

Local Input Meeting Report



#15

Kingfisher, Oklahoma
Kingfisher County Fairgrounds
Exhibit Building
June 28, 2007

Project Description

The Water Research Institute, at Oklahoma State University, is working under contract with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to update Oklahoma's Comprehensive Water Plan. The Institute has designed an innovative process that combines citizens' ideas with the assistance of water experts in formulating policy recommendations. This process seeks to rely on the citizens' values for guidance in making tough choices about management of our State's water resources.

The first phase of this process consisted of 42 Local Input Meetings held throughout the State beginning in April 2007, at Beaver and ending on Nov. 15, 2007, at Idabel. The purpose of the meetings was to gather citizens' ideas, questions, suggestions and concerns about Oklahoma's water resources. This report is a comprehensive list of the comments received at this meeting.

In addition to the Local Input Meetings the public participation process consists of four other components. During the second phase, beginning in 2008, the Institute will conduct 11 regional meetings where selected participants will review the comments, consolidate similar issues, and prioritize them. Planning workshop, where participants will work to development management alternatives, is scheduled to begin in 2009. The Oklahoma Academy for State Goals will hold a special Town Hall meeting, in the spring of 2010, where citizens will develop consensus recommendations. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for consideration/inclusion in a draft updated Comprehensive Water Plan. In the final phase the Institute will again conduct 11 regional meetings. At these meetings, the Institute will receive feedback and implementation suggestions on the draft Water Plan. Comments received at these meetings will be forwarded to the Water Board who will finalize the Plan and submit it to the legislature and the governor.

For more information visit the Institute's website at <http://okwaterplan.info>, email them at waterplan@okstate.edu, or by phone at 405.744.9994. You may also contact the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at www.owrb.ok.gov or 405.530.8800.



Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
6:32 pm	Welcome	Keith Boevers, Educator Kingfisher County Cooperative Extension Service
6:34 pm	Purpose of Meeting and Introduction of Staff	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:40 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Duane Smith, Executive Director Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:12 pm	Comments from the public	Public Participants
7:57 pm	Meeting adjourned	

Attendees

Water Research Institute Staff

Mike Langston, Assistant Director
 Jeri Fleming, Communications Manager
 Alison Stone, Administration Specialist

Oklahoma Water Resources Board Staff

Duane Smith, Executive Director
 Dave Dillon, Director of Water Planning

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Staff

Keith Boevers, Kingfisher County Extension Educator

Public Participants

23 citizens

Comments

Thirty-two comments were received from the meeting participants. Comments were submitted both orally and by comment card. The comments are organized alphabetically by topic. Each comment is preceded by a unique identification number that will remain with the comment throughout the process. *Additional comments were submitted online to the website and are not included below; however, there is a separate report that lists all comments received through the website, by fax, mail and phone.*

Water Management

Agencies

- *State*
 - **Kf8** There should be more communication between the OWRB and the Corporation Commission concerning water bearing formations and well logs.

Conjunctive Management

- **Kf27** The plan needs to address the needs and rights of the groundwater owner's private property rights in relation to the conjunctive use of groundwater in meeting stream water needs.
- *Legislation*
 - **Kf7** I am concerned that groundwater will become subservient to surface water. The current water laws should not be changed.

Conservation

- *Education*
 - **Kf20b** The plan should encourage more conservation education programs through the OSU Extension, Noble Foundation, and SCS offices.
- *Incentives*
 - **Kf20a** The plan needs to encourage the development of water conservation by means of more cost-share incentives for the landowner through the Soil Conservation Service.

Economic Impacts

- **Kf28** The plan needs to recognize the immense hard work in developing, delivering, and making available potable water that rural water districts and small towns across Oklahoma have accomplished. It should recognize the economic impact these small communities have on the State. The plan needs to encourage more funding for the developed and the improvement of these rural water districts and small towns across Oklahoma, because bigger is not always better.
- *Regulation*
 - **Kf18** When federal and state agency standards change, they can have a big impact on smaller communities, as these communities have difficulty funding the effort to meet the standards.

Health

- *Ecological*
 - **Kf31** In Blaine County, Okeene wants to make sure our water on the Cimarron is a long-lasting pool and protected from the hog farmers. As of right now, that pool, 11 miles east of Okeene, is a very good and clean pool, low in nitrates and nitrites. So I hope we can keep it that way (with your help).
- *Human*
 - **Kf2** Small towns and rural water districts are struggling to meet their needs now and as the government lowers the standards for contaminant levels, it limits the amount of water available. I would like to see research done on the actual toxicity of these new contamination levels, such as nitrates in water.

Infrastructure

- **Kf6** The town of Kingfisher has spent a lot of money on their water infrastructure and I am concerned that all of the regulations are going to increase the cost of water treatment and maintenance of that infrastructure to the point that small towns (like Kingfisher) can not afford to maintain what they have.
- *Needs*
 - **Kf11** We need more dikes and dams to help recharge the gravel bed aquifers surrounding the rivers.
 - **Kf14** The federal government is putting around \$70 million into building more gates around Canton Lake, and maybe, instead they should put that money into building new reservoirs and dams.
 - **Kf16** Most of our reservoirs have outlived their expected life and some thought needs to be given to building additional lakes.

Planning

- *Regional Differences*
 - **Kf29** The plan needs to be fully developed and implemented by region once complete, but the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan should not be an enormous tax burden on property owners across the State.
- *Research*
 - **Kf10** There should be research done on underground migration of water out of the State.
 - **Kf12** There should be some groundwater exploration to try to find additional groundwater supplies.
 - **Kf17** The decisions we make need to be made on sound science not emotion.

Policy/Regulations

- *Federal Regulations*
 - **Kf24** The plan needs to address drinking water maximum contamination levels, whether the contaminants are naturally occurring or man-made. The plan should encourage the re-evaluation and setting of these contamination levels at scientifically known risk levels, not at some arbitrary level.
- *State Regulations*
 - **Kf1** I support changing the groundwater allocation amount in the Cimarron alluvium aquifer from 2 acre-feet per acre to less than 2 acre-feet per acre to protect the groundwater supplies of small towns in the area. What will the small towns in rural areas do if the water is depleted?
 - **Kf13** Disposal wells should be closely monitored as they can have an impact on the quality of our groundwater.
 - **Kf22** The plan needs to address the quality of groundwater and surface water by encouraging the use of closed mud systems on all drilling rigs.
 - **Kf23** The plan needs to encourage the development of more county or regional "Home and Agriculture Hazardous Material" programs, for items that cannot be placed in landfill drop-off sites across the State. These need to operate on a minimum of a biannual or quarterly basis.

- *State Statutes*
 - **Kf26** The water plan needs to look at State law addressing the groundwater waste by pollution and waste by depletion in controlling how and when a landowner can use his or her private property water rights.

Water Rights

- *Private Property Rights*
 - **Kf15** Groundwater should remain a private property right.
 - **Kf25** Groundwater rights and control needs to remain [as is] and not be transferable from the land surface owner.
 - **Kf30** I am concerned that the groundwater rights will change. I think the groundwater rights should remain with the landowner. Why should I have to supply water to someone in the big city so they can have a nice yard?

Water Treatment

- *Artificial*
 - **Kf3** When using reverse osmosis to treat drinking water, backwashing the filters requires 30% of the water and this is lost from the drinking water system. Other states are using that backwash water to recharge aquifers and it should be considered here. In order to meet the DEQ water quality standards, many water systems have gone to reverse osmosis, but DEQ has not considered the 30% loss and its effects on drinking water supply.

Watershed Management

- **Kf19** The plan needs to address the control of invasive plants along streams, creeks, and rivers by means of cost-sharing incentives for the landowner through the Soil Conservation Service.
- **Kf21** The plan needs to address the quality of water, by encouraging more incentives and education to all residents of the State on controlling groundwater and surface water contaminations.

Water Sources

Groundwater

- *Quality*
 - **Kf4** During the past 15 years, new industry has come into the Hennessey area and the level of contaminates has increased in the groundwater. I am concerned about the groundwater in the Hennessey area and that contaminates from the hog industry will ruin our water.
- *Quantity*
 - **Kf9** We need to look at the amount of water in our aquifers, to ensure there is water available to permit for withdrawal. If there is an area without an aquifer there should be restrictions on groundwater pumping. We can't permit what we no longer have.

Water Uses

Agricultural Use

- **Kf5** The hog industry wastes a tremendous amount of water. Even during these times of flooding, they are irrigating. Is there any metering being done on irrigation wells and how do we know that they are using the permitted amount of water?

ADDENDUM

Category Descriptions

- **Water Management**

- Agencies – Includes, but is not limited to, federal, state, and local agencies. Also includes rural water districts, jurisdictional issues, and additional funding needs by individual agencies
 - Federal – Comments regarding federal agencies that are not necessarily related to a law or regulation
 - Funding – Additional federal, state, or local funding opportunities for various projects
 - Jurisdiction – Limiting, expanding, or consolidating agency jurisdiction
 - Local – Includes cities, conservation districts, and other locally led authorities
 - Rural Water Districts – Suggestions that would affect rural water districts
 - State – Comments regarding State agencies
- Conjunctive Use/Management – Consideration of the interaction between ground and surface water
 - Legislation – Changes in Oklahoma law to recognize/not recognize the interaction of ground and surface water
 - Research – Identification of additional research needs concerning conjunctive use
- Conservation – Decreasing use and preservation of Oklahoma’s water resources
 - Education – Conservation education and educational resources
 - Incentives – State or local incentives to encourage water conservation
 - Research – Directed at water conservation measures
 - Sustainability – The continuous long-term availability of water resources
 - Technology – Equipment or other innovations intended to help conserve water
- Economic Impacts – The effects water has on the State’s economy
 - Development – Increased housing, industry, tourism, or other types of development requiring water resources
 - Population Change – The effect population change has on local and State economies
 - Recreation & Tourism – The impact recreation and tourism have on the State’s economy as well as the effect water management has on recreation and tourism
 - Regulations – The effect both federal and State regulation has on water districts
 - Sales – Concerns regarding the effect the sale of water will have on the State’s or basin of origin’s economy
- Health – The effect water quality and water quantity have on both human health and the environment
 - Ecological – The environmental impacts of water quality and water quantity
 - Health – The health effects resulting from a lack of available good quality potable water
- Infrastructure – Includes, but is not limited to, drinking water and waste water treatment facilities, pipelines, dams and other associated structures
 - Needs – New infrastructure needs
 - Maintenance – Maintenance of existing infrastructure

- Funding – Additional, continued or increased State or federal funding opportunities
- Planning – Comments regarding the planning process for the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan
 - Interstate Cooperation – Working with surrounding states to avoid conflicts regarding water flowing into and out of Oklahoma
 - Priorities – The prioritization of water usage during times of shortage to avoid later conflicts
 - Public Participation Process – Comments regarding issues with the public participation process
 - Regional Difference – Recognizing water availability, uses, and rainfall variations across the State
 - Research – Identification of possible research needs during the planning process
 - Revision – The need for updating the plan more frequently than once every 10 years or so
- Policy/Regulations – Comments regarding various State and federal statutes (laws) and regulations (rules)
 - Adjudication – Court involvement in the management of Oklahoma’s water resources
 - Enforcement – Enforcement of current laws and regulations by the appropriate agency
 - Federal Regulations – Comments about federal laws and regulations
 - Incentives – Federal and State incentive programs to promote compliance with laws and regulations
 - State Regulations – Comments about State regulations or rules
 - Permits – Comments about the permitting process
 - Water Rights – Comments about regulations concerning water rights
 - Taxes – The levying of taxes to collect money for various reasons
 - State Statutes – Comments regarding Oklahoma’s water law
- Regionalization – the consolidation of water treatment facilities or other infrastructure by municipal and/or rural water districts
 - Funding – Federal or State funds available to help facilitate regionalization
 - Incentives – To help encourage regionalization of water treatment facilities
- Sales & Transfers – The artificial movement of water either in-state (intrastate) or out-of-state (interstate)
 - Compensation – Who should be compensated, how should they be compensated, and how much should they be compensated if water is sold or transferred
 - Control – Concerns about who would control the water and land if water is sold or transferred
 - Interstate – Out-of-state water sale or transfer
 - Intrastate – In-state water sale or transfer
- Water Rights – Who has the right to control or use ground or surface water
 - Private Property Rights – Rights to groundwater on private property
 - Permitted Water Rights – Both surface and groundwater permitted water rights
 - Native American Rights – Tribal claims to both surface and groundwater

- Water Security – Natural and man-made threats affecting water supplies
 - Disasters – Natural or man-made disasters affecting either water infrastructure or supply
 - Terrorism – Terrorist attack on water infrastructure or supply
- Water Treatment – Includes both natural and man-made water treatment suggestions
 - Artificial – Technologies for treating both drinking and waste water
 - Natural – Ecological (environmental) ways of treating both drinking, and waste water i.e. wetlands
- Watershed Management – The management of land, including development that affects water quality and water quantity
- **Water Uses**
 - Agriculture Use – The way water is used in the agriculture industry
 - Biofuels Growth – Suggestions and concerns regarding the increased growth of crops for biofuels
 - Commercial Use – The use of water by commercial enterprises such as small businesses, etc.
 - Conservation Use – Suggestions and concerns regarding various ways to use water in a way that will conserve it
 - Reuse – The reuse of various water supplies such as treated wastewater, gray water, and storm water run-off
 - Ecological Use – Maintaining sufficient water levels to ensure the health of wildlife and ecosystems e.g. in-stream flows
 - Habitat – Water uses to protect wildlife habitat
 - Research – Identification of additional research needs regarding the ecological use of water
 - Hydropower Use – The use of dams to produce electricity
 - Industrial Use – The use of water by factories, power plants and other industrial uses
 - Biofuels Processing – The use of water in processing biofuels in the State
 - Mining Use – The use of water in the mining industry
 - Oil & Gas Use – The use of water by the oil and gas industry
 - Private Domestic Use – Household water that is not supplied by a municipality or rural water district and includes both ground and surface water
 - Wells – The use of private domestic wells
 - Public Domestic Use – Household water that is supplied by a municipality or rural water district
 - Municipality – Household water supplied by a town or city
 - Rural Water District – Household water supplied by a Rural Water District
 - Recreational Use – The use of water for recreation and to promote tourism
 - Aesthetics – Concerns about the aesthetic beauty of Oklahoma’s water resources
 - Boating – The use of water for water recreation such as boating
 - Fishing – The use of water for fishing in the State’s water resources
 - Golf Courses – The use of water in maintaining the State’s golf courses
 - Storage – The storage of water in reservoirs, or in aquifers either naturally or artificially; may also include other storage methods such as cisterns
 - Transportation Use – The use of water to maintain Oklahoma’s navigation channels, i.e. McClellan-Kerr Navigation System

- **Water Sources**

- *Both* Ground and Surface Water – Comments referring to *both* surface and groundwater concerns
 - Quantity – The quantity of *both* surface and groundwater
 - Quality – The quality of *both* surface and groundwater
 - Both – *Both* the quality and quantity of surface and groundwater
- Climate – The effect climate has on water sources including global warming and rain
- Groundwater – Concerns about the State’s groundwater
 - Quantity – The quantity of groundwater
 - Quality – The quality of groundwater
 - Both – *Both* the quality and quantity groundwater
- Recycled Water – Non-traditional sources of water
 - Waste Water – Treated waste water as a water source
 - Gray Water – Gray water (water that comes usually from washing machines, showers, bathtubs, etc.) as a water source
- Surface Water – Concerns about the State’s surface water
 - Quantity – The quantity of surface water
 - Quality – The quality of surface water
 - Both – *Both* the quality and quantity of surface water