

# Local Input Meeting Report



**#38**

**Clayton, Oklahoma**

**Clayton High School**

**Auditorium**

**October 30, 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](mailto:waterplan@okstate.edu), or by phone at 405.744.9994. You may also contact the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at [www.owrb.ok.gov](http://www.owrb.ok.gov) or 405.530.8800.



**Meeting Agenda**

Time	Topic	Speaker
6:36 pm	Welcome	Tom Smith, Educator Pushmataha County Cooperative Extension Service
6:39 pm	Purpose of Meeting and Introduction of Staff	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:52 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Dave Dillon, Director of Water Planning Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:20 pm	Comments from the public	Public Participants
9:20 pm	Meeting adjourned	

**Attendees**

*Water Research Institute Staff*

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

*Oklahoma Water Resources Board Staff*

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

*Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Staff*

Tom Smith, Pushmataha County Extension Educator

*Public Participants*

117 citizens

**Comments**

Ninety-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

- *Federal*
  - **CI27** [answer to comment CI26] The debt for Sardis Lake is part of our national debt.
- *Jurisdiction*
  - **CI44** Who is responsible for the quality of the water that might be sold out-of-state?
- *State*
  - **CI30d** OWRB needs investigating by proper authorities.
  - **CI62** Recently, a USGS hydrologist stated that each and every stream should have two meters, one in rapid moving areas, and one in slow moving water, for ten years for usable data. Mr. Smith of the OWRB knows this and knows that these meters are not in place and the data is incomplete. He was not bothered by the lack of necessary data. He wants to estimate. For a change, Oklahoma should do things the right way, do a complete job, and not take the easy way out.

### Economic Impacts

- **CI30b** The water plan should project all future local economic benefits of regional water applications and uses especially Sardis Lake plus irrigation projects on the Red and Little Rivers.
- *Development*
  - **CI41b** You don't want additional reservoirs in this area (Pushmataha) because they will take an average of 15,000 acres off the tax rolls.
  - **CI42a** The 15,000 acres taken for a reservoir is the most valuable, most fertile in the area because it is bottomland.
- *Sales*
  - **CI6** We are concerned about inter-basin transfers. Any inter-basin contract whether it goes in-state or out-of-state should have a provision that allows for proper lake levels to be maintained. Water should only be taken out during wet months to protect the economy of the area. What concerns us is the lake level on Sardis Lake and the impact it has on tourism. Tourism has become the major economic driver of this area. This affects the ad valorem tax base, economic growth, and property values. In 1997, there were over 960,000 visits to this area. The plan should take into consideration the effect lake levels have on tourism. In 1997 there were 11.5 million people who live within 3 ½ hours of here.
  - **CI54** Don't sell our water to other states!! Oklahoma is known for its droughts. What happens if we guarantee other states water then we have none for ourselves? Also, our small community relies on resources from out-of-town visitors – especially fishermen – to keep our town going – take away our water and you'll take away the life from our small town!

### Health

- *Ecological*
  - **CI2a** Sardis Lake has an endangered species in it. It is the Pocketbook Mussel and if the OWRB had been doing their homework, we wouldn't be having these meetings here because they would already be protecting our water.

- **CI63c** Effects of additional fluctuations in water levels in the Kiamichi River? Effects on both the aquatic ecosystem and its riparian zone? Just this one time, try making protection of the environment a priority over economy.

### **Infrastructure**

- **CI63b** Sediment fill rate for specific bodies of water without generalizations, e.g. Sardis is surrounded by logging industry. What is its lifespan?
- *Maintenance*
  - **CI2b** Sardis Lake has been silting in over the years so much so that my wife used to have to boat to an island and now she can walk there. In 50 years, the lake will be full of sediment.
  - **CI4** There are ways to clean out our lakes and the Corps knows this.
  - **CI7a** A lot of times when people talk about making improvements, it is really about just maintaining the system. Our drinking water system has grown significantly in the last three years.
- *Needs*
  - **CI3a** When the [Sardis] Lake was built, the people living around the lake were supposed to be able to take water out of the lake through a filtration system that was put in place but never completed as no supply line was ever run to the bank.
  - **CI10b** We need to build more reservoirs in the state of Oklahoma to control the water we have and not sell it to other states.
  - **CI13** Why doesn't the State build a collecting basin below Hugo dam and sell that water to Texas or use it in Oklahoma (rather than water from existing reservoirs) instead of letting it run into the Red River?

### **Planning**

- **CI10a** If you look around at the big cities such as Oklahoma City, Dallas/Ft. Worth, New York, even down into Mexico, they all need water because they are growing so rapidly. We don't control population growth, but it is going to happen. The politicians are the ones that will decide what happens to Sardis water; it will be a political thing in the end. [This whole planning process will be ineffectual regarding Sardis Lake.]
- **CI40** In order to show the transparency of the planning process, the technical studies should make interim reports available. Otherwise, the study is questionable and has a lack of transparency.
- **CI45** Oklahoma has water problems all over the State and by you showing up tonight hopefully we will have a better plan in the end. We need to be looking at the long-haul for our State. If we put out a shoddy water plan then it affects our children not us.
- **CI63a** Environmental Impact Studies? Part of the [Comprehensive Water] plan?
- *Interstate Cooperation*
  - **CI64b** What about compacts with Arkansas on surface water? Is this to be considered while planning?
- *Public Participation Process*
  - **CI19** I think it is going to be difficult to review all of the comments in the region in one evening and I think they need more time. Also, we need to know what the criteria are for people to be picked for the regional meeting. The Water Board should not be the entity picking the regional participants. It would be like the fox guarding the hen house. If they

stack the regional meetings with people who want to sell our water, then what good it is for us to be here tonight?

- **CI30e** The format used in gathering information for the State Comprehensive Water Plan should include a series of public debates between those who challenge OWRB management and OWRB officials.
- **CI41a** The State and the Corps have made this mess and they are picking who will do the technical studies. I am concerned that the private sector is being left out of the technical studies.
- *Regional Differences*
  - **CI23b** Averages can be dangerous and just because it is flooding in one area of the State that doesn't mean it is everywhere. This needs to be taken into account in the planning process.
- *Research*
  - **CI8a** I am dubious that one can project the need for water 60 years in advance. There is a very high degree of uncertainty. I would ask that a very transparent study be done that looks at examples in other states where areas have grown rapidly and not use past data to project future demand. Use credible assumptions. The Corps study that says there is enough water in Lake Sardis for the area for the next 100 years is unbelievably dumb. Projections should include a large band of uncertainty.
  - **CI61** All streams that are subject to a water transfer should have a true scientific study done on them. This should include 2 meters in each river. One in slow moving water and one in shallow rapid water. These should be read on a regular basis for a period of ten years. This is scientific. It should include all streams into lakes that may be threatened.

### ***Policy/Regulations***

- **CI21a** Oklahoma does owe for the construction of the dam and storage in Sardis Lake. The State chose to build McGee Creek instead. We owe for the water and if we don't pay for it we will lose it.
- **CI25** Why haven't we paid the bill for Sardis Lake?
- **CI26** The taxpayers built the lake [Sardis], why are we taking the money out of our right hand and giving it to our left hand?
- **CI46b** Oklahoma, pay your debt [for Sardis Lake]!
- **CI56** Pay off our water [Sardis Lake] so no one it Texas can get it.
- **CI60e** Pay [Sardis] Lake off, Oklahoma.
- *Adjudication*
  - **CI16a** Most of the problems are not from the politicians but from the federal judges. Other states are threatening to sue Oklahoma if we divert water out of the Red River. There are only a small group of crooks on both sides of the border that want to sell our water.
- *Enforcement*
  - **CI28a** The federal government used to pay for the lakes they built and didn't require the states to pay. They changed that law and said if you want a lake in your state then the state must pay for it. I think Sardis Lake is the only lake in the nation that falls under that requirement. I think the contract the State has with the federal government is unenforceable. Who's in charge, the politicians or the federal courts? I think the people

here and who have attended the other meetings are in charge and should insist that the right decisions be made!

- *Federal Regulations*

- **CI18** If Congress wrote the bill [requiring the State to pay for Sardis Lake], they could amend it so Oklahoma would not be required to pay the debt on Sardis Lake. Or to only pay a certain percent of the total.
- **CI57** In the past, there have been suggestions to sell water from Sardis Lake. In lieu of selling the water, the community surrounding Sardis Lake has improved economically and provided more taxes to the state of Oklahoma and the federal government. Remember that only a small percent of the total basin (Kiamichi River) area is contained or pertaining to Sardis Lake, thus Sardis Lake basin can only supply a small percent of surplus water. Congress passed the law to pay for construction of Sardis Lake. The contract between the federal government and the state of Oklahoma has a clause that causes Oklahoma to pay a portion of the cost of Sardis Lake dam construction. This could be changed by Congress since they originated the law, thus the federal government could forgive Oklahoma's share of the construction debt.
- **CI60a** Work with the Corps of Engineers to maintain the Sardis Lake water level.
- **CI66b** Sardis Lake should not be pumped lower than 593 ft elevation. Normal lake level is 599.

- *State Regulations*

- **CI30f** A dollar value should be published of Oklahoma public waters by State officials.
- **CI30c** State elected officials should be required to disclose campaign donations from water interests out of their district.
- **CI46a** The definition of domestic use should allow well water to be used for gardens of more than three acres.
- *Taxes*
  - **CI30g** OWRB and the Governor of Oklahoma should, under the Comprehensive Water Plan, correct the flawed system that allows the US Corps of Engineers to skip paying their property taxes due local school districts around all 23 Corps lakes in Oklahoma.
- *Water Rights*
  - **CI38** 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. The Blue and Poteau Rivers are virtually dry in the summer and the OWRB allocates water on the average stream flow. 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. 5.) The issue of water ownership i.e. Tribal/State should be resolved. 6.) Soil conservation districts can help mediate issues in the planning and management process and they should be strengthened. 7.) The technical process is being driven by an out of state firm and we should be given interim studies so we can evaluate what they are doing and their assumptions as well as their strategies for delivery of water and if we can't see those then we are not part of the process.

- **CI43** If groundwater is private property, then isn't it against the Constitution to take that private property (water) and sell it out-of-state?

- *State Statutes*

- **CI8b** The federal government has told us to pay up for Lake Sardis and it needs to be done! Please, state of Oklahoma, buy Sardis Lake before others buy it for themselves.
- **CI10c** Oklahoma should pay off the debt for Sardis Lake.
- **CI16b** The State should use money from the "Rainy Day Fund" to pay off Sardis Lake.
- **CI59c** Pay off Sardis using Rainy Day Fund

### **Sales and Transfers**

- **CI7b** If Pushmataha County grows by 86% in the next 50 years, we are going to need our water. We need to take care of ourselves first and educate ourselves about water issues.
- **CI15** "Whiskey is for drinking and water is for fighting." [Mark Twain]
- **CI42c** Our Senator is not concerned about the sale of water from Sardis, because Sardis water flows to Hugo Lake and Hugo won't lose any water.
- **CI59d** Reserve the majority of Sardis [Lake] water for southeast Oklahoma.

- *Compensation*

- **CI12** I and my family lost land to Sardis Lake. The court said that the Lake was for recreation and flood control and nothing was said about the State having to pay for the Lake again. We as taxpayers already paid for it. Texas wants our water because they don't want to have to go through what we did, they don't want to lose their land.
- **CI20** I am adamantly opposed to selling water out-of-state. I think we may end up though having to transfer water from eastern to western Oklahoma. If that happens, there should be legislation that allows the basin of origin to receive money for the transfer, such as a gross-production-type tax.
- **CI58b** When water is moved from one part of the State to another, the receiving area should compensate the donor area. This should also apply to any water sold outside the State.
- **CI60c** We should keep any money off of the water sales in Pushmataha County and not let Oklahoma City make money off our water

- *Control*

- **CI1** We are concerned about Sardis water. Truman Lake in Missouri is run by the Corps of Engineers and people who live around it cannot get any water out of that lake. If private interests have gotten control of our water then you can't use it anymore for fishing or swimming or any other use. We and we alone are responsible for what happens to water in Pushmataha County and this water is important for the future generations of our area. The citizens here will certainly fight to keep the water here.
- **CI5b** If they are going to sell water to Texas, we should all receive a copy of the contract, so we can see what is really going on and what effect it will have on us.

- **CI14a** Water is important to people in this area. We have good quality water that runs through our area; we have the most water but are one of the poorest counties. The areas that need the water are the ones with the money. We need to be very cautious and look out for our water.
  - **CI28b** We don't want to sell water interstate because if we do we put ourselves in a position that would allow the federal courts to dictate what we can do. It won't make any difference what clauses are put in the contract; the Supreme Court will make the decisions for us. We should not put ourselves in the position of other states having a downstream dependency on our water. The water plan needs to address if we have any excess water available for use in other parts of the State.
  - **CI29** There should be a vote by the people of southeast Oklahoma regarding what they want to do with their water. The same should be for all regions.
  - **CI30a** Oklahoma City and North Texas water interests should not have Sardis Lake. They treat southeast Oklahoma like a water grab bag for the rich to take when and how they want.
  - **CI50** Save Sardis Lake. We need to keep our water. We don't need Texas telling us what we can do with our water.
  - **CI58a** If water is sold outside the State, only excess water should be sold. Oklahoma needs should be met first.
  - **CI65** Sardis Lake should be owned and operated by Pushmataha County citizens. NO outside ownership. This area needs Sardis Lake water now and for the future growth of this area. We are the fastest growing area in Pushmataha County.
  - **CI67** We need to continue to educate ourselves about water resources and infrastructure. I believe in Christian values that we should take care of each other, but I also believe that in order to help others, we must take care of our resources and not see just money. Of course, I know it takes money to build and maintain our water infrastructure, if we do not manage the resources (water) we have, it will cost us much, much more in the long-term. If another state or water system purchases our water and at some point in time we should experience a water shortage, you can bet we'll not be able to get it back. Then, not only will we not have enough water, but we'll not have enough money.
- *Interstate*
    - **CI3b** Most of these lakes have a 50 to 60 year lifespan, and if we are not careful, we will end up like New Mexico and the situation they have with Arizona because N.M. had a drought and couldn't supply water and now they owe Arizona millions of dollars for that water. If we keep going the way we are going we will lose all of our fishing rights also.
    - **CI11** The people we voted for are not going to vote to sell water, so why are we here?
    - **CI17** Who is actually selling the water to Texas? Is it the State or a private entity? If you sell our water, our electricity or natural gas out of the State, what will our children have left. We need to act now.
    - **CI21b** Any other state that has sold water out-of-state has regretted it. If we don't need the water now, then let others use it, but if we need it in 50 years, we should be able to get that water right back.
    - **CI22** The reason the other states have regretted selling water is because their contracts or compact do not allow them to stop. There is no reason to believe we will have any better chance than they do at stopping the water transfer once it starts. Once you start selling water out-of-state, you cannot stop. Starting would be the biggest mistake this State could make.

- **CI23a** There are things Dallas/Ft. Worth can do for themselves without southeast Oklahoma water.
- **CI24** Any sale of water to any other state is a waste of Oklahoma water and not a beneficial use.
- **CI42b** The Corps says we may get 60 inches a year but it doesn't say when we get it. We may get it all at once and then our Lake would be down due to water transfers to Texas.
- **CI46c** No sale of water out-of-state.
- **CI47** Someone had better think about letting our water leave the State. Someday it will be needed here. It took a lot of our land to build Sardis Lake, then they wanted it for western Oklahoma.
- **CI48** I do not want Oklahoma water to leave the State. With the low water table, we do not have enough for our own use and we have to be sure the young people always have water in the future.
- **CI49** Save Sardis Lake. Do not sell our water to Texas.
- **CI52** Do not sell our water. We do not worry about other states. We care about Sardis Lake.
- **CI53** The Lake (Sardis) is built on old home sites. These people gave up their land for the Lake. Leave the water where it is. Texas has Lake Meredith. Leave Oklahoma water in Oklahoma!
- **CI55** I strongly oppose any sale of water resources to any state or city outside of Oklahoma.
- **CI59a** No water sold out-of-state.
- **CI60d** No (water) to Texas. No water out-of-State. Build your own lakes. Leave Sardis Lake alone.
- **CI66** Water is to stay in Oklahoma
- *Intrastate*
  - **CI30h** Under new the Comprehensive Water Plan, OWRB allocations to out-of-basin municipalities and others must have seasonal and drought clauses to protect local agricultural interests and fish and wildlife inhabitants.
  - **CI39** I am concerned about intrastate transfer of water. I saw what Los Angeles did in California, to Owens Valley and we don't want that to happen to southeast Oklahoma. We need to be concerned not only about Sardis Lake but also the Antlers Aquifer.

### **Water Rights**

- **CI60b** Don't lose our water rights.

### **Water Security**

- *Disasters*
  - **CI14b** We don't have any control over how much water comes into our State, but we need to plan for drought now.

## Water Sources

### **Climate**

- **CI9** The planning process should include consideration of climate change. If you don't, that would be a major oversight considering the changes going on worldwide, despite the fact that some of our politicians refuse to acknowledge it.
- **CI64a** Do you consider Global Warming? Is this to be considered while planning?

### **Surface Water**

- *Quantity*
  - **CI59b** Guaranteed lake levels at Sardis Lake.

## Water Uses

### **Ecological Use**

- *Habitat*
  - **CI51** Continue water [level] manipulation plans for fisheries management and waterfowl and/or migratory shorebirds.

### **Private Domestic Use**

- **CI5a** Some of us who live on Sardis Lake can not drill wells on our property to get water because there is no groundwater. All of the water we use comes from a mountain stream and the plan should take those of us who depend on that water into consideration.

### **Recreational Use**

- **CI58c** Tourism will become more important for our county [Pushmataha] and recreational opportunities will be vital around the lakes and rivers.

## 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