

# Water district making capital improvements

By ANITA REDING  
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which will better serve its current customers, provide additional fire protection and prepare for future growth in the area, said Jimmy Seago, manager.

On Wednesday, Aug. 8, Lt. Gov. Jari Askins, State Senator Joe Sweeden, members of the

Oklahoma Water Resources Board and other individuals involved in the district's improvement projects met at Betty's Country Store for the official groundbreaking ceremony.

"As painful as growing can be, we're delighted

that the Water Resources Board can make low interest loans, and make it affordable for small communities" to help them to grow, said the lieutenant governor.

She added that the water district's capital improvements will con-

tinue to "make this an area that people want to move to."

Seago explained that he appreciates the customers during this time as the water district takes steps toward progress.

"You should be proud of what you're doing," said Senator Sweeden.

Seago and Kim Bersche, office manager, were also thanked for their work in planning the capital improvements.

Osage County Commissioner Scott Hilton explained that the water district "needs to be applauded" for its work. He added that he appreciated the opportunity to work with the water district's board members.

The local water district has qualified for \$2,953,170 through a low-interest loan program, administered cooperatively between the Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

With funds provided by a low-interest loan, Osage County Rural Water District #15 is making capital improvements to its system



Participants in the groundbreaking ceremony for capital improvements for Osage County Rural Water District 15 included, from left, Jimmy Seago, Manager RWD #15; Scott Hilton, Osage County Commissioner; Ben Park, Past Chairman RWD #15; Mike Teel, Director RWD #15; Senator Joe Sweeden; Lieutenant Gov. Jari Askins; Butch Barber, Chairman RWD #15; Mike Melton, OWRB; Everett Forbes, Sec/Treasurer RWD #15; Pattie Park, Director RWD #15; Rob Haskins, Guy Engineering; Bob McIntyre, Vice-Chairman RWD #15; and Bill and Betty Pollock. ANITA REDING/Skiatook Journal.

The funds are available for the local district to complete three projects:

- The City of Tulsa connection project, which will include one and a half miles of 12-inch water line and a new pump station.

- The Lake Road water-line upgrade project, which will include three and a half miles of eight-inch line and a pump station.

- Javine Hill/Phillips Road project, which will include a 250,000 gallon elevated storage tower and two pump stations.

The pump stations will

have telemetry communications systems, state-of-the-art systems which will improve efficiency.

The projects have been in the planning stages for about two and a half to three years, and should be complete by January of 2008, Seago said.

The capital improvements are a result of the combined efforts of many individuals, Seago said.

Bill and Betty Pollock, owners of Betty's Country Store, donated land near their business for the pump station.

Cross Timbers contributed \$120,000 for the

Lake Road project.

The water district also worked closely with state and county officials, including Sweden and Hilton, and the district's board members helped provide direction on the project.

Osage County Rural Water District #15 serves rural customers north and west of Skiatook.

The water district was established in 1968, and currently serves about 2,400 customers.

In addition to adding and upgrading waterlines, the water district will be adding additional fire hydrants, improving the fire protection for its customers.

The loan is a revolving fund, and Seago explained that the water district will be responsible for only the amount needed to complete the improvements..



STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Presented to: **Rural Water District #15  
Osage County, Oklahoma**

\$2,953,170.00

Disburse: Water Sales  
Engineering Fund Loans

*Jari A. Askins*  
Financial A Program

Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins  
Senator Joe Swedden, District 50  
Representative Scott Stephens, District 36

**Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for Osage County Rural Water District #15's capital improvements recently. From left, are, Jimmie Seago, Manager RWD #15; Butch Barber, Chairman RWD #15; Askins; Senator Joe Swedden; and Mike Melton, OWRB. ANITA REDING/Skiatook Journal.**