

Local Input Meeting Report



#36

Durant, Oklahoma
Bryan County Fairgrounds
Community Building
October 16, 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
6:36 pm	Welcome	Clay Jones, Educator Bryan County Cooperative Extension Service
6:37 pm	Welcome	David Sorrell, Educator Marshall County Cooperative Extension Service
6:39 pm	Purpose of Meeting and Introduction of Staff	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:50 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Derek Smithee, Water Quality Programs Division Chief Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:09 pm	Comments from the public	Public Participants
9:05 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

Clay Jones, Bryan County Extension Educator
David Sorrell, Marshall County Extension Educator

Public Participants

83 citizens

Comments

One hundred 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

- *Jurisdiction*
 - **Du1g** When the mining companies hit the aquifer the Bureau of Mines controls that water instead of the OWRB and that should be changed.
 - **Du31a** It is none of the State's business how many wells I have, it is my land and what is under it is mine. I have lived in Bryan County all my life and I don't think you have an account of how many wells are in Bryan County. I have 15 wells in my place and none of them are registered.
- *Local*
 - **Du10** The soil conservation districts need to be strengthened. The SCDs have the legal authority to balance the conflicts over rights. This could also help with the issue of who owns the water, the riparian landowner, Native American tribes or the state.
 - **Du44c** Establish regional water boards allowing them to address the concerns of their region. Water sales for consumptive use must be approved by these regional water boards.

Conjunctive Management

- *Legislation*
 - **Du37b** Surface and groundwater are connected systems so laws should address this.
 - **Du40a** Make sure that laws connect ground and surface water. State statutes must align with the science.
 - **Du44b** The interconnection between ground and surface water must be statutorily reinforced.

Conservation

- **Du6b** Water companies do not want decreased consumption because they make their budgets from the sale of that water and do not encourage conservation.
- **Du16b** A lot of times the little things we do can make a big difference, manage your water use wisely, such as turning off sprinklers when it's raining.
- **Du29** As we look into a future of global warming, water availability will change. Oklahoma may have more water, or may have less. We need to conserve water in case the future consists of many long droughts.
- **Du40c** Push conservation now. Any plan must include conservation.
- *Incentives*
 - **Du44e** Encourage management of best water practices. The State should develop economic incentives to promote water conservation.
- *Sustainability*
 - **Du40d** The Statewide plan must take a sustainable use policy and make it work.
 - **Du44a** Manage our water on a sustainable use approach not on a twenty-year life cycle plan.
 - **Du45a** I think most of you will agree that we live in a changing world. Today most of us with gray hair have lived in a time that we gave very little thought about depletion of our underground water supply. I have lived in the Texas panhandle the first half of my life

and spent twenty years of that time farming with irrigation. I watched 8" irrigation wells shrink to 2" wells and then on to barely enough for home use. This will convince you that without proper planning, we can be without underground water.

Economic Impacts

- **Du2** There are a lot of industries, including recreation related industries that rely on water being in Lake Texoma and having an economic impact in the area. I am concerned about the cumulative affect of chloride removal and water districts removing water from the lake.
- **Du28I** Excessive removal of water and chlorides from the Red River, its tributaries and Lake Texoma are unacceptable due to serious negative and cumulative impacts on the area's economic engine and ecosystem.
- *Population Change*
 - **Du33** I would like to see watersheds for our county. Bryan County RWD 5 has seen 100+ meters per year [added] since 1999 or 2000. I am concerned about grants for pipe lines to help with growth. Grants are drying up. The Rural Water Districts will have to raise water rates; hence older citizens will be affected the most.
- *Recreation*
 - **Du1c** The fishery and recreation here have a huge economic benefit. Little money is put into it yet it maintains itself and provides around \$25 - \$30 million dollars to the area.
 - **Du14a** I moved to Marshall County because of Lake Texoma and I am concerned that the Lake should continue to be used for what it has been used for since it was built, recreation and the economic impact it has on the area. The Lake is known as the "Striped Bass Fishing Capital of the World" and if the chloride decreases in the Lake our children and grandchildren won't be able to say that.
 - **Du28a** We, Lake Texoma Association, strongly recommend that recreation and tourism be provided more consideration to ensure the future viability of Lake Texoma.
 - **Du46o** Oklahoma lakes should be studied with particular attention to the economies of tourism, addressing the needs for both fish and the fishermen!

Health

- **Du28f** Studies and plans in Oklahoma and Texas that include excessive and cumulative removal of water and chlorides from the Red River and Lake Texoma must also consider the serious negative human, environmental, and economic impacts they will cause.
- **Du41a** What procedures is OWRB willing to take to stop contamination?
- **Du42** I live ½ mile west of Yuba. We are 2 ½ miles from a huge dairy. How can I be sure that my private wells are not being contaminated? We have a very good small pecan orchard that needs good water. We need good drinking water for health reasons.
- *Ecological*
 - **Du28b** Elimination or major reduction of chloride in the Red River will cause irrevocable harm to the Red River and Lake Texoma ecosystem and the Lake Texoma economic engine.
- *Human*
 - **Du12c** There needs to be some type of educational effort to let well-owners know about potential groundwater contamination in their drinking water.

- **Du31b** As far as sewage going down the creek, a city in Bryan County is running their sewage down my creek. They say it is alright, then let them people drink it. The State needs to get involved in this.

Infrastructure

- **Du24** Most of the dams in the State originally were built for flood control and across the nation there have been cases where maintaining an adequate supply for recreation defeats the original purpose.
- *Funding*
 - **Du38** Are there funding dollars (federal or state) for the creation of new reservoirs, especially for the purpose of city and county water supplies?
- *Maintenance*
 - **Du16a** The flood control dams across the State do not have the capacity they once did. How many of our reservoirs are at the end of their lifespan? Is it cheaper to build new ones or is it cheaper to dredge them as there is lots of good soil in the bottom of those lakes?
- *Needs*
 - **Du7a** We overlook construction projects and the amount of concrete around them, when it rains water just runs down the street into the sewer system. We have very little infrastructure to catch rain water to help recharge the aquifers.
 - **Du34** Would it be feasible to build runoff gathering ponds?

Planning

- **Du9d** The recommendations that are made here need to be developed to help the state of Oklahoma, because how many ideas have been in previous plans and then not implemented?
- **Du16c** We need a plan in place to ensure that we will have water for our future. If you don't make the plan the federal government will come in and do it for us.
- **Du23** We need to make sure the plan captures unanticipated requirements for our water such as occurred in Tarrant County, Texas where their planning process overlooked an increased demand for water for natural gas drilling and production.
- **Du46m** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include following the lead of our neighboring states that have developed good water law and completed scientific studies. Accomplish this by the retention of eminently qualified hydrologists, water rights attorneys, and other experts necessary to analyze and protect our most valuable resource. We demand that these experts include some from outside the state of Oklahoma; thereby, eliminating the political side of the study and keeping it scientific.
- *Interstate Cooperation*
 - **Du46k** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include recognizing that the Red River Compact defines prior water commitments. It also defines apportioned quantity and is monitoring water quality.
 - **Du46l** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include recognizing that Louisiana and Arkansas are monitoring both quantity and quality of water, especially salt content as they use the Red River water for irrigation and as a source of drinking water. Both states are positioned to sue if their water is adversely affected.

- *Public Participation Process*
 - **Du3** I want to encourage the citizens in the area to maintain an interest in water resources. Without proper planning we can be without underground water. The increased population and industry as well as an increase in oil and gas wells will all require more water.
- *Research*
 - **Du17a** Lake and river recreation and tourism have a huge economic impact across the entire State and there needs to be a companion study done regarding recreation and tourism and their economic impact.
 - **Du17b** There should be system and life-cycle modeling done either per river basin or per aquifer across the State.
 - **Du18** I would like to know how much the water level in the Antlers Aquifer has dropped since the first study and how much water is presently being used. There are 2.3 million acres that the aquifer covers. Why has Durant not tapped into the Antlers Aquifer instead of the Arbuckle-Simpson?
 - **Du28c** The “cumulative effects” of reduced Red River inflows into Lake Texoma, excessive removal of water from Lake Texoma and downstream on the Red River, and other factors must be carefully evaluated before final decisions are made by Oklahoma, Texas, and federal planners, authorities, and legislators.
 - **Du28j** Establish a national pilot project and field test bed for large inland lake computer modeling and simulation.
 - **Du28k** Lake Texoma Pilot Test should evaluate model output results such as economic system, ecosystem, fish and wildlife impacts; Lake Texoma and other lake project primary purposes and functions such as flood control, hydroelectric power generation, water supplies for municipal, industrial, and agricultural uses, and recreation; alternative strategies leading to resolution of difficult issues or significant improvements.
 - **Du46a** Securing Oklahoma’s future, water is essential for life and our economy. [We need to] carefully enumerate past, present, and future water supply [needs] to protect our most priceless resource for future generations.
 - **Du46d** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include monitoring for 10 years both rapid-flow and slow-movement in all streams before issuing permits to remove water from any location, especially those that may have impoundments to capture water for transfer
 - **Du46e** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include determining how much water Oklahoma has. This should include but not be limited to current scientific studies of all aquifers. The streams should have enough gauges in both the slow and rapid moving water, collecting enough data so as to qualify as a scientific study.
 - **Du46f** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include determining how much water Oklahomans are presently using. The calculations should recognize that many rural Oklahomans must haul water for drinking and cooking.
 - **Du46g** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include determining how much water Oklahoma needs to meet the requirements of future generations for the next 100 years. Regular updates should be mandated. Water should be available to meet the needs of Oklahoma homes, agriculture, industry, recreation, tourism, and wildlife.

Policy/Regulations

- **Du46b** Recognizing that water is our most valuable natural resource, we expect our State agencies and elected officials to be our strongest defenders of Oklahoma's water.
- *Enforcement*
 - **Du9c** Are the streams and wells around CAFOs and feedlots being monitored for pollution and how many, if any, are contaminated with nitrates? Do you have a handle on what streams and aquifers are polluted in this area? There is an alluvium aquifer (according to the EPA) in Bryan County that is contaminated and what steps is the OWRB taking to protect those streams?
 - **Du26a** I am concerned that the current systems in place are being abused. Such as private companies using eminent domain to take land for pipelines to access water in the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer.
- *Federal Regulations*
 - **Du28i** The Lake Texoma Corps plans require funding to be updated (Master Plan, 1978; Environmental Impact Statement, 1976; Shoreline Management Plan, 1996). Expedited federal funding to update these critical plans will greatly enable resolution of critical interstate and intrastate water use issues and effective and balanced planning, zoning, and development around Lake Texoma.
- *State Regulations*
 - **Du9b** There are a lot of people that have not registered their wells with the OWRB. You need to know how much water is being used and what it is used for.
 - **Du12d** There needs to be some plan put in place to ensure all wells get registered.
 - **Du13a** I tried for three years to get my wells registered and I had to go to OKC and get upset to get them registered. Registering all wells will give us hundreds of monitoring points across the state.
 - **Du35b** Why does the Corporation Commission let oil companies inject water from wells into the ground if it is never cleaned?
 - **Du46h** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include requiring responsible water usage in the recipient water basin before issuing permits that would transfer water from one basin to another.
 - *Taxes*
 - **Du32** Oklahoma needs to have impact fees like Florida.
 - **Du44d** Consumptive use of water needs to be subject to a State depletion tax.
 - *Water Rights*
 - **Du22a** I would like to see water rights be required by law to stay with the land and not allow them to be severed from the surface rights. I'm concerned we would end up with pockets of land that have no water or water rights with them.
 - **Du43** The Oklahoma Appropriation Water Right Law, as presently designed, is not workable. It claims to protect the inhabitants of the area of origin and permit only surplus water of the area to be appropriated outside the area. However, the "first in time first in right" provision defeats those premises. In brief, any out-of-area appropriation is superior to any later appropriation within the area and the out-of-area appropriator can take water to the bottom of the stream during drought periods and deprive subsequent local users of water. To move the Oklahoma Water Rights System closer to its stated purpose, I recommend: 1.) The water plan establish minimum stream flow to protect fish, wildlife, and the

ecology of the stream system and establish specific criteria and technique to prevent any water from being withdrawn below that minimum level. 2.) The water plan provide for the set-aside or provisional reservation of the amount of water needed by the area of origin for the foreseeable future. 3.) The water plan provide for the future applications for water used in the area of origin be allocated from the reserved amount and given the reservation priority date. 4.) The plan specifically provide for in-stream beneficial use of stream water for boating, floating, and environmental benefits.

- *State Statutes*

- **Du21** In order for the court to agree with our attorney general, regarding the current federal lawsuit over the sale of water to Texas, we need to prove that the moratorium is reasonable.
- **Du36** I am somewhat informed on the interconnection of ground and surface water, because of recent concerns and laws for the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer. As you have mentioned, surface water is used for human consumption and groundwater for commercial use. You also mentioned that permits are on a first applied basis. I am concerned that the current laws may not consider the best needs of current and future human consumption.
- **Du37a** Even with a water plan, the existing laws are antiquated. The legislature needs to draft new water laws based on the 2011 OCWP. But, legally, what happens meanwhile?

Sales and Transfers

- *Compensation*

- **Du46i** The goals for the scientific comprehensive water study should include providing for appropriate economic compensation to donor basins when a water transfer is made between basins. (Refer to Texas Senate Bill 1)

- *Control*

- **Du19** If someone wants to get a permit and sell the water, who is going to monitor the pumping, to ensure they are only taking what they are allowed, and oversee the sale of this water? I am concerned that it is a voluntary reporting system and wells are not metered so we don't know how much water they are actually taking. I am concerned if a neighbor gets a permit to sell water that I may run out of water.
- **Du40b** Keep control [of water] local, or at the very least regional.

- *Interstate*

- **Du1eIn** Lake Texoma there are 450,000 acre-feet of water for municipal supply. Oklahoma is not using that water, it is going south to Texas and Oklahoma is not getting any money off that water.
- **Du1f** I am very concerned about Texas getting our water and taking mass amounts of water out of the Lake and the impact it will have on recreation and wildlife.
- **Du9a** Tarrant County, Texas has not taken care of their own problems or looked for their own water supply. They need to take care of their own problems, first.
- **Du12a** It is not hard to get well water in this county however good quality groundwater is difficult to get. There is high sulfur, and other contaminants in the water. We need to be careful that we don't sell off what we think is excess when our groundwater may be contaminated and the surface water may, in reality, not be excess.
- **Du14b** Stop sending our State's water to other states.

- **Du27** We should be very concerned about large water cartels such as T. Boone Pickens' Mesa Water, we need to be concerned from both a public policy and consumer cost point of view.
 - **Du35** Oklahomans need to fight with every bit of energy or whatever it takes to keep from giving water to Texas. Oklahoma will need all our water in 2060. Why sell it to Texas?
 - **Du41b** How many wells is Tarrant County going to drill and where are they proposing to get the water from? Please research.
 - **Du41c** Tarrant County's own water plans are ill-planned.
 - **Du46c** The Oklahoma Citizens' Water Alliance supports the current moratorium on any out-of-state water sales and to implement or authorize any State -Tribal compact or any intergovernmental cooperative agreement regarding apportionment of surface or groundwater ownership or any sale or exportation of surface water or groundwater outside the State, as provided by current law.
- *Intrastate*
 - **Du6c** Water should be returned to the recharge area, this is a moral and ethical issue, if you continue to take water out of the recharge area it will dry up the aquifer for the residents that depend on that water, that is our life blood.
 - **Du26b** I don't think water should be moved off-site.

Water Rights

- *Permitted Water Rights*
 - **Du46n** The Comprehensive study should recognize the water needed by Rural Water Systems and municipalities when expansion occurs. In times of drought (or if global warming becomes a reality), how will our water supply and usage change? What areas will receive the greatest impact and how will their needs be met?

Water Treatment

- *Artificial*
 - **Du1b** The Red River Chloride project is of concern to me because of Lake Texoma, the salt in the water helps maintain the ecosystem and keeps the water clear.

Watershed Management

- **Du7b** Vegetation acts to filter the water and recharge the underlying aquifer. What has the state of Oklahoma done to develop the recharge zones of our aquifers? In Texas, aquifer levels are given nightly just like we give lake levels.
- **Du11** Construction will start in spring of 2008, on a 42-inch gas pipeline that will run through Bryan County. It will have to cross several streams and springs and I would like to know if someone in the State is going to oversee the construction of the pipeline and protect the interest of the citizens in Bryan County. I am concerned about erosion, groundwater contamination, surface water contamination, and traffic due to the pipeline.
- **Du22b** The Bryan County area is very phosphorus deficient and it would be beneficial if some of the poultry litter out of northeast Oklahoma were shipped to this area. The current incentives are not adequate to encourage the transfer of that litter from the contaminated areas to our area and they need to be increased. The large cost it has taken to mitigate the water supplies in northeast Oklahoma could be better served if they were added to the incentive program.

Water Sources

Both Groundwater and Surface Water

- *Quantity*
 - **Du45c** I think we all are aware of the increasing population growth in our area and also the increasing industry here. It is apparent that in the near future, we will have a new need for water with the increased drilling of oil and gas wells.

Climate

- **Du15** As we prepare for the future we need to plan for prolonged droughts, as a possibility when considering global climate change.

Groundwater

- *Both Quality and Quantity*
 - **Du5** I am concerned about the quantity of quality drinking water. The majority of our drinking water, in Bryan County, comes from the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer. Even though it is easy to hit water when you drill a well, it is not always quality water.
- *Quality*
 - **Du13b** People need to know the quality of their well water. I am concerned about contamination of groundwater from CAFOs.
- *Quantity*
 - **Du29b** I am concerned about the depletion of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer. The graph shows it has dropped ten times as much as any other aquifer. [over the last 5 years].
 - **Du30** We need to reduce our dependence on groundwater as we are using it faster than aquifers can recharge. Worst case is the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer, which is declining at ten times the rate of the other aquifers in Oklahoma.

Surface Water

- *Quantity*
 - **Du39** I'm concerned about 42" pipeline being built across Bryan County and how it will affect all the streams that it will cross. Areas such as pollution, erosion, disturbing wildlife environment can all be issues during construction and maintenance of this pipeline. I have a spring-fed creek on my property that runs year-round, even during the last two years when we had a drought that dried up many farm ponds. My concern is what affect this pipeline crossing will have on my spring-fed creek.

Water Uses

Conservation Use

- **Du28d** We, the Lake Texoma Association, assert that the Red River and Lake Texoma area people and businesses need to share scarce water resources within reason, but not without very serious conservation efforts and results by our neighbors.
- *Reuse*
 - **Du6a** The East Coast has suffered the same type of things Oklahoma is dealing with now, about 20 years ago. We, as people in rural Pennsylvania, had to give up more and more in order to ensure a good water supply for the cities. We need new thinking about

water use. We should have greywater and blackwater systems in order to help preserve our drinking water.

- **Du8** When will greywater be used here? Lots of other states use it for things such as irrigation of lawns. Oklahoma needs to be more forward looking.

Ecological Use

- *Habitat*

- **Du1a** Water is a big issue in this area for both agriculture and recreation. I believe the OWRB needs to set minimum flow standards for our streams. This will serve many purposes, such as protection of the stream ecosystem, the health of the stream and the land adjacent to it.

Mining Use

- **Du1d** The Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer is important to this area and the big rock companies in the area are taking massive amounts of water out of it. Using that good, clean water just cleaning the rocks and settling dust is wasting it.

Private Domestic Use

- *Well Water*

- **Du4** I am concerned about the decrease in all of our aquifers but especially the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer, which has dropped 10 times as much as the others. I am less concerned about Lake Texoma losing water; I want to make sure I have water for drinking and for my livestock. That scares me because that is our drinking water supply.

Public Domestic Use

- *Municipalities*

- **Du28e** Large metropolitan areas and other water users along the Red River must find other water sources such as new reservoirs, efficient water use and reclamation, new technology and significant water conservation results by Texas and Oklahoma water users. During critical drought conditions they may even have to temporarily delay new project construction until adequate water supplies are provided.

- *Rural Water Districts*

- **Du12b** There is going to be more demand on rural water systems as population increases.

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