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Ross Adkins, public affairs spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said.

In 1957, Congress passed the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and authorized the U.S. Dept. of Health to find the source of chlorides running into the Red River. The Corps was authorized to find a solution to the pollution, after the source was determined to be an old inland sea Adkins said. Currently, a daily average of 3,600 tons of chloride goes into the Red River Adkins said. The Corps has already built a ring dike to contain the salt and let the water evaporate and a low-flow dam, used when the water level is low and the saltness increases proportionally. Other projects proposed are designed to remove 45 percent of the chlorides going into Lake Kemp and Lake Texhoma.

Lake Kemp is the major water source for Wichita Falls, Texas. Kemp does not meet EPA standards for municipal water use Adkins said, and Lake Texhoma meets municipal EPA standards only three percent of the time, a figure that would change to 94

percent acceptable if the project is completed.

Opponents to the project cite the EIS estimate of a nine percent average impact on the fish harvest at Texhoma, with a 14 percent impact in some areas of the lake. Cloudiness of the water will increase opponents say, if the chlorides are removed. Other concerns, Adkins said, are for the fish, wildlife and plants along the stretch of the Red River where chloride removal takes place.

"Of course," Adkins said, "the primary benefit right now is for Texas. By the year 2000, Texas is going to have a problem finding drinking water."

Directors received the financial statement for the first quarter of fiscal 1997, presented by Robert Taylor. Sales of fishing and hunting licenses totaled \$1,368,383 in the first quarter, compared to \$1,521,593 for the first fiscal quarter of 1995. Agricultural and oil lease income was almost double last years, from \$129,080 in Sept. 1995 to \$249,570 in Sept. 1996. Sales of lifetime hunting and fishing licenses were up \$100,000 over last

year, from \$137,800 to \$237,625, Taylor noted, in part due to seasonal buying.

Assistant Attorney General Jeanine Hale reported to directors on the status of Wildlife Department legal issues. There are approximately 85 items on the list, Hale said, but not all are active. Hale reminded directors that March 1997, is the last opportunity to adopt permanent rules, and rulemaking intent must be filed in the Oklahoma Register within the next few months.

When asked if any of the 85 cases posed any financial risk for the department, Hale mentioned the Offutt case in Sequoyah County. More than a year ago, Kelly Hunter of the Attorney General's office said, Billie Offutt filed a civil suit in district court in Sequoyah County against the Department of Wildlife Conservation. Offutt grows strawberries, boysenberries, peaches and apples. In her suit, Offutt alleges the Oklahoma hunting regulations prevent her from protecting her property from wildlife damage, and the effect of the hunting regulations is a "regulatory taking" of her property by the State of Oklahoma without compensation. She is requesting compensation for crop damage by wildlife. Hunter said there is no precedent in Oklahoma for a claim of this type. After several hearings, the case is still pending.

In other business, directors heard a report on the 35 houses owned by the Wildlife Conservation Department on wildlife management areas and fish hatcheries. Security of equipment on the WMAs and at fish hatcheries is an important reason to have someone living there directors agreed. "It makes a presence to constituents," John Groendyke, director, said, "and personnel are available to help when someone gets stuck or lost."

The houses, from 800 square feet to 2100 square feet, were built between the 1930s and the 1950s, and some need major repairs. The board voted to replace the 800 square foot house at the Durant State Fish Hatchery with budgeted funds for the job. The replacement house, 1,560 square feet, will be built by the Department of Corrections and sold to the Wildlife Department for \$30,000. For a total of \$45,000, Kim Erickson, department employee said, the house could be moved to its permanent site and hooked up with everything needed.

A request by Ken Ryel to solicit bids on a metal storage building to be erected southwest of the existing department facility at 1801 N. Lincoln was tabled for 30 days, so

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the appropriated funds may not be spent on that proposed new program, which the Governor vetoed."

Keating's veto of SB1100 affected nearly \$6 million appropriated to the State Board of Education, including:

- \$4.3 million allocated to staff development;
- \$900,000 for teacher stipends;
- \$500,000 for arts and humanities institutions; and

- \$250,000 for Great Expectations grants.

On the issue of career teacher pay raises, the schedule for which was part of the vetoed SB1100, Leader determined that it is within the authority of the State Board of Education to "adopt a minimum salary schedule for teachers will 19 or more years of experience."

Specifically, Leader wrote, "As there is no legislation establishing a minimum salary schedule for teachers with 16 years or more experience, and as no law restricting the State Board of Education's power to adopt such a rule exists, we conclude that the Board possesses such power."

Some \$13 million was appropriated in SB800 for career teachers salary increases. Because that money has been distributed to school districts without the mandate of SB1100 that it be used for career teacher salary increases, some districts chose to use the funds in other ways.

When attending the annual meeting of the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators, some teachers informed Keating of that situation, asking the governor what they might to do rectify it. Keating urged the teachers to meet with their local superintendents and to inform them that it was the intent, although not the letter, of the law that the money be used for career teacher raises.

Capitol Network News

A division of

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