

# Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

May 2008



We are very pleased with the response to the applications we mailed out in April to all those nominated for the regional meetings. We ended up with a total of 655 nominees and have received responses from over 550 people. Thank you all so much for your willingness to participate and for your enthusiasm.

## Nominations

We have now begun reviewing the applications, by region, to identify each person's interest. We are basing the selections on individual interests rather than organizational membership. Our goal is to ensure that all perspectives on an issue are fairly represented. If we find interests that are not represented in a region, we will work to find people to fill those gaps.

We will select approximately 30 people in each region, for a total of 330. To help us select the participants, we will work with leaders of 24 federal, state and non-profit organizations. We will then forward a list of potential participants to the Water Planning Advisory Board.

This Board, comprised of six governor-appointed officials, includes the Sec. of Environment Miles Tolbert, the Sec. of Agriculture Terry Peach, Jack Keeley, Rudy Herrmann, Mark Nichols and Ford Drummond. The Board will approve the final selection of participants.

The final list of participants should be listed on our website by June 25.

## Regional Input Meetings

The dates and locations for the 11 regional meetings have been set and I have included a copy of the schedule. The meetings begin August 7, in Big Cabin, Mayes County. 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 workshop scheduled for July 28 & 29 and are welcome to attend any of the other regional meetings.

The meeting format for the regional meetings will be different than the local input meetings. We will actually have two sessions each day. In the afternoon session, the 30 people selected for that region will discuss the

issues and will then prioritize them as high, medium or low. Each meeting is open to the public; however, the public will be asked to hold their comments until the evening session. The evening session provides an opportunity for them to comment on what was decided at the afternoon session. After each meeting a report will be made available that summarizes the decisions made.

We have begun preparing the reports for the regional meetings and will have them completed by the first of July.

## 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. We have also added the schedule for the Regional Input Meetings.

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

As I mentioned last month the OWRB has begun work on the technical studies. They have partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers and the engineering firm CDM to conduct those studies.

You can find a copy of the OCWP Draft Programmatic Work Plan that further explains the technical work being done on the OWRB's website at [www.owrb.ok.gov](http://www.owrb.ok.gov). You can also find more information about the entire planning process, a copy of the 1995 Water Plan and other important information there.

## Other Information

The OWRB will again be sponsoring **Water Appreciation Day** at the State Capitol on **May 14**. The event will be held in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor rotunda from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be there with information and would enjoy the opportunity to visit with you if you come by.

In addition to activities in the Capitol rotunda, the Water Board has also scheduled a press conference at 1:00 p.m. in the Governor's Large Conference Room. The press conference will focus attention on pertinent water issues facing the state, including the ongoing update of the Oklahoma

Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP). OWRB Chairman Mark Nichols, Executive Director Duane Smith, Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment Miles Tolbert, and members of the Oklahoma State Legislature will provide remarks.

The OWRB is organizing a water resource management seminar to be held on July 28 & 29 at the Moore Norman Technology Center in Oklahoma City. The seminar will provide information on Oklahoma water law and policy. The 330 people selected for the regional meetings will be invited to attend and their registration fee will be waived. The seminar will also be open to others. As soon as more information, such as the agenda, the cost, registration dates and CLE credit is available, I will let you know.

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 if you have any questions.

## Water Research Institute

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## Regional Input Meeting Schedule 2008

DATE	FACILITY	CITY	REGION	COUNTIES
Thurs., Aug. 7	<b>GGEDA Office Cafeteria</b>	Big Cabin	GGEDA (9)	Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Washington
Tues., Aug. 12	<b>Civic Center</b>	Elk City	SWODA (2)	Beckham, Custer, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Washita
Thurs., Aug. 21	<b>S.E. Expo Center Room 101</b>	McAlester	KEDDO (11)	Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha
Thurs., Sept. 11	<b>Beaver County Fairgrounds Pavilion</b>	Beaver	OEDA (1)	Beaver, Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Texas, Woods, Woodward
Thurs., Sept. 18	<b>Great Plains Technology Center Worley Seminar Center Rooms 301 A &amp; B (Bldg. 300)</b>	Lawton	ASCOG (5)	Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain, Stephens, Tillman
Thurs., Sept. 25	<b>Cherokee Strip Conference Center Buffalo Room</b>	Enid	NODA (3)	Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, Noble
Thurs., Oct. 2	<b>Murray State College Student Union Ball Room</b>	Tishomingo	SODA (7)	Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray, Pontotoc
Thurs., Oct. 9	<b>Central Community Center Auditorium</b>	Tulsa	INCOG (8)	Creek, Osage, Tulsa
Thurs., Oct. 23	<b>Muskogee Civic Center Room D</b>	Muskogee	EODD (10)	Adair, Cherokee, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, Wagoner
Thurs., Nov. 6	<b>Metro Technology Center Rooms Big Dipper and Carousel</b>	OKC	ACOG (4)	Canadian, Cleveland, Logan, Oklahoma
Thurs., Nov. 13	<b>Seminole State College Ball Room</b>	Seminole	COEDD (6)	Hughes, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Pawnee, Payne, Pottawatomie, Seminole