

# Local Input Meeting Report



**#41**

**Atoka, Oklahoma**

**Kiamichi Technology Center  
Atoka Campus Seminar Center  
November 8, 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
6:34 pm	Welcome	Harold Stephens, Educator Atoka County Cooperative Extension Service
6:36 pm	Purpose of Meeting and Introduction of Staff	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:46 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Kyle Arthur, Environmental Program Manager with the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:09 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*

Dave Dillon, Director of Water Planning  
Kyle Arthur, Environmental Program Manager with the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

##### *Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Staff*

Harold Stephens, Atoka County Extension Educator

##### *Public Participants*

58 citizens

#### Comments

Seventy-eight 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

- *Local*
  - **Ak15b** There should be regional management of water resources based on watershed boundaries.
  - **Ak27b** Form regional water resources boards. Board approval needed for intrabasin (watershed) transfer.

### Conjunctive Management

- *Legislation*
  - **Ak25d** Our water laws need to be modified to reflect: a.) Adequate regulations for use of limited groundwater resources; b.) Current State law does not recognize the tie between ground and surface waters in the permitting process; c.) Over-permitting groundwater resources will adversely impact surface waters and the fish and wildlife resources that rely on them; d.) Ensuring wise-use of the water that is allocated under permits should be addressed.

### Conservation

- *Sustainability*
  - **Ak27a** Groundwater withdrawal rates should be limited to recharge (infiltration) rates instead of the current 2 acre-feet rate. Manage for sustainability vs. the current 20-year life [of an aquifer].
  - **Ak31c** The State talks about wanting to have water supplies to provide for the next 50 years' needs, but they are in control of the landowner's groundwater, and they use a formula that depletes the groundwater to 50% or less in 20 years. Most landowners don't have permits for our groundwater because we don't need that much quantity at the present time, and the permits are only good for seven years. My greatest concern is that the State is not looking out for the rights of landowners in general. I believe that our water is the life of our land and when the water tables are dropping and the State still increases permits to more wells; how is this protecting the rest of the landowners? To have a 50 year sustainable plan, we need to suspend or pull these permits when the water tables are suffering. If the tables are dropping, and more water is continually removed, it has to be coming from the shares of water belonging to the unpermitted landowners, and there is no protection. OWRB's chart showed that the Antlers Aquifer dropped 3.2 feet from 2001 to 2006. In the last few years we have all lost a lot of old timber. How much of the increase in the water table dropping is directly attributable to the increase in groundwater permits, and if it is not the cause so far, how much should we expect to suffer from this in the future?

### Economic Impacts

- *Development*
  - **Ak17d** The most underreported industry in Oklahoma is recreation and tourism. The fastest growing county is McCurtain County.
- *Recreation*
  - **Ak7c** We know that tourism is getting a good start in southeast Oklahoma and we need to be selling that instead of water. Several people have commented that this is the poorest part of the State. But we have a lot of nice new homes and people need to rethink how poor this area really is. We are proud people here.

- **Ak32f** Oklahoma lakes should be studied with particular attention to the economies of tourism, addressing the needs for both fish and the fishermen!
- *Sales*
  - **Ak17a** There has never been one state who has sold water to another state that is not now locked in multi-million dollar lawsuits.

## **Health**

- *Ecological*
  - **Ak2a** What has the State done in the past in regards to protecting fish and wildlife? Atoka Lake has issues when Oklahoma City pulls a lot of water out of the Lake. They are also now pulling out of McGee Creek. During the summer the water level gets so low in Atoka Lake it is affecting the spawning of all the fish species.
  - **Ak12e** Absentee water owners, either OKC or others, who get water out-of-county, should meet the basin of origins' stewardship standards.
  - **Ak25a** Establishment of minimum flows in streams will be critical to maintenance of health and function within these systems.
  - **Ak31a** In nature, different landscapes and terrains are blessed with different quantities of water. These different systems also require different amounts of water to maintain their health. Some people see southeastern Oklahoma with its rivers and streams and comment that we have lots of excess water, but what outsiders call our excess, I believe is to a large part the water needed to keep our landscapes in a healthy condition. During last year's drought, several times I heard meteorologists on TV say that "once the ground got too dry, and the vegetation was dry, that the lower layers of the atmosphere didn't have enough sufficient moisture to enable rain to form." Interfering with our groundwater and letting it be removed from this area, might create or aggravate local atmosphere's conditions that would worsen any dry spells in the future.
- *Human*
  - **Ak23** Water is life, oil is not life. Saying "water is the new oil" is like saying "asphalt is the new green bean."

## **Infrastructure**

- **Ak12g** The movement is to give absentee owners control over southeast Oklahoma water. Texas has begun preliminary plans to build more reservoirs to create catch basins for north Texans' exclusive use.
- **Ak18b** There have been nine more lakes planned below Sardis. Whose homes and land will these take and who will use that water?
- *Maintenance*
  - **Ak4** When Oklahoma City built Atoka Lake it was also supposed to be for recreation. However, because of all the fluctuation in water levels it is rarely used for recreation. There are also a lot of stumps out there and Oklahoma City has not come out and cleaned those up so people can use it for recreation and make it safer for the boats. They have had plenty of opportunity to do that.

## **Planning**

- **Ak7a** If we had not gotten the moratorium on out-of-state water sales then there would be water going to Texas right now. We don't need this water study sped up. We need a thorough scientific study of our water needs. I encourage everyone to contact their legislator and ask them not to speed it up.

- **Ak7f** A recent article states that the government said 36 states will face water problems in the next 5 years. I am sure Oklahoma will be one of them.
- **Ak23b** A 100-year plan is short-sighted. Plans should consider seven generations into the future.
- **Ak24a** The plan should determine the water needs for Oklahoma for the next 100 years. The plan should maintain and reserve enough water to meet the needs of Oklahoma homes, industry, agriculture, recreation, tourism, wildlife, and economic growth for the next 100 years.
- **Ak26** Will the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan study have any real influence in the future decisions about the direction, water use, and rights in the State?
- **Ak32m** 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*
  - **Ak32k** 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.
  - **Ak32l** 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.
- *Research*
  - **Ak17c** Any absentee owner who says they can maintain a lake level to protect recreation will not be able to do so because there isn't enough correct information available, for example at Sardis Lake. The State and the Corps need more data on the amount of water available for both surface and groundwater including federal reservoirs.
  - **Ak24b** Obtain and review the water laws and regulations of the adjoining states to Oklahoma. This review should be done by a responsible group of people in order to see if Oklahoma should adopt some of their laws and regulation to update the water laws and regulations in Oklahoma.
  - **Ak31b** Some of the charts and figures I see about water quantities are based on State-wide averages of rainfall over a certain time frame. To assure that rain has fallen in these specific areas, it seems you would have to use rainfall records from these specific basins. Sometimes a county or two or even a small part of a country can be left out of rain for extended periods of time, yet graphs used in calculations could greatly over estimate available water.
  - **Ak32a** 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.
  - **Ak32d** 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
  - **Ak32e** 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.

- **Ak32g** 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.
- **Ak32h** 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***

- *Enforcement*
  - **Ak25e** The use of surface and groundwater during oil and gas production needs to be better regulated and considered in water resource planning.
- *Federal Regulations*
  - **Ak18a** I would like to see the plan address lake levels. There should be set lake levels for tourism, recreation, fish and wildlife and local municipal use.
- *State Regulations*
  - **Ak25b** Water within streams is often not fully appropriated. There is a window of opportunity for Oklahoma to consider fish and wildlife resources and adequate minimum flows through the eminent appropriation process.
  - **Ak32i** 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.
- *Permits*
  - **Ak12c** Water is available in McGee Creek Reservoir and is better water than Coalgate Lake water. The director of OWRB intervened in a permit that would allow the city of Coalgate to get water out of McGee Creek.
  - **Ak24c** The current water needs of all persons living in a water basin must be met before any permits are issued to remove water from the basin.
  - **Ak25c** Average annual flows are currently used in permitting surface water use. This does not provide adequate stream protection because of the temporal and climate-induced variations in flow within these systems. An alternative estimate of flows that considers these variations on a shorter time scale should be used.
- *Taxes*
  - **Ak12f** Municipalities that own reservoirs in other counties should have to pay a fee in lieu of taxes to replace the property tax that has been taken away.
- *Water Rights*
  - **Ak15a** 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. We should only

allow water to be taken out of a stream during times of plenty and not during the summer dry periods. 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.

- *State Statutes*

- **Ak12d** There is currently not a board member on OWRB from southeast Oklahoma.
- **Ak23d** Oklahoma water laws are so screwed up that Texas can apply for permits! What's to stop Mexico from doing the same?!
- **Ak32b** 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.

### **Sales and Transfers**

- **Ak23e** Any water taken from a basin should be recompensated by the taker and an equitable value be returned.
- **Ak29** I don't see how the people in the Antlers Aquifer think they can use 2.3 million acres of water. So why can't the landowner get his underground water permit and let others pay for what we [landowners] can't use? Isn't that what America is all about, sharing what you don't need? Don't the people understand if we don't share, the government will?

- *Compensation*

- **Ak12b** The actual water market price for the southeast US is \$1200 per acre-foot.
- **Ak20** When Atoka Lake was built they [US Army Corps of Engineers] took (condemned) a lot of good bottom land in Coal County and they pay no tax on it. They told us recreation would bring in money to Coal County but they keep the lake level so low it looks like a mud puddle. How do we get fairly compensated for what they have taken?
- **Ak23c** Selling water at any price is comparable to the purchase of Manhattan Island for trinkets and beads. How can you put a price on water? Any price you put on it will not be enough because it is life. A lot of folks have called southeast Oklahoma poor, but they are overlooking one of our most valuable assets, water.
- **Ak32j** 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*

- **Ak2b** Oklahoma City built Atoka Lake in the '60s for their water use. Oklahoma City sells water to Norman, Dell City and other cities around it and now Oklahoma City is wanting to sell water to cities in Texas. I have an issue with selling Oklahoma water to Texas.

They have pretty lakes and lots of fish and they don't want to deplete their water, they have plenty. If Oklahoma City pays for Sardis Lake then that water will go to Texas. It's the people from Texas competing for our water not people in Oklahoma.

- **Ak8** If you look at the legal history of selling surplus water when people develop a downstream dependency on that water and there is a water shortage, there is legal precedent that requires the owners of the water continue to send it to those that are dependant. I am concerned that if we begin to sell surplus water to Texas on a short-term basis it will become a long-term precedent.
  - **Ak11** I hope every person on the Comprehensive Water Plan becomes familiar with the term "downstream dependency." Once you turn the faucet on to any state, especially Texas you can't turn it off regardless of what it does to those of us upstream.
  - **Ak13** The people in Oklahoma are in control of Oklahoma's water and Texas is not going to get our water if we want to keep our water and use it ourselves. We don't ever have to sell water to Texas. The Supreme Court has never told anybody that they have to sell water interstate and I don't think the Court ever will. If we don't have the backbone to take care of our water then it is our fault. If we don't believe we are in charge then we don't believe we live in a democracy and we are in trouble. Our interpretation of our current moratorium was that it was just a delay to determine how much water we have in Oklahoma and how we will use it. We cannot have a law that says we shall not sell water out-of-state because of interstate commerce. We don't have to sell it just because Texas wants it!!!
  - **Ak19** OETA, our public television station, showed a 27 minute infomercial about selling water to Texas. I find it hard to believe that "surplus" water is water leaving our State forever; it is functioning to clean downstream basins. Texas has made a lot of assurances, such as making a contract with us, saying they won't take our groundwater, and won't deplete our reservoirs. The contract would be worth less than the paper it was written on. If you let people downstream become addicted to having our water they will always get it.
  - **Ak22** Selling water out-of-state sets a precedent for future demand. We need to determine our long-term plans for development and keep the water for Oklahoma development. "Down Stream Dependency"
  - **Ak27c** Limit out-of-state water sales to ten-year (max) contracts.
- *Interstate*
    - **Ak3** We should not sell Oklahoma water either from private people or municipalities to Texas, any other state or any out-of-state entity. I believe every person in this room, from Coal and Atoka counties will disapprove of any private, municipal or Indian sale of water to any other state.
    - **Ak5a** Dallas is supposed to grow by millions of people in the next 20 years and they will need housing for all those people. That means they are going to need more water, and I am concerned they are looking at Oklahoma water.
    - **Ak7b** A participant from Collin County, Texas commented that water is being wasted as it goes into the Red River. When has water ever been wasted when it goes into other states? Oklahoma would be in a lot of trouble if other states did not allow water to flow into our state.
    - **Ak7d** We want to keep our natural resources here because if we let water go to Texas, we won't be our own State any more. We will be the state of Texoma. People don't get concerned about water until the problem gets right in their backyard. We need to be thinking about the whole State and have a plan for the entire State. We need to be proactive not reactive.

- **Ak7e** The senator from this area claims that he warned us about the effects of the moratorium but I don't recall that.
  - **Ak21** Why can't Texas just build their own reservoirs? Do they not want to condemn their own land?
  - **Ak28** I vote no on selling Oklahoma water out-of-state.
  - **Ak32c** The Oklahoma Citizens' Water Alliance supports the current moratorium on any out-of-state water sale and any State-Tribal compact or any intergovernmental cooperative agreement regarding apportionment of surface or groundwater ownership or to implement or authorize any sale or exportation of surface water or groundwater outside the State, as provided by current law.
- *Intrastate*
    - **Ak16a** The water here is not any different than the gas and oil [is to other parts of the State], they come and get it. If my neighbor in Shawnee needs water, or someone else in the State does, I will take some water and market it to them. I am not talking about selling it to Texas, but supplying my neighbors in Oklahoma.

## **Water Rights**

- *Native American*
  - **Ak1** What role do the Indian tribes play in the current water plan? I believe the issue of water ownership should be resolved by a Statewide vote of the people of Oklahoma.
- *Permitted Water Rights*
  - **Ak16b** The water is not the landowner's until he has a commercial permit. It is the government's and the landowner can't do anything with it until he gets a commercial permit.
  - **Ak17b** OWRB has allowed over allocation, in the amount of 481,000 acre-feet per year in the Kiamichi River basin alone. This is above and beyond what the Corps says is available. The government will have to go to private groundwater rights holders to make up the difference if there is not enough water to fulfill a contract. OWRB is using junk science to make determinations about water availability.
  - **Ak32n** 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?
- *Private Property Rights*
  - **Ak30** We need to be careful about infringing on a landowner's property rights and their ability to put the water (groundwater specifically) to beneficial use. Beneficial use has different meanings to the different parties involved in a water rights issue.

## **Watershed Management**

- **Ak2c** There are plans now for planting vegetation around the edges of Atoka Lake. When Oklahoma City pulls water out and the water level drops for long periods of time then the plants will die and it would be a waste of both time and money. Atoka Lake is built north and south and that keeps it murky. Atoka Lake is built north and south and that's the way the winds blow. This makes the water murky. The fluctuation of the water level makes it murkier. When the plants die then the wind will again cause the lake to be murky.

- **Ak5b** An oil company has purchased some property in Coal County and the company is disposing of brine water on that site. I am concerned about the effect of this on our land and our groundwater.
- **Ak6** Are they going to try to raise the water level in Coalgate Lake? They already have flooded some of my property that they do not have an easement for. I am concerned if they raise the level more, it will take more of my property.
- **Ak10** The oil companies are now putting a berm around the wells in our county and catching the rainwater around them and hauling it off and putting it in disposal wells. This is a waste of the water. The water should be allowed to flow down the creek as it always has. There is grass growing around the wells where there are no berms.

## Water Sources

### **Surface Water**

- *Quantity*
  - **Ak12a** Certain top management of OWRB and certain legislators are part of a hoax. The hoax is that any water that goes into the Red River is surplus water. It is used downstream by other states for various purposes before it goes into the Gulf of Mexico.

## Water Uses

### **Storage Use**

- **Ak9** Has the State done any studies on replenishing the aquifers? Other states are drilling into the aquifers and pulling out water. If we are going to have an increase in population, we have to make sure we have plenty of groundwater. I am concerned other states will pull water out of aquifers that come into Oklahoma and will limit how much water we have. I suggest the State look into working with the other states that share an aquifer with us, such as the Ogallala. I would like to see funding appropriated for studies on our aquifers.

## 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