

Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan 2009 Planning Workshop Participants

The OWRRRI sent letters to over 360 people asking if they were able to participate in the Planning Workshops scheduled for 2009 to help develop strategies for managing Oklahoma's water resources. During these workshops the OWRRRI expects people to either come up with new, enhanced or no change management strategies. The following is the list of Workshop Themes and the people that agreed to participate in each theme. We would like to thank the 236 people who are giving of their time to help Oklahoma update its water plan.

Theme 1. Balancing Water Supply and Demand

OWRRRI heard several comments during the Local Input Meetings and the Regional Input Meetings held over the last two years concerning the need to balance water supply and demand in the State plan. This workgroup will discuss ways to respond appropriately to changes in population projections, economic conditions, water uses, and climate so that water supply and demand are balanced.

Problem to Be Addressed

How should the plan ensure that water supply meets water demand across the State over the next 50 years?

List of workgroup participants:

Lawrence Allin	Thomas Flood	Sue McCoy
Steven Almon	Billy Frazier	Ervin Mitchell
Tom Buchanan	Jay Fulton	Jerry Pettijohn
Mike Cahalen	James Fuser	Bill Place
Ronn Cupp	Mark Helm	Fred L. Rice
Anthony Daniel	Robert Jackman	Dick Sheffield
Chester Dennis	Dea Kretchmar	Mike Spradling
Mead Ferguson	Robin Landrum	Steve Tomberlin

Theme 2. Water Conservation

Issues regarding water conservation and reuse were frequently heard during the OWRRRI's local and regional meetings. We all know of situations in which water is wasted such as inefficient use, leakage, and reliance on potable water when lower quality water could be used. This workgroup will discuss what can be done to conserve water through improved use, education, transportation, and recycling.

Problem to Be Addressed

What measures should be taken to improve water use efficiency, reduce water waste, and reuse/recycle water when appropriate – and how should these measures be encouraged?

List of workgroup participants:

Margaret Avard	Jo Davis	Kathy Moore
Marilyn Barton	Hayley Dikeman	Ronny Nelson
John Britton	Steve Dunavant	Bud Osborne
Wilt Brown	David Gerken	Don Owens
Steven Brown	Tom Hall	John Sheppard
Shanda Caldwell	Faye Henson	Jason Stutzman
Thomas Challacombe	Aaron Horn	Tom Whitaker
Cheryl Cheadle	Rick Jean	Marty Williams

Theme 3. Water Availability

OWRRI received numerous comments during the Local Input and Regional Input meetings about maintaining the availability of water in the face of potential shortages in the State plan. Water supply in Oklahoma can be sporadic due to natural hazards such as droughts and floods.

Problem to Be Addressed

How should we protect the safety and reliability of water supplies in the face of shortages as a result of natural and other hazards? How do we effectively and efficiently store water?

List of workgroup participants:

Jim Burroughs	Lowell Hobbs	John Redman
Larry Casey	Phyllis Holcomb	Karen Riffel
Randy Davis	Bob Howard	James W. Roberts
John Duck	Kelly Hurt	Vernon Seaman
Jerome Ewen	Carlie Lawson	Robert Stephenson
Lee Grater	Paul Mullon	Kevin Stubbs
Marjorie Griswold	Marla Peek	Mike Thralls
Robert Hitt	Bruce Price	Randy Worden

Theme 4. Surface-Ground Water Relationship

Several comments were received during the first two rounds of public input meetings about the relationship of surface and groundwater and about the State's current water law. Oklahoma treats surface water as public water and groundwater as a private property right. However, it is clear that surface water and groundwater interact; that is, they connect hydrologically. Thus, groundwater pumping affects stream flow and withdrawal of surface water affects groundwater levels.

Problem to Be Addressed

Should Oklahoma water laws be revised to reflect the connection between groundwater and surface water – if so how and to what extent?

List of workgroup participants:

Stanley Barby	Mike Fuhr	Neal Russell
Sherry Barby	Eldon Goeringer	Guy Sewell
Howard Bartel	Darrell Herber	Shannon Shirley
Robert Bierschenk	Jill Herrlein	Carolyn Sparks
Fred Brown, Jr.	Jimmy Kinder	Brooks Tramell
Tommy Coomes	Bryan Kroeker	Greg Turpin
Bill Cunningham	Ron Melton	Zack Williams
Daniel Fenner	Roland Pederson	Terry L. Wyatt

Theme 5. Land Use Practices

We heard several comments over the course of the last two years about the importance of land use practices as they relate to water. How land is used affects both water quality and water quantity. For example, water that runs off bare land carries loose soil and can have a major influence on water quality. Water quantity is influenced by impervious surfaces; for example, paved areas increase the pace of runoff and this can lead to flooding downstream. This can also mean less water is available upstream.

Problem to Be Addressed

How should the plan protect and enhance water quality and quantity through appropriate land stewardship? In other words, what sorts of best management (land use) practices should be encouraged that reduce threats to water quality and quantity? How should these BMPs be encouraged?

List of workgroup participants:

Jerry Brabander	Brad Hutchison	Joe Schulte
Pat Burt	Brett Kimbro	Dan Sebert
Mary Jane Calvey	Greg Leonard	Amy Smith
Darrel Dominick	CM Lin	Thomas Lee Tucker
Bob Drake	Roy Lee Lindsey, Jr	Tom Weichel
Fred Fischer	Dale Maronek	Junior Welch
Victoria Gonzales	Donald Martindale	Bill Wentroth
Olen Gray	Anita Poole	Angela Williams

Theme 6. Water Sales and Transfers

Water sales and transfers was a much discussed topic at both the local and regional meetings held in 2007 and 2008. While Oklahoma has enough water to meet its needs, the water is not necessarily located where it is needed. This has prompted Oklahoma municipalities and other states to request appropriation of Oklahoma water to areas outside its basin of origin.

Problem to Be Addressed

If water is going to be sold out-of-state or transferred in-state, how should this be managed?

List of workgroup participants:

Jack Accountius	Ada Hill	Sam Samandi
Frank Acker	Paul Jackson	Bill Smith
Sinclair Armstrong	Steven M. Jones	Robert Smith
Don Covington	Steve LaForge	Vernon Smith
Barbara Gilbertson	David Martinez	Ron Suttles
Stephen Greetham	Carl Metcalf	Dave Taylor
Larry Hare	Mason Mungle	Chris Tytanic
Charlette Hearne	Roy Rider	Jack Yates

Theme 7. Inter-Governmental Water Resource Management

How the State should address Native American water rights, working with other states, and unfunded federal mandates were some of the concerns expressed during the public meetings. In Oklahoma, several layers of government have jurisdictions of various kinds over the management of water resources. This includes the federal government, tribal governments, state governments, and local governments. This group of authorities can produce conflicts, confusion, and inefficiencies in managing water resources.

Problem to Be Addressed

How can the governments of the United States, Indian Nations, Oklahoma, neighboring states, counties, and municipalities work more collaboratively, cooperatively, and effectively to manage water resources within their areas of jurisdiction?

List of workgroup participants:

Randy Archer	Mike Frickenschmidt	James Milton
Harvey Arnold	Garner Garrison	Pam Polk
Larry Boggs	Meredith Garvin	Richard Smith
Jeff Boxrucker	Ed Henderson	Joe Taron
Angela Burckhalter	Lee Horton	Robert Tippeconnie
James Collard	Mike Mathis	R. Scott Vaughn
Julie Daniels	Mary McCormick	Keith Wright
Braven Dyer	Chuck Mills	James Zellner

Theme 8. Inter-Agency Water Resource Management

Several comments heard at the public meetings expressed concern about the number of State agencies that have jurisdiction over water resources in Oklahoma. Such agencies include the Water Resources Board, Department of Environmental Quality, Conservation Commission, Scenic Rivers Commission, Corporation Commission, Department of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Food, Forestry, and Agriculture, Department of Tourism and Recreation, Department of Mines, and Department of Transportation.

Problem to Be Addressed

How should the various State agencies having jurisdiction over water resources in Oklahoma work together more efficiently and effectively?

List of workgroup participants:

Richard Alig	Paul Fruendt	George Matthews
Kim Baker	Don Goforth	Garland Phillips
Kassandra Bentley	Eric Held	Clay Pope
Bill Brunk	Gerald Hilsher	John Schutte
Larry Cofer	Andrew Husky	Marty Smith
Ed Crone	Joe Ihle	Mark Stout
Richard DeShazo	George Lodes	Michael Vanderburg
Bob Donaho	Monty Matlock	Laurie Anne Williams

Theme 9. Stakeholder Involvement and Conflict Management

Citizens commented to the OWRI that they want to continue their involvement in water planning and plan implementation beyond the current ongoing process. Involving citizens in plan implementation will substantially improve chances for success since their cooperation is essential to achieving its goals and objectives.

Problem to Be Addressed

How should citizens and non-government organizations be involved in implementing water resource management programs and future plan updates and revisions? How should current dispute settlement practices be changed or improved?

List of workgroup participants:

Tim Bartram	John Johnson	Bill Sims
JeanAnne Casey	Kenneth Komiske	Dean Smith
Daryl Covey	Dan Lowrance	John Stahl
Terry Detrick	LaDonna McCowan-Ferrier	Ricky Strecker
Scott Dewald	David Murray	Merritt Taylor
Amy Ford	Jennifer Owen	Karen Weldin
Monroe Hannon	Shanon Phillips	J.T Winters
Darryl Hunkapillar	Jim Rodriguez	

Theme 10. Consideration of Local and Regional Issues in the State Plan

We heard several comments over the course of the last two years about the inclusion of local or regional provisions in the State plan, especially concerning infrastructure and regionalization (or consolidation) of water systems. In addition, others are concerned about the State's role in local and regional water planning.

Problems to Be Addressed

About Planning: What is the appropriate relationship between the State water plan and local and regional water plans? What is the appropriate relationship among local and regional water planning authorities? Should local and regional plans be incorporated into the State water plan? Should the State plan require that local/regional plans be consistent with it yet preserve as much local autonomy as possible?

About Plan Implementation: Should water districts be regionalized, and if so, how? How should access to water supply be coordinated? How should local and regional infrastructure be funded?

List of workgroup participants:

Bob Baxter	Tom Hendrix	Dick Scalf
Bruce Boyd	Steven Jolly	Macy Strom
Bob Chase	Trey Lam	John Swihart
Cheryl Dorrance	Jim Lindsey	Chad Trainer
Cliff Downing	Larry Mitchell	Shawna Turner
Kent Fletcher	Kevin Murphy	Jerry Waltrip
Shawn Geurin	Rodney Ray	Gene Whatley
John Harrington	Alan Riffel	Bill Wilson