

Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

February 2008



It is hard to believe another month has flown by and that it is time to update everyone on what has been happening in regards to the water plan.

We are in the process of reviewing the comments we received through our website, phone, fax and email. We are categorizing them and will post a report on the website in a couple of weeks.

The next step will be to ensure that all of the comments we received at the Local Input Meetings are categorized similarly. We will be issuing final LIM reports in March.

If you would like to see what comments have been made you can search our comment database on our website. There are several different ways to search the comments. You can search by category, region, county, meeting location or you can enter your own search term.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about the comments or would like a printed copy of a report.

If you receive this update through the mail and prefer to receive it electronically, or if you receive it both through email and regular mail please just let me know which you prefer and I will make whatever change needs to be made. As always if you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regional Input Meetings

I would like to remind you about the Regional Input Meetings. We are beginning preparations for the eleven Regional Input Meetings. Dates and locations of the regional meetings should be announced by the end of March or the first of April. There is a map attached that shows the regions and how many people have been nominated in each region. **As you can tell there are a few areas where we have less than 40 nominees. It would be helpful to have more than 40 nominees from each area to ensure all water interests are fairly represented and we appreciate your help in identifying**

people to participate in these areas, as well as all regions.

While these meetings will be open to the public, they will be conducted in a different format than the Local Input Meetings. Each meeting will be split into two sessions, an afternoon session and an evening session. The afternoon session will consist of about 30 people, who will work to categorize and prioritize the comments from their region. While this meeting is open to the public, we will ask that the audience hold their comments until the second session.

The evening sessions are open to anyone and provide an opportunity for feedback on the decisions made at the earlier meeting. We will present the results along with the reasoning for the decisions made in the afternoon meeting then ask for feedback.

Prior to the regional meetings, we will mail out and post on the website briefing reports for each regional meeting. These reports serve as the background information that the deliberants will consider prior to each meeting. After each of the regional meetings we will send out post-meeting summary reports.

If someone is not able to attend a regional meeting and has an observation about what was determined at the meeting they are welcome to comment. We want to hear from people throughout the planning process.

Nominations

The nomination process will be ending on February 29, 2008.

As mentioned above, the afternoon session of the regional meetings will consist of a panel of 30 people chosen through a nomination process. We have been seeking nominations throughout the year and have received approximately 453, but more are needed to ensure that all water interests are fairly represented.

To nominate either yourself or someone else you can go to our website or contact me and I will get the information entered. The purpose of the nomination process is to help

ensure all water interests are identified and represented. We believe the people that live in an area know best who would represent them and their interests, and that is why we are asking you for nominations. We want as much participation and input by the public as possible throughout the process.

When you nominate yourself or someone else we would like to know about your/their knowledge of the region's water issues. We also ask that you/they be willing to listen and reflect on others' interests, and are committed to developing recommendations that meet the needs of all Oklahomans and participating throughout the balance of the planning process.

We will be reviewing all nominations and we will be contacting the nominees and a reference for more information in April.

We are working to convene a panel to make the final selections of the nominees. Once we have solidified the panel, we will list it on our website and send it to all on our mailing list. We will also post on the website a list of the nominees and the water interest they represent.

If you have a question about whether you or someone else has been nominated please don't hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeri'.

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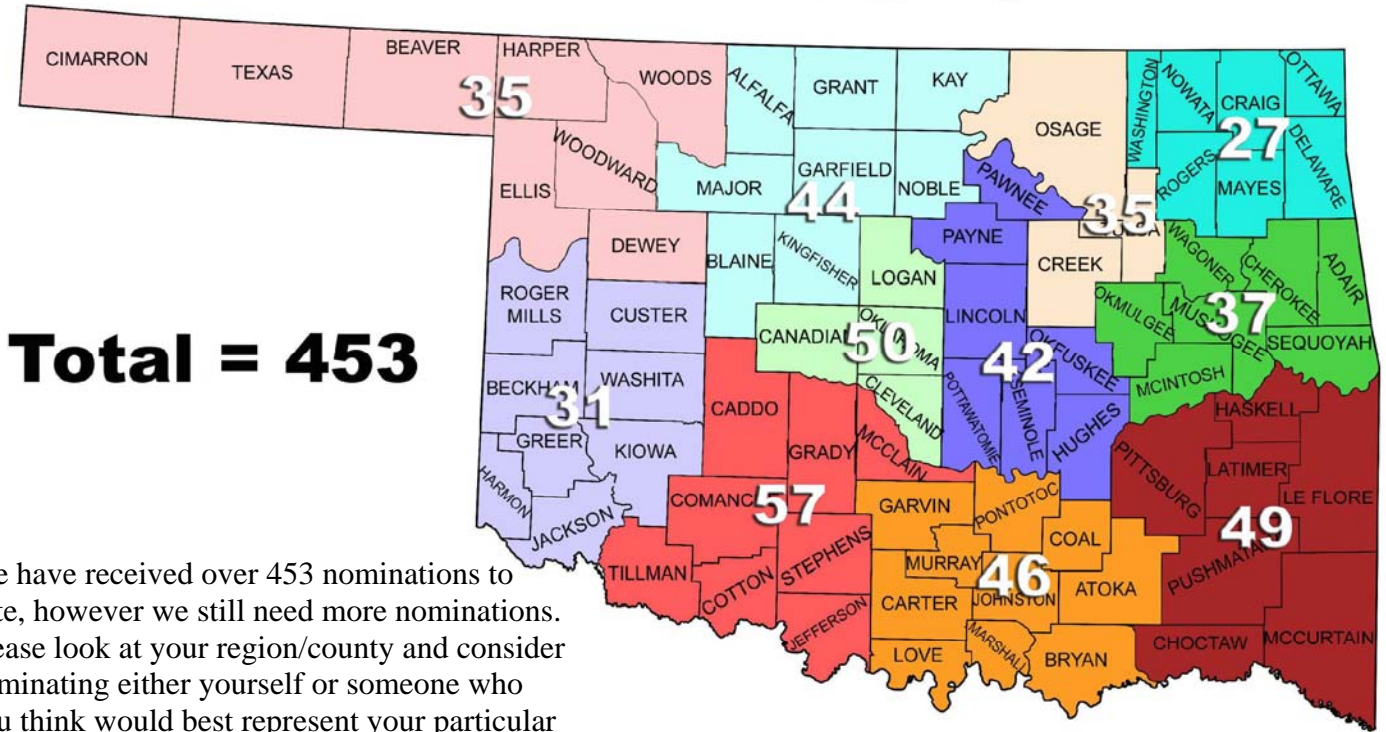
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RIM Nominations by Region



We have received over 453 nominations to date, however we still need more nominations. Please look at your region/county and consider nominating either yourself or someone who you think would best represent your particular water interest.