

March 2009

Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update



Wow, spring is here. It is hard to believe it is already March! We realize things really begin to get busy this time of year; we want to say how much we appreciate everyone who has been involved in the planning process and look forward to working with you again this year. We have entered the third year of the process and have some meetings planned this year that will help achieve the final goal: recommendations for the final plan.

Planning Workshops

During this third year of the public participation process we will conduct the Planning Workshops.

If you are not aware of the dates and location for the workshops, they 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 sessions with five concurrent workgroups.

WORKSHOPS

June 4 -- Aug 13 -- Oct 22

Morning Session: Water Supply
8:00-12:00

Workgroup 1: Theme 1
Balancing Water Supply & Demand

Workgroup 2: Theme 2
Water Conservation

Workgroup 3: Theme 3
Water Availability

Workgroup 4: Theme 4
Surface-Ground Water Relationship

Workgroup 5: Theme 5
Land Use Practices

Morning Session: Water Mgmt
2:00-6:00

Workgroup 6: Theme 6
Water Sales & Transfers

Workgroup 7: Theme 7
Inter-Govmnt Water Resource Mgmt

Workgroup 8: Theme 8
Inter-Agency Water Resource Mgmt

Workgroup 9: Theme 9
Stakeholder Involvement & Conflict Mgmt

Workgroup 10: Theme 10
Local and Regional Issues

We have sent letters out to those people who actively participated in the Regional Input Meetings to de-

termine their availability and preferred theme. The letters asked participants to provide a couple of water management ideas. Many of these were detailed enough that we will enter them into our strategies database for all to read and comment on.

To date, about 220 people have agreed to participate. Our next step is to assign people to a workgroup. We will spend the next several days reviewing the information they returned to us and assigning 22 to 24 people to a group. We will do our best to ensure there is a fair balance in each group, with all perspectives included. We will not be able to give everyone their first choice of workgroup but will try to make sure they are in one of their top five.

While each person will only participate in one workgroup, everyone is welcome to observe a workgroup during the other session. In fact, the workshops are open to the public; however, space is limited.

We are putting together a packet of background information to be mailed to the participants before the workshops.

Opportunity to be Involved

We will hold a "dry run" on May 22 at 1 p.m. in the OSU Extension office in Oklahoma City. This has two purposes: 1. to allow us to "work out the kinks" in the workgroup protocol, and 2. to begin the process of developing management strategies. The results of this "dry run" will be made available to the workgroup participants. We will also forward any research questions to the appropriate people and have that available as well.

We would like around 40 people to participate in the practice. We will limit attendance to those who are not able to attend the workshops. If you are interested in participating please contact me at

jeri.fleming@okstate.edu or call me at 405-744-9994.

Website

The [Enter Your Water Management Strategy](#) page is now available on our website. The purpose of this

page is to enter and discuss your well thought-out plans (strategies) for how to better manage Oklahoma water. We have also added a search page so you can search through the suggestions. After you perform a search, a link is available that allows you to comment on that 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; yours may be used by workshop participants to begin their discussions. In essence they will "prime the pump."

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

The dates for the Basic Water Science Seminar are set for **May 14 & 15 and will be held at the Metro Tech Springlake campus in OKC**. We are working with the Water Board and the OSU College of Ag to organize the Seminar. The focus of this seminar will be informing 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.

All of the planning workshop participants are invited to attend and will be receiving invitations shortly. If others are interested in attending please contact our office before May 1.

Water Film Series

Our next film is Mar. 23rd, and the topic will be Oklahoma Water. We have several short videos about Oklahoma's water and Derek Smithee, OWRB Water Quality Division Chief, and Dr. Mike Smolen, OCES Water Quality Coordinator, will be on hand to answer questions. We will have a discussion about Oklahoma water issues.

Our last film in the series is "Flow" and will be shown on April 6th. It will also be followed by a brief discussion period, as well as a short video from Nestle addressing some of the comments in the film.

We would again like to thank the OSU Environmental Science Club and Sustainable Stillwater for all their help in spreading the word. Thank you also to those that have attended. We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd.

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/owri>.

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 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 above.

As always feel free to contact me with any questions.



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