

July 2009

Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update



We would like to thank everyone who provided feedback about the first planning workshop. As we prepare for the second workshop, we are considering your concerns and suggestions.

Planning Workshops

The second workshop will be held on **Aug. 13**, again at the Metro Tech Springlake campus in Oklahoma City. The schedule for the day will be divided like the first workshop.

Workgroups 1 – 5 will begin at 8 a.m. and Workgroups 6 – 10 will begin at 2 p.m. Each workgroup (or theme), will consist of the same people as the first workshop.

At the first planning workshop participants began developing suggestions for how water should be managed in Oklahoma. They also developed questions that are being answered to help them expand on their strategies.

We have added all the suggestions (a.k.a. strategies) from the workshops to the strategy database on our website. Everyone is encouraged to review and comment on them.

The link is

http://environ.okstate.edu/owrri/waterplan/strategy_search.asp. We have distinguished the workshop strategies from other strategies by including the term "Workshop 1" in the strategies.

To find only the strategies from Workshop 1, type "workshop 1" in the search term box and hit Search. This will bring up all of the strategies from the workshop. The strategies are in various stages of development and so vary in the amount of detail provided. More details will be added as they are revised in future workshops. Any comments we receive about the strategies will be passed on to the participants in that workgroup.

During the Aug. 13 workshop the participants will discuss the answers to their questions with the experts, work to further develop their ideas and develop new questions for the experts. They may also develop new questions as their ideas get more detailed or they may develop entirely new strategies.

At the final workshop, scheduled for **Oct. 22**, the participants will again work on their strategies and develop questions. The results (both strategies and answers) from this final workshop will be compiled into a background document that will prepare participants for the Town Hall meeting to be held in 2010.

We are in the process of scheduling the dates for the Town Hall and would like some feedback on the dates we are considering. The dates are May 19 – 21, 2010 (Wed. – Fri.) or May 24 – 26, 2010 (Mon. – Wed.). Planning participants can email me with comments about which dates you prefer and why. The meeting will be held in the OKC/Norman area.

What's Next?

Once the planning workshops are complete, we will focus our attention on preparing the background document mentioned above. This document will include the strategies developed during the workshops, answers to any questions that came out of the last workshop and other relevant background information. We will also provide an opportunity for various organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, or individuals to submit short opinion papers on the strategies.

This information will then be sent to the approximately 150 participants in the Town Hall. This Town Hall will be very different from what some think of as a Town Hall. This is not a local meeting where people come to voice their concerns or interact with politicians. It is a statewide meeting to discuss a specific topic at length with the goal of developing policy recommendations.

The Oklahoma Academy will conduct the Town Hall. They have held similar meetings for over a decade. Typically, the Academy invites only their members to participate in the Town Hall; however, for our meeting, we will invite those who have been actively participating in the water planning process. For more information about the Academy you can visit their website www.okacademy.org.

During the Town Hall, all participants will discuss all of the strategies although they will be divided into 5 or 6 workgroups to make discussion easier. On the final day, the full group will convene to discuss and vote on the strategies they think should be submitted to the Water Board.

The Water Plan Document

Once the Water Board has the Town Hall final report, they will determine which suggestions to include in the Water Plan. The Water Board staff will combine these ideas with recommendations from the OWRB and other agencies and craft the Draft Water Plan recommendations.

Next, we will hold 11 regional public meetings to get feedback about the draft plan. We will submit those comments to the Water Board, who will write the final plan. That final plan will be submitted to the Water Board's nine-member board for approval, in 2011, and then, to the legislature and the Governor during the 2012 legislative session.

Website

We are developing theme specific pages for the website. We will post the strategies, the questions and the answers so you can stay up-to-date on what the participants are working on. You won't be able to make comments on these pages but you can do it on the strategies page, or email us at waterplan@okstate.edu.

We are also working to develop a page or website for people to post opinion papers regarding water related issues. We will not edit the papers nor will we endorse any information that is posted. This site is being made available so individuals or organizations can post information they would like others to read. We will provide a link through our website and the email addresses of the people writing papers so you may contact them with questions. We will not email the papers out to the participants and we will not provide participants' email addresses to others.

**Governor's Water Conference and
OWRRI Research Symposium**

Save the Date! The 2009 Conference and Symposium is scheduled for Nov. 3 – 5 at the Reed Center in Midwest City.

Other Information

The PowerPoint presentations and the questions received at the Basic Water Science Seminar are now available online. You can visit our website <http://okwaterplan.info> and click on the links.

The OWRB has posted a copy of Phase 1 of the 1975 Water Plan on their website. Phase 1 covered the southern portion of the state. The document can be found at www.owrb.ok.gov/supply/ocwp/pdf_ocwp/1975OCWPPPhase1.pdf.

I am always happy to visit with any group regarding the planning process, so please feel free to contact me to come speak to your group. I can be reached by email or at the number listed.



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