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Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

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Regional Input Meetings

The final report from the regional meetings is complete. The report includes analysis of the results, such as identifying the issues which enjoyed substantial agreement among the regions. It also discusses the issues for which no substantial agreement was reached both within a region, and between the regions. The report identifies the themes for the workshops. The report will be available on our website soon or contact us and we will be glad to mail you one.

We have sent letters to the discussants that participated in the RIMs asking about their availability and interest in participating in the Planning Workshops.

Planning Workshops

The next phase of the public participation process is the Planning Workshops.

We have set the dates and locations of the workshops. All three of the workshops will be held at the Metro Tech Springlake Campus in Oklahoma City. The first meeting will be **June 4**, the second **August 13**, and the final one **October 22**.

Each day of workshops is divided into morning and afternoon workgroups. The morning workgroups will discuss water supply and include Themes 1 – 5. The afternoon workgroups will discuss water management and include Themes 6 – 10. We will invite about 24 people to participate in each workgroup (~240 people). The workshops will be open to the public; however, space may be limited.

Website

The [Enter Your Water Management Strategy](#) page is now available on our website. The purpose of this page is so you can begin to enter and discuss your well thought-out plans for how to better manage Oklahoma water. We have also added a search page so you can search through the suggestions. When you perform a search a link is available that allows you to comment on a

strategy. This way you can either expand on the idea, or explain why, in your opinion, it may not work.

We encourage everyone to begin entering their ideas. These ideas will help us identify research questions and additional information planning workshop participants will need prior to the workshops.

If you have more general comments about the process or water in general you can still enter those on our [Make a Comment](#) page. You can also still search the comment database. We will continue to leave all reports and other pertinent information on the website throughout the process.

Water Science Seminar

We are working with the Water Board and the OSU College of Ag to organize a Water Science Seminar similar to the Water Law Seminar held last year. The focus of this seminar will be to inform participants on basic hydrology, Oklahoma's water resources, how water availability is determined, water quality issues and an update from CDM on the technical studies they are conducting. It is anticipated that the Seminar will be held the middle of May though dates and location have not been confirmed.

Water Film Series

We kicked off our Water Film Series on Feb. 2 with the film *Blue Gold: World Water Wars*. On Feb. 16 we showed *Liquid Assets*, a film about America's aging infrastructure. A short discussion was held after each film. We would like to thank Anthony Daniel, city of Stillwater Water Utilities Director, and Steve Armstrong, OSU Water Plant Foreman, for providing information and answering questions about Stillwater's and OSU's infrastructure after the film.

Our next film, *The Unforeseen*, is about the development of Barton Springs in Austin, TX. The issues that faced the Barton Springs area are similar to issues that could be faced around the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer. Everyone is welcome to attend and admission is free.

On Mar. 23rd the topic will be Oklahoma Water; if you have suggestions of videos we should show on that date please let us know. If your organization or community is interested in hosting a similar series or just wants to view one of the films please let us know. For more information visit the Institute's website, <http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri>.

Continuing Education

CLE International is holding an Oklahoma Water Law Conference in Oklahoma City March 30 – 31. Topics include the basics of Oklahoma Water Law, national water issues, riparian rights, and Indian water rights in Oklahoma. Attorneys and engineers can earn up to 15 hours of continuing education credit. If you are interested in attending you can visit CLE's website www.cle.com/oklahoma or call them at 800-873-7130.

SWOSU Speaker

On February 26, Southwestern Oklahoma State University presents Sandra Postel, Director of the Global Water Policy Project and Center for the Environment at Mount Holyoke College. Ms. Postel's talk "Dividing the Waters: Strategies for a Warming, Water-Stressed World," will cover the need for a new global approach to water use and management. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information contact Dr. Peter Grant at 580-774-3294 or peter.grant@swosu.edu.

Other Information

I am always happy to visit with any group regarding the planning process so please don't hesitate to contact me to come speak to your group. I can be reached by email at jeri.fleming@okstate.edu or at the number listed above.

If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of the information we have available on our website, please give us a call and we will be happy to drop it in the mail to you. As always feel free to contact me with any questions.

