

Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

October 2008



The leaves are changing, the air is cooling, it must mean fall is here. It seems like just yesterday we were swimming and wishing the weather would cool off.

I don't have much to report this month so this will be brief!

Regional Input Meetings

The RIMs are going very well, and we have been quite pleased with the participation. With only three meetings left we would like to say how much we appreciate everyone who has taken the time to participate in the process either as a discussant, alternate or observer.

One question you may have is what are we going to do with the information and how will your comments be used?

Once the 11 RIMs have been completed, we will review the comments and the ratings to determine what you have decided merits further discussion. A final report will be drafted and posted on our website. We will then prepare for the planning workshops that will begin in the spring of 2009.

Website

During the RIM meetings we have heard several suggestions about ways to manage water, how we should encourage conservation, how to better inform the public, and a variety of other suggestions. Sometimes these suggestions are made during a small group discussion and don't always get captured. We want to make sure we get as much information ahead of the planning workshops about potential questions as we can, so in the next couple of weeks we will be adding a page to our website where citizens can enter their management suggestions. This will help us identify potential questions and research needs and help us determine which experts we need for each of the groups. As soon as the page is up and functioning, I will let you know.

Other Information

Again this year the Water Research Institute and the OWRB will

combine the **Water Research Symposium** and the **Governor's Water Conference**. This combined event will be held at the Reed Center in Midwest City, **Oct. 28 – 30th**. More information is available on the website at <http://environ.okstate.edu/OKwater>.

On Mon. Nov. 17, the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond will be hosting a workshop on using the internet to research Oklahoma Water Resources and Legislation Water Data and an interactive workshop on Online Water Data from Federal and Oklahoma Sources. Presenters at the workshop include Clif Broadworth and Steve Belevu of the Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries, a representative from the Cartwright Law Library at the State Capital, and myself. For more information contact the UCO library at 405-974-2880 or email Deborah Thompson at dthompson@uco.edu.

The Water Board has posted several presentations from the Water Law Seminar they sponsored in July. The link to the presentations is <http://www.owrb.ok.gov/news/news2/waterlawseminar.php>. It is certainly worth looking them over again!

Congratulations to the OWRB for being named the 2008 recipient of the **Keep Oklahoma Beautiful Team Builders Award**. The Water Board was recognized for their work with us, the Water Research Institute, to maximize federal and state funding, as well as involving the public in the planning process.

The award will be presented on Nov. 24 at the 18th Annual Celebration of Environmental Excellence.

Many of you have been to the RIMs this year and have met our facilitator. For those of you who haven't yet met her, I would like to introduce her to you. Dianna Leggett is the former assistant superintendent of Stillwater Public Schools and taught school for many years. Through her teaching and administrative career she has facilitated many meetings where the purpose was to reach consensus on a variety of issues. Dianna helped us develop

the format for the RIMs. We certainly appreciate her help and input and hopefully you will get a chance to meet her soon.

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

As always feel free to contact me with any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeri".

Upcoming Regional Input Meetings

Thurs. Oct. 23

Muskogee Civic Center, Muskogee

Thurs. Nov. 6

Metro Technology Center, OKC

Thurs. Nov. 13

Seminole State College, Seminole

Each meeting will begin at 3:00 pm and is open to the public

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