

Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

January 2009



Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a merry Christmas and has a wonderful new year!

Regional Input Meetings

The final report from the regional meetings should be complete within the next two weeks. The report includes analysis of the results, such as identifying the issues which enjoyed substantial agreement among the regions as either high or low priority for continued discussion. It also discusses the issues for which no substantial agreement was reached both within a region and between the regions. The report will also identify the themes for the workshops.

We will send out letters in the next two weeks asking the participants from the Regional Input Meetings if they will be able to, and are interested in, participating in the planning workshops. So, if you were a RIM participant please watch for the letter.

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, with up to six concurrent workgroups each (see graphic at right). We will invite about 20 people to participate in each workgroup (~240 people).

I want to clarify that the participants will be in either a morning workgroup **or** an afternoon workgroup; therefore, we are only asking you to come for half a day instead of an entire day. We hope this makes it easier for people to participate. Also, the workshops will be open to the public; however, space may be limited.

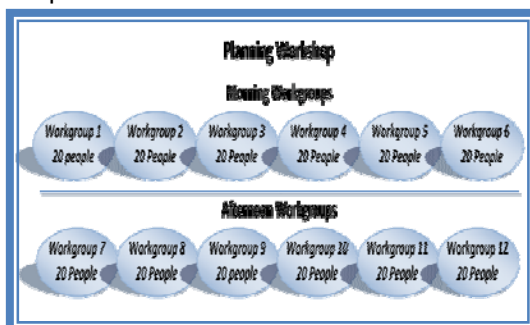
Website

We have added a new page to the website. The [Enter Your Water Management Strategy](#) page is now available. 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 them. This provides you an opportunity to see what other people think and gives you an opportunity to expand on a thought or provide insight into why something may or may not work.

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 information on the website throughout the process.

Water Film Series

In order to encourage meaningful discussion regarding water, the OWRRRI is co-sponsoring a water film series in Stillwater this spring. Several films dealing with water issues have recently been released; we think they will stimulate interesting conversations. Everyone is welcome to attend and admission is free. The series begins on Feb. 2nd with the showing of Blue Gold: World Water Wars. 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 want 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/oklaoma or call them at 800-873-7130.

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 below.

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.

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