

Water Research Institute Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Monthly Update

September 2008



We have now held three of our eleven Regional Input Meetings (RIMs). We want to thank everyone who has attended and participated.

The results of each of those meetings are now available on our website under the *Regional Meeting Reports* link on the left side of the home page.

If you do not have internet access and would like a copy of a report or the RIM information packet please contact us, and we will be glad to mail you one.

Questions

We have had some questions about the purpose of the regional meetings and some other general process questions that I would like to address.

How did we come up with the 54 issues? If you attended one of the Local Input Meetings last year, you know we listened to what you had to say and recorded those comments. We received over 2,500 comments and in order to make them easier to work with, we organized them into 54 issues.

What is the purpose of the regional input meetings? The purpose for the regional input meetings is to determine which of the 54 issues, need to be discussed at the next level of the planning process.

What topics (themes) will be discussed at the planning workshops? The themes of the planning workshops will be developed based on the results from the regional input meetings. We do not have a set agenda for those meetings at this time. We will have up to 12 sessions at each of the planning workshop meetings based on what you, the public, think is important to discuss.

Will I be in the same group during the planning workshop as I am in the RIM meeting? During the RIMs we divide the discussants into small groups to discuss a set of issues. These group assignments are only for the regional meetings and will not carry forward to the planning workshops.

Will regional differences be taken into account in the plan? We are taking regional differences into account during the planning process. We are asking the discussants to rank each issue both for their region and for the state. During the RIM meetings however, we do ask them to think about what is important to the state as a whole. We do this because the plan will be a statewide plan, but we, as well as the OWRB, recognize there are distinct differences in our state's water supplies and uses, and those differences and how to plan for them will likely be discussed during the planning workshops.

Who will be participating in the planning workshops next year? The answer to that question is, many of the same people who are participating in the RIMs. Approximately 240 people from the original selected group will participate in those meetings. As well, when we hold the Town Hall in 2010 approximately 150 people out of the original group will be involved in that discussion.

There has also been some question about why we are not at the actual planning stage at this point. There are two purposes of the RIMs, one is to find out, from the public, more specifically, what we need to be talking about and planning for. The other is to allow time for some of the technical studies that are being done to be completed or be near completion. We want to make sure the participants in the planning workshops are well informed. The planning workshops will begin in the spring of 2009.

Other Information

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. 28 – 30th**. More information is available on the website at <http://environ.okstate.edu/OKwater>.

On Tues. Oct. 7, East Central University in Ada 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 of the Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries, a representative from the Cartwright Law Library at the State Capital, and myself. For more information contact the ECU library at pbaumann@ecok.edu.

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. Sept. 18
Great Plains Tech. Center, Lawton

Thurs. Sept. 25
Cherokee Strip Conference Center, Enid

Thurs. Oct. 2
Murray State College, Tishomingo
Each meeting will begin at 3:00 pm and is open to the public

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