

Monthly Update



As we began to prepare for the third and final workshop we realized that everyone may not be familiar with the workshop process. A brief explanation is provided below.

Planning Workshops

During the first planning workshop, participants began developing strategies for water management in Oklahoma. They also developed questions related to these strategies. Prior to the second workshop, participants received answers to these questions. They used this information during the second workshop to further develop their strategies.

At the final workshop, scheduled for Oct. 22, the participants will finalize their strategies and develop additional 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.

The workshops were scheduled with several weeks between them to allow our experts time to formulate answers to questions, review the strategies and provide feedback to the participants.

Holding three workshops may seem somewhat redundant, but there is a method to our madness. In order to achieve both a good and right plan for Oklahoma, you not only need good science and engineering, but you need Oklahoma values. So, we are involving citizens and experts in a process known as analysis and deliberation (A & D).

In the A & D process, citizens frame the discussion by determining the agenda and what questions to ask. The experts inform the citizens by providing answers and analysis of the strategies

Each of the three workshops and the time between constitutes one round of the process. Just prior to each workshop, the participants are given background information and answers to their questions. After the workshops, the experts review the results, answer

questions and provide feedback to the participants. The final deliberation on the strategies will take place at the Town Hall (see below).

What's Next?

Next spring, we will hold a Strategy Seminar in Oklahoma City. All of the planning workshop participants are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the seminar is to give all the participants the opportunity to review and discuss all of the strategies developed. We will not debate the strategies, that is for the Town Hall but, we do want all of the participants to be familiar with ideas developed in other workgroups.

The Town Hall will be held May 18 - 21, 2010 in Norman. The Oklahoma Academy will conduct the Town Hall, with 150 participants selected from those currently participating in the workshops.

During the Town Hall, each participant will be involved in discussions of each of the strategies and be able to suggest revisions. The participants will be divided into six workgroups, and on the final day, the entire group will convene to discuss and vote for 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.

Next, we will hold 11 regional public meetings to get feedback about the draft plan. We will submit the feedback 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 Governor during the 2012 legislative session.

Website

In the workshops participants are divided into one of 10 themes that developed as a result of the Regional Input

Meetings held last year (a list of the themes is available on our website). In order to try to help you easily find the strategies being discussed by each group, we have developed one page for each theme. On these pages you will find, the strategies, and the questions and answers from the first workshop. Just click on the [Planning Workshop Results](#) tab on the left menu bar. 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.

Governor's Water Conference and OWRRI Research Symposium

Online registration is now available for the 2009 Conference and Symposium, scheduled for Nov. 3 – 5 at the Reed Center in Midwest City. The link to register is <http://environ.okstate.edu/OKWATER/>

Other Information

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.

We are always happy to visit with any group regarding the planning process, so please feel free to contact our office and schedule us to come speak.



003 Life Sciences East

Stillwater, OK 74078

405-744-9994

405-744-7074 (fax)

E-mail waterplan@okstate.edu

Website <http://okwaterplan.info>