?</p> <p>6 DR. FERRELL: Yes.</p> <p>7 MS. FIELDS: Motion passed.</p> <p>8 DR. FERRELL: With that, pursuant to statute, we</p> <p>9 need to designate a record keeper. Since those records must</p> <p>10 be kept in written, not electronic form, never mind the fact</p> <p>11 that it's the year 2025, we need to ask if any one of you</p> <p>12 has had an S plus or better in penmanship or an appropriate</p> <p>13 teacher is willing to serve as our scribe?</p> <p>14 (No indications given.)</p> <p>15 DR. FERRELL: Don't everybody jump forward at</p> <p>16 once. Is this something we should assign to one of the</p> <p>17 rookies?</p> <p>18 (No indications given.)</p> <p>19 DR. FERRELL: All right. Since Kim is wearing the</p> <p>20 bright color orange, I know that means that he has an OSU</p> <p>21 education and is, thus, more than capable of the written</p> <p>22 word. We're going to nominate Kim to be our record keeper</p> <p>23 then.</p> <p>24 MR. PETERSON: They'll be brief too.</p> <p>25 DR. FERRELL: That's the way we like them.</p>
	<p>Page 47</p> <p>Page 48</p>

<p>Page 49</p> <p>1 So we will now convene in Executive Session. Once we</p> <p>2 come out of Executive Session, we will have a motion to</p> <p>3 reconvene in our Open Session. In the meantime, everyone</p> <p>4 please feel free to take a break, refresh your beverages,</p> <p>5 and we will be back in session with you shortly.</p> <p>6 (Whereupon, the Executive Session was held from 10:30</p> <p>7 A.M. to 11:36 A.M.)</p> <p>8 DR. FERRELL: All right. Everybody, welcome back.</p> <p>9 We have emerged from chambers, the Chair would entertain a</p> <p>10 motion to re-enter Open Session.</p> <p>11 MR. HIRSHEY: So moved.</p> <p>12 DR. FERRELL: Motion.</p> <p>13 Do we have a second?</p> <p>14 MR. MUNSON: Second.</p> <p>15 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion from the Board?</p> <p>16 (No indications given.)</p> <p>17 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>18 (No indications given.)</p> <p>19 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>20 (No indications given.)</p> <p>21 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>22 (No indications given.)</p> <p>23 DR. FERRELL: Seeing none, Quiana, will you please</p> <p>24 call the roll?</p> <p>25 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?</p>	<p>Page 51</p> <p>1 Rob in his first year. We had full regulatory certainty at</p> <p>2 both the federal and state level. I'm just kidding. No,</p> <p>3 Rob, the consensus amongst everyone is we really appreciate</p> <p>4 the incredible work that you've done in this first year and</p> <p>5 really adapting quickly to not only the new position, but</p> <p>6 the new environment as well.</p> <p>7 One thing that was also noted in discussion was the</p> <p>8 credit that we're going to give you for putting amazing</p> <p>9 people in positions where they thrive and succeed, but also</p> <p>10 to pass along the fact that those folks have had the</p> <p>11 motivation and desire to thrive and succeed in those new</p> <p>12 positions as well. We appreciate you and the Agency a ton.</p> <p>13 Thank you very much for that.</p> <p>14 All right. With that, we now move to item 11, any new</p> <p>15 business which could not have reasonably been foreseen prior</p> <p>16 to the posting of the agenda. Is anyone on the Board aware</p> <p>17 of such items?</p> <p>18 (No indications given.)</p> <p>19 DR. FERRELL: Anyone?</p> <p>20 (No indications given.)</p> <p>21 DR. FERRELL: Anyone?</p> <p>22 (No indications given.)</p> <p>23 DR. FERRELL: Anyone from the public?</p> <p>24 (No indications given.)</p> <p>25 DR. FERRELL: Seeing no new business, I am very</p>
<p>Page 50</p> <p>1 MR. AUER: Here.</p> <p>2 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?</p> <p>3 MS. ESTEPH: Here.</p> <p>4 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?</p> <p>5 MR. HIRSHEY: Yes.</p> <p>6 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?</p> <p>7 MR. KINDER: Yes.</p> <p>8 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Lowry?</p> <p>9 MS. LOWRY: Yes.</p> <p>10 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Munson?</p> <p>11 MR. MUNSON: Yes.</p> <p>12 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Peterson?</p> <p>13 MR. PETERSON: Yes.</p> <p>14 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?</p> <p>15 MR. SCHULTZE: Yes.</p> <p>16 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?</p> <p>17 MR. TATUM: Yes.</p> <p>18 MS. FIELDS: Dr. Ferrell?</p> <p>19 DR. FERRELL: Yes.</p> <p>20 MS. FIELDS: We have a quorum. Motion passed.</p> <p>21 DR. FERRELL: Very good.</p> <p>22 Well, we would just like to report that we are very</p> <p>23 pleased with what Rob has been able to do in his first year</p> <p>24 on the job. Just like Ryan's first year on the job was so</p> <p>25 easy, the legislative session, again, super easy skating for</p>	<p>Page 52</p> <p>1 excited to come to agenda item 12, which is that the next</p> <p>2 regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Board is</p> <p>3 scheduled to be held September 9th, 2025, at 9:30 A.M. in</p> <p>4 the home of America's brightest orange, Stillwater,</p> <p>5 Oklahoma, which will be held at the Oklahoma State</p> <p>6 University Student Union located on Hester Street in</p> <p>7 Stillwater, Oklahoma. We look forward to seeing you guys on</p> <p>8 campus. We'll try and have everything looking really nice</p> <p>9 and pretty for you. We'll also try to find a place for you</p> <p>10 guys to actually park.</p> <p>11 Anything else before we move to agenda item 13 that's</p> <p>12 known by the Board?</p> <p>13 (No indications given.)</p> <p>14 DR. FERRELL: That brings us to Item 13,</p> <p>15 Adjournment. Do we have a motion from the Board to adjourn?</p> <p>16 Mr. MUNSON: So moved.</p> <p>17 DR. FERRELL: We have a motion.</p> <p>18 Is there a second?</p> <p>19 MR. HIRSHEY: Second.</p> <p>20 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>21 (No indications given.)</p> <p>22 DR. FERRELL: Any discussion?</p> <p>23 (No indications given.)</p> <p>24 DR. FERRELL: Seeing none, Quiana, will you please</p> <p>25 do a roll call vote to adjourn?</p>

<p>Page 53</p> <p>1 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Auer?</p> <p>2 MR. AUER: Yes.</p> <p>3 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Esteph?</p> <p>4 MS. ESTEPH: Yes.</p> <p>5 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Hirshey?</p> <p>6 MR. HIRSHEY: Yes.</p> <p>7 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Kinder?</p> <p>8 MR. KINDER: Yes.</p> <p>9 MS. FIELDS: Ms. Lowry?</p> <p>10 MS. LOWRY: Yes.</p> <p>11 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Munson?</p> <p>12 MR. MUNSON: Yes.</p> <p>13 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Peterson?</p> <p>14 MR. PETERSON: Yes.</p> <p>15 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Schultze?</p> <p>16 MR. SCHULTZE: Yes.</p> <p>17 MS. FIELDS: Mr. Tatum?</p> <p>18 MR. TATUM: Yes.</p> <p>19 MS. FIELDS: Dr. Ferrell?</p> <p>20 DR. FERRELL: Yes.</p> <p>21 MS. FIELDS: Motion passed.</p> <p>22 DR. FERRELL: With that, we stand adjourned.</p> <p>23 That then moves us to our public forum, so I will read</p> <p>24 this for you all: Welcome to the public forum for the</p> <p>25 Environmental Quality Board. Public input is valuable to</p>	<p>Page 55</p> <p>1 We'll look forward to seeing you again soon.</p> <p>2 (Whereupon, the meeting adjourned at 11:41 A.M.)</p> <p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
<p>Page 54</p> <p>1 the Board and the Department, and we welcome your</p> <p>2 participation.</p> <p>3 Forums allow the public to make suggestions or express</p> <p>4 concerns about environmental laws, rules, or policy.</p> <p>5 However, concerns with an action or a decision in a specific</p> <p>6 case or matter, such as a particular permit application or</p> <p>7 enforcement case, should be communicated directly to the</p> <p>8 Department. The Board cannot and does not intervene in</p> <p>9 those case-specific decisions. We also ask that you not use</p> <p>10 the forum to advertise or publicize commercial products or</p> <p>11 services.</p> <p>12 Because of the nature of the issues that are</p> <p>13 appropriate for the forum, you may not receive an immediate</p> <p>14 response to your comments. Department staff and/or the</p> <p>15 Board generally will need to take some time to evaluate the</p> <p>16 comments and respond to them. If you desire to make</p> <p>17 comments at today's forum, but you did not sign the sheet on</p> <p>18 the information table when you came in, would you please</p> <p>19 raise your hand?</p> <p>20 (No hands raised.)</p> <p>21 DR. FERRELL: All right. Do we have any sign-ins?</p> <p>22 (No indications given.)</p> <p>23 MR. FERRELL: Very good. This now concludes the</p> <p>24 public forum.</p> <p>25 Thank you all for your time and joining us today.</p>	<p>Page 56</p> <p>1 C E R T I F I C A T E</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 STATE OF OKLAHOMA)</p> <p>4) SS.</p> <p>4 COUNTY OF PAYNE)</p> <p>5</p> <p>6 I, Lacie L. Bradshaw, Certified Shorthand Reporter</p> <p>7 within and for The State of Oklahoma, CSR No. 1907, do</p> <p>8 hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct</p> <p>9 transcription of my shorthand notes of proceedings had at</p> <p>10 the Department of Environmental Quality Regular Meeting of</p> <p>11 the Environmental Quality Board, held on the 10th day of</p> <p>12 June, 2025.</p> <p>13 I further certify that I am neither related to, nor</p> <p>14 attorney for any interested party, nor otherwise interested</p> <p>15 in the event of said action.</p> <p>16</p> <p>17 WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 19th day of June, 2025.</p> <p>18</p> <p>19 </p> <p>20</p> <p>21 Lacie L. Bradshaw, CSR</p> <p>21 CSR No. 1907</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>



**OKLAHOMA
Environmental
Quality**

**ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
BOARD**

Attendance Record

June 10, 2025

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NAME and/or AFFILIATION

Address and/or Phone and/or E-Mail

Quiana Fields
Frank A. Hildebrand

DEQ

DEQ 405 702-6177

Malcolm Zachariah

DEQ

Kathy Aebischer

DEQ

Stacey Tucker

DEQ

Madison Miller

DEQ

Jimmy Kinder

DEQ

Sheldon Tatum

DEQ BOB.

Bad Ground

EFO

Pete Schultze

DEQ

GARY HENTZ

DEQ

Shannon L. Ferrell

EQB

Ken Hirshey

DEQ Board

918-630-2880
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Jonathan Allen

DEQ

George Russell

DEQ

Kim L. Peterson

DEQ Board

Erin Hatfield

DEQ

Jim Munson

DEQ

Richard

DEQ

Destin Davidson

DEQ

Beverly Batchlet-Smith

DEQ

Brandi Louny

EQB

Katlin Estep

EQB

Angela Hughes

DEQ

Nicholas Hahn

DEQ

Kelly Dixon

DEQ



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June 10, 2025

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NAME and/or AFFILIATION

Address and/or Phone and/or E-Mail

Karen Steele DEQ

Ryan McIntosh DEQ

Kambridge Stephens DEQ

Michelle Wynn

Susan Mensic

DEQ

DEQ

ADDISON LAUT

ATTORNEY GENERAL

BRIAN McQuinn

DEQ

April Eberle

ODEQ

Vance Pennington

ODEQ

Travis Mensik

ODEQ

Chris Roberson

DEQ

Chen Mink

DEQ

Othman Shahin

DEQ

Kyle Huffman

DEQ

Nick Hazelliga

DEQ

Travis Couch

DEQ

Andrew McClary

DEQ

Alyssa Wilkins

DEQ

MELANIE FOSTER

DEQ

Lee Doolen

DEQ

Marla Peck

OK Farm Bureau

GREG CARR

DEQ

PATRICK RICE

DEQ



**OKLAHOMA
Environmental
Quality**

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

Attendance Record

June 10, 2025

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

NAME and/or AFFILIATION

Address and/or Phone and/or E-Mail

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bpanas@aep.com