

# Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

July 2008



We have posted the names and counties of the selected discussants and alternates for the Regional Input Meetings on our website!

## Regional Input Meetings

We are only three weeks away from our first Regional Input Meeting which will be held August 7, in Big Cabin, Mayes County. **The meeting in Big Cabin will begin at 3:00 p.m.**

As I have mentioned before the regional meetings will have a different format than the Local Input Meetings we held last year. There will be two meetings on the same day in each location. The first meeting will last about 3 hours. During that meeting the ~31 discussants will determine the priorities for their region. The second meeting will begin at 6:30 and will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the priorities set earlier. Both meetings are open to the public.

I have received several questions about how many of the regional meetings a participant is required to attend. **Selected participants are only required to attend the one meeting in their region.** They will be invited and encouraged to attend the basic water law seminar scheduled for July 28 & 29, and are welcome to attend any of the other regional meetings.

I also want to encourage those selected as alternates to attend their regional meeting. It is quite likely that some of the people selected to participate will not be able to attend their regional meeting. In that case we will contact an alternate and ask them to step in. In order to ensure the alternates are prepared they will receive the same information as the discussants prior to their meeting.

I have had a few requests for the contact information of the people selected for the Regional Input Meetings. I want to assure those that were selected that we will not be giving out any of your contact information. I do understand that some of you may have to drive an hour or more to your meeting and may want to ride with someone. If you are interested in carpooling to your meeting or the water law workshop, let me know and I will try to help you find someone to ride with.

## Website

We have updated the front page of our website to include links to information about the technical studies that are being conducted by the Water Board. The schedule for all the Regional Input Meetings is available as well as the list of discussants, alternates and interests for each of the regions.

Copies of all of these monthly updates are available on the site, and we are in the process of uploading presentations Dr. Focht has made at various meetings, including the Water Board's monthly board meeting.

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

Demand and supply analyses for approximately 785 water systems in Oklahoma have begun. Utilizing a variety of demographic, economic and related data for counties and water provider systems in Oklahoma, consumptive water demands will be calculated for municipal and industrial, self-supplied industrial (including oil and gas production) and agricultural water use. Sophisticated models will be used to project these demands, as well as supply availability across the state. In those areas where water supply "gaps" are anticipated, modeling and other water management tools will be employed to identify potential solutions to address local water needs.

To augment the development of these analyses, each of these water systems will be receiving a survey this month that will gather pertinent data to enhance the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan's assessment of these systems' needs. Water supply and management opportunities will be more easily identified through the collection of existing treatment/distribution infrastructure, service area population and demands, and both current and planned sources of water supply. The Oklahoma Rural Water Association and the Oklahoma Municipal League will be assisting these systems in completing the survey. The OWRB, OWRA and OML strongly encourage each system to take the time to supply

this information so that their system can be properly evaluated.

The draft Programmatic Work Plan, the roadmap for the technical studies to be performed over the next few years, is now final. The OWRB sought input from the members of the Water Research Advisory Board (WRAB) and received valuable comments. However, while labeled final, it will also be considered a living document subject to some evolution during the development of the OCWP based upon continuing input. A copy of the PWP can be found on the OWRB's website at [www.owrb.ok.gov](http://www.owrb.ok.gov).

## Other Information

The OWRB is organizing a basic water law seminar to be held July 28-29 at the Moore-Norman Technology Center in Oklahoma City. The seminar will provide information on Oklahoma water law and policy. The 368 people selected for the regional meetings will be invited to attend and their registration fee will be waived. We will be handling the registration for the discussants; however, the seminar is open to others, and if you are interested in attending you can contact Anissa Maher at 405-530-8800 to register. There will be a \$50 registration fee.

Again this year the Water Research Institute and the OWRB will combine the Water Research Symposium and the Governor's Water Conference. The Conference will be held at the Reed Center in Midwest City, Oct. 29 – 30<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent as it becomes available.

If your organization would like me to come discuss the water planning process, please contact me at [jeri.fleming@okstate.edu](mailto:jeri.fleming@okstate.edu) or at the number listed below.

As always feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have.

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

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