

Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

April 2008



Spring is certainly in the air. Flowers are blooming, trees are budding and the water planning process is in full swing. In this update I will not only let you know where we are in regards to the public participation portion of the water plan, but also a little about the technical studies that the Water Board has begun.

Nominations

During the Local Input Meetings held last year we sought nominations for participation in the next phase of the process, the Regional Input Meetings. The nomination period ended on Feb. 29, and we received 656 nominations. All nominees were sent an application packet on March 31, and completed applications are coming in daily. If you received a packet you can email your responses to us at waterplan@okstate.edu or you can fax them to our office at 405.744.7074 rather than mail them.

If you think you were nominated and have not received a packet in the mail, please contact our office and we will double check. We have had a few issues with incorrect mailing addresses. Thank you to everyone who nominated someone and to those who want to participate.

We will begin reviewing all the applications, by region, to identify each person's interest. If we find interests that are not represented in a region, we will recruit people to fill those gaps.

We will select approximately 30 people in each region, for a total of 330. To help us selection the participants, we will work with leaders of 24 federal, state and non-profit organizations. We will then forward a list of potential participants to a Water Planning Advisory Board.

This Board, comprised of six governor-appointed officials, includes the Sec. of Environment Miles Tolbert, the Sec. of Agriculture Terry Peach, Jack Keeley, Rudy Herrmann, Mark Nichols and Ford Drummond. The Board will approve the final selection of participations.

Once participants are chosen regional lists will be available on our website.

Regional Input Meetings

The dates and locations for the 11 regional meetings have been set and I have included a copy of the schedule. The meetings begin on August 7, in Big Cabin.

The meeting format for the regional meetings will be different than the local input meetings. We will actually have two sessions each day. In the afternoon session, the 30 people selected for that region will discuss issue categories and will then prioritize them as high, medium or low. The meeting is open to the public, however the public will be asked to hold their comments until the evening session. The evening session provides an opportunity for others to comment on what was decided at the afternoon session. After each meeting a report will be made available that summarizes the decisions made.

Website

We have updated the front page of our website to include links to the technical studies that are currently being conducted by the Water Board. We have also added the schedule for the Regional Input Meetings.

We continually work to keep the website up-to-date. If you have any suggestions of things you think we should add please feel free to let us know.

Water Plan Technical Studies

In addition to the public participation portion of the water plan the OWRB is conducting technical studies. They are working with the Army Corps of Engineers and Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. to help coordinate those studies.

They have begun a Water Infrastructure Pilot Mapping Project in Pontotoc County. The project will map key infrastructure components for water systems in the county. The pilot study will then be used to determine the costs and benefits of mapping on a statewide basis.

A public water supply use and infrastructure survey is being developed for distribution to all public water suppliers. This will help each supplier have baseline information to characterize existing conditions and future supply and infrastructure needs. The results will help develop municipal and rural water provider supply assessments and planning.

A county-level supply and demand analysis will also be conducted. The information gathered will help identify areas where demand may exceed supply and allow for development of water supply solutions for those areas.

There are also several OWRB/OWRB funded research projects currently underway that are designed to help answer questions about water pricing protocol, subsurface transport of phosphorus to streams and assessment of in-stream flows in Oklahoma.

For more information about the technical studies and the research projects you can visit the OWRB's website at www.owrb.ok.gov.

Other Information

The OWRB will again be sponsoring Water Appreciation Day at the State Capitol on May 14. We will be there with information and would love to visit with you if you come by.

I will be at the Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watershed Association Symposium April 9 – 11. The symposium is being held in Tulsa at the Crown Plaza Hotel. For more information on the symposium visit their website at www.oclwa.org.

If your organization would like me to come discuss the water planning process please contact me at jeri.fleming@okstate.edu or at the number listed below.

As always feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeri', is located at the bottom right of the page.

Regional Input Meeting Schedule 2008

DATE	FACILITY	CITY	REGION	COUNTIES
Thurs., Aug. 7	GGEDA Office Cafeteria	Big Cabin	GGEDA (9)	Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Washington
Tues., Aug. 12	Civic Center	Elk City	SWODA (2)	Beckham, Custer, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Washita
Thurs., Aug. 21	S.E. Expo Center Room 101	McAlester	KEDDO (11)	Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha
Thurs., Sept. 11	Beaver County Fairgrounds Pavilion	Beaver	OEDA (1)	Beaver, Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Texas, Woods, Woodward
Thurs., Sept. 18	Great Plains Technology Center Worley Seminar Center Rooms 301 A & B (Bldg. 300)	Lawton	ASCOG (5)	Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain, Stephens, Tillman
Thurs., Sept. 25	Cherokee Strip Conference Center Buffalo Room	Enid	NODA (3)	Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, Noble
Thurs., Oct. 2	Murray State College Student Union Ball Room	Tishomingo	SODA (7)	Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray, Pontotoc
Thurs., Oct. 9	Central Community Center Auditorium	Tulsa	INCOG (8)	Creek, Osage, Tulsa
Thurs., Oct. 23	Muskogee Civic Center Room D	Muskogee	EODD (10)	Adair, Cherokee, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, Wagoner
Thurs., Nov. 6	Metro Technology Center Rooms Big Dipper and Carousel	OKC	ACOG (4)	Canadian, Cleveland, Logan, Oklahoma
Thurs., Nov. 13	Seminole State College Ball Room	Seminole	COEDD (6)	Hughes, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Pawnee, Payne, Pottawatomie, Seminole

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