

Local Input Meeting Report



#28

**Bartlesville, Oklahoma
Tri-County Technology Center
Auditorium
September 11, 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
6:35 pm	Welcome	Randy Pirtle, Educator Washington County Cooperative Extension Service
6:37 pm	Purpose of Meeting and Introduction of Staff	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:49 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Dave Dillon, Director of Water Planning Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:29 pm	Comments from the public	Public Participants
8:32 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

Dave Dillon, Director of Water Planning

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Staff

Randy Pirtle, Washington County Extension Educator

Public Participants

40 citizens

Comments

Thirty-seven 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

- *Jurisdiction*
 - **BI14** Every time we run into a road block, we run into the Corps of Engineers. Who owns the Corps of Engineers? Don't we, the people, own the Corps of Engineers? Aren't we the Army?

Conservation

- **BI20a** Entities applying for new water permits should be required to first put in place conservation measures, and also, ensure the optimal use of existing water supplies.

Economic Impacts

- **BI5c** I am concerned about increasing utility bills and the difficulty senior citizens have paying the increased cost.
- **BI23a** We need to work with the federal government to lower the cost of water in the lakes.
- *Development*
 - **BI1b** Bartlesville should consider limiting growth based on the water that is available and not just encourage continued growth without available water.
 - **BI21** It is going to take a serious commitment from our congressional delegation to help build and create a water supply that will allow us to grow and build an economy that will make Oklahoma attractive to bring people here.

Health

- *Human*
 - **BI1a** I don't feel safe about the water supply in Bartlesville. We've had dirty water, no water, and water that's not potable. When I don't have decent water to drink, I can't live. It is as important to me as air. When a drought is declared, one would think that people would go on hyper-alert to solve that problem but that didn't really happen. The city needs to address the water issue here in the area because water is like air and we need it to live. Although I came here to gripe, I am also very appreciative that that the people who have authority to make decisions are here tonight. That inspires me.
 - **BI5a** Information about drinking water quality should be more easily accessible to the service area's citizens.
 - **BI11** The water plan should include some way to monitor industrial and agriculture pollution in drinking water.
 - **BI24** The goal in water purification, albeit for drinking water or waste water treatment, is to effectively remove the pollutants contained in the raw water source or the sewage treated. You do not reintroduce them! The city of Bartlesville is currently injecting the toxic pollutant Ammonia Nitrogen to its finished drinking water to form the deadly pesticide chloramine, an extremely poor form of disinfection that places the health and well-being of the population served and environment at risk!

Infrastructure

- **BI9a** What concerns me is the quality of water and if any new reservoirs are to be built they need to be dug deeper.

- *Funding*

- **BI2b** The cost of the water storage in Copan Lake makes it unattractive as an additional source of water, especially when considered alongside the size of its drainage basin, the inefficiency of its yield and the multi-million dollar cost of a raw water pipeline to the Bartlesville water treatment plant. Both the federal government and the residents have had the benefits of the flood control Copan Lake provides so the cost of water storage should be based on original construction costs, not today's costs.
- **BI6** It is difficult for small communities to maintain their systems without raising water rates due to both the cost of water and maintenance of systems. It is important that OWRB and Grand Gateway continue to provide financing to help maintain these systems.
- **BI16** The State and federal government are going to have to realize that they need to make more grant money available so communities can provide water at a reasonable cost and deal with their aging infrastructure.

- *Maintenance*

- **BI5b** I am concerned that when a water line breaks the people repairing it do not know how to back flush the lines once the lines are fixed and dirty, contaminated water runs through the water line to my house. They should know how to do a better job.
- **BI8a** Oklahoma has done a good job building flood control structures and it is important to continue. If we forget the importance of flood control, then millions of dollars of damage will occur. If we can solve our flooding problems, we also solve our water [supply] problems.
- **BI10b** Is there a good way to dredge out the lakes we currently have?
- **BI22** We need more information on dredging capabilities and costs. It appears we could clean out Lake Hulah - building up an island or bank area for development like the "mud island" area in Memphis, TN; also for river development at Tulsa. The Army Corps of Engineers says the silt is hazardous??? Cost of removal is then critical. Why isn't it hazardous where it is in the lake?
- **BI23b** The federal government needs to maintain the lakes better.

- *Needs*

- **BI12** We don't have a shortage of water in Oklahoma we just don't retain the water we have here. Oklahoma should consider building lakes for recreation and water supply purposes as the lakes we currently have are mainly used for flood control by the US Army Corps of Engineers. Maybe we should look at building huge regionalized lakes, owned by the State or some other entity besides the Corps, where we can control the quality of the water and the uses.
- **BI15** The State or cities should be able to build lakes for water supply purposes and we should not have to go through the US Army Corps of Engineers and let them control those reservoirs.

Planning

- **BI13** I am concerned communities that have made plans for the future will get held back by the State planning process. We should be able to go ahead and move forward and not have to wait until 2011.
- **BI18** We should build something into the plan to ensure the information received in the 100 Ideas Initiative is incorporated in this planning process.
- **BI19** I suggest the plan include information about why the plan was done and how it was done, and this needs to be passed on to the next generation.

- *Interstate Cooperation*
 - **BI10a** Does this water plan address other states supplying water to us and us supplying water to other states? For example, Kaw Lake water comes from Kansas.
- *Priorities*
 - **BI17** I suggest there be some discussion of priorities for water use.
- *Public Participation Process*
 - **BI3a** I disagree with the way the plans regions are divided up for the next phase of the process. I am concerned these regions will become isolated regional water planning districts.
- *Regional Differences*
 - **BI7** I am concerned that while the planning process will be done on a Statewide basis, local issues may get lost, particularly the financial impact on communities.

Policy/Regulations

- *State Regulations*
 - *Permits*
 - **BI20b** New permits should be evaluated for impacts on downstream uses.

Regionalization

- **BI2a** A regional water supply pipeline from Kaw Lake built with a combination of federal, state, and city dollars (could be several cities/towns) could possibly be the best solution for long-term reliable water supply for growing population and economic development [for Bartlesville].
- **BI3b** If half of the water districts in the State are not able to meet EPA standards, other municipalities may have excess capacity to treat water for those systems. I would like to see the plan address the transportation and delivery of treated water as well as transportation and delivery of raw water.
- **BI4** I would suggest that all water systems in one area be connected similar to how electrical utilities are connected to allow whoever needs water to get water. However, I am concerned that all the systems do not meet EPA standards and that water will mix with other water that does meet standards.

Water Rights

- *Permitted Water Rights*
 - **BI2d** If Bartlesville picked up another municipality as a water customer and that municipality had water rights and/or storage contracts on a lake, those rights and contract terms ought to be transferred to Bartlesville.
 - **BI8b** If we could allocate the water from Copan Lake fairly, then Washington County could get back to planning for future water needs.

Watershed Management

- **BI2c** Actions to slow the siltation rate on aging Hulah Lake by implementing measures upstream is critical to extending the life of our [Bartlesville's] cheapest source of water (based on storage costs and infrastructure in place).

- **BI9b** Upstream [of reservoirs] where stream banks are eroding we should plant grass seed to stabilize the banks. This will help limit the amount of sediment that flows into our lakes.

Water Uses

Ecological Use

- *Research*
 - **BI20c** The effect of water use on stream and subterranean ecosystems should be evaluated to ensure the sustainability of those ecosystems.

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