

*Application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Under Funding Opportunity No. R22AS00163*

*WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed
Management Program Phase I Grants, FY-22*

Development of the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association



March 31, 2022

The Chickasaw Nation
Pontotoc County/Ada, Oklahoma

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Technical Proposal

March 31, 2022

The Chickasaw Nation

Kristopher Patton, Director of Natural Resources

Pontotoc County, Ada, Oklahoma

Executive Summary

The Chickasaw Nation (CN), located in south central Oklahoma with headquarters in Ada, will establish the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association (LTWMA) to address both current and long-term water-related issues within the lake and Upper Red River Basin in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Facilitated by Oka' (derived from the Chickasaw and Choctaw word for water) the Water Institute, the CN will engage a diverse group of stakeholders, including landowners; municipal and rural water users; appropriate local, state and federal agencies; hydropower producers; agricultural interests; soil health institutions; universities; tourism/recreation partners; fish and wildlife interests; non-governmental organizations; environmental organizations; local citizen groups and various other water-related organizations. Water quality impairments in the Lake Texoma Watershed present a considerable water supply vulnerability for users as well as overall economic development in this rapidly growing region. Lake sedimentation, resulting in excessive algal growth and subsequent eutrophication, threatens lake water quality and quantity with adverse impacts, which are especially evident in the Washita River arm of the lake in Oklahoma. Lake Texoma is a vital water supply that is an essential component of the region's current and projected growth. Oka' the Water Institute, supported by CN staff including the project manager (Kristopher Patton), water resources manager and water resources planner, will be utilized to complete the proposed project, will facilitate development of the collaborative Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association, which will establish a Board—along with both mission and vision statements—in advance of a well-vetted and feasible plan consisting of prioritized, phased strategies focused on the basin-wide implementation of soil health practices and related measures to improve and protect the lake and its watershed. This project is anticipated to occur over the full two years, with an anticipated January 2023 start date. This project will not take place in a federal facility and project deliverables will not occur on federal lands. To the CN's knowledge, there is no existing overlap or duplicative work to be conducted for this proposed project.

Project Location

The CN is a federally recognized First American tribe located in south central Oklahoma. The CN defines a treaty territory as being a reservation, which has not been disestablished and refers to Native Americans as First Americans. The CN's treaty territory includes 7,648 square miles that encompass all or part of 13 Oklahoma counties including: Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Grady, Jefferson, Johnston, Love, Marshall, McClain, Murray, Pontotoc and Stephens. The Lake Texoma watershed, which includes the Upper Red River Basin, is located in south-central/southwestern Oklahoma, north-central/northwest Texas and east-central New Mexico. The basin, part of a United States (U.S.) Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) 4 watershed that encompasses about 24,717 square miles of

land and water, represents the project area and the future area of focus of the multi-state LTWMA and its stakeholders. See Figure 1.

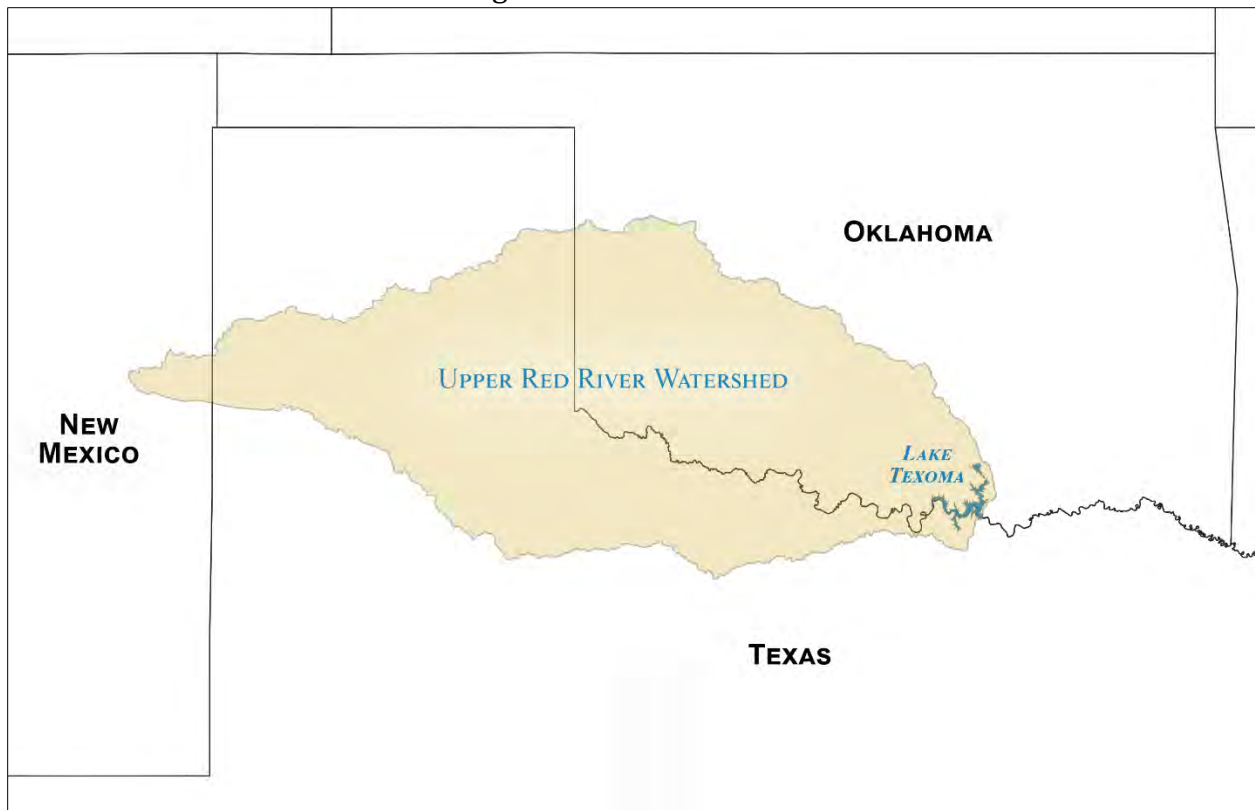


Figure 1: Project Area (Lake Texoma/Upper Red River Basin, HUC 4)

Project Description

The CN will be undertaking Task A: Watershed Group Development with the following goals and objectives to leverage partnerships in order to build water sustainability. The LTWMA is envisioned as an entirely new collaborative, stakeholder-based watershed organization. While agencies, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and local organizations (i.e., Lake Texoma Association) currently exist specifically to support the lake and its many benefits, the permanent LTWMA will be the first of its kind to address the numerous long-term water quality and quantity issues impacting the actual watershed upstream of Lake Texoma. The activities and long-term welfare of the CN—an eligible First American tribe—are significantly impacted by activities in the watershed as well as by quality and quantity issues within the lake itself. The Upper Red River watershed area intersects more than three-quarters of the Chickasaw Nation territory. Lake Texoma and the many associated tributaries and lakes occupying Chickasaw territory contribute enormously to the CN's economy and to the welfare of hundreds of thousands of Tribal and state citizens.

Oka' the Water Institute, housed at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, will facilitate development of LTWMA and its eventual multi-state watershed activities. The Institute was established by the CN in July 2016 for the specific purpose of bridging the gap between sustainable water management and economic development in the Tribal region. As with

the CN, promotion of sustainability is Oka’s foundational goal, as demonstrated by its stated vision:

Vision Statement:

“To create practical water solutions both locally and globally driven by research and directed by data that result in long-term sustainable ecological management and economic development.”

Oka's executive director, serving as LTWMA chairman on behalf of the CN, will facilitate this project as well as the LTWMA activities going forward, including creation and implementation of a Lake Texoma Watershed Management Plan. The CN intends for LTWMA to be comprised, first and foremost, of a diverse set of stakeholders in the watershed who will collaborate to identify, evaluate and resolve water quantity and quality issues impacting Lake Texoma. Therefore, the most essential initial task will be for the LTWMA chairman, assisted by partner organizations, to identify appropriate landowners and representatives of municipalities, business interests, state and federal agencies, recreational interests, environmental, educational and conservation/prescribed burn organizations and others to join LTWMA. The initial stakeholder meeting(s) will focus on fine-tuning its membership—i.e., ensuring that all relevant interests are adequately represented—as well as gathering and documenting shared watershed concerns and vulnerabilities (especially related to water quality and supply issues) and identifying potential mitigation strategies. Members will also inventory financial and technical resources that will support the organization’s efforts.

The next step will be to elect a board of directors to administer activities of LTWMA and implementation of identified watershed management strategies. The LTWMA chairman will mediate development of a cohesive vision and mission, official statements of which will be subsequently adopted by the board of directors. The CN envisions that LTWMA will conduct business as a 501(c)3 organization in the State of Oklahoma, so its board will proceed with appropriate legal filings as well as the development of Articles of Incorporation and bylaws. Official regular meetings of the organization will be held monthly or as determined by the LTWMA board of directors. Among its most important tasks, LTWMA will develop, finalize and implement the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Plan, which will be reviewed by members and approved by its board of directors. The plan will include a community education and outreach component.

Evaluation Criterion A—Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope (30 points)

A.1. Watershed Group Diversity

Recognizing that the Lake Texoma/Upper Red River watershed contains a multitude of varied users and interests, the LTWMA will ensure that its stakeholders are sufficiently diverse. This initial focus of the proposed project will be facilitated by the Oka’ executive director and staff working in close cooperation with the CN and its water consultants. The CN has significant experience in assembling grassroots groups with diverse interests. One example is the Lake Texoma region where the CN, its consultants and stakeholders developed the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer (ASA) Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), initiated

in 2015 through the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) WaterSMART Drought Response Program. The stakeholder-driven plan, completed in late 2017, included direct input from representatives of municipal water providers, conservation and water-related state and federal agencies, energy interests, environmental organizations, rural water districts, recreational and wildlife management areas, major industries and the farming and ranching community. The CN facilitated a similar stakeholder development process in formation of the Lake of the Arbuckles Watershed Association (LAWA) in 2016-2017.

During each of these lengthy planning processes, the CN further strengthened relationships with a diverse set of stakeholders. This bodes well for LTWMA stakeholder development, especially when considering that Oka' staff will lend their considerable experience with such efforts.

For LTWMA, the following stakeholders, which served similar roles in ASA DCP and/or LAWA development, will be considered for participation as they are anticipated affected stakeholders:

- ***The Chickasaw Nation (applicant)***
- ***Oka' the Water Institute (facilitator)***
- Arbuckle Master Conservancy District
- Arbuckle Rangeland Restoration Association
- Area Conservation Districts
- Area County Extension Offices
- Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
- City of Denison, Texas
- East Central University (Ada, Oklahoma)
- Lake Texoma Association
- Lake Texoma Marina Owners
- Municipal/Texoma Water Supply Users
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Noble Research Institute
- Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture
- OGE Energy Corp.
- Oklahoma Biological Survey
- Oklahoma Conservation Commission
- Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry
- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Oklahoma Geological Survey
- Oklahoma Intertribal Agricultural Council
- Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association
- Oklahoma Rural Water Association
- Oklahoma State University
- Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board
- Oklahoma Mesonet
- Rural Water Districts
- Southwestern Power Administration
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

The stakeholder list will then be expanded to include various additional interests specific to the much larger project area (i.e., Upper Red River Basin), including Texas state agencies and communities who depend, in part, upon Lake Texoma water supply. The USACE and hydropower interests, specifically the Southwestern Power Administration, will also be important collaborators in LTWMA as hydropower generated at Lake Texoma's Denison

Dam is an important source of energy in the region. This expanded list of potential stakeholders includes:

- Blue River Foundation of Oklahoma
- Cattlemen's Association
- Farm Bureau
- Lake of the Arbuckles Watershed Association
- Lake Texoma Association
- Nature Conservancy
- Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation
- Oklahoma Grazing Land Coalition
- Red River Valley Authority
- State of New Mexico
- Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association
- Texas Department of Transportation (Travel/Tourism)
- Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
- Texas Water Development Board
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A.2. Geographic Scope

The geographic scope of the project is the Red River Basin, upstream of Lake Texoma's Denison dam, in south-central/southwestern Oklahoma, north-central/northwestern Texas (including much of the Panhandle region) and a small portion of east-central New Mexico at the headwaters of the Red River. Due to the extensive size of the watershed, it is envisioned that the group's initial focus will be on environmental concerns and development surrounding Lake Texoma and in the watershed area intersecting CN's treaty territory. The group's focus will expand westward as issues warrant.

The identified watershed group members collectively represent the full geographic scope of the proposed project area (i.e., watershed). However, many of these planned stakeholders represent broad interests rather than geographic areas (aside from states as is the case with governmental agencies). Stakeholders will also include Lake Texoma water users and interests in both Oklahoma and Texas, even though they may not reside in the immediate watershed (i.e., planning region). Specifically concerning water supply issues, LTWMA could potentially serve as another, albeit limited, forum to address common future water supply concerns in south-central Oklahoma and north-central Texas. Figure 2 displays the location of CN, the funding applicant and a major stakeholder, within the identified project area. Other potential stakeholders for the proposed project have less defined geographic boundaries beyond those of states.

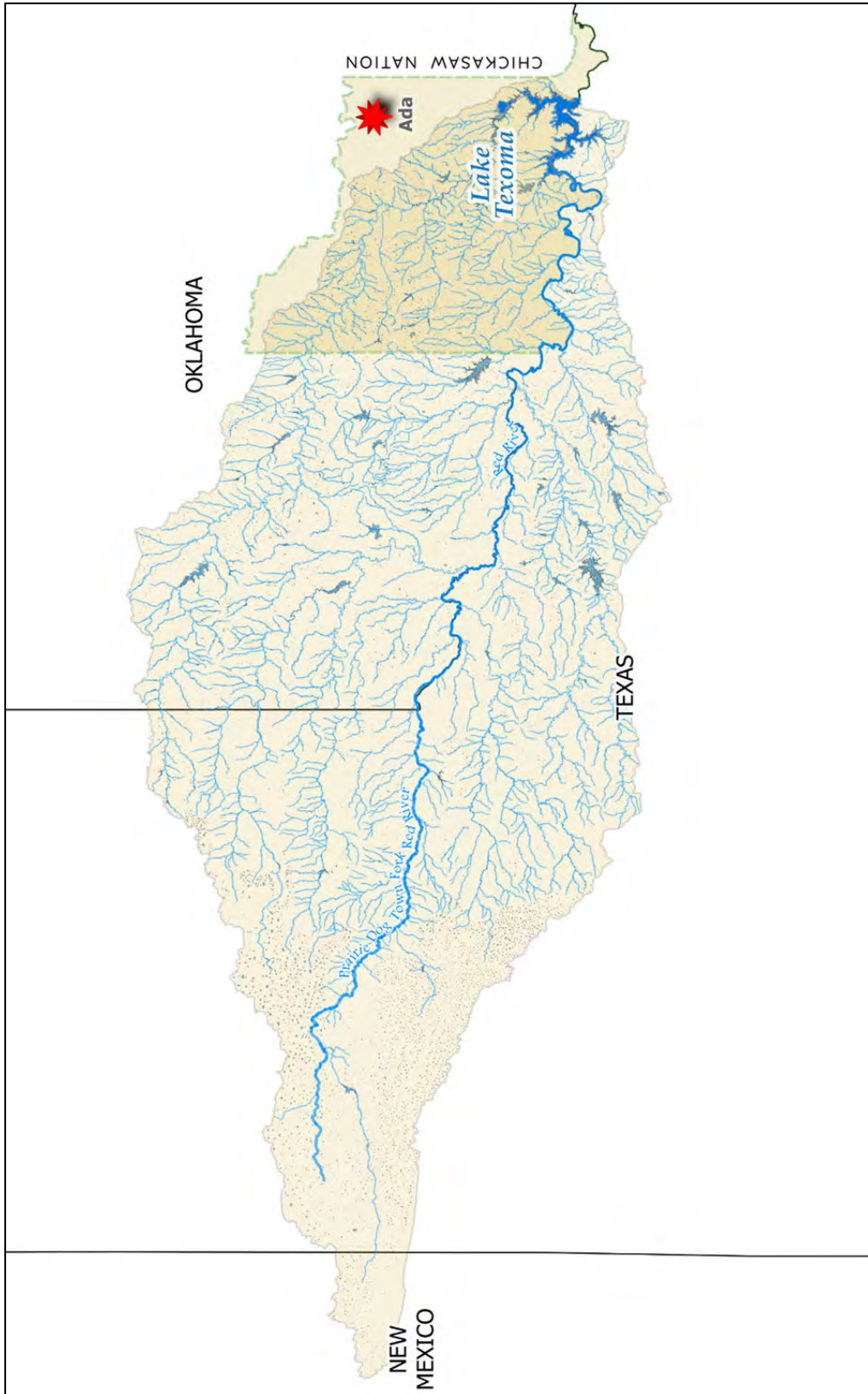


Figure 2: Project area map demonstrating geographic scope, including the Chickasaw Nation, the funding applicant and major stakeholder based in Ada, Oklahoma. The Chickasaw Nation's territory, as well as the immediate region surrounding Lake Texoma in Oklahoma and Texas, will comprise the initial focus area of the project.

Evaluation Criterion B—Addressing Critical Watershed Needs (35 points)

B.1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Lake Texoma exhibits numerous water supply challenges. The lake's advanced age—almost 80 years—results in an overabundance of sediment. Sedimentation transport and its inevitable accumulation in the lake reduces storage for water supply, threatens the enormous recreational benefits of the lake and impacts fish and wildlife and their habitats. Lake Texoma's water supply storage/yield is shared evenly by the States of Oklahoma and Texas as each state possesses a 150,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) allocation of water.

Provisions of the Red River Compact—authorized by Congress in 1955 on behalf of member states including Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas—dictate how much water from the river and its tributaries each signatory state is allowed to develop or store. From a public water supply standpoint, few Oklahoma communities currently utilize the lake. The lake's waters contain salinity levels that are typically too high for potable use under conventional treatment. As a result, users typically blend that water with higher quality sources. In north Texas, however, the reservoir is a vital source of blended supply that supports the region's recent/ongoing exponential growth.

While Oklahoma communities have yet to fully tap into Texoma's supply, the lake provides indispensable recreation and tourism benefits that support many local economies. On average, six million people visit the lake each year. The salty water that limits public use also supports a robust striper fishery. Washita River and Pennington Creek, its tributary, combine to form the northern arm of the lake, including the Cumberland Pool, which is part of the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1946, the refuge now encompasses 16,464 acres which attracts a large number and variety of waterfowl.

The hydropower facility at Denison Dam, which utilizes two 35,000 kilowatt (kW) generators (with excess capacity to support three additional 43,000 kW units), is essential to energy and power consumers in both states. As most recently demonstrated in 2015, Lake Texoma is a tremendous flood control tool, preventing hundreds of millions of dollars in damages since the dam's construction in 1944.

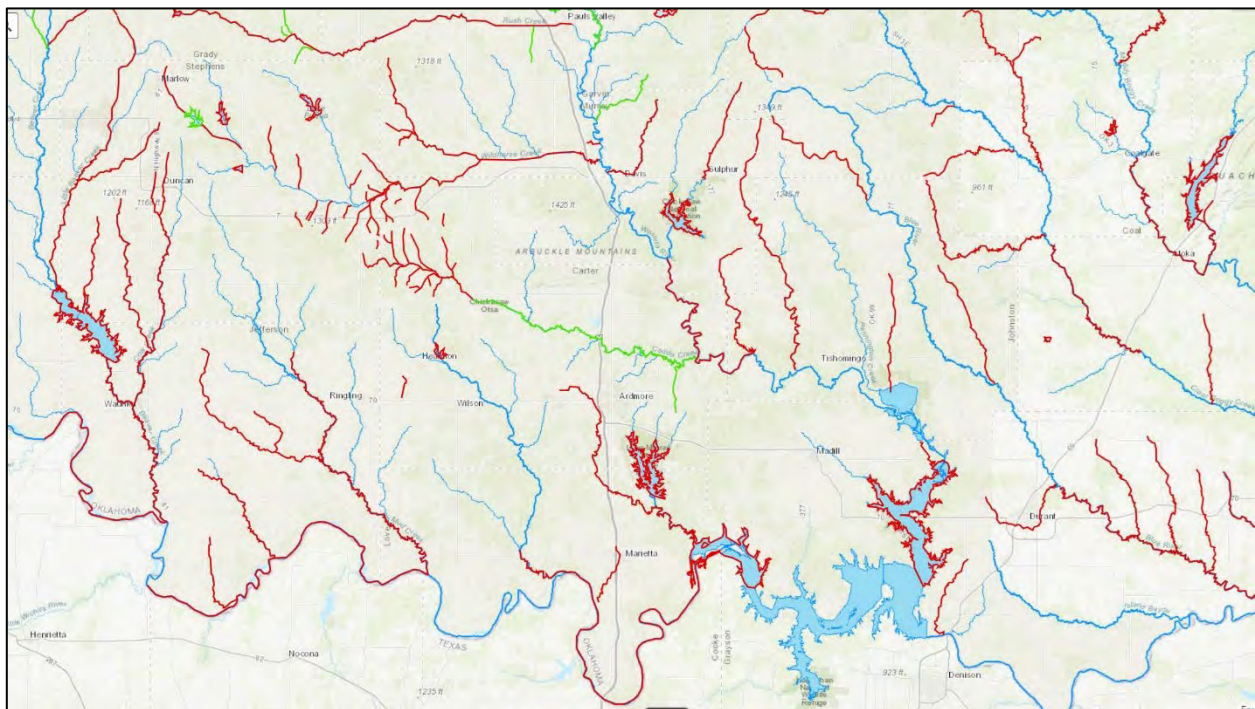
Ensuring continuance of the lake's multipurpose benefits is a matter of federal importance. Its known vulnerabilities are a threat to both the continued economic survival of urban and rural communities and to the region's future security. Driven in part by ongoing Chickasaw/Choctaw Tribal development initiatives, a more moderate, although similarly robust, growth trend is underway along the Interstate (I)-35/I-75 “corridor” of south-central/southeast Oklahoma.

This projected influx of new users will, at some stage in the future, present considerable challenges in the lake's ability to provide adequate and reliable water supply as well as energy and other uses of the lake. These issues could be further exacerbated by climate variability. A recent study of the Red River Basin funded by the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center indicates that climate change will likely cause the western portion of the watershed to become drier. Individual drought episodes are anticipated to become more prolonged while floods become more intense. [The entire Upper Red River

watershed project area is currently experiencing extreme and exceptional drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (03/10/22).]

The two major existing water quality threats (especially evident in the Washita River arm of the lake in Oklahoma) to maintenance of the lake's federally authorized project purposes are 1) sedimentation and 2) excessive algae growth (i.e., eutrophication). This algal growth—primarily caused by the accumulation of light-limiting sediment and the nutrient loading from upstream sources, including fertilizers and animal waste—reduces oxygen levels in the water, resulting in higher treatment costs for water providers as well as taste and odor problems for customers. More importantly, this algae can also produce toxins that can pose a public health threat (blue-green algal blooms), cause fish kills and harm local wildlife, livestock and ecosystems. The related impacts to recreation and tourism, as well as local economies, can be significant.

The numerous water quality “impairments”—when a body of water fails to meet one or more water quality standards—in the Lake Texoma/Red River Watershed present a considerable water supply vulnerability for users (Figure 3). Many tributaries of the Red River in this watershed exhibit elevated bacteria levels. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) calculations for bacteria and turbidity have been completed for several streams, including Pennington Creek. A TMDL is the calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant allowed to enter a waterbody so that the waterbody will meet and continue to meet water quality standards for that particular pollutant. A TMDL determines a pollutant reduction target and allocates load reductions necessary to the source(s) of the pollutant. This 37-mile tributary of the Washita River, which exhibits exceptionally high ecological diversity, was recently removed from Oklahoma’s impaired waters list. **Removing waterbodies**



from the Oklahoma and Texas 303(d) impaired waters lists will be a key barometer of success for the LTWMA organization.

Direct treatment of lake water, dredging the lake, raising the dam or other symptom-based approaches are infeasible. When considering potential mitigation of sediment and algae threats, the answer lies in targeting detrimental sources in the Lake Texoma watershed, which will require commitments and active participation from key stakeholders, including private landowners residing well upstream.

Key components of this watershed approach are: 1) multi-agency collaboration and coordination, 2) science-based tools for evaluation of alternatives and iterative simulation of "what if" scenarios, 3) methods to simulate the impacts of prescribed land-based solutions and practices on downstream lake improvements and 4) implementation of balanced watershed-based solutions using a variety of existing programs and authorities. The implementation of beneficial land use practices based on soil health principles—i.e., best management practices (BMPs)—will be essential to Lake Texoma watershed management. The prolific growth of invasive brush species and over-grazing of livestock in the watershed is diminishing soil health, increasing soil erosion (i.e., the loss of topsoil and beneficial organic matter) and subsequent nutrient loading and altering the natural hydrologic regime. Invasive species, such as cedar, can also utilize large amounts of water to the detriment of more desirable species.

B.2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Task A: Water Group Development

There is currently no single agency/organization possessing the necessary authority, resources and experience to coordinate watershed-wide management strategies, or "fixes," in the Lake Texoma/Upper Red River Basin. The Oka' the Water Institute shares a common goal with that envisioned for the LTWMA—that is to leverage partnerships to build water sustainability. Recent accomplishments, especially in working with LAWA and other landowners in the region, demonstrate that Oka' is the ideal entity to serve in a bipartisan leadership and stakeholder engagement role for the LTWMA. Oka's facilitation and close administrative support of LAWA and its members has resulted in impressive on-the-ground solutions in the Lake of the Arbuckles watershed. This is due in large part to enthusiastic collaboration among impacted landowners, which has been cultivated through the CN and Oka'. The LAWA has prioritized the use of low-cost prescribed burning, particularly of eastern red cedars, to restore lands and soil to their original healthy conditions. The results have shown an increase in land productivity for producers, thus providing a considerable economic incentive as well as enhanced water quality and quantity in the lake and its tributaries. The LAWA template is an ideal starting point for LTWMA. Oka' is supporting similar efforts in the Blue River Basin, just east of Lake Texoma, where another group of landowners is implementing BMPs.

Providing indispensable support to Oka' will be the CN which, like Oka' itself, has the authority to apply for and administrate funds from appropriate federal, state and local agencies that can assist LTWMA in implementing BMPs and other consequential watershed initiatives. Another essential stakeholder partner will be the USACE, which operates Lake

Texoma. While many of the LTWMA's potential watershed management strategies will fall outside of the Corps' implementation authority, the agency will nevertheless provide key information and technical support to the group on the complex relationship between federal reservoir operations and actions on private lands upstream.

Task B: Watershed Restoration Planning

To initiate LTWMA activities, including eventual development of a LTWMA Watershed Plan, Oka' the Water Institute and CN will sponsor a series of workshops with state, federal and university experts and key stakeholders to document the many issues currently impacting the watershed, as well as potential solutions, with the objective of setting desired goals to sustain the lake and its watershed.

Resolving potential conflicts associated with the use of Lake Texoma water supply will be a primary goal of LTWMA. As with the Red River Compact Commission and Lake Texoma Association, this new organization will establish a similar, yet hopefully more effective, forum to address common interstate water supply concerns well before they evolve into conflicts.

The planned workshops mentioned earlier, which will be convened in both Oklahoma and Texas, will provide integral background from which to prioritize issues, especially potential mitigation and implementation strategies.

As mentioned, the initial planning and organizational activities, administrative procedures and stakeholder and strategy development techniques successfully implemented with LAWA will be similarly applied to LTWMA.

Task C: Watershed Management Project Design

Creation of the LTWMA and curation of the organization's stakeholders and identified watershed management strategies will be required in advance of the actual design and implementation of specific watershed restoration projects. However, the LTWMA (through Oka') will ensure that such future projects are properly analyzed, prioritized, vetted, designed and implemented, according to Reclamation requirements.

Evaluation Criterion C—Implementation and Results (25 points)

C.1. Project Implementation

The proposed Scope of Work includes three major tasks: 1) stakeholder identification and development, 2) organizational development and meetings and 3) Watershed Management Plan development and meetings; see Table 1. The project will commence on February 1, 2023 and conclude by January 31, 2025. The total estimated cost of the project is \$253,264. The costs of travel/lodging as well as required materials are included in all meeting costs.

Table 1: Proposed Scope of Work with milestones.

Scope of Work: Tasks & Milestones	Start/End Date
I. Stakeholder Identification and Development	February 2023 — May 2023 (4 months)
Conduct outreach	February 2023 – April 2023
Develop/assemble materials	May 2023
II. Organizational Development and Meetings	June 2023 — October 2023 (5 months)
Draft and finalize mission/goals	June 2023 – August 2023
Elect association board	August 2023 – September 2023
Develop articles of incorporation	September 2023 – October 2023
Create 501(c)(3)	September 2023 – October 2023
Establish bylaws	September 2023 – October 2023
III. Watershed Plan Development and Meetings	November 2023 — January 2025 (15 months)
Develop draft plan	November 2023 – November 2024
Finalize plan	December 2024 – January 2025

During Task 1, CN and Oka’ the Water Institute’s executive director will develop an initial list of stakeholders (including partners, such as governmental support agencies, whose roles will involve support of the organization as well as implementation of an eventual watershed plan) to participate in the LTWMA. Staff will conduct outreach to identified potential members and begin to assemble various materials to support this and future stages of the project. This task will be greatly facilitated by existing stakeholder relationships that CN has cultivated in similar projects (with LAWA, etc.).

Task 2 involves organizational development, particularly development of LTWMA’s mission and goals, election of board of director representatives, development of LTWMA’s articles of incorporation, filing and creation of the organization’s official 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit entity and establishment of bylaws.

Task 3, the lengthiest and most complex task, involves actual development of the LTWMA’s Watershed Management Plan. The LTWMA Watershed Management Plan will include an outline of LTWMA’s narrative and numerical goals, overview of the watershed (project area), discussion of current issues of concern (impairments, water supply and environmental issues, etc.), prioritized watershed management/restoration strategies, educational goals and an implementation plan (including milestones).

C.2. Building on Relevant Federal, State or Regional Planning Efforts

Sustainability has been an integral cultural value of both the Chickasaw and Choctaw people, but today, more than ever, it is the key guiding principle in how the Nations manage and protect their water resources for the economy, environment and Tribal communities.

The LTWMA activities, including implementation of the Watershed Management Plan, will directly complement similar sustainability initiatives currently underway within CN. This includes the ASA DCP, LAWA Watershed Restoration Plan and Blue River Watershed Restoration Plan. Preliminary LTWMA goals reflect CN's and Oka' the Water Institute's water sustainability and economic objectives for the region captured in the *Chickasaw and Choctaw Oka' Holisso* ("book of water"), which will be published in 2022.

Evaluation Criterion D—Presidential and Department of the Interior Priorities (10 points)

D.1. Climate Change:

The proposed project is expected to reduce the overall impact of climate change on the Lake Texoma/Upper Red River Basin region where experts are predicting a longer and more severe drought in the future. If this project is successful in achieving two of its primary goals—improving water sustainability and reliability—it will result in tangible and consequential impacts on the entire region's resilience to climate change and variability. Enhanced and augmented water supplies, which will be achieved through successful implementation of the LTWMA's watershed plan, will help shield communities, especially smaller water systems, from water shortages caused by drought. Also, it is anticipated that an important strategy recommended for implementation in the plan will be to strengthen water infrastructure, which will further enhance the climate change resiliency of water providers in the region. Soil health and related solutions will also benefit the environment and wildlife, which are particularly susceptible to climate/water variations. Improved wildlife habitats will also shield threatened and endangered species from climate impacts. Prescribed soil health practices can also lessen the need for chemical application to the land and more indirectly, reduce greenhouse gas production by decreasing the use of gas-powered farm vehicles and related equipment.

Uncertainties and inevitabilities related to climate change in the Upper Red River Basin pose monumental risks to water supply sustainability and its many users, especially at Lake Texoma. These risks are particularly concerning when considering the region's current exponential growth. Identifying and successfully implementing water management solutions in the watershed will augment and enhance the quality of supplies in Lake Texoma as well as in other important surface, as well as groundwater, sources throughout the basin. The resulting improvements in water sustainability and reliability will allow users to cushion—or perhaps largely mitigate—the impacts of future drought episodes. The likelihood of water shortages and related conflicts between users will also be reduced. The widespread implementation of BMPs and other sustainable soil health management practices by watershed landowners will also reduce the number and severity of documented water quality impairments impacting the watershed by decreasing sedimentation, especially in Lake Texoma where eutrophication reduces the lake's water supply benefits and increases water treatment costs. Improved land and water management will also reduce the public health threat caused by excessive algal growth in the lake.

D.2. Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities:

The project area includes the vast majority of lands within CN (encompassing the entirety

of Lake Texoma), a federally recognized First American Tribe in Oklahoma. This also includes cities and towns, such as Tishomingo, Oklahoma, considered as low-income, underserved indigenous communities and/or listed as within Opportunity Zones for economically distressed communities under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Watershed management activities implemented in the project area are expected to provide direct water quantity and quality benefits, which will address persistent poverty and improve the overall economic opportunity for disadvantaged communities, including in historically underserved rural areas within the CN’s treaty territory.

D.3. Tribal Benefits

The proposed project will directly serve and benefit the CN and its people. Watershed management strategies implemented through this project will enhance the CN’s ongoing ability to assist large and small communities alike within its territory with projects that seek to both increase water supply reliability and reduce the drought vulnerabilities of water providers. The CN recognizes that sufficient access to reliable water is the single largest limiting factor of economic development and growth. Current Tribal initiatives are singularly focused on maximizing water sustainability through the facilitation (and funding) of projects seeking to increase water supplies, strengthen water infrastructure, improve water quality (while addressing related public health issues), promote and implement watershed-wide soil health principles and increase water conservation measures and programs.

Budget Proposal

Table 2: Summary of Non-Federal and Federal Funding Sources

FUNDING SOURCES	AMOUNT
Non-Federal Entities	
1. Oka’ the Water Institute – East Central University (in-kind)*	\$53,433
Non-Federal Subtotal	\$53,433
REQUESTED RECLAMATION FUNDING	\$199,831

Table 3: Total Project Cost

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$199,831
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$0
Value of third-party contributions*	\$53,433
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$253,264

Proposed Budget Table:

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	Computation		Quantity Type	Recipient (in kind)	Federal	Total Cost
	\$/Unit	Quantity				
Salaries and Wages						
Oka Institute Operations Coordinator	\$ 24	40	hours	\$ -	\$ 960	\$ 960
Oka Institute Operations Assistant	\$ 15	20	hours	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300
Oka Watershed Coordinator	\$ 39	1,342	hours	\$ -	\$ 52,338	\$ 52,338
Oka Institute Director	\$ 55	725	hours	\$ 39,875	\$ -	\$ 39,875
Fringe Benefits						
Oka Institute Operations Coordinator		34%		\$ -	\$ 326	\$ 326
Oka Institute Operations Assistant		34%		\$ -	\$ 102	\$ 102
Oka Watershed Coordinator		34%		\$ -	\$ 17,795	\$ 17,795
Oka Institute Director		34%		\$ 13,558	\$ -	\$ 13,558
Equipment						
N/A				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies and Materials						
N/A				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Contractual/Construction						
Contributor A: Watershed Plan & Development	\$ 100,000	1		\$ -	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Third-Party In-Kind Contributions						
N/A				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other						
N/A				\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS						\$ 225,254
Indirect Costs						
Oka Institute	39%	\$ base		\$ -	\$ 28,010	\$ 28,010
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS				\$ 53,433	\$ 199,831	\$ 253,264

Budget Narrative

PERSONNEL

The Chickasaw Nation Project Management:

It is anticipated that three full-time employees of the CN, including the project manager (Kristopher Patton), water resources manager and water resources planner, will be utilized to complete the proposed project (including compliance with Reclamation reporting requirements). *The Chickasaw Nation intends to provide all staff labor towards this project at no cost to USBOR.*

Salaries and Wages: Total \$93,473

FEDERAL REQUEST PORTION: \$53,598

Oka' Institute Operations Coordinator: \$24 per hour x 40 hours = \$960

The Oka' the Water Institute operation coordinator will assist with the administration of their sub awardee funds, ensure compliance, assist with conducting stakeholder engagement activities in Task 1 and assist with organization development and meetings.

Oka' Institute Operations Assistant: \$15 per hour x 20 hours = \$300

The Oka' the Water Institute operations assistant will assist the operations coordinator with the administration of their sub awardee funds, ensure compliance, assist with conducting stakeholder engagement activities in Task 1 and assist with organization development and meetings.

Oka' Watershed Coordinator: \$39 per hour x 1,342 hours = \$52,338

The Oka' the Water Institute watershed coordinator will play a large role in stakeholder engagement and outreach. The watershed coordinator will work closely with landowners and existing organizations to identify and provide materials for stakeholders throughout the life of the project. They will assist with the coordination of meetings with stakeholders and participate in necessary meetings.

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION PORTION: \$39,875

Oka' Institute Director: \$55 per hour x 725 hours = \$39,875

The Oka' the Water Institute director will develop an initial list of stakeholders (including partners, such as governmental support agencies, whose roles will involve support of the organization as well as implementation of an eventual watershed plan) to participate in the LTWMA. Staff will conduct outreach to identified potential members and begin to assemble various materials to support this and future stages of the project. This task will be greatly facilitated by existing stakeholder relationships that the CN has cultivated in similar projects (with LAWA, etc.).

Overall Tasks for Oka'

- Stakeholder Identification and Development
 - o Conduct outreach
 - o Develop and assemble outreach materials
- Organizational Develop and Meetings
 - o Draft and finalize mission and goals
 - o Elect association board
 - o Develop articles of incorporation
 - o Create 501 (c)(3)
 - o Establish bylaws

Fringe Benefits: Total \$31,781

FEDERAL REQUEST PORTION: \$18,223

Oka' Institute Operations Coordinator: 34% of fringe benefits totaling \$326

Oka' Institute Operations Assistant: 34% of fringe benefits totaling \$102

Oka' Watershed Coordinator: 34% of fringe benefits totaling \$17,795

IN KIND CONTRIBUTION PORTION: \$13,558

Oka' Institute Director: 34% of fringe benefits totaling \$13,558

TRAVEL

Total: \$0

The CN will not be requesting travel costs for the proposed project.

EQUIPMENT

Total: \$0

The CN will not be requesting equipment costs for the proposed project.

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

Total: \$0

The CN will not be requesting material or supply costs for the proposed project.

CONTRACTUAL

Total: \$100,000

Selecting a contractor will follow the standard competitive procurement method used by the CN. The purchasing of components and installation will be contracted out by the CN. The CN adheres to 2 CFR 200.318 –.326 and follows a documented procurement procedure which reflects applicable state, local and tribal laws and regulations. Consideration of existing pricing, market rates and additional rate comparison of federal, state or local contracts are conducted to establish a minimum quality requirement with fair and reasonable pricing. All contracts, other than small purchases and exempt purchase orders contain provisions or conditions which are in compliance with pertinent federal contract requirements enumerated in the CFR and/or other federal rules, regulations or laws, including the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, as applicable. Contracts provide an allowance for administrative, contractual or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms and provide for such sanctions and penalties as may be appropriate.

The contracting officer shall promote competition to the maximum extent practicable to obtain supplies and services from the source with the most advantageous offer to the tribe, considering the administrative cost of the purchase. The procurement office shall perform cost or price analysis concerning every procurement action, including contract modifications.

The CN, to the greatest extent feasible, provides preference to First American owned economic enterprises and First American organizations. Small and minority firms are utilized as sources of equipment, supplies, services and construction as much as possible. Where possible, a CN procurement agent may, according to his determinations and findings, procure goods and services from labor surplus areas.

The contractor will perform the lengthiest and most complex task, which involves the development of LTWMA's Watershed Management Plan. The LTWMA Watershed

Management Plan will include an outline of the LTWMA's narrative and numerical goals, overview of the watershed (project area), discussion of current issues of concern (impairments, water supply and environmental issues, etc.), prioritized watershed management/restoration strategies, educational goals and an implementation plan (including milestones).

THIRD-PARTY IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Total: \$0

The CN will not be requesting third-party in-kind costs for the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL and REGULATORY COMPLIANCE COSTS

Total: \$0

The CN will not be requesting environmental and regulatory compliance costs for the proposed project.

OTHER

Total: \$0

The CN will not be requesting other costs for the proposed project.

INDIRECT COSTS

Total: \$28,010

The indirect cost (IDC) rate for Oka' is 39%.

Salaries and wages (\$53,598) + fringe benefits (\$18,223) = \$71,821
 $\$71,821 \times 39\% = \$28,010$

Environmental and Cultural Resources Compliance

The project is not expected to cause any impacts to environmental or cultural resources and therefore should not be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requirements.

Required Permits or Approvals

No permits or approvals should be required to complete this project.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

There are no actual or anticipated conflicts of interests at this time.

Single Audit Reporting Statement

The CN's Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 73-1374986 and Oka's EIN is 47-4354756. Both are available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse Website.

Certification Regarding Lobbying

The CN will provide certification regarding lobbying through the signed SF-424 form that will be submitted with the proposed project.



1100 East 14th Street, PMB J-4 | Ada, OK 74820 | 580.559.5151
www.okainstitute.org | facebook.com/Oka Institute ECU |

March 17, 2022

**Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Attn: Ms. Avra Morgan
Mail Code: 86-63000
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225**

Dear Ms. Morgan:

The Oka' Institute is pleased to support the Chickasaw Nation in their pursuit of a WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant. The Chickasaw Nation is a key cornerstone partner focused on building effective partnerships to deliver restoration and sustainability within our watersheds. The Lake Texoma Watershed, plagued by amplifying water quality impairments, requires a diverse set of partners across broad spectrum leadership levels to develop a watershed restoration plan supporting valued ecosystems and public water supplies. The Chickasaw Nation's experience and expertise in developing comprehensive watershed plans coupled with their focus on sustainable water resources has them uniquely positioned to develop such a plan.

The Oka' Institute routinely assist local grassroots organizations in actively restoring watershed habitats through best management practice implementation and soil health initiatives. As a material element of our partnership with the Chickasaw Nation and the Bureau of Reclamation, we pledge approximately \$53,000 of in-kind support towards this project to assist with engaging key stakeholders. The Oka' Institute looks forward to working with the Chickasaw Nation and the Bureau of Reclamation on this exciting endeavor to ensure sustainability of the Lake Texoma Watershed.

Sincerely,

Duane Smith
Executive Director
O: 580.559.5152
C: 405.826.8207
dasmith@ecok.edu

"To create practical water solutions both locally and globally driven by research and data that result in long-term sustainable ecological management and economic development" – Vision Statement, The Oka' Institute



March 21, 2022

**Bureau of Reclamation
Water Resources and Planning Office
Attn: Ms. Avra Morgan
Mail Code: 86-63000
P.O. Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225**

Dear Ms. Morgan:

The Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture (OPJV) is a regional, self-directed partnership of government and non-governmental organizations and individuals working across administrative boundaries to deliver landscape-level planning and science-based conservation, linking on-the-ground management with national bird population goals. The Lake Texoma Watershed contains nine counties within our Cross Timbers grassland bird monitoring and conservation priority area.

OPJV is focused on developing partnership efforts that incorporate landscape Best Management Practices (BMP's) within the watershed. Therefore, we are pleased to support the Chickasaw Nation in their application towards a WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I grant for the Lake Texoma Watershed. The Chickasaw Nation's experience and expertise in developing comprehensive watershed plans and focus on partnership driven BMP's efforts will be key to success within the watershed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Perez".

Robert Perez
Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture Coordinator
American Bird Conservancy
830-305-2912
rperez@abcbirds.org
www.opjv.org



3910 W. 6th Ave # 207, Stillwater, OK 74075

23 March 2022

RE: Development of the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association Grant

Dear Mr. Patton,

The Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association (OPBA) (www.ok-pba.org) is a 501(c)3 that works with private landowners throughout the state to form and maintain prescribed burn cooperatives. OPBA has 22 local prescribed burn associations (PBAs) in 36 counties with over 350 members. OPBA members are very active conducting prescribed burns every year. We are very excited about this project, Development of the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association, this area of Oklahoma already has several local PBAs, but could use a lot more. The formation of this Management Association would enhance OPBA's ability to operate and reach landowners, as well as allowing OPBA to assist with its development. OPBA is looking forward to working with, and supporting in any way possible the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association. Thank you for including us in this project.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Weir". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Weir

President
Board of Directors
Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association



March 24, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations
Attn: NOFO Team
PO Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

**RE: WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 Grant
Letter of Support for Development of Lake Texoma Watershed Mgmt. Assoc.**

To Whom It May Concern:

Upper Trinity Regional Water District ("Upper Trinity") is a regional water district created by the Texas Legislature in 1989 for the benefit of cities and utilities in the Denton County, Texas area. Upper Trinity's mandate is to develop regional plans for water service, and to provide both water and wastewater services on a wholesale basis to cities and utilities within its service area, which includes all of Denton County and portions of Dallas and Collin Counties.

For almost two decades, Upper Trinity has been developing and coordinating a watershed protection program for the mutual benefit of the region. Experience has taught us that it costs very little to protect these important watershed assets today, such as greenbelts and floodplains, streams and waterways, riparian lands, and wetlands. In contrast, it would cost considerably more to try to restore them later, if the watershed was allowed to become impaired. To further advance the preservation of these watershed assets, Upper Trinity partnered with Denton County and the Upper Trinity Conservation Trust to develop and implement a county-wide plan to protect greenbelts and the adjacent natural areas within the local watersheds. To date, thirteen local cities and utilities have adopted the plan and are working together to safeguard the quality of water entering our local water supply lakes.

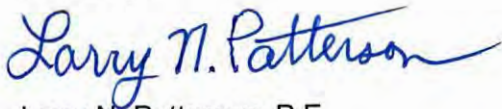
Upper Trinity is aware of the Chickasaw Nation's proposal to establish the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association ("LTWMA") to address both current and long-term water related issues within the lake and the Upper Red River Basin in Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. Lake Texoma is a valuable natural asset as a source of drinking water and for power generation. Water quality impairments in the Lake Texoma watershed present a considerable vulnerability to millions of residents as well as the overall economic vitality of this rapidly growing region.

Communities are knitted together by many water courses that extend into and through one another. A program for watershed protection, like LTWMA plans to offer, will allow communities, businesses, and industries to work toward a common strategy - - preserving and protecting both the quality of the water resources and the quality of life in the Lake Texoma watershed. Furthermore, it will be a very rewarding and satisfying achievement, with continuing dividends for all citizens now and in the future.

Upper Trinity encourages the Bureau of Reclamation to seriously consider awarding the WaterSMART Phase 1 grant to the Chickasaw Nation. Based on Upper Trinity's experience, we are always encouraged by and strive to support others working to protect watersheds through development of programs such as the Chickasaw Nation's Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association. We look forward to the opportunity to assist and support the creation and implementation of a watershed management plan for the Upper Red River Basin as deemed appropriate by the Chickasaw Nation and other interested parties.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit this letter of support. If you should have any questions or would like more information, please contact me or Jason Pierce, Manager of Governmental Affairs & Communications, at 972-219-1228.

Sincerely,



Larry N. Patterson, P.E.
Executive Director

c: Kristopher Patton, Director of Natural Resources, Chickasaw Nation Division of Commerce
Jason Pierce, Manager of Governmental Affairs & Communications, UTRWD

J. KEVIN STITT
GOVERNOR

MATT PINNELL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



Our Land • Our Heritage • Our Future

TREY LAM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LISA KNAUF OWEN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

March 24, 2022

Kristopher Patton
Chickasaw Nation Water Policy and Planning Dir.
520 E. Arlington
Ada, OK 74820

Re: Watershed Planning for Texoma Lake Watershed

Dear Mr. Patton,

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission (OCC) greatly appreciates the opportunity to review the Chickasaw Nation's proposal for a Watersmart Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant "Development of the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association." The proposal lays out a thoughtful, detailed process to bring partners together to identify challenges for water management for Lake Texoma and then work towards a process to prioritize issues and develop responsive strategies.

The Lake Texoma watershed includes many miles impaired waterbodies listed on Oklahoma's Integrated Report's 303(d) list, both within and outside the Chickasaw Nation Tribal boundaries. Approximately 32 percent of the state's highest priority nonpoint source (NPS) HUC 12 watersheds identified through the Unified Watersheds Assessment Process based on impairment type and likelihood of success are located in the Red River Basin upstream of Lake Texoma. In summation, there are demonstrated needs for water quality improvement in this watershed is consistent with Oklahoma's Nonpoint Source Management Plan. This confirms that prioritizing these waterbodies for planning purposes is supported by Oklahoma's EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 Program.

In addition, 17 of Oklahoma's 94 Nonpoint Source Success Story watersheds are also in this basin. Therefore, when partners collaborate and install conservation practices to address natural resource concerns, it has been demonstrated in this basin that we have the capacity to solve problems and address many of the concerns in those top 32% of NPS watersheds.

Approximately 1,234 of the state's 2,107 Natural Resource Conservation Service Watershed dams are also within the Lake Texoma watershed in Oklahoma. These dams, constructed largely for flood control, also work to protect infrastructure, serve as water supplies for communities and agriculture, and provide sediment and other pollutant retention and processing that benefits downstream waterbodies. The OCC works with conservation districts to manage these structures and in turn, they play a vital role for water resources in the basin and will be an important consideration in prioritizing issues, needs, and resources for the basin.

Finally, the OCC maintains approximately 60 long-term small perennial stream monitoring sites in this basin that have been demonstrated as capable of capturing water quality trends and changes due to landuse and land management changes. Water quality in these sites could be used as one measure to evaluate whether the plan developed through this proposed project is effective in address water resource challenges in the area. The OCC Is happy to work with the Nation to consider whether additional sites could be added to enhance this effort. The OCC Is also happy to work with the nation through our Water Quality and Soil Health Education Programs to address goals developed through this plan, as well as through state cost-share program to help implement recommendations of this plan.

The OCC looks forward to working with the Chickasaw Nation and other partners through this process to develop a plan that identifies, prioritizes, and strategizes to address water needs in this area which can form a foundation for successful implementation with later collaborative efforts.

Sincerely,

Shanon Phillips
Water Quality Division Director



Kenneth E. Wagner
Secretary of Energy & Environment



J. Kevin Stitt
Governor

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

March 21, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Department of the Interior
Water Resources and Planning Office

RE: Gubernatorial Letter of Support WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants

To whom it may concern,

As Secretary of Energy and Environment for the State of Oklahoma, I am pleased to provide a letter of support for the and the Chickasaw Nation as they endeavor to secure a WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants.

The Lake Texoma Water Management Association is envisioned to provide a collaborative, stakeholder-based watershed plan to improve water quality and water quantity in the watershed of Lake Texoma. The project will involve Oklahoma and Texas state and federal agencies, local stake holders, and non-governmental organizations.

This project also supports Oklahoma's highly ambitious goal regarding water: The Water for 2060 Act, which aims for Oklahoma to consume no more fresh water in 2060 than in 2010.

We are proud to provide this letter of support in recognition of the valuable contribution this project will have in advancing research across our state as well as Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ken Wagner".

Ken Wagner
Secretary of Energy and Environment

Marty H. Graham, Chairman
David Basinger, Vice Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
José O. Dodier, Jr., Member



Barry Mahler, Member
Tina Y. Buford, Member
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., Member
Rex Isom, Executive Director

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Protecting and Enhancing Natural Resources for Tomorrow

March 28, 2022

Bureau of Reclamation
Financial Assistance Operations
Attn: NOFO Team
PO Box 25007, MS 84-27133
Denver, CO 80225

RE: WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 Grant Letter of Support for Development of Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association

To Whom it May Concern:

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) administers Texas' soil and water conservation law and delivers coordinated natural resource conservation programs through the State's 216 soil and water conservation districts. The TSSWCB is the lead agency for planning, implementing, and managing programs for preventing and abating agricultural and silvicultural nonpoint sources (NPS) of water pollution. The agency also works to ensure the State's network of 2,000 flood control dams are protecting lives and property.

Protecting the State's rivers, streams, lakes, bays, and aquifers from the impacts of NPS pollution is a complex process. Texas uses the Watershed Approach to focus efforts on the highest priority water quality issues of both surface and ground water. The Watershed Approach is based on the following principles: Geographic focus based on hydrology rather than political boundaries; Water quality objectives based on scientific data; Coordinated priorities and integrated solutions; and, Diverse, well-integrated partnerships. The TSSWCB applies the Watershed Approach to managing NPS pollution by channeling its efforts to restore and protect water quality through the development and implementation of watershed protection plans. This approach to watershed management recognizes that solutions to water quality issues must be socially acceptable, economically bearable, and based on environmental goals.

The TSSWCB supports the Chickasaw Nation's application to the Bureau of Reclamation for funding through the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 Grant to establish the Lake Texoma Watershed Management Association (LTWMA) and address both current and long-term water related issues within the lake and the Upper Red River Basin in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Lake Texoma is a valuable resource for drinking water and power generation. Water quality impairments in the Lake Texoma Watershed present a

Marty H. Graham, Chairman
David Basinger, Vice Chairman
Scott Buckles, Member
José O. Dodier, Jr., Member



Barry Mahler, Member
Tina Y. Buford, Member
Carl Ray Polk, Jr., Member
Rex Isom, Executive Director

TEXAS STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
Protecting and Enhancing Natural Resources for Tomorrow

considerable water supply vulnerability for users as well as overall economic development in this rapidly growing region.

Thank for the opportunity to submit this letter of support. If you have any questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rex Isom
Executive Director



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

The Chickasaw Nation
Post Office Box 1548 • Ada, Oklahoma 74821
(580) 436-2603 • Fax (580) 436-4287
<http://www.chickasaw.net>

BILL ANOATUBBY
GOVERNOR

March 17, 2022

Ms. Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Ms. Touton:

We appreciate the opportunity to apply for funding for the WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase 1 Grants from the U.S. Department of the Interior. The proposed project will assist with the development and implementation of water conservation practices for landowners within the Chickasaw Nation.

The Chickasaw Nation Constitution, as approved by the secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, grants the governor of the Chickasaw Nation authority to apply for grant awards on behalf of the Chickasaw Nation. The authority of the governor is stated in Article X, Section 1 of the Chickasaw Constitution. The excerpt reads – “The Supreme Executive power of this Nation shall be vested in a Chief Magistrate, who shall be styled ‘the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation.’” In addition, Article XI, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Chickasaw Nation states “the governor shall perform all duties appertaining to the Office of Chief Executive. He shall sign official papers on behalf of the Nation.”

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Kristopher Patton, director of natural resources, at (580) 399-9359 or at Kristopher.Patton@Chickasaw.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Anoatubby".

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation

BJA:tp

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES RATE AGREEMENT

EIN: 1736017987

DATE:03/17/2015

ORGANIZATION:

FILING REF.: The preceding agreement was dated 03/08/2011

East Central University
109 Administration Building
Ada, OK 74820-6899

The rates approved in this agreement are for use on grants, contracts and other agreements with the Federal Government, subject to the conditions in Section III.

SECTION I: Facilities And Administrative Cost Rates

RATE TYPES: FIXED FINAL PROV. (PROVISIONAL) PRED. (PREDETERMINED)

EFFECTIVE PERIOD

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>RATE(%)</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APPLICABLE TO</u>
FINAL	07/01/2013	06/30/2014	39.00	On Campus	All Programs
FINAL	07/01/2010	06/30/2014	9.80	Off Campus	All Programs
PRED.	07/01/2014	06/30/2019	39.00	On Campus	All Programs
PRED.	07/01/2014	06/30/2019	9.80	Off Campus	All Programs
PROV.	07/01/2019	06/30/2021			Use same rates and conditions as those cited for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

*BASE

Direct salaries and wages including all fringe benefits.

ORGANIZATION: East Central University

AGREEMENT DATE: 3/17/2015

SECTION II: SPECIAL REMARKS

TREATMENT OF FRINGE BENEFITS:

The fringe benefits are specifically identified to each employee and are charged individually as direct costs. The directly claimed fringe benefits are listed below.

TREATMENT OF PAID ABSENCES

Vacation, holiday, sick leave pay and other paid absences are included in salaries and wages and are claimed on grants, contracts and other agreements as part of the normal cost for salaries and wages. Separate claims are not made for the cost of these paid absences.

Equipment Definition -

Equipment means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more per unit.

FRINGE BENEFITS:

FICA

Retirement

Disability Insurance

Worker's Compensation

Life Insurance

Unemployment Insurance

Health Insurance

Vision Insurance

The next proposal based on actual costs for the fiscal year ending 06/30/2018 is due in our office by 12/31/2018.

ORGANIZATION: East Central University

AGREEMENT DATE: 3/17/2015

SECTION III: GENERAL

A. LIMITATIONS:

The rates in this Agreement are subject to any statutory or administrative limitations and apply to a given grant, contract or other agreement only to the extent that funds are available. Acceptance of the rates is subject to the following conditions: (1) Only costs incurred by the organization were included in its facilities and administrative cost pools as finally accepted; such costs are legal obligations of the organization and are allowable under the governing cost principles; (2) The same costs that have been treated as facilities and administrative costs are not claimed as direct costs; (3) Similar types of costs have been accorded consistent accounting treatment; and (4) The information provided by the organization which was used to establish the rates is not later found to be materially incomplete or inaccurate by the Federal Government. In such situations the rate(s) would be subject to renegotiation at the discretion of the Federal Government.

B. ACCOUNTING CHANGES:

This Agreement is based on the accounting system purported by the organization to be in effect during the Agreement period. Changes to the method of accounting for costs which affect the amount of reimbursement resulting from the use of this Agreement require prior approval of the authorized representative of the cognizant agency. Such changes include, but are not limited to, changes in the charging of a particular type of cost from facilities and administrative to direct. Failure to obtain approval may result in cost disallowances.

C. FIXED RATES:

If a fixed rate is in this Agreement, it is based on an estimate of the costs for the period covered by the rate. When the actual costs for this period are determined, an adjustment will be made to a rate of a future year(s) to compensate for the difference between the costs used to establish the fixed rate and actual costs.

D. USE BY OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES:

The rates in this Agreement were approved in accordance with the authority in Office of Management and Budget Circular A-21, and should be applied to grants, contracts and other agreements covered by this Circular, subject to any limitations in A above. The organization may provide copies of the Agreement to other Federal Agencies to give them early notification of the Agreement.

E. OTHER:

If any Federal contract, grant or other agreement is reimbursing facilities and administrative costs by a means other than the approved rate(s) in this Agreement, the organization should (1) credit such costs to the affected programs, and (2) apply the approved rate(s) to the appropriate base to identify the proper amount of facilities and administrative costs allocable to these programs.

BY THE INSTITUTION:

East Central University

(INSTITUTION)

(SIGNATURE)

(NAME)

(TITLE)

(DATE)

ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(AGENCY)

Arif M. Karim - S

(SIGNATURE)

Arif Karim

(NAME)

Director, Cost Allocation Services

(TITLE)

3/17/2015

(DATE) 0294

HHS REPRESENTATIVE:

Ernest Kinneer

Telephone:

(214) 767-3261