

Local Input Meeting Report



#25

Kellyville, Oklahoma

Creek County Fairgrounds

Banquet Hall

August 23, 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
6:34 pm	Welcome	Sherman Grubb Educator Creek County Cooperative Extension Service
6:35 pm	Purpose of Meeting and Introduction of Staff	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:42 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Derek Smithee, Water Quality Programs Division Chief Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:03 pm	Explanation of Packet	Alison Stone
7:07 pm	Comments from the public	Public Participants
8:05 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

- Derek Smithee, Water Quality Programs Division Chief

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Staff

- Sherman Grubb, Creek County Extension Educator
- Susan Pearson, Creek County Extension Educator

Public Participants

- 45 citizens

Comments

Twenty-four 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

Conservation

- *Education*
 - **KV13c** I would like to see education about water conservation and protection of water resources (riparian areas) so we don't have water issues.
- *Incentives*
 - **KV5** The customer base of Creek County Rural Water Dist. 2 has dramatically changed in the last 20 years. We have fewer small residences and more large residences. I would like to see conservation efforts be encouraged through some type of incentive that would encourage low-water-use landscaping, etc. Other states (AZ & NV) have done conservation and education programs for years.

Economic Impacts

- *Regulation*
 - **KV16b** The new water regulations placed on drinking water are coming from the federal government but they seem to be contradictory. For example, adding more chlorine increases the THM but less chlorine means more threat from bacteria. The testing requirements are putting a real financial burden on rural water districts and municipalities.

Infrastructure

- *Funding*
 - **KV7** Heyburn Lake water is difficult to treat because it is very nasty. The EPA drinking water standards are very difficult for Kellyville to meet. I would like to see some type of funding and technical assistance to deal with this.
 - **KV9** There should be funding to help pay for the additional testing requirements for drinking water.
 - **KV10** The standards require the use of more and more chemicals and this increases the cost. There should be funding available for the expense of this additional testing and the expense of additional treatment.
- *Needs*
 - **KV1b** In southern Creek County, they do not have good groundwater, its briny, and they need access to rural water.
 - **KV2** Kiefer is trying to expand their wastewater treatment plant because they are experiencing growth. The OWRB needs to be aware of the growth in the entire eastern section of Creek County. They are going to need to augment their fresh water system.

Planning

- **KV4** The State has never done or funded a study on what resources are out there so we don't know how much water we have and where it is. Not all people are required to meter their wells, and so, we don't know how much water is being used. Without this information, we are guessing about how much water we use and it is not a very scientific one.
- **KV18** Fund the studies to see what is actually being used by everyone.

- *Priorities*
 - **KV6** Most of us are concerned about drinking water, agriculture use, or industrial use (consumption). Especially during times of drought, I would like to see some type of fire protection standards put in place so fire departments have water available to fight fires.

Policy/Regulations

- *Federal Regulations*
 - **KV8** I wonder whether the higher (more stringent) drinking water standards are really necessary.
- *State Regulations*
 - **KV3** The rules that have been in place for years were good in their time but with industrial agriculture coming in the small agriculturists need to be protected. There should be some regulation allowing farmers to dam up water on their own property for their use according to today's standards. Just because agriculture is getting to be a smaller industry, we should not be made to get a permit to serve our domestic needs. We should not have a lake authority come and say we need to drain our pond.
 - **KV12** Why can Tulsa County get by with putting sludge on property when farmers cannot put chicken litter on their property without getting the soil tested? Tulsa ought to have the same restrictions the farmers do.

Sales and Transfers

- *Compensation*
 - **KV15** If we sold water out of the Red River basin (before it gets too salty) to Texas, we could use that money to fund solutions for our other water problems.
- *Control*
 - **KV16a** New Mexico began selling water to Texas but the river they were selling out of went dry and Texas still wanted the water. The courts sided with Texas. If we start selling water to Texas, I am concerned we will end up draining our lakes to meet our contractual obligation to Texas. We need to make sure "excess" is defined in any contract to sell water.
- *Interstate*
 - **KV13b** I am concerned about the state of Oklahoma selling water to other states when we have water issues ourselves.

Water Rights

- **KV14** Small rural water districts (purchase water districts) don't have any water rights [because they purchase treated water from larger systems] and I am concerned they will not be protected if the larger cities are running short.
- *Permitted Water Rights*
 - **KV20** Is there going to be any action by the Corp of Engineers to release water from the quality pool for domestic purposes? My interest is for Sapulpa to acquire additional water rights. Our concern is that our distribution system can't grow too much but all our rural water districts are expanding and developing. My understanding is that Sapulpa is about 3rd in line for additional rights from Skiatook Lake. The ones ahead of us are our rural districts. Can there be a means of combining/sharing applied-for rights when there is only one treatment facility that treats the water for said rural districts?

Water Security

- *Terrorism*
 - **KV19** We need safeguards from a terrorism assault on our aquifers and surface water supplies.

Watershed Management

- **KV11** Is there going to be anything done about watershed protection from agriculture and industrial run-off?

Water Sources

Groundwater

- *Quality*
 - **KV1a** All of our water in Bristow is provided by groundwater and we are very concerned about pollution, particularly saltwater from oil and gas production, seeping into our aquifer.

Water Uses

Conservation Use

- *Reuse*
 - **KV17** What is the Water Board doing about recycling and reuse? I think the water plan should encourage reuse in several different ways including using the water for cooling ponds and watering golf courses. I think some imagination could do a lot of good for our water resources.

Ecological Use

- *Habitat*
 - **KV13a** I would like to see water remain in our streams even during drought to preserve fish and wildlife.

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