

Local Input Meeting Report



#35

Eufaula, Oklahoma
McIntosh County Fairgrounds
Show Barn
October 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
6:30 pm	Welcome	Randy Burris, Educator McIntosh County Cooperative Extension Service
6:32 pm	Purpose of Meeting and Introduction of Staff	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:44 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Dave Dillon, Director of Water Planning Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:12 pm	Comments from the public	Public Participants
8:50 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
Kyle Arthur, Environmental Program Manager with the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Staff

Randy Burris, McIntosh County Extension Educator

Public Participants

83 citizens

Comments

Eighty-one 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

- *Federal*
 - **Eu42m** State of Oklahoma House and Senate [were] asked to pass resolution asking our Washington D.C. delegation to have the US Federal watch dog agencies, General Services Agency and General Accounting Office to audit all Southwest Power Administration's electric supply contracts. SWPA is a daughter of Mother Corps of Engineers. They have sweetheart preferred contracts on hydroelectric power generated from Oklahoma Corps of Engineers dams to various public electrical service entities. Contracts, some forty years old that have never been audited to see if SWPA is selling hydropower below cost. Federal auditing, found out if in Oklahoma's current economy would it be in the best public financial interests to shut down or curtail hydropower generation during summer's high recreation and tourism seasons.
- *Jurisdiction*
 - **Eu1** How can the OWRB plan for managing Oklahoma's water when the US Army Corps of Engineers and Southwest Power own 85% of all the water in all Corps reservoirs that generate hydropower and can take that water at will regardless of municipal water intake needs or other beneficial public/recreational use in times of drought?
 - **Eu20a** Who in the State regulates small municipalities' water authorities? Many people are supplied by these water authorities but live outside the limits and are precluded from being on those authorities.
 - **Eu42h** OWRB should be abolished along with Sec. of Environment and Dept. of Environmental Quality. Their duties should be transferred to a single new agency; Oklahoma Natural Resources Protection Agency. With some OWRB duties transferred to other existing agencies; such as Oklahoma Geological Survey and Administrative Legal Dept. at the Corporation Commission, which hears over 6,000 cases per year.
- *Local*
 - **Eu17a** Lake Texoma has a federal advisory committee, Eufaula is working to get one, and I suggest all US Army Corps of Engineers lakes in the State have a federal advisory committee. The advisory committee should be involved in the permitting process allocating water out of those lakes. OWRB should consult them regarding permit applications.
- *State*
 - **Eu3d** Last year at the Governor's Water Conference recreation was left off the agenda and there was a promise that it would be included this year and it is not.
 - **Eu42a** The OWRB and the Oklahoma Speaker of the House are acting in collusion to withhold the true value of public water from the citizens of Oklahoma. We all know the posted price per barrel of oil but don't know the price of water.
 - **Eu42b** The OWRB uses unauthorized illegal, false data to support its bonuses over allocations of our public water. OWRB uses data they falsified from the US Corps of Engineers.
 - **Eu42e** OWRB, by managing public water, also manages fish and wildlife habitats along with agriculture and municipal water sources and supplies. Its record is poor to pitiful here at Lake Eufaula and across Oklahoma.
 - **Eu42f** OWRB has a major conflict of interest in making grants and loans to rural and municipal water suppliers. The problem is when local elected officials have to be silent

on legitimate complaints against OWRB, and they have water system loans pending before OWRB.

- **Eu42j** Gov. Henry refused to accept recent petition from 625 citizens of southeast Oklahoma protesting OWRB, and attempts to take over Sardis Lake. Henry is always a no-show at the Governor's Water Conference.
- **Eu9** Is it too late to add an amendment to the agenda for the Governor's Water Conference to include recreation? If not this means we will have to wait two years to get on the agenda.

Conservation

- *Incentives*

- **Eu7g** Water conservation districts need to better manage the use of the water through incentives.

Economic Impacts

- **Eu22** Where as water recreation, fishing and wildlife are multi-million dollar activities in the State, the industry and its economic impact should get appropriate consideration in the future.
- **Eu28** Recreation equals economic development in the Lake Eufaula area; that economic development affects population. In the scheme of priorities it should be remembered that the Lake Eufaula area needs its water to survive. The most beneficial use of Lake Eufaula water is for all aspects of uses for the Lake Eufaula area's needs including drinking water for the growing population, the economic development needs and all points in between. We don't want to become a ghost town like areas in California where L.A. bought up the water permits/rights and devastated the surrounding towns and reservoirs.
- **Eu39** The federal government receives all the money for the hydroelectric [power] generated by Oklahoma water. The federal government has not lived up to its agreement to reimburse the counties for tax money lost because of the [land] area the dams cover. I propose any Oklahoma water [that flows] through a dam or over a spillway MUST run the generators for electricity, [with] a percentage to go to the state of Oklahoma in lieu of taxes lost to the counties involved. This money generated by Oklahoma water should go into a fund to help communities and areas hurting from a lack of water resources based on economic sense. This also would help our planet with the "green house" effect, less coal and gas being burnt at the power plants. If the federal government is not interested in generating power this way, they could sell the generators to the power companies.

- *Recreation*

- **Eu8** Lake Eufaula recreation is the basis of Eufaula's economy as well as the entire 7 county region and is as important as irrigation in the western part of the State and this should be taken into consideration.

- *Regulation*

- **Eu36a** Small rural water departments are having difficulties meeting the higher water standards. Will this plan address the DEQ assistance needed and the cost to meet these qualifications?

- *Sales*

- **Eu14** No water permits should be issued to any entity (except for municipal water supply) that would adversely affect the economic development or the economy in local areas and the State. Any out-of-state water sales would adversely affect the State's coffers and tax revenues generated from lake recreation would significantly decrease. Maintenance of a

consistent lake level in all reservoirs used for recreation, etc. is essential for maintenance of property values, tax base, recreational and business tax revenue for the state and federal government. Low lake levels severely impact the general economic well-being of areas around the lakes as well as tax revenues for the entire State.

- **Eu16** Call the State treasurer and tell him to pay the debt (on Sardis Lake) and get on with it
- **Eu7d** Transportation of water out of Lake Eufaula [can have an impact on the] many small businesses, property owners and residents that have invested millions and millions of dollars in the Lake Eufaula area.

Health

- **Eu33** My concern is the quality of Lake Eufaula water. "Lead" is now a serious problem in so many things. I feel the lead content in Lake Eufaula is as serious as lead paint on toys. More so, the huge use of lead fishing weights that have been used and lost in this water over all these years has to be addressed. I have had my property on Lake Eufaula for over 35 years. I do not use this water for drinking. Now we have the concern of contaminated "catfish" being caught. I think the public should be told about this type of pollution. It should have attention in these coming studies.
- *Ecological*
 - **Eu7c** We should address the issue at Coal Creek and the purple eggs in the catfish.
- *Human*
 - **Eu35a** Of course we all have to have water to survive! Clean water without dark crud in it, would be awesome!

Infrastructure

- **Eu18a** Wastewater effluent pipelines rupture [which can result in contamination]. Notices should be sent out when an effluent pipeline ruptures.
- **Eu42c** North Texas Municipal Water Authority is so confident that they will get access to south and southeast Oklahoma water they are in the process of planning four or more federal dams in southeast Oklahoma for the exclusive use of Texas.
- *Funding*
 - **Eu30d** There should be a focus on legislation for financing infrastructure.
 - **Eu36b** Rural water areas are increasing in population i.e., retirement. This plan must include help for the small districts in order for them to keep their quality up and the cost affordable.
- *Maintenance*
 - **Eu7a** Watershed dam maintenance throughout the state of Oklahoma should be addressed. They are important to decreasing sedimentation and provide many hours of recreation opportunities.
- *Needs*
 - **Eu20b** There are no blueprints or records of where water lines are or what size the pipe is. This affects fire protection by [limiting available water] because it may be a smaller line feeding into a larger one.
 - **Eu21** I suggest we build a coffer dam below Eufaula dam to store water and then in times of drought water could be pumped back into the lake to maintain levels and still allow for power generation. There are several pump back lakes in the State currently. This will essentially let you use the water indefinitely for power generation.

- **Eu6** I would ask that the study include the means to ensure the uniformity of water supply for the purpose of fire protection for the rapidly developing communities around the lakes. This will allow our rural volunteer fire departments to ensure effective fire fighting capacity. The problem is there are some 2 inch lines that supply 3 or 4 inch fire hydrants and we should not allow this.

Planning

- *Priorities*

- **Eu11** The city of Eufaula, several other cities and rural water districts receive their water from Lake Eufaula. I would like to see some priorities for water use with drinking water listed first. We need to also address shipping water out-of-state and other issues said here tonight, but drinking water should be listed first.
- **Eu12** When 12,000 cfs flows through the dam to generate 90 megawatts of power it sends 90,000+ gallons per second of water down the river. Southwest Power Administration purchased power from other generators last summer to make up the shortage caused by the drought around Lake Eufaula. The office of management and budget requires the discharge to generate power because that was one of the designated uses of the Lake. If it had not been for continued generation our Lake level would have been adequate. [When the lake level gets low water should not be used to generate electricity]
- **Eu26b** When water is transported to another area, the source area should have priority. An example is water piped from Eufaula to OKC.
- **Eu3e** There should be no priority among project uses.

- *Public Participation Process*

- **Eu37** We need to ensure the “most beneficial” use of our water resources first with legislation guaranteeing oversight by constituents and to ensure accountability of all bureaucrats involved.
- **Eu3c** I am concerned about the amount of participation by the public in the water planning process. At this point it is less than .0006% of the state’s population and more money should be spent on advertising.

- *Research*

- **Eu19** As part of the engineering studies, we need to look at the efficiency of the generators as many are 40 – 50 years old. If they are inefficient and can be updated, it could require less water to generate the same amount of electricity.
- **Eu42I** The state of Oklahoma Senate and House of Representatives [were] asked to pass a joint resolution requesting our Washington, D.C. delegation to require the Corps of Engineers, Tulsa Branch, to do the following: By computer modeling for the first time all 23 federal Oklahoma lakes plus two navigation dams' reservoirs, to be re-evaluated for maximum beneficial uses in today's economy, to update best current utilizations. This needed to stop the Corps of Engineers from blindly following its outdated 1960 - 70 benefits cookbook, made in pre non-computer days. Such a study will show what we all suspect; hydro-power generations should be given a backseat to Oklahoma's current defining industries, one is recreation and tourism. The Corps has never run such a statewide computer model study to reclassify water uses.

Policy/Regulations

- *Enforcement*
 - **Eu42k** Definitions of Oklahoma's so-called surplus waters are made by non-qualified Texans and Oklahoma City interests and ad men. OWRB does not enforce its "use it or lose it" rules if you are one of its favored special interests.
- *Federal Regulations*
 - **Eu27** I would like to see the normal level of the lake changed to 586 ft at the least. This way we have an extra foot during extreme drought – i.e. 2006.
- *State Regulations*
 - **Eu18b** Currently, there are no construction standards for liquid manure pipelines and there should be. Anyone who installs effluent pipelines should be licensed and bonded. Some of these pipelines are connected to water wells and there needs to be manual disconnects to ensure that effluent cannot get into the well and contaminate the groundwater.
 - **Eu3a** I suggest that in the permitting process we implement a principle of doing no harm to the area from where the water is impounded.
 - **Eu40** Irrigation wells need to be metered. More regulations and protections apply to drinking water wells than to irrigation wells. The irrigation wells should be given the same protection as drinking water wells because they come from the same source.
- *Permits*
 - **Eu13** I have never heard who really controls the water, even though the State supposedly owns the surface water the US Army Corps of Engineers owns the "bucket." The permitting process should be very strict when it comes to transferring water out of Lake Eufaula for areas such as OKC because of the use of the Lake for hydroelectric power. The water should not be sent to central Oklahoma; it should be used to serve the area around the Lake first. For example, Lake Sidney Lanier in Georgia supplies water to Atlanta and the citizens have asked the Corps to reconsider the discharges from the lake for support of endangered species rather than use the water to support the people of Atlanta.
 - **Eu17b** We need to do a much better job of publicizing water use applications in terms the average person can understand. We need to know exactly who is applying for those permits and it should be transparent.
 - **Eu5a** How many of the water permits over the past 50 years have been issued for out-of-state water sales or private water entities? Every permit should have oversight ongoing for the next 50 years if that is the way this plan is going to be laid out.
- *Taxes*
 - **Eu42n** Oklahoma and Federal auditors should examine the State's biggest dead beat non-taxpayer, the U.S. Corps of Engineers. Ask any school district superintendent around federal lakes, how many years and how much is the Corps delinquent in paying its, "payments in lieu of taxes." These are broken legal promises by the federal government to the people of Oklahoma. Part of Comprehensive Water Plan should be to make the Corps of Engineers pay up past due payments for lands taken off county tax rolls to build its federal lakes...It totals hundreds of millions of dollars due public schools to educate the children of Oklahoma.

- *Water Rights*
 - **Eu26a** Public utilities should have water rights over Southwest Power's use for generating electricity (Eufaula dam) in time of drought.
- *State Statutes*
 - **Eu2** What is the definition of recreation and does it include the infrastructure around the lakes such as the economic development that develops around the lakes? The plan should define it more clearly.
 - **Eu30b** The plan should define recreation and fish and wildlife to help with economic development
 - **Eu3b** We should consider the best beneficial use of water.
 - **Eu42** Fish and wildlife habitat protection should now be an official water subclass use under recreation and tourism. How can we have a comprehensive water plan without this?
 - **Eu42i** All Oklahoma State elected officials should be required to disclose Texas funds received, to show their stained hands.
 - **Eu4a** Our representative was not able to get information about pending water legislation; it should not be kept private.
 - **Eu4b** Water interests cannot include for-profit sales of our water resources. No private entity should make money off the sale of our public water. We need legislation to protect against issuance of any type of water permit to private for-profit entities.

Sales and Transfers

- **Eu42d** Fishing, recreation and tourism utilization of Oklahoma waters including Lake Eufaula are not as important to OWRB as special out-of-basin interests.
- **Eu42g** By the time this Statewide comprehensive plan is enacted it will be too late; an exercise in futility. By then OWRB, working with Texas and Oklahoma City and other out-of-basin interests will have allocated to special interests huge permits. The Comprehensive Water Plan will be like locking the barn door after all the horses are stolen. Plus lake levels and fish and wildlife habitats destroyed.
- **Eu7h** The most beneficial use of Lake Eufaula water is to leave it right where it is.
- *Compensation*
 - **Eu31c** What is the value of water per acre-foot both statewide and U.S. wide, etc.?
- *Interstate*
 - **Eu15** What will happen if some entity comes in and buys Sardis Lake by paying off the debt? What kind of can of worms will that open up for the State?
 - **Eu23T** Boone Pickens said "if you think I made a lot of money off oil; just wait and see what I do with water." That scares me and it should [scare] all Oklahomans. He is a businessman. He makes money.
 - **Eu24b** I'm a fisherwoman and Lake Eufaula has been a source of inspiration as well as recreation. I'm retired and have lived at Arrow Head Estates for 17 years. I'm concerned about the sale of our water.
 - **Eu26c** No sales of water out-of-state.

- **Eu5b** If you sell water to an out-of-state, downstream entity, even just one gallon, then if their demand increases then you have to meet that increased demand. (downstream dependency, similar to the New Mexico/Texas issue)
- *Intrastate*
 - **Eu35b** We need to share our overabundance but for the city [Eufaula] to survive the economical conditions is a concern! I don't really think OKC or western Oklahoma should take our water, lots of building is going on in Eufaula and southeast Oklahoma. Beautiful surroundings, which will need to be covered for more years to come.
 - **Eu38** Just look at Atlanta, Ga., which has two lakes and by 2009 one lake will be dry. City growing, water shortage. This could happen to Lake Eufaula if we sell our water to big cities.

Water Rights

- *Native American*
 - **Eu34** When did Native Americans loose ownership of all water in their particular district? If they have not lost ownership, to what extent are they represented in water rights jurisdiction today? I am not Native American, so I don't know a lot of Oklahoma history.

Watershed Management

- **Eu7b** The plan should address non-point source pollution and future management controls.
- **Eu7e** I am concerned about the seismic [imaging for oil & gas exploration] activities such as drilling and the effect on the area.

Water Sources

Surface Water

- *Quality*
 - **Eu24c** I'm a fisherwoman and Lake Eufaula has been a source of inspiration as well as recreation. I'm retired and have lived at Arrow Head Estates for 17 years. I'm concerned about the quality of the water.
- *Quantity*
 - **Eu10** There is no significant manufacturing in the Lake Eufaula region. Lake property owners, recreation and tourism are the major sources of revenue for our local businesses, cities, counties and towns. Without sufficient lake levels to use boat ramps and travel safely on the water this part of the State's economy and its contribution to Oklahoma would be destroyed. People wouldn't live or visit here if Lake Eufaula can't be used in a predictable manner.
 - **Eu24a** I'm a fisherwoman and Lake Eufaula has been a source of inspiration as well as recreation. I'm retired and have lived at Arrow Head Estates for 17 years. I'm concerned about the water levels and misuse of the Lake.

Water Uses

Hydropower Use

- **Eu7f** Hydroelectric activity is not cost effective and not a beneficial use.

Oil and Gas Use

- **Eu29c** What are these boats doing on our lake (Eufaula) supposedly doing seismic research? (No drilling of oil please!) Why is this kept quiet?
- **Eu30f** I am concerned about the seismic activity [oil & gas exploration] at Gaines Creek.
- **Eu41** Illegal salt water dumping is occurring on tribal grounds.

Public Domestic Use

- *Municipalities*

- **Eu29b** Longtown water pressure is in need of improvement as well as taste (quality).

Recreational Use

- **Eu29a** [Those who manage] Lake Eufaula need to recognize recreation as an important reason for the lake and allow "our" water to remain at a reasonable level. This will protect our tax base plus our home values.

Storage Use

- **Eu25** In California, when they build a hydroelectric dam and lake, they build a smaller lake below the hydro dam. When they generate electricity all that water goes into the lower lake and is pumped back into the above lake, [when the rates are low] thus there is a minimal loss of water. It only costs them somewhere between 10 to 15% to recover their water. Also that eliminates any down stream problems.

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