

Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan *Online Comment Report*

#43

Online Comments

**All comments collected
through okwaterplan.info,
telephone, mail and facsimile**

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.

Water Management

Agencies

- *Funding*

- **OL145e** The Altus area and Lake Altus in particular have suffered from serious drought conditions. The lake level has been more than 30 feet below normal. They need near term funding assistance and major irrigation water use efficiency and conservation actions to help meet area challenges. The results of a federally funded Red River chloride control project would not achieve significant results and additional water supplies for 15 years or longer due to the extended study, planning, design, construction, implementation processes and adequate multi-year funding. The proposed chloride control project at Area VI is estimated to ultimately cost up to \$100 million or more and is a high impact risk for environmental, political and major federal funding problems. For example, the Corps has a \$53 billion plus backlog of authorized projects and water quality or chloride control type projects are considered by many to be “out of scope” for Corps funding and should be provided by other federal, state and/or local sources.
- **OL145g** Lake Texoma Association concurs with the Bureau’s recommendation to improve the operational irrigation efficiency of the project [W.C. **Autstin** Project] from 65 to over 90 percent for the reasons stated in their report and to provide possible federal funding for implementing Alternative A (North Pool Restoration) and B (District Modernization). Alternative-A construction costs are estimated in the range from \$450 to \$700 thousand and Alternative-B from \$5 to \$12 million.
- **OL147** What is the state doing to aid in the removal of salt cedar in the watershed's? This plant is very invasive and using a great deal of water as does the eastern red cedar, these plants are consuming huge amounts of water that should be going into the water table and down the rivers. Is their any consideration being given to aid landowners in removal of these species from their property. I know NRCS and some other agencies can help with this but it only covers a small part of the cost.
- **OL136b** Water quality is important because as you know we can have gallons of water, but if it is unfit to drink, it does you no good. It is important to work with landowners through voluntary, locally-led efforts like 319 programs, cost-share and the Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program (CREP) to help landowners control run-off and reduce non-point source pollution. They can control nutrients, sediment and bacteria with these programs. Even stopping soil erosion helps keep silt out of the system and protects our drinking water, everything we do is important to the water system in our state.
- **OL143g** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Re-capitalizing the Drinking Water Revolving Fund.
- **OL30** DEQ (EPA) should consider raising allowable nitrate level or funding should be available to enable small communities to build treatment facilities.
- **OL20** Encourage more federal and state funding for assistance to landowners to build ponds and other water conservation projects, such as preserving playas, which recharge underground aquifers.

- *Local*

- **OL172** H2O H2O H2O everywhere and not a drop to drink except in a bottle or a well. How can a city whose water is not fit for consumption continue to raise rates and fail to provide [good water]. Could it be greed? The city declares sales tax is the life blood of Chickasha? How much longer can it continue?

- **OL143i** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: The upstream flood control program, with preference to upstream soil conservation projects in water rights and disputes.
- **OL127a** Conservation Districts should have a part in managing water quality in each district. District employees are intimately familiar with the soils and topography of their respective districts and currently have no means of establishing water protection priorities within their districts.
- **OL127d** Conservation districts could play a vital part in managing vegetation and water quality in the district if funds could be available for such things as liming low pH and clay soils which could reduce excessive turbidity and improve vegetation on the same watersheds. Thousands of acres in eastern Oklahoma are showing signs of reduced production, weaker vegetative cover and inability to sustain legumes because of low pH. Liming soils would reduce need for fertilizers by improving stands of legumes such as clovers, reduce turbidity in stormwater due to improved vegetative cover, improved water percolation into clay and clay complex soils (in addition to aiding the precipitation of silt and clay from stormwater), and reduce erosion by reducing stormwater runoff in marginal areas.
- **OL131a** I want to take this opportunity to comment on the importance of conservation district work to the water planning process, especially in the areas of flood control dam maintenance and rehabilitation, water quality protection and invasive species control. Oklahoma has over 2,000 upstream flood control structures, many of which serve as water sources for nearby communities and many other structures could be expanded during the rehabilitation process to serve as water sources for additional communities. Of these dams, over 1,000 will be past their design life in the next 10 years and will need attention. The rehabilitation and the operation and maintenance of these structures is critical in our long-term water planning, not only for the creation of new water sources, but also for the protection of existing water sources by ensuring these structures continue to trap silt and extend the life of those larger structures downstream from them.
- **OL16b** Cooperation should be required between rural water districts and cities.
- *Jurisdiction*
 - **OL143n** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Control of water rights remaining with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.
 - **OL8b** More control should be exercised by the OWRB over water, the most important natural resource in Oklahoma.
- *State*
 - **OL175b** In the very expensive "water atlas" that was distributed at the meetings, one doesn't have to look far to determine the fallacy of much of the "factual data" included in the publication. In addition, page 9 demonstrates without doubt the "gerrymandered" representation on the Board or, more specifically, the lack of representation in the SE area of the state. The very area with the most to gain, the most to lose and the most to offer is left out at the management level. To sum up; What's wrong with this picture? If planners need something to compare water with in order to validate its worth, I suggest comparing water to air! Yes we will always have predators circling where there is crisis, and the water crisis is no different. In all three meetings in the SE, I am aware of several in attendance whose primary purpose in being there was motivated by the smell of MONEY. Consider how much impact this portion of our population has already had in the management process, and then ask: What's wrong with this picture?
 - **OL149a** The mission of the Forestry Services Division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry is to manage, enhance and protect Oklahoma's forests

and related resources for present and future generations. Agency foresters provide a wide range of assistance to state and private landowners statewide concerning their forestry and tree planting objectives, in rural, urban and interface areas alike. Forestry Services is also responsible for the state's **silvicultural** non-point source (NPS) management program and the forestry best management practices (BMPs). These services have a positive effect on the supply and quality of the waters flowing through Oklahoma and being utilized by the state's citizens.

- **OL149d** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: Role of Oklahoma Forestry Services We recognize the importance of our role in helping maintain water quality in Oklahoma directly, as associated with forestry activities, and indirectly as a source of technical assistance and information. Forestry Services' comprehensive activities in forest management and protection, reforestation, urban forestry, water quality, and natural resource education as described below (comments OL149a-l), positively influence forest watershed health. Where forests are a portion of the land cover or where forestry activity is a potential contributor to NPS (non-point source pollution) problems on the watershed, OFS helps to minimize the impacts of timber harvesting, forest roads and other land management practices by assisting landowners, loggers and the industry and making them more aware of the need to protect water quality while managing their forests. Our cooperative efforts with landowners and forest industry include development of the State's Forest Water Quality BMPs, BMP compliance monitoring, logger and landowner education on BMPs and forestland management, BMP demonstrations and complaint investigation. Forest planning, tree planting and other practices have the potential to help solve NPS pollution problems associated with land use, in rural forests and agricultural operations, urban and suburban developments, and in the wildland-urban interface. Forestry Services offers information and technical assistance to landowners, communities, and other organizations and agencies in the form of written management plans and recommendations, low-cost tree and shrub seedlings and tree planting assistance, and financial assistance through the forestry cost-share program. In essence, good land management contributes to good water quality.
- **OL4a** I believe that OSRC [Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission] isn't meeting the challenge in managing the Illinois River and restricts the Administrator too much.

Conjunctive Management

- **OL158g** We want to acknowledge the OWRB and OWRRI's public meeting discussions of ground water and surface water issues and opportunities for amending existing state water laws. The U.S. FWS supports changes in the Water Plan and water laws that would allow the state to address water permits in a manner that appropriately considers the connection between ground water and surface water. We agree that obtaining adequate information on ground water and surface water interaction, supplies, demands, and uses is important if the state's water is to be managed in a sustainable manner. There are several related concerns within the existing Water Plan and Oklahoma water law that also should be addressed. For example, should ground water pumping significantly reduce a given stream's surface flows, the dilution of all permitted downstream discharged (such as municipal and industrial) and resulting water quality also could be adversely affected. In such instances, should water quality decline below state water quality standards, a total maximum daily load (TMDL) may need to be established which could impact discharge permits. However, implementing a TMDL and modifying permits could take years and water quality (and related fish and wildlife resources) could be impaired for extended periods of time as a result.
- **OL153** State law and a comprehensive water plan should recognize the obvious connection between groundwater and surface water supplies- that the two are definitely connected and correlated, and that we cannot withdraw groundwater without affecting stream flows.

- **OL152b** Surface water has to be treated more than groundwater and therefore the present attitude that we should combine all the laws between groundwater and surface water is pure insanity.
 - **OL63j** Groundwater and surface water are so acutely interconnected that the existence of separate laws and regulations is long outdated.
 - **OL39b** Surface water is linked to groundwater and vice versa. Removing too much groundwater or surface water can impact stream flows which affect fish, wildlife, agriculture and recreation. A large part of Oklahoma's economy comes from these sources.
 - **OL27d** We need to combine stream and groundwater laws.
 - **OL18a** I'm very concerned with all of the groundwater permits along the North Fork of the Red River above Lugert-Altus. During dry periods I know this has to affect the surface water flow into the lake. Our small watershed shrinks with every new irrigation pump permit granted.
- *Research*
 - **OL48a** Laws like SB 288 state that groundwater (private property) cannot be used except for domestic purposes unless it can be proved that the use will not have a negative impact on the springs and streams that emanate from the aquifer. It is my understanding that in times of drought, no water can be pumped from any aquifer without the possibility of impacting springs and streams. If this is true, why did we spend millions of taxpayer dollars to study the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer to determine how much water can be pumped without having a negative impact on the springs and streams if we already knew the answer?

Conservation

- **OL154** Plans for cities should require limited watering for everybody's lawn, including big commercial buildings lawns, as well as residential developments. Wasteful watering should be regulated. Oklahoma should well be considering dry-land landscape.
- **OL153** The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation realizes that a growing population needs water to drink, and that people must drink before they can fish, but "water conservation" is a term that we hear too little and one we hope the OWRB will consider more often in future decisions. We are grateful that rains have refilled our lakes, but hope that boaters, anglers and fish will fare better in the next drought with recognition of their values from users and water resource planners.
- **OL149c** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: Primary Threat to Continuation of Forest Benefits In our view, the greatest challenge to the continuation of the forest benefits to which we are accustomed in the 21st Century, including water quality benefits, is how to maintain our working forestland base (which include riparian forests) in the face of rising development pressures created by an expanding and urbanizing population. Thousands of acres of productive forestland across Oklahoma are lost each year due to fragmentation caused by the pressures of urban development, oil and gas exploration, and conversion to agriculture/grazing. In addition to this direct loss, tax policies make it more difficult for landowners to economically justify retaining working forestlands in the face of development pressures. Loss of working forestlands will have significant ramifications for water supplies in the next 50 years.
- **OL137** Conservation, the wise use of our natural resources. Science and technology assist in making wise decisions and policy, not perceptions. I would recommend the reading of "The New Economy of Nature" and the examples of successes around the globe on handling water issues.

- **OL63e** The water plan must strive for conservation and preservation of water resources.
 - **OL37c** These [water] plans should address the reuse of waste water and xeriscaping, among other conservation solutions.
 - **OL28a** I don't think you will change public perception of water quality/availability until outdoor fountains are prohibited. How can citizens be encouraged to conserve water when large fountains are built and impart a feeling of abundance? How else can a fountain be perceived, other than a sign of an unlimited resource that can be willingly lost for the sake of aesthetic pleasure?
- *Education*
 - **OL149e** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: OFS views natural resource education as a tool to encourage stewardship of our natural resources. Our programs are directed to youth and educators, as well as urban, suburban and rural property owners, and communities. Key messages include encouraging natural resource management and conservation of these resources on the land, in their homes, and businesses. This program supports the statewide objectives outlined by the Oklahoma Environmental Education Coordinating Committee that encourage natural resource education and awareness which includes water conservation and an understanding of watersheds and watershed health.
 - **OL149h** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: To influence water quality, Forestry Services will continue to refine the BMPs and improve their effectiveness; continue efforts in landowner, industry and logger education; conduct BMP compliance monitoring; and help raise public awareness through both our technical assistance and education programs.
 - **OL149i** The Forestry Service is highly cognizant of the present and future need for plentiful supplies of clean water and the opportunities for the forestry community to positively influence the outcome. The lands where we provide technical assistance and manage are a part of some of the most critical watersheds and riparian forests in the state. Professional foresters know how to manage forests through a variety of practices to accomplish various objectives established by an individual landowner, a group of landowners across a watershed, an entire community or by society as a whole. Successfully meeting those objectives in the future will demand a much closer cooperative relationship between private landowners, various elements of the public who depend upon the values their forests produce, and natural resource professionals. Developing a mechanism for rewarding landowners for good water quality work that is funded by the direct beneficiaries of those efforts and encouraging landowners to utilize the services of foresters and other natural resource professionals to provide technical assistance should be an essential component of a comprehensive water plan for the State of Oklahoma.
 - **OL129** I am hopeful the comprehensive water plan will contain a strong educational commitment and programs will be put in place to address and demonstrate environmental and appropriate conservation methods and applications focused on water reuse, recycling, retention, storm water management, non-point pollution, xeriscaping issues, stream bank stabilization, etc.
 - **OL75a** In the Woodward meeting conservation was mentioned. Although that is a wonderful thought, most people perceive conservation as practices that should apply to others - not to themselves. Therefore, human nature will require regulations that will have to be followed, and monitored by regional managers who are "tough enough" for the job. Many of our younger generation will not be interested in conservation on their part. Education was suggested and people cannot be forced to learn what they don't choose to be interested in. Also they can have knowledge, but find exceptions so that it does not seem to apply to them.

- **OL62b** As far as water usage in general is concerned, it is imperative that an all out campaign be initiated to educate ALL water users of the need for conservation. The blatant waste of water by commercial and other users in metropolitan areas is appalling. In Tulsa, for example, the commercial and other users, e.g., Saint Francis Hospital/Warren Medical complexes, allow water to flow down the gutters! There is little regard for the waste of this declining natural resource.
- **OL51** Re: Water Conservation I would like to know what Oklahoma is doing to promote water conservation in our State and what resources are available to community groups to assist cities/municipalities with education and awareness programs/activities.
- **OL37m** The lessons, both negative and positive, from the experience of residents in the city of Dillon, Colorado should be considered in developing this Plan for Oklahoma. Education: Since this is a 50-year plan and the only way a growing population is going to be capable of sustaining itself on a finite water resource is by becoming knowledgeable about its best possible management, age-appropriate educational modules for use in all levels of our public schools should be developed and sent to all school districts for immediate use in educating future citizens on all aspects of this issue, water use and conservation, public and private. The importance of adapting to the local environment (desert versus rain forest, remember) should be emphasized.
- **OL27b** We need to educate people about water.
- *Research*
 - **OL158e** As with comment OL158d, there are important spatial variations in stream flows and in the biota that inhabit different water bodies. Consideration of these variations and provision for their maintenance, on a sustainable basis, will require management systems that are spatially sophisticated. Accordingly, we believe that the state should prepare increasingly to manage water resources on a data-supported, watershed-by-watershed basis. Any improvement in spatial management should include, however, continuity among watersheds and especially adjustment for modification to upstream watersheds. Development of improved geographic-based management will benefit local decision-making, and will have additional value in dealings with surrounding states and interstate compacts, especially as those entities themselves develop more advanced water management systems.
 - **OL54a** I would like to see studies on all aquifers like Arbuckle-Simpson.
 - **OL13b** Study recharge systems for aquifers. If there is a fear of pollution use natural filters.
 - **OL13c** Make secondary use of waste water streams. Treat and reuse for industrial development, recreation and irrigation.
 - **OL23** We need to complete the study of sustainable yield on each of the major aquifers in the state. If we don't know recharge rates, discharge rates, and storage volumes, we are in the dark for planning. This should be a high priority.
- *Sustainability*
 - **OL159** This past summer emphasized the point of not building in a flood plain. We think how irresponsible people are who get flooded when they live in a flood plain. By the same token, how irresponsible is it to allow development in an area that does not have a water supply to support that development? Many water plan ideas revolve around population projections, showing growth where water is not available. It is not self-fulfilling to say the population will decrease in the rural west, so we can re-allocate that water. If you take water away, they will have no choice but to move to where the water is. Compensation and its impact of the local economy- payment to the source region sounds good, but what good is that payment if the region "dries up" due to lack of water?

- **OL149k** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: All agencies should continue to raise awareness of both the owners and managers of the lands where our waters originate, as well as the users of water, that a different mindset will be needed for us to survive and thrive in the 21st Century. A growing population will continue to impact working lands and replace natural vegetation with impervious surfaces and structures. Society needs to consider the negative impacts of growth more deliberately and adopt the green infrastructure approach to development. We should promote retention of green space and open space in developing areas through better planning at the community level.
 - **OL63a** With a solid water plan for sustainable water management and use, Oklahoma could be a model for the rest of the country and other dry regions around the world.
 - **OL63b** The OK water plan should set as a primary goal to be “sustainable” – not just in terms of water supply, but also in terms of the water resources themselves and the ecosystems of which they are an integral part.
 - **OL45a** The idea of sustainability has not been addressed much in the comments I've read from previous meetings. Most people want more water than the area they live in has. We need to live within our means. Industries that need a lot of water should locate in eastern Oklahoma where there is more water. Western (and Central) Oklahoma should work with the water they have and quit coming up with plans to take water from eastern Oklahoma.
 - **OL45c** The groundwater of Oklahoma should not be used at a rate greater than the natural annual recharge rate [of the aquifer].
 - **OL37b** I live in Cleveland County (Central) on 20 acres with a private well; my family owns land in Woods County (Northwest) and in Pushmataha County (Southeast). We need to stop being so arrogant in our use of natural resources, especially water. We must recognize that water is a local resource by its nature; hence there are deserts and rainforests. Water is a finite resource. Your card even points out the fact, "The earth has the same amount of water today as when it was formed;" and "Over 68% of the earth's fresh water is in the form of ice or permanent snow cover." In developing this Plan, we should keep in mind this observation: Ralph K. Davis, associate professor in geosciences and director of the Arkansas Water Resources Center: "The Arkansas River no longer flows in the stretch from Garden City to east of Dodge City, a distance of over 100 miles, because the groundwater is just too low. In much of the Great Plains, no new development is possible," Davis said. "The Ogallala Aquifer is a poster child for non-sustainable use." Sustainability of Quantity and Quality: Oklahoma must include in its plan the reality that stealing water from one region's ecosystem to support another region's overuse and abuse is not sustainable, neither within Oklahoma nor within the U.S. Oklahoma must address this fact on both the local and the federal level. For example, neither the Denver area nor the Dallas area by nature has a sufficient abundance of water to sustain residents' demands for an Eastern seaboard landscape and unrestricted population growth. I suggest that Oklahoma City is soon approaching that limit if it has not already surpassed it. Localities (cities, towns, counties and States) must come to terms with their natural environment and develop, implement and enforce local water use regulations that sustain their local water resources.
- *Technology*
 - **OL127f** Programs that promote native grasses that are fertilizer and water efficient for appropriate sites would reduce fertilizer use, preserve water quality and improve efficiency of water use (districts would have to evaluate the site and management practices for suitability of conversion to native range/hay/pasture). When native grasses are managed properly, wildlife habitat improves, water quality improves and maintenance decreases.

- **OL83** I would like to see some type of requirement for utilizing new water saving technologies before new irrigation permits are issued. An ag/irrigation engineer should help develop this criteria.
- **OL77e** Reduce water consumption and thus waste water. This can be done by actively promoting the use of "low flow" toilets, clothes washers and dishwashers which use significantly less water.
- **OL27a** We need to invest in conservation of water. We could save a lot of money and water by using water saving technologies. We need incentives for purchasing water-saving devices in our homes and businesses.

Economic Impacts

- **OL145i** The above recommendations (Comments OL145a-h) for Alternatives A and B as well as irrigation efficiency improvements and conservation can be mutually beneficial to the farming and tourist economy near Altus, Oklahoma and to the Lake Texoma Economic Engine and Ecosystem if they are funded in-lieu-of proposed chloride control projects.
 - **OL158j** Following these recommendations will help ensure that Oklahoma's natural resources, as well as a significant portion of its economy associated with industry, tourism, and outdoor recreation, are conserved. It is the U.S. FWS's stance that conservation of environmental flows, recognition of important surface water and groundwater relationships, and protection of water bodies of special value not only will protect important fish and wildlife resources, but also will establish a basis for long-term, sustainable economic uses as well.
 - **OL156b** Beyond the habitat and recreational value wetlands provide, wetlands provide other benefits which are valuable to the citizens of Oklahoma. These benefits include: flood and erosion control, water quality benefits, and aquifer recharge. The plan should recognize these functions and the economic benefits provided.
 - **OL134** Protect areas where lakes are located to protect the economy of the area.
 - **OL133a** These items should be addressed: 1. lake level protection to protect local area: a) economy b) taxes c) property values d) tourist business e) growth of area economy, the economy of lake area is based on the lakes.
 - **OL101a** I live on three waterfront lots on Lake Eufaula in Eastern Oklahoma. I retired from a natural resource agency in 1995. My concerns about water are varied. I, as many others, am a consumer of water. I drink it, I bathe in it, I wash dishes in it, I fish in it, I run my boat on it, I swim in it and, I look at it. I value all of those uses. Where does all of the water come from that I use each day? From Lake Eufaula!! And eventually, it all returns to Lake Eufaula. I would like to keep it that way. Local industry, municipalities, small business owners, homeowners and landowners have looked to the future and based their lives on this resource. The best and wisest use of Lake Eufaula water is to leave it right where it is!! It is the future of this area. I thank you for the opportunity to comment .
- *Recreation*
 - **OL11** I help manage a dryland farm in Texas County. We have operated a pheasant hunting operation for over 10 years. It is a viable alternative to agriculture. More agriculture land could be used for hunting. This would reduce the amount of chemicals and water use and I think the income made from hunting could be a greater and more secure source of income. Thank you.
 - *Regulation*
 - **OL53** Although this was addressed briefly during the meeting, I'd like to stress the need for the OWRB [ODEQ] to assess the impact of changes it makes (e.g., water quality standards) on towns and cities and offer to assist them (financially if necessary) in

adhering to the changes. Maybe prior to implementation, the OWRB [ODEQ] could work with the Federal government to help procure funding.

- **OL50** The mining industry contributes immeasurably to the economic health of many small Oklahoma cities. Mining and mineral processing requires water- please don't forget the concept of multiple use as it applies to our natural resources.

Health

- **OL63c** Any mention of water must also include mention of wastewater. With respect to water supplies, it is important to remember that water supplies lead to the production of wastewaters. Both the use of water and the production of wastewaters can have important and long-term negative effects to aquatic ecosystems, which can ultimately affect the quantity and quality of water supply.
- **OL27c** We need to make sure that we are focusing on water quality, keeping our water clean and safe.

- *Ecological*

- **OL173** Water is a resource, a precious one, and should be treated as such (not endless and, thus, with a price tag). It is also an integral part of an increasingly fragile ecosystem; an ecosystem that is whispering to us to live in harmony. I urge you to step away from consumerism and listen to conservatism. In the '20s, there were a few scattered voices, urging caution and cooperation with nature over hubris and domination. They were ignored as alarmist cries of a few extremists but the resulting dusts which blew for almost a decade, blocking the sun and filling folk's lungs with dirt were alarming and extreme. Again, I urge you to lean toward long-term stewardship and the resulting natural balance of the world we inhabit, not short-term profits and the resulting imbalance and long-term damage to our home. Again, I say that our ecosystem is whispering for us to live in harmony and if we listen, we'll be the ones who benefit. Please, let's listen while it's still a whisper.
- **OL158a** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a keen interest in the ongoing update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. Nationwide, water conflicts are escalating as cities, industries, agriculture, energy producers, and other interests compete for limited supplies. Oklahoma is no exception. We already have conflicts with adjacent states regarding water supplies and water quality. Continued growth, coupled with climate change, is certain to amplify competition for limited water supplies and potentially heighten the degree of conflict. At the same time, there also is a growing awareness of the need to wisely manage surface and ground waters, including dedicating a portion of natural stream flows to sustaining important fish and wildlife resources, while supporting compatible human uses. Constituent comments expressed during recent public meetings held by the Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute (OWRRI) often stressed the importance of conservation and sustainable use in future management of the state's water resources.
- **OL158h** The U.S. FWS is concerned about potential Water Plan-related impacts to aquatic or aquatic-dependent species that are protected by the Endangered Species Act (Act). Actions such as water withdrawals, discharges, groundwater pumping, water storage, impoundments, or other water flow or quality alternations could negatively impact federally-listed species and the habitat that supports them. We have enclosed a map that depicts, by watershed, those state waters that support federally-listed and candidate species to help the OWRB develop and incorporate appropriate protective measures in the updated Water Plan. Many of these species are threatened or endangered because of past and current alterations of the flows and/or water quality in the streams where they occur, or formerly occurred. We look forward to working with the OWRB and other agencies in developing measures in the updated Water Plan that will

avoid or minimize impacts to state waters, allow recovery of listed species, and help avoid the need to list any additional aquatic or aquatic-dependent species.

- **OL158i** A number of stream reaches and water bodies within the State are especially important ecologically. As part of the process outlined in the proposal submitted to the OWRB (see comment OL158b), a special effort should be undertaken to identify all reaches and water bodies of importance. We particularly want to emphasize the importance of stream reaches and water bodies relative to the national wildlife refuges and national fish hatchery located within the State. These facilities have been set aside not only for the conservation of fish and wildlife resources but also for the continuing enjoyment of the American people. Conservation of these waters provides a continuing benefit not only to Oklahomans but to all Americans.
- **OL156c** Playas are the primary source of recharge for the Ogallala Aquifer. The water plan needs to recognize the importance of playas in the Southern Great Plains. Efforts must be increased to protect functioning playas and restore degraded ones.
- **OL153** We would like for the state's water plan to consider instream flow criteria below all of our state's reservoirs. We have consideration through local agreement in Medicine Creek below Lake Lawtonka- the state's oldest reservoir- and conditions there are satisfactory for fish and anglers even in the hottest summers. We have persistent problems with stilling basin fish kills and streams are dry for miles in summers below dams because no water is released from our dams. Even the newest dams like Waurika were not built considering the needs of the streams below them.
- **OL149i** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: To influence water quantity, Forestry Services proposes: Expanding landscape level watershed management to maintain forest health and sustain the ecosystem services our forestlands provide. Improving markets for forest products and biomass will be needed so that landowners will be able to practice good forest management. Encouraging more intensive management practices including thinning forest stands to a stocking level that is just below the carrying capacity of the land may be one way to maintain stream flows under various climate change scenarios, while also improving wildlife habitat and reducing wildfire risks. Promote a "stop the spread" campaign to limit or reduce encroachment by invasive species, such as salt cedar and juniper, so that the growing capacity of the land is captured in desirable trees and vegetation that do a better job of providing forest and riparian benefits. Forestry Services is already exploring how tree planting and other practices may need to be modified in light of future climate change scenarios. Planting fewer trees per acre, selecting the appropriate adapted species, and using other management strategies will help both in water conservation and quality improvement.
- **OL81** We are very concerned about the watershed around Spring Creek that flows into Fort Gibson; over the past several years we have noticed algae is much more prevalent; which may be due to chicken waste run off and/or other chemicals. I'd like to see this watershed protected.
- **OL77b** Improve the quality of streams and rivers by examining ways to reduce animal and fertilizer agricultural wastes. There are, of course, many ways to accomplish this. Some of which could include the prudent usage of animal waste products to generate liquid biofuels or methane which then can be used on the farm/ranch or sold.
- **OL37f** Establishing a requirement that no ecosystem be damaged by the redirection of its natural water resources is vital. No reservoir, river or aquifer should have allocations that deplete the water therein beyond some level; that level to be established based on drought conditions. Yes, during drought conditions some animals naturally die, but I suggest that lawns (many of which tend to go dormant, not die) are of less importance. Oklahoma should strive to avoid the cavalier attitude toward water displayed by areas like Ft Collins, Colorado where half the residential water usage goes to lawn care.

- *Human*

- **OL161** Community water systems (drinking water and sewer) should be required within city limits, especially in new developments where there is a high density of individual water wells and septic systems.
- **OL132** Why is it my water smells like bleach and some unknown chemicals in it. I don't drink tap water.
- **OL92** I feel that the State Water Plan needs to incorporate a State-operated program that reaches private well users to disseminate critical information about their aquifer and the possible contaminants that may be present. Also, an annual-cycled schedule should be established for drop-off points in each county (or two per county) where residents can take a sample of their water, pay the testing charge and get testing results mailed to them in an easy-to-understand letter. I believe communities and counties should be responsible for assisting with the program (i.e. getting the word out), but the State should have overall responsibility. Many years ago, I warned my mom and sister (Logan Co. residents then) against drinking their well water – as they both had developed skin conditions. After changing their drinking water source, their skin problems diminished. Now, I hear on Channel 4 (Sep. 30, morning newscast) that other residents in Logan County are having tests that show high radionuclides at three-times the MCL in their drinking water. Reality is that residents on private wells all over Oklahoma are drinking water that exceeds MCLs. Is it not okay to rest the responsibility on their shoulders, as they do not understand the implications?
- **OL55** I am concerned about the Lone Chimney Lake area, particularly about the illegal salt injection wells and human waste disposal. I am concerned that all the water will be polluted in 5 years when the plan is complete. I am concerned that the Lone Chimney/Glencoe City lagoons overflow into Lone Chimney Lake.
- **OL54c** Arsenic and Nitrates in drinking water are a concern to me.
- **OL25** I'm pleased that you are taking a look at the water situation here in Grady County. I have lived in Chickasha for 7 years now. Although I like living here, drinking the water is impossible. If you could get past the taste and smell at times, I think it is very unhealthy. I have been purchasing bottled water for the past 6 years and it costs me between \$50 and \$70 a month. Not only as drinking water, but to wash, rinse & cook vegetables and pasta. I would gladly pay a portion of this "bottled water" cost if I could use my tap water. There are times when I can't get my daughter to bathe in it, especially when it's brown. I appreciate whatever you can do to provide this community with a quality water resource which is vital to our health, well being and survival. It's "Welcome to Chickasha, a great place to raise your kids...just don't drink the water!" Thank you.
- **OL6** I am concerned about arsenic and lead found in city water wells.
- **OL10** I am concerned about the lack of fresh water in the counties that the Lone Chimney Lake reaches.

Infrastructure

- **OL152a** The state does not have standards that are applicable to present drinking water treatment plant designs. THMs (trihalomethane) are due to chlorinated water becoming stagnant. This was avoided for the 1st 70 years of statehood by having water supplies that had splash systems that would oxygenate the water. This was back-flushed yearly and so only the lower part was stagnant. Engineers do not get money for distribution systems, only for capital improvements. When that happens they don't care that there is storage of water that gets contaminated in the pipes by THMs.

- **OL140** My property is located north out of Ripley, OK on Highway 108. The water is no good, and there is no rural water available. It is about 1-1/2 miles to the nearest rural water, and they don't appear to want to run a line. I am not the only one in this situation. What can I do about it?
- **OL139** I live in Colbert. Every year when it turns hot and dry we are told to not use outside water. If my memory is correct Colbert has received money from the government two times to fix our water problems. The money gets spent somehow, but our water problem never seems to get fixed. The car wash gets to stay open but we can't water our shrubs and trees that we spent good money and lots of time to make our houses look better. Looks like they would make everyone that just thinks they have to have a clean car wash it someplace else, odds are they are going to go to a different city anyway. What is the purpose of having a clean car just to stay in Colbert where there is not anything to do. Now they are building a Loves store. I wonder how much water it will use. When the water storage tanks are low will the Loves store have to cut back as well? Last summer a water expert was hired and he said the water table that our wells are in is very shallow and there is a bigger water table lower down that would fix all of our problems. Money was spent to drill 1 well deeper but I heard it didn't go deep enough to get better water. So once again our money was spent but it did no good.
- **OL136a** Just wanted to inform you that Oklahoma has over 2,000 flood control dams, many of which are either water sources for communities or could be expanded to become water sources for communities when they are rehabilitated. Over 1,000 of these dams will be past their design life in the next 10 years and will need attention. Even if they are not water sources for towns, they help capture silt and therefore extend the life of larger lakes downstream that are drinking water sources. Rehab, and operation and maintenance of these structures are critical to the water plan.
- **OL101b** I am concerned about the condition of watershed dams across the state and their need for maintenance.
- **OL101e** I think the State of Oklahoma should purchase Sardis Lake with bond monies and complete a wise use study to determine how to generate revenue to pay off the bond.
- **OL84** One of the major problems we face is the waste of our water by the cities and utility companies that service their clients. I live in Harrah and the city water system has numerous water line leaks that are either not repaired or are ignored due to cost of such repairs. Water lines in Echo Valley have been leaking for 3 years that I know of, I would guess at a rate of 2,000 gallons a day. I have reported this to maintenance crews and was told it would cost too much to repair so we just let it go. Not only is this wasting our water resources but also the money it takes to run the pumps and chlorinate the water, just to let it run down the street to the local storm sewer. The Water Resources Board should make all towns and cities repair these problems before they build more lines to maintain, especially since they cannot maintain what they already have. My suggestion is to make these agency more accountable for what they have instead of ignoring the waste they continue to have.
- **OL66** I had the pleasure of attending the open meeting you sponsored at the Osage County fairgrounds last Tuesday evening. It was very informative - I was so interested that an obvious (to me) solution completely slipped by. Part of the discussion in which I took part concerned the feasibility of dredging the "Flood control structures" (dams) to increase their capacity after decades of silting up. One of the participants pointed out that there were no federal funds for such "rehabilitation" so therefore, presumably, it could not be done. This is probably true if the material to be removed has no value. This is certainly not the case - it represents years of fish, plant and insect waste and debris, settling and decomposing. It is the biggest source of natural compost in the area, and I would be happy to haul off several trailer loads for my garden. More to the point, if a dumping/drying/pulverizing/packaging facility were to be established on the shores of the

lake (or a specially equipped barge moved from lake to lake) the sediment could be processed and wholesaled or contracted out to Gardenville* or some concern like that. Probably the revenue from this wonderful organic soil amendment would pay for itself, maybe even show a profit. This same flood-water sediment made the Nile valley the breadbasket of the ancient world for two millennia! As the watery mud came washing up to the processing plant, glass, plastic and aluminum could be strained out and resold for scrap. In short, I can't see how simply building more dams, with a life expectancy of 30 (!) years could possibly be a better solution to the flood control problem than the above outlined.

- **OL63d** Septic systems and oxidation ponds are still commonly used throughout the State – these systems are primary and major sources of pollution to both surface and groundwater. A priority for the water plan should include the eventual removal of all such systems and a move toward tertiary treatment of all wastewaters.
- *Maintenance*
 - **OL145d** The Lake Texoma Association has conducted several meetings and discussions of Red River Chloride Control projects with representatives of Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Altus-Lugert Irrigation District, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, U.S. congressional field representatives and several other organizations from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana along the Red River. We have discussed several Lake Texoma issues such as excessive chloride and water removal from the Red River and Lake Texoma, serious negative ecosystem and economic impacts and upstream alternatives including our following comments and recommendations. LTA recommended that near-term federal funding for irrigation operational efficiency projects recommended by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in their Appraisal Report for the W.C. Austin Project, Oklahoma would be more beneficial to the farmers and residents near Altus, Oklahoma than a three to five year, \$3 million Corps study and possible future follow on funding for a Red River chloride control project at Area VI.
 - **OL145f** The Executive Summary for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Appraisal Report, W.C. Austin Project says “Alternatives A (North Pool Restoration) and B (District Modernization) were found to be relatively cost-effective and highly acceptable with regards to anticipated environmental impacts. If implemented, these two alternatives would increase the amount of water effectively available to the District by about 15,000 to 20,000 acre-feet per year. This increase would off-set the effect of lost storage capacity in the reservoir due to sedimentation by an estimated 16 to 22 years.”
 - **OL145h** Alternative-A (North Pool Restoration) would have the additional environmental benefit of improving management of the Altus-Lugert Wildlife Management Area, which comprises most of the northern pool. This area is important for wildlife and waterfowl production. Alternatives A and B would provide considerably earlier drought relief to the Altus area farming and tourist enterprises. Lake Texoma Association strongly recommended consideration or reconsideration and possible federal funding of other improved irrigation operational efficiency projects with effective paybacks such as; lining certain additional irrigation canals and laterals, using pipes instead of open ditches for certain laterals, improved and more automated remote monitoring and control systems, improved irrigation methods such as drip irrigation systems, and possible removal of lake sediment by manual, dredging or other means while Lake Altus. In some cases crops were changed or limited according to available irrigation water supplies. These are commonly accepted practices in several other arid agricultural areas with very limited irrigation water supplies.
 - **OL78** Can we get grants to repair our dam & use that power for our coop electricity - instead of using coal? Blackwell currently uses 60% of energy from coal. It would generate jobs, decrease cost & improve our economy. I would appreciate your advice on the feasibility.

- **OL18c** No doubt Lugert-Altus is losing capacity as it slowly silts in.
- **Needs**
 - **OL62a** We receive water through RWD #6. It has been our experience that this system is unable to service the growing number of customers. It is outdated and evidently has no resources (money) to keep up with the growing demand. Foolish use of water in areas serviced by rural systems such as RWD #6 is unacceptable. Rural water systems should make sure they can deliver uninterrupted service to existing customers before taking on new ones.
 - **OL52** I'm all for completing Robert Kerr's vision of getting the water to all parts of Oklahoma. But as a councilman I know you can't be myopic. Therefore, I hope someone is investigating how to build and where to build lakes on the west side of the State. It might be wise to do both!
 - **OL46** Oklahomans are too dependent on groundwater sources. I believe there needs to be more reservoirs built in northwest Oklahoma as well as in the western part of the State. There should be at least 2 built in the Lawton area. I would think 5 more reservoirs will help. Small towns should be made to build a 1,000 acre reservoir and to stop using groundwater as their only water source. Towns such as Lone Grove and Wilson.
 - **OL29** With all the recent rains it is clear the State needs to build more reservoirs and they should have been built years ago. The wonderful rain water has gone through our State to the Gulf of Mexico.

Planning

- **OL175a** While I commend the effort you and your colleagues have put into the development of a plan, I would be less than honest if my concern for the quality of the plan were not stated. For example: In the three meetings I attended, it was stated as a "goal" that both the environmental and economic future of Oklahoma were priorities in the plan. That immediately jeopardizes the purity of the environmental aspect of the plan.
- **OL148** I believe that Texas and Kansas' Water Plans both took 10 years or more. They wanted to do a complete study and we should do the same. It is our water and our future.
- **OL143a** "Oklahoma Farm Bureau has played an integral role in shaping Oklahoma's water law. Today, OFB continues to play a role in the courts, state, and federal agencies, the state legislature and even Congress, to preserve the rights of agricultural producers to utilize water in their operations. Across the state many OFB members are customers of rural water districts, and many of those members serve on their rural water district boards. Thousands of OFB members utilize a combination of domestic and permitted groundwater wells and domestic riparian and permitted stream water for their households and farming and ranching operations. Following are some general concepts which OFB members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Funding the state's comprehensive water plan to ensure the water supply for both urban and rural citizens."
- **OL143b** General concepts which Ok Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Protection of the water supply for Oklahoma residents, with no excess water being declared until a 100 year needs study has been done.
- **OL143f** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: An oversight commission comprised of farm and ranch stakeholders, to be appointed by the House and Senate Agriculture Committee Chairmen, to work with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board on the statewide water study.
- **OL130a** Do not be guided in total by the big guys... Smaller communities need water too.
- **OL130b** A 50-100 year plan is essential.

- **OL74** Oklahoma needs to act very soon on water issues - our neighbors may be ahead. This is a very important issue, not just to western Oklahoma but to all of Oklahoma.
- **OL43** I believe our water problem is really a water development problem. Therefore, the following steps need to be taken: (1) Quantify how much water we have and where it's located, i.e.: an average of 35 million acre runs out of southeast Oklahoma each year into the Gulf of Mexico; (2) Determine where water is needed, how much and when; (3) Devise a way to get surplus water to where it is needed – there are communities in eastern Oklahoma who lack sufficient water due to a need for infrastructure to get it where it's needed – and we all know about the problems in western Oklahoma; (4) Create a plan to finance what is needed to get water where it's needed, when it's needed. These four steps constitute an outline for what Oklahoma needs to do. Much of the information needed is already available. Some may need updating. The key, I believe, is to find a way to pay for what needs to be done.
- **OL41d** Develop a five year plan to review any legislation approved to the comprehensive water plan(s) if passed into law.
- **OL38a** Attended the meeting last night. VERY well conducted. DON'T shorten or hurry the process, irregardless of the press of Texas' legal suit on Oklahoma water; the issue of water use is too complex and it would be easy to hurry into a badly mistaken "solution" to our problems.
- **OL37n** Planning Process: The goals for this Plan are admirable and the timeline very likely reasonable given other circumstances. The pressure Texas will undoubtedly bring at the federal level in their search for more water mandates a speedier development. Oklahoma must have a plan that protects Oklahoma-based water resources for our citizens, especially since water, once allocated to another State, will never be recovered. Loss of water from southeastern Oklahoma will adversely impact the region's economy since it includes, among other sources, reliance on recreational tourism (including hunting, fishing and water sports) as well as the timber industry, both high water use "industries."
- **OL21a** I have concerns about project funding. It is my opinion that many good ideas and suggestions have been offered for improving our water delivery system, as well as addressing environmental and conservation concerns. Alas, like all good government studies, this study will likely follow the path of most other studies. Those issues that can be funded will be. However, they are usually the least expensive regardless of whether it has the greatest impact or not. All studies must show SOME results to quiet any potential grousing over wasted time, money and effort. I would like the study to result in some meaningful, sustainable results where funding is not the focus for do ability. The projects that offer the biggest bang for the buck, regardless of location or cost, could and should be addressed in some order of priority. Oklahomans should not be afraid or hesitant to invest and protect what is undoubtedly its greatest natural commodity.
- **OL5a** Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) is a generation and electrical transmission cooperative that serves 19 distribution cooperatives and Altus Air Force Base in Oklahoma. WFEC has three generation plants located in Mooreland, Anadarko, and Hugo. WFEC also has a transmission system that covers two-thirds of the state. WFEC is very interested in participation in the Oklahoma Water Plan. The plan must include all interests within the state of Oklahoma. There must be a balance between industrial use, rural water use (both agriculture and small communities), as well as large municipals.
- **OL16d** Studies and decisions should be based on science and not politics.
- **OL16e** The public should be better educated on water issues.

- *Interstate Cooperation*
 - **OL152g** There are a lot of interstate issues affecting intrastate policy.
- *Priorities*
 - **OL145b** We [Lake Texoma Association] understand that drinking water has priority over recreation. But we assert that Tourism and Recreation must have comparable priority with other commercial and private uses of water such as washing gravel, drilling gas wells, filling personal swimming pools, electrical power generation and agriculture.
 - **OL157d** Your people said that presently there is no priority among beneficial uses. I would call this absurd, but let us agree to call it unwise. The state should establish an enforceable priority of uses, with support of native species- habitats and domestic water supplies at the top and everything else below. What some regard as legitimate uses should in fact be prohibited as waste, such as the unsustainable and ecologically inappropriate irrigation of corn in the Oklahoma Panhandle.
 - **OL156a** Wetlands provide valuable habitat for many of Oklahoma's fish and wildlife species. While water used for domestic purposes is obviously the highest priority, it must be recognized that water needed to support fish, wildlife and their required habitats is a beneficial use.
 - **OL146b** Priority of State owned water resources should be first for human drinking water, second for agricultural production and last, if at all, for recreational activities such as golf, lawns fishing swimming, etc.
 - **OL75b** I believe the most difficult part of planning for future generations of water users will be prioritizing water use - scarcities will occur - and establishing rules and regulations all must follow. That may not be a popular concept, however. The world is a different place with more diversity within an ever-growing population putting the greatest ever demands upon a finite resource. Up until now, most of us have enjoyed the luxury of plenty. However, one day that will change. Long speeches about what happened back in the 20th century are not applicable.
 - **OL45e** The use of water for recreation should be given high priority as it is usually non-polluting and less consumptive than other uses. Recreation (especially hunting and fishing) pumps hundreds of millions of dollars into Oklahoma's economy yearly and can be greatly affected by other more consumptive uses. Lake levels at different times of the year greatly affect reproductive success and recruitment in fish populations which in turn affect fishing success of anglers and influences when and where they spend their recreation dollars. Poor fishing in Oklahoma sends recreation dollars somewhere else in the country.
 - **OL44c** Priority of water usage needs to be set. People's drinking water and agriculture need to be a top priority. Wildlife and animals are important as well, but they should not be valued higher than humans or our food source.
 - **OL37q** Recreational and wildlife uses of water resources must receive their priority fair share of the allocation from each reservoir.
- *Public Participation Process*
 - **OL145a** The Lake Texoma Association (LTA) supports the development of long-range State water plans using effective public participation in the planning processes.
 - **OL167** Public participation in water planning should not be limited to revising the plan. The plan should also include provisions for involving the public after the plan is revised. OWRB should consider establishing and supporting watershed advisory groups, comprised of local stakeholders, that meet periodically to monitor implementation of the plan locally and that can offer suggestions for improving implementation success.

- **OL157b** Among other things, I am concerned that the state seems to be relying so heavily on public input for developing its water plan. Many people likely would be offended by such a position. However, the reason for my concern is this: contemporary decisions involving natural resources are complex and many average citizens are not sufficiently educated about the complexities involved to be able to offer the best input. Also, individuals frequently represent a narrow interest and thus lack a perspective for serving the broad public interest. If you doubt this, just consider many of the comments submitted at your public meetings—some I heard were selfish, short sighted, and downright dumb. Not the best basis for public policy. By the way, I count myself among those who lack sufficient expertise and perspective for helping to prepare a comprehensive water plan. I try to educate myself about the issues, but have my own biases and still much to learn. So, what I would like to see is for the state to rely more heavily on people with genuine expertise to develop this plan and to spend more time educating the public about the need for it to include things like water conservation. Society continues to be horribly wasteful in many of its uses of water. Anyway, please continue to gather and consider citizen input, but use plenty of expert input to produce a sound plan protective of long-term public interests.
- **OL157c** Also, your experts, besides having real expertise, should have strong environmental ethics and not be water hustlers, who care only about finding ways to make money out of every drop of water that flows through the state. People like the Corps of Engineers and others present themselves as experts but have never done anything good for Oklahoma's water resources—they merely preside over environmental destruction and are morally bankrupt. Please seek out and involve people for university biology departments, the wildlife and environmental agencies, and the environmental organizations. After all, I and other taxpayers help pay many of these peoples' salaries (the NGOs excepted), and may reasonably expect them to be the public's experts for such purposes.
- **OL94** Notice if you will on the page that talks about "nominations" for representatives that a "committee" will make the final choices of who represents who....guess who makes up the committee....I don't know either !!!
- **OL87** The OWRI Oklahoma Water plan conference is critical and necessary even if it takes more time than traditional methods. Non-governmental stakeholders must be involved for the long-term health and conservation of Oklahoma's waters.
- **OL80** The Tribes who have not relinquished water rights must be included in the process. Not just consulted afterward. Not doing so thus far is like ignoring the elephant in the room, which is sure to have legal consequences in the future. As an observer, it appears either there is ignorance on the part of plan process developers or intentional efforts to avoid this discussion with the tribes. It cannot be avoided.
- **OL69c** Will you be coordinating the information with our Indian tribes? I'm sure the Sac and Fox Nation in Stroud, Oklahoma would provide a site to meet.
- **OL65** I believe strongly that this water study group should be required to issue a public report at least every six months on the status of the study and highlights of what has been learned during the course of the study, in other words there should be regular status reports to all Oklahomans via the media and this web site. This is too important just to give certain legislative leaders inside information. It should be completely open.
- **OL63h** With respect to some of the comments made during the Cleveland County meeting: It seems illogical to have a two phase structure to the formulation of a water plan. Asking for engineering proposals before the water plan is finalized is like asking painters to paint your house before you start construction! Having both phases proceed at the same time will increase drastically the potential for conflicts to arise. For example, the final water plan may call for the cessation of water transfers from east to west in the state and set up incentives to individuals and other entities to relocate in the east. At the

same time, engineers may call for elaborate renovation and construction in the water supply system to move more water westward. Real, on the ground proposals and development can not precede finalization of the comprehensive plan. It makes no sense to encourage people to live in areas where water is in short supply.

- **OL37a** I attended the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan local input meeting at Norman on 19 July 2007. Let me thank you for taking this approach to developing this Plan; citizen input is vital, but rarely requested.
- **OL37p** Native American Nation Involvement: Have you sent these information packets to the Tribal Headquarters? Have you invited them to participate in this planning process and asked if they have any funding or other, in kind, support available.
- **OL32** I attended the Murray County meeting last evening, 07/15/07, and was very impressed by the degree of public participation, and the quality of the introductory professional presentations. That introductory information is essential to setting the stage for the importance of this project. Well done!
- **OL17** Are there state regional water planning groups that submit regional water plans with recommendations for the state plan?
- **OL12** Thanks for having the meetings as local as possible. Appreciate your effort.
- **OL1** Trusting organizations like Sierra Club and putting their members on decision-making boards is the best way to ensure that Oklahomans continue to have clean air and water. It's time to stop selling out to CAFOs, OK Farm Bureau and similar organizations who backstab small farmers while expecting citizens to subsidize the environmental messes created by those who make a profit by torturing animals in intolerable conditions.
- *Regional Differences*
 - **OL141b** I believe the statewide water plan should take into account that water supply and needs in western and eastern Oklahoma are different. The plan should take into account that a one-size-fits-all policy may not be the best for the state.
 - **OL5c** The plan must balance eastern and western Oklahoma interest. WFEC appreciates the opportunity to make comments.
- *Revision*
 - **OL170** The water plan itself should include provisions for continuous review and more frequent revision. The plan should be a living, breathing document; not a dust collecting, staid document that no one pays attention to.
 - **OL168** Planning should not end with the publication of a document. Planning should be seen as a continuous process. The decennial planning document is simply a step along the way.
 - **OL37o** Financing/Funding: Tax-deductible contributions to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan development process and subsequent, continued updating and oversight should be included as an option on Schedule 511-G, Donations from Refund, like the "Support of Oklahoma Road & Highway Maintenance" is. The OWRB, as the Oklahoma State governmental agency with the lead on this action should be identified to receive the funding through this source for its allocation to other agencies as necessary to get the plan expedited. Following completion of the Plan, subsequent donations should be used to implement, evaluate and update water resource protection.
 - **OL5b** The plan must allow for change. Industry makes plans that are 10-20 years in the future. Agriculture cropping patterns change over time. The plan must be flexible enough to preserve the ability to make changes and have the water to meet these changing markets.

Policy/Regulations

- **OL142c** Put a water level on Sardis Lake. [Water levels should not be allowed to drop below a set level]
- **OL131c** The State of Oklahoma should maintain control of all water regulatory programs across the state. Oklahoma has 39 recognized Tribes, and their lands are scattered throughout the state. If numerous Tribes obtain “treatment similar to a state” for the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, or any environmental program, this could lead to overlapping, inconsistent, and inefficient programs and standards in comparison to the state’s standards, will create great confusion within the regulated community, and will increase compliance costs for companies trying to keep up with a large number of Tribal regulatory requirements. The “checker boarding” of Tribal regulatory agencies across the state would not benefit the state in any fashion, and in fact, may cause the state to lose revenue due to the delays in operator’s exploration and production programs. The existing state agencies already have water regulations (approved by EPA) in place to protect all citizens of Oklahoma, including the Tribes. We urge the state to maintain control and authority of those regulatory programs.
- *Adjudication*
 - **OL169** The water plan should include provisions for alternative dispute resolution. No matter how well the plan is written and implemented, conflicts will undoubtedly arise. An ADR process can go a long way to avoid expensive litigation and appeals to politicians in resolving conflicts that may arise.
- *Enforcement*
 - **OL106** Federal Laws are in place to improve our water law enforcement first, education next.
 - **OL101c** I am concerned about non-point source pollution, statewide, and support stricter controls for offenders.
 - **OL31** Although I live in Tulsa County I'm concerned about the water quality in all of Oklahoma. It seems that political football is out there every time an important issue comes up... chicken litter in the water above Lake Tenkiller is an example... the poultry industry is waging a massive public relations war telling of what good stewards they are of the environment all the time. Yet when the lake turns over in the late summer and the stratified pollution in the lake drops to the bottom... you can barely be in the area below Lake Tenkiller on the lower Illinois River without a gas mask... the air is rich with sulphur dioxides... the culprit... chicken waste... animal waste pollution into our water must be policed and fines administered to violators of the laws.
 - **OL9** I am frustrated with the “illegal salt water injection wells,” and want to know what can be done about it. Someone besides the EPA should be documenting these problems. There isn’t enough fresh water in Oklahoma and these salt water injection wells are not helping the situation. This problem has gone on too long and something needs to be done about it...now.
 - **OL16f** Rural water districts that accept public money should be regulated, currently they are not.
- *Incentives*
 - **OL149f** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: Forestry As Part of the Solution to Long-term Water Needs Over 90% of Oklahoma’s land is privately owned. Long-term efforts to affect water quality and water quantity must be directed there to have any significant impact.

Incentives are needed for private landowners to maintain working forests, as well as to plant trees and better manage their lands for water quality benefits.

- **OL149g** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: Communities that rely on drinking water supplies from privately owned, upstream watersheds should develop mechanisms to work in cooperation with those landowners to improve and maintain watershed health. There are a few instances of this being done around the country that are worth emulating. When a landowner is expected by society to modify his or her land management practices for the primary purpose of providing a public benefit, especially when income is foregone or costs increase, then some level of compensation is justified. Two common examples of this compensation include direct financial assistance (cost-sharing) and tax incentives. Developing a reasonable mechanism for rewarding landowners for these efforts coupled with identification of a method to generate funds from water users to support an incentives program is needed and should be investigated and developed. Citizens, communities, businesses and other users of water should support - financially and otherwise - the efforts of private landowners to maintain healthy watersheds and sustain stream flows. For example, pay landowners to modify land management practices for water quality benefits, such as using BMPs. The direct beneficiaries of plentiful supplies of clean water should share in the cost of providing those supplies, not only to the water treatment plants, but to the owners of the watershed as well.
- **OL149j** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: The State should continue to promote and provide incentives for the management and planting of forests including forest buffers in forest, agricultural, urban and interface environments and the restoration of our riparian forests across the state.
- **OL127b** Most districts have flood control structures that are nearing the end of the 50-year life expectancy with over 2,000 structures across the state. There is very little opportunity to offer landowners assistance in watershed management or offer incentives to help preserve the life of the structure. District O&M agreements usually appoint the district sponsor to maintain the structure but have no resources or jurisdiction on the land management around the structure. An improved plan would provide incentives for landowners to vegetate watersheds and reduce inflow of silt.
- **OL127c** Overstocking of livestock in watershed areas is a continuing problem causing erosion on dams and increased silt and organic waste inflow. There is no program to assist landowners or compensate landowners that manage watershed lands appropriately.
- **OL127e** State incentives for landowners to implement riparian management in all areas would improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Wetlands preservation and development would improve water quality and diversify plant and animal species for given areas. Free soil testing for farmers and ranchers that would implement nutrient management plans and conservation plans would educate landowners and improve crop/vegetative production efficiency while protecting water quality. Grants or funds for demonstration plots would assist in education of landowners of management practices that not only improve productivity but conserve water and improve water quality.
- **OL127h** Offer incentives to livestock producers to exclude livestock from streams and tributaries reducing erosion, creating buffer strips and riparian areas, prevent animal wastes and pesticides/fertilizer from entering streams creating improved wildlife habitat. Land grazed heavily by cattle cannot sustain populations of deer, quail and other wildlife, and cattle and other livestock cause severe erosion of stream banks.
- **OL127j** Increased incentives for covered livestock feeding areas and manure management or composting would reduce contaminants in water runoff from those areas. All of the above (Comments OL127a-i) as an Integrated Protection Plan would be more

effective than any combination of individual efforts and would have a long term synergistic effect on water quality.

- **OL131b** In the area of water quality, programs like the state cost-share program, EPA section 319 and the Conservation Reserve Enhanced Program (CREP) help farmers, ranchers and other landowners work through voluntary, locally-led means to control non-point source pollution and soil erosion. We have seen reductions of up to 70% in nutrient levels in sub-watersheds where the conservation cost-share and section 319 programs have been implemented. The state is now undertaking additional programs such as CREP in these watersheds to build on this success. These types of programs help us address critical water quality issues in priority watersheds throughout the state and ensure that the water we have is fit to use. We must continue working with landowners to protect our water quality through these types programs and they should be considered as part of any state wide water program and plan.
 - **OL63g** US citizens on a global scale pay very little for fresh water and typically much less than the price to deliver that water and remove the wastewater produced. The water plan should call for fair and realistic water pricing that includes such things as: higher taxes for higher water use entities tax breaks and other incentives for low water use entities, including but not limited to installation of water saving devices, replacement of high-water need lawns with xeriscaped gardens, rain water harvesting for domestic gardening, etc. higher charges for wastewater production, bracketed to include increased charges for excessive production of wastewater or production of wastewater that is of substantially poor quality, incentives to farmers to switch to low-water use crops and drip irrigation/fertilization All income derived from such taxation should be reinvested into continual upgrade of water and wastewater treatment, water supply, and other water plan-related objectives pertaining to sustainability.
 - **OL21c** I know of several water and sewer projects that have been dictated by local politics rather than by economical good sense. Specifically, there are projects where it would be much more cost effective to address a town's or city's water needs by tying into an existing system rather than drilling new wells that operate independently for that town or city. Engineers have even suggested that the long-term solution to the entity's water needs would be to join a regional system. The entity refuses and insists on building their own system. Now don't misunderstand me, America is built on freedoms! Entities ought to have a right to choose whatever option they wish to pursue. However, they should not be allowed to pursue that option if it is more expensive, less sustainable and financed with state or federal dollars. In other words if state and/or federal dollars are involved in the project, the entity must select the best, most cost-effective option to receive outside funding. If they are insistent on doing it their way, they can do it with local funding.
 - **OL4b** I wish someone would think about initiating a no-growth policy with a pollution cap and trade system, much like carbon credit trading, so that northwest Arkansas developers could "buy" and farmers on the Illinois River could "sell" pollution credits created by river-preservation activities.
- *State Regulations*
 - **OL153** OWRB's Water Quality Standards have helped us address pollution and maintain water quality in Oklahoma streams, but they don't account for water quantity, the more basic fisheries requirement that fish require water to survive. As public demands increase, water quality standards become irrelevant if streams don't flow.
 - **OL153** Currently, state water policy has a "use-it-or-lose-it" rule on surface water that essentially encourages cities to use water to retain their water rights. This rule should be dropped or amended so that cities are encouraged to conserve. The City of Lawton, for example, did little to encourage conservation during the recent drought, even as lake water levels dropped to record levels.

- **OL143r** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members oppose with regard to water law, usage, and statewide planning: Any new fees by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for water wells or permitting.
- **OL140** We would like to see in the future (we need it now on existing lines but that can't be done) that all new water districts and/or replacement lines, be large enough to lay two lines to fire plugs without sucking or collapsing lines to houses. In cases now it can suck all the water from your house if the fire department is putting out a house fire. Thanks!
- **OL133b** Beneficial use of water for protection of lake area economy in the form of practical lake levels to protect: 1) growth 2) tourism 3) property value.
- **OL131e** Floodplain requirements for oil and gas exploration and production activities must be reasonable and appropriate. Many communities in Oklahoma voluntarily participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's floodplain program. Once in the program, local Floodplain Boards are required to regulate all development in floodplains, including oil and gas activities. These local Floodplain Boards have varying knowledge about oil and gas operations. Many of them have placed a number of requirements on our industry that provide minimal to no benefit, and can be costly when there are less burdensome means to accomplish the purposes of the floodplain program. We urge the OWRB to work with our industry to develop reasonable and appropriate requirements for our activities that can be consistently applied by Floodplain Boards. In addition, we urge the state to implement an equitable permit fee program for all entities constructing in a floodplain.
- **OL103** The State needs regulation to address water runoff as land is developed. Erosion along inadequate drainage ditches is costing this State millions. Developers and city officials must be held accountable for allowing water to be placed onto others during development.
- **OL102** In your planning, please recognize the need to regulate land application of biosolids within nutrient-impaired watersheds, especially Oklahoma Scenic River watersheds. Any regulation should include industrial biosolids as well as biosolids in any form from wastewater treatment plants.
- **OL54d** We should regulate withdrawals.
- **OL37j** As part of the oversight authority and responsibility, the State should also establish and enforce environmental protections over both watersheds and re-charge zones.
- **OL37k** Commercial water companies, whether they draw their water from a private well or from a surface source, must be required to undergo periodic in-depth evaluation of their practices, as well as their effect on the water resource they utilize, to ensure that other surface owners of the same resource are not adversely affected.
- **OL22** The state needs to put a high priority on monitoring discharge in each of the major streams and rivers, aquifer depths, and ambient water quality.
- o *Permits*
 - **OL176** I live and farm in the Panhandle region. I think the agriculture irrigation needs to be limited and the amount of water used should be monitored. I know it is not a popular notion but the aquifer will be depleted. I have friends that irrigate and they will continue until there are restrictions on the amount of water that they can use. There are a number of us out here that feel this way. I believe it is a moral obligation to protect and conserve the aquifer.
 - **OL158c** As technical analyses continue, we encourage the OWRB to begin adjustments in its administrative procedures in anticipation of the eventual identification of environmental flow prescriptions. For example, all modern methodologies recognize, and utilize, temporal variations in flow and what are

referred to as flow components. Principal components of the annual flow regime include magnitudes, frequency, duration, timing, and rate of change in discharge. Each of these components is ecologically significant and must be maintained in its natural state (to a degree) in order to maintain ecological integrity. To do this, it must be possible to specify and regulate water appropriations on a more sophisticated basis than just on given volumes per year. It may, for example, be important to specify that annual withdrawals occur at particular times of year and below particular rates.

- **OL158d** Similar to comment OL158c, because precipitation and stream flows vary year-to-year, protection of environmental flow needs during all years would require some provision to curtail water withdrawals below normal amounts during unusually dry periods. While such a provision does not presently exist, it is paralleled in the state's existing ability during very dry periods to restrict open burning, which is otherwise permitted.
 - **OL143e** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Empowerment of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to reduce the appropriation of groundwater when the user of the water is other than the landowner and the use of the water is not on the land where the water is produced.
 - **OL136** For some reason we [a Tulsa country club] lost some of our water rights in the mid 80's. I would like to get them back. We have 200 acres under irrigation. I tried to do the paperwork but there was too much red tape. I couldn't find anyone with the OWRD that was that much help
 - **OL56** I am concerned about irrigation opposing small withdrawals for oil and gas production. Sensitive to people overseeing industry's use who have no knowledge about industry and water.
 - **OL39c** Water appropriation should be based on sustainable yields figured at the low point of the annual and long-term water level cycle. Water cycles in Oklahoma are historically extremely variable and who knows if global warming is going to further change water oscillations.
 - **OL8c** Cities and towns in the western half of the state do not have the luxury of large reservoirs to trap surplus water for future needs. If groundwater is continually abused as it is today the clock is ticking for catastrophe. I-35 west will be unlivable. I would strongly recommend no more permits be granted for irrigation purposes in Oklahoma. Corporate farming and the petroleum industry have created a crisis similar to global warming.
 - **OL3** I help manage a dryland farm in Texas County. I think there should be a cap on the amount of irrigation water that is used for agriculture. Many farmers will produce more corn for the ethanol plants. This will drain the Ogallala Aquifer at a faster rate than it is already being drained. I am very concerned about this situation as are other dryland producers. Thank you.
- o *Taxes*
- **OL21b** I would suggest that legislators consider a state water tax just like we have gasoline taxes. Water and petroleum are both natural resources and should be considered similarly. As water issues continue to grow, so should the legislators willingness to enact laws to help us protect that resource even as the public embraces measures to ensure good, quality water is available for consumption or use. I would suggest that the state levy a monthly tax of 50 cents or a dollar for every water meter, water well, etc. for every user throughout the state. Surely this would not be sufficient to address all needs but it would provide a supplement for what is already being spent.

- **State Statutes**
 - **OL174a** Scrap existing Oklahoma water law and OWRB regulations. Start at ground zero with accurate scientific data and reality. Remember the “Dust Bowl”? That was set in motion by the Government’s position and promotion that soil was an endless resource. History can be our best teacher. Make the head of the Oklahoma Water Resource Board subject to confirmation by a majority of Oklahoma voters every four years, with the OWRB members being elected by the voters from the different regions of the state.
 - **OL157f** Oklahoma needs to update its groundwater law and better protect its aquifers, both because of their important relations to surface waters and because of their own underappreciated value, including support of hyporheic life. As already suggested, the groundwater statute should be changed from a pro-consumption law to more of a sustainable-use law.
 - **OL143I** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Providing protection of rural water districts from encroachment by cities and towns. Encroachment can affect rural water districts ability to repay their loans and serve their customers.
 - **OL131d** As one of the largest industries in the state, a permanent position on the OWRB’s Board should be established that represents independent crude oil and natural gas operators. We are encouraged that a person was appointed to the Board that represents industrial water use and has knowledge and experience in the oil and gas industry; however, we think that a permanent position should be established that represents the independent oil and gas industry. Over the past two fiscal years, our industry has supplied over \$2 billion to the state through gross production taxes that has funded various programs including various water projects across the state. Some of the water projects include the Arbuckle-Simpson Study, the Red River Chloride Control project, the Grand Lake study, and recently, the update to the Comprehensive Water Plan. In FY06 and FY07, approximately 90% of OWRB’s permits (provisional temporary and long term permits) were related to oil and gas activities. In FY06 and FY07, it is estimated that 88% and 86%, respectively, of the funds generated by the OWRB’s permit program came from oil and gas activities. In addition, our industry expends significant amounts of funds to explore, drill, complete and produce crude oil and natural gas in the State, and the access to adequate quantities of water and sources of supply are integral to the success of our activities. We urge the State to establish a permanent position on the OWRB’s Board that represents independent crude oil and natural gas operators.
 - **OL93** I just returned from the 10/2/2007 Save Our Water meeting in Eufaula. Five elected representatives from the state level, our local politicians, were at the meeting. If we, who attended the meeting, do not take anything other than from the men who spoke for us then we should listen to Rep. Harrison, Cannaday and Berenger. They represent us here on the lake....the other two are trying to begin the process of telling us what is good for us and to get ready to have our water resources taken from us by private enterprise with no return to us as Oklahomans...much less as Oklahomans on the Lake. I have worked for the State for almost 20 years and have seen the divide and conquer act many times. If we only do one thing throughout this process then it needs to be to focus on Lake Eufaula and Lake Sardis. It is called the rifle effect, practice aiming at a point on the target and learning to hit that precise point. They would have us bring a shotgun and point and hope to hit the target with some of the shot. Mr. Harrison was the most to the point....”Beneficial use of the water should be all of our rallying cries.” Many voices as one aiming at the same thing....total and immediate oversight through legislation to ensure that no private entity or entities can make a contract through the Water Resources Board or any other group supposedly representing us. We already have a Water Resources Board that refuses to even add "recreation" as a priority to their so called summit meeting. Hey everybody if you don't think there is a hidden agenda at the Water Resources Board then you are naive.....they want our water for profit.....PROFIT.....sheer

greed! And if we don't stay focused and handcuff them with law(s) to make them unable to gain by their acts the Water Resources Board will be influenced by the almighty dollar. Mr. Cannaday gave the most chilling report....our own elected official could not get the information on proposed legislation! "I was told that it was a privacy issue and couldn't receive that information!" a direct quote. That one piece of information should tell all of us that if we don't build in and force oversight by a public group then this board will apply the "feel good" tactic of "let's have some meetings and make these people feel like their input is going to influence the outcome of this 'study!'" We need to tell them how to do the study not them tell us! We must insist on "Beneficial use of the water as a corner stone of the criteria and oversee the definition of "beneficial use" and hold those board members accountable under the law. Now which one of our politicians will step up and introduce legislation to this end? Why don't they work together to ensure the basic principle of "Beneficial use" and transparency of action(s) by this Board and its members. No matter what let's agree to focus and work together with only one agenda....Oklahomans on Lake Eufaula....what's good for this Lake community will always be good for all Oklahomans!

- **OL40** With the passage of SB288, groundwater owners over the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer were forced to subsidize the surface water. Surface water permits over the Arbuckle-Simpson shall be set at the same rates as groundwater permits upon completion of the study. Example: If groundwater permits are set at 1 acre-foot per acre owned then surface water permits should have a dedication of acres consistent with that of groundwater permits. Pits dug by mining companies shall be treated the same as a well. The water removed should be permitted and the same amount of acres dedicated as groundwater permits. Groundwater and surface water permits shall have the equal amount of acreage dedicated because of the interaction between groundwater and surface water that current Oklahoma Law imposed by the passage of SB 288
- **OL34** I would suggest a "water" bill of rights similar to the U.S. Constitutional Bill of Rights, which set certain rights for all citizens of state. This is intended to eliminate advantages from highly populated areas, political and monetary advantage, over rural communities.
- **OL13a** There should be legislation to create regional water authorities to wholesale water similar to G&Ts wholesale electricity.
- **OL15** People getting permits to bottle water from springs may have a devastating effect on adjacent landowners by lowering the water table. The laws in Oklahoma must be changed to give adjacent landowners consideration when issuing permits to applicants, to protect their groundwater as well and not just the applicant's. If the current laws are not amended/changed, many adjacent landowners will be left with little, or no water in their wells, springs, and creeks.

Regionalization

- **OL82** At the Tulsa meeting last week, there was much discussion on the viability of the Rural Water Districts in Oklahoma. One comment even said that they had 'outgrown their need.' I disagree in that without the RWD's there would be no viable way for rural citizens to get good, clean drinking water. However, many municipalities complained about the protection the RWD's have from aggressive encroachment by neighboring cities and towns who are expanding their borders by annexation. Another question was asked about fair compensation for the RWD system that is being annexed. Some years ago there was a failed Senate Bill (656) that proposed some sort of equitable settlement between the water district and the annexing municipality. I'm not saying this could or should be the answer to that, but could be a benchmark for determining an appropriate equation for those buyouts.
- **OL16c** There should be development of regional water systems to serve everyone.

Sales and Transfers

- **OL138** Question: Why does Dallas metro want Kiamichi region water? Why doesn't Dallas pump water from the huge eastern reservoirs close to the Sabine River like Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend? Is the distance to the Kiamichi River closer or something else? Ok City has some ideas about a \$1/2 billion pipeline to eastern Oklahoma. When will our OKC population require this (which decade?) We will have to think a long time before taking this step, but maybe eventually we will have to take it. Dallas metro and Oklahoma southeast water seems uncomfortably similar to LA and the Owen valley story around 1900. Economic power trumps local resources -- give them a gallon and they'll take millions of cubic miles of water. The state climatologists are very wise to raise the issue of global warming and water resources. Rainfall changes radically from east to west today. How will cities like Weatherford and Alva and smaller towns solve problems if rainfall decreases to that of eastern New Mexico or Phoenix? What will our land use and water best use be in these cases? The other side would be there is nothing wrong with interstate water transfers, is the best regional use Dallas or Oklahoma?
- **OL143m** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Safeguarding the quantity of surface water in springs, lakes and streams and the perpetual supply of groundwater for all property owners in a groundwater basin when granting permits to persons who plan to sell or transfer their rights to sell water for use outside the groundwater basin.
- **OL142a** Do not sell water out-of-state.
- **OL141d** I'm concerned about rocky land being sold near Davis recently for the water rights.
- **OL101d** Before a drop of water is transported from somewhere to anywhere, a cost analysis should be conducted to determine its feasibility. A gallon of water stored in Lake Eufaula may be worth a dollar, but after being transported to western Oklahoma, to grow cotton, may well be worth five dollars a gallon. The taxpayers should not have to pay that price.
- **OL90** In light of recent comments concerning selling water to Texas from the Kiamichi River basin, I would like to suggest that first of all we establish a water system that would distribute the water to the more arid parts of our State before we sell any water to anyone. I know that this would be an expensive and monumental project but we need to be looking ahead and thinking about future needs for the citizens of the state. Then and only then would we consider selling to anyone and even then it could not be guaranteed. Thanks
- **OL37e** Uncontrolled private development of water resources (reservoir or well) and subsequent sale of water to distant users must be prevented as Corporate America has proven itself to be more interested in its present bottom line than in the State or Country's future.
- **OL37i** Private landowners must be prevented from selling "water rights" in the manner that mineral rights are currently separable from the surface.
- **Compensation**
 - **OL142d** The counties that lost their land for Sardis Lake should get the money off the water.
 - **OL135** Why not make excess water available to our neighbors at no charge. Why shouldn't we be kind to others when they are in need especially? This follows the teaching of the "Golden Rule." Payment should not be expected for this life supporting element.

- **OL128** Southeast Oklahoma cannot continue to keep a strangle hold on our water forever. Someone, somewhere, somehow will eventually buy or take our water. We need to make a plan for use of our water NOW!! Southeast Oklahoma should at least receive some kind of a gross production tax on a sale, and receive continuous clean water tax or benefit for keeping our water clean.
- **OL44a** I have land in Woodward & McClain Counties as well as Payne. If we sell water (ground and surface) it [the proceeds] should go to the state of Oklahoma (all of us), not private owners. This would hopefully stop a few individuals from getting rich over water rights and allow our State and everyone to benefit as a whole.
- **OL37g** When the State determines that water is to be redirected from one area to another, the losing area must be compensated economically not on a one-time but on a continual basis. There should be no grand-fathering in this issue.
- *Control*
 - **OL105b** The Sardis Lake area, and the Kiamichi River should remain under the control of the people of the area that own the property. We purchased property there because of these water resources.
 - **OL54b** I am concerned with big cities taking water from rural areas.
 - **OL41a** Limit large industries and corporations within and outside of Oklahoma to buy up groundwater rights for transport of water for out-of-state usage.
 - **OL2** Thank you for coming to Beaver last night. Each water area, Northwest/Panhandle should control their own water resources. OKC should not be able to claim all the stream water rights in the Beaver River. If OKC needs additional water, they should purchase this water from the surface and groundwater owners. In the near future the rural areas will not have the votes to keep OKC and Tulsa from confiscating our water. Thank you.
- *Interstate*
 - **OL174a** Stop the promotion of the surplus water “HOAX.” The story that Texas will catch and store run-off water from Oklahoma is bogus; it is a “spin” created by those who would like to “get their foot in the door.” Think about it – when Oklahoma has run-off, the catch basins in Texas are full. This is just another back alley approach to support the ill-advised notion that downstream dependency does not exist. While it may not be a legal term, it does exist, as provided for in the U.S. Constitution – to provide for the health and welfare of its citizens. Once you start the flow down stream, you cannot stop it! That has been proven by every state that has ever sold water. The best solution is to never start! There is as much rainfall in north Texas as there is in southeast Oklahoma – let them condemn and cover their own land surface with their own water supply storage. Other options Texas officials should consider are desalination of water from Red River and Lake Texoma, or Boone Pickens will bring them water from west Texas.
 - **OL143** My biggest concern is the selling of water out of state, I do not support this idea at all. After a record setting year of rain we are watching our ponds drop precipitously as I write this email. Please do all that you can to preserve the water that we have and hopefully will receive in the future. Thank you for your time and efforts.
 - **OL142** Although I do not live in the counties that may be directly affected by water sales, I do spend a great deal of my free time there with my family. I fear that any sales of water rights will have an adverse effect on the State. If the state of Oklahoma has a surplus of water then great, let's not sell it but keep it and protect it for future generations. There are other revenue sources that can be tapped into, namely the gross production tax stream. This area of the tax revenue is not often discussed, however it should be and every citizen of Oklahoma should be concerned as to how this money is being spent. In conclusion, it is my opinion that nothing good will come from selling Oklahoma's water

rights. Please keep our water here for our enjoyment. We have given up enough of our land to out-of-state interests, let's not start doing the same with the water.

- **OL141** Take care of Oklahoma FIRST!!!!
- **OL135** Please take needs into account for 50-100 years. Allow for water contracts with other states after our needs have been met.
- **OL143o** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members oppose with regard to water law, usage, and statewide planning: Selling or permitting water rights to entities in other states.
- **OL143p** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members oppose with regard to water law, usage, and statewide planning: Use of eminent domain in Oklahoma in any sale or transfer of water to entities in other states.
- **OL141a** I'm concerned the completion time [for the plan] is too far in the future. If we had had the plan in place before now, it may have prevented Texas from trying to get our water. We need to protect the water in the state of Oklahoma. This plan must move forward as quickly as possible. We need to find a way to keep Ft. Worth and Texas business and communities from taking our water. If they take our water, they will use it to grow and develop, while Oklahoma's growth will be stunted due to lack of natural resources.
- **OL137** We have ways to monitor our water going into the Red River, we could set some monitoring limits, use what we need first and sell the excess to Texas., when we have excess. This would allow us to use our natural resource first for primary use and then for economic growth to be able to reduce our State income tax and/or rebuild our infrastructure. If limits were monitored, precedent water plans could be developed into a win/win situation for Oklahoma first and Texas second. There is no reason not to be able to use excess water for the entire State's gain especially our county.
- **OL130c** Keep water in Oklahoma
- **OL104** Has there been any discussion about what type of regulations/water conservation increases would be sought if water was transferred to Texas? It seems plausible to force significant increases in areas of Texas receiving out-of-state water if an agreement is sought. Just how bad are other states needing water? Ultimately, I do not believe it wise to transfer water great distances. There should be infrastructure to prevent drought from significantly impacting an area while an adjacent area has excess water, but this should be done keeping in mind the climatic characteristics of each area. Are there load limits per capita based on the climate type? If so, are these guidelines or law? Would level 4 ecoregions be more beneficial and accurate than climate?
- **OL85** If other states need our water, let them move here and we'll treat them like any Okie.
- **OL69a** Your format for the public hearings is excellent. I agree that Oklahoma water needs to remain in Oklahoma.
- **OL69b** Texas loves to "brag" so let them spend their own resources and time, and effort to develop a Water Program for their own state.
- **OL64** There should be NOOO... water sold to North Texas. They are looking to us to solve all their water needs instead of developing their own resources. Our water should be used only for Oklahomans and Oklahoma economic development, period.
- **OL49** Oklahoma needs to hang onto our underground water, not allow anyone to sell it. Protect our aquifers.
- **OL44b** We should not send water out of state if we need it here.

- **OL41c** Pass legislation banning the sale of Oklahoma water to other states unless there is an emergency to provide potable drinking water such as in case of disasters.
 - **OL39a** Oklahoma's water resources should be used for Oklahomans.
 - **OL36** Keep your water. The Dallas/Ft. Worth area uses/wastes far more water per person per day than the rest of Texas. Their own numbers suggest they could grow by 25% just by lowering their average usage to match the other major cities in Texas. But the local politicians do not seem to want to educate their residents and in some cases force behavior changes. Keep your water.
 - **OL24a** I don't think the tribes or the State should be allowed to sell water to Texas.
- *Intrastate*
 - **OL39e** Inter-basin water transfer needs to have all the negatives for both source and delivery point identified and addressed. A documentary was recently previewed on PBS concerning a development issue around a clear, clean water spring in Texas. Of course developers were chasing the development dollar and conservationists were warning of problems. The development did happen and water quality in the spring was severely degraded. A young child who was an early pre-development resident was pictured bemoaning his loss of access to surrounding lands for life's daily play and adventure opportunities due to encroaching development. Others thirsting for the opportunity to live a more rural life style came in too great of numbers and just re-created a similar environment from which they had come. The developer's mother that still lived in his small hometown passed away and the developer was left trying to put his life in perspective. He had made his fortune at the expense of others and the environment and his real achievements may have not turned out that great after all. The very small town, rural values that people were seeking was lost due to over development.
 - **OL37d** Equality/Fair play: Central Oklahomans who think southeastern Oklahoma, with the Kiamichi watershed, should supply their overuse demands should not complain when western Oklahomans want central Oklahoma water. Conversely, the lessons of Las Vegas, Nevada, both the negative and any positive, should be considered in developing this Plan for Oklahoma. The practice of large cities reaching out to other locations, buying the land, building a reservoir and using the water that would otherwise have been naturally available to that locality's residents, human, animal and plant, must be stopped.
 - **OL28b** Public projects to import water should only be resorted to once all other options have been exhausted. Cities should have ordinances to authorize fines on entities that irrigate during or shortly after a rain event.

Water Rights

- **OL143k** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Ownership by the landowner of surface water flowing across his land and not in a definite stream.
- **OL142b** Keep water rights in the county.
- **OL37I** Reservoirs should be owned by the State, hence publicly, unless they are within the municipal limits of the owning municipality. Land surrounding the body of water should be reserved for recreational use and wildlife habitat, i.e. State Parks and Wildlife Reserves.
- **OL26** My last information was that the federal, state, county and city governments hold, have or own 45% of the land in this country. Of the remaining 55%, 90% is owned by private industry, i.e. forestry, mining and petroleum. The other 10% that's ours, the individuals, the workers, the ones that make things work. Between the governments and private industry that's plenty to manage for a bureaucracy. Let Mr. and Mrs. or Miss American take care of their own water on their property

- *Native American*
 - **OL16a** We should determine if Indians have water rights.
- *Permitted Water Rights*
 - **OL160a** OG&E has been providing dependable (reliable) electrical service to Oklahomans since 1902. OG&E became the largest Oklahoma electrical provider in 1928 and currently serves approximately 750,000 customers in a service territory spanning 30,000 square miles in Oklahoma and western Arkansas. A reliable water supply source is indispensable to OG&E, especially given the fact that much of Oklahoma is semi-arid. Four of our electric generating facilities rely either partially or entirely on stream water provided by eleven (11) stream water permits totaling approximately 297,746 acre-feet per year. In addition, OG&E possesses groundwater prior rights and permits totaling approximately 28,177 acre-feet per year. It is critical that OG&E's access to water be uninterrupted for as long as the water is needed. This certainty of water supply is essential if the company is to truly be a "reliable" supplier of electricity. In addition, as a relatively senior appropriator with permit seniority dates ranging from 1939 to 1973 for our appropriative stream water permits, as well as groundwater prior rights or permits dating from 1949, we enjoy a marked degree of certainty that our water supplies will not be reduced in time of shortages. In conclusion, a reliable water supply source is indispensable to OG&E. As stated above, our ability to generate electricity is highly dependent on having available all the water we are permitted to use. OG&E needs assurance that its water rights are not at risk, especially as we move forward into the future with financing additional electric generating facilities and related infrastructure necessary to provide dependable (reliable) electrical service to our customers. An appropriative stream water right system and the private ownership of groundwater water are critical if OG&E is to maintain its longstanding reputation for reliability.
 - **OL47** It has been stated in the Ada Evening News by members of the Ada Water Resources Board and CPASA that the maximum annual yield of the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer should be set at approximately two inches per acre-foot after completion of the study. What are the communities and RWDs that rely upon this groundwater planning to do when they lose 90% of their permitted water?
- *Private Property Rights*
 - **OL146a** Water rights are property rights and owners of water rights should be able to sell to the highest bidder- this is the essence of capitalism!
 - **OL143c** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Continued ownership of groundwater as a private property right.
 - **OL141c** We must protect the domestic water use for rural citizens, farmers and ranchers.
 - **OL72** I am very concerned about property rights. It is an understood fact that when you own land that you own the surface and what is above and below the surface - this includes WATER, oil, sand, gas, minerals, etc. We must maintain our rights as Americans and not become socialists.
 - **OL71** For many, many years when you owned the land this was the surface and WHATEVER was below the surface. When did this BASIC property right come into question? This looks like an effort of a few to take control of water which leads to control of agriculture, industry,... the economy. Which system are we? A system of ownership of all, or most, property by the "community" (government controlled) as a whole. Or a system in which all or most means of production - land, farms, railroads, industry, etc., are privately owned and operated for profit. Yes, I said PROFIT.
 - **OL63f** There should be no private ownership of water in Oklahoma

- **OL48b** Is it possible that groundwater (private property) is being converted to stream water (public property) with legislation such as SB 288? It appears that SB 288 will cause the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer permits to be reduced from the Oklahoma Geological Survey's Circular 91 recommended rate of 1.8 acre feet to a few inches. Is this conversion taking place in anticipation of the state of Oklahoma selling stream and/or surface water to Texas?
- **OL39d** Groundwater should remain in private ownership, but we need to be careful of consortiums that may purchase land to get water rights for interstate transport that could deplete Oklahoma's water resources.
- **OL37h** Ownership: Although the State should have the ability to control groundwater use, within reason, to prevent abuse; the right to the use of groundwater must remain with the land, hence the surface owner. Towns and cities should own the land on which their wells stand and Rural Water Districts should draw their water from the ground under their members' properties.
- **OL24b** The water under the land you own should belong to the land and should not be severed from it.

Water Security

- **OL42a** Start a process to interconnect rural water systems with each other and with municipalities in the event of a natural disaster or terror attack. This is not a suggestion to share water, but to have a plan in place to simply turn on valves to interconnect water systems in case of an unforeseen event such as terrorism or natural disasters.
- **OL42b** I feel this plan should be implemented with federal funds to provide homeland security for water supply safety and water supply insurance for all Oklahomans, rural and urban.
- *Disasters*
 - **OL41e** Pass legislation to provide for rural water system support for rural water departments in the case of disaster (provide state and federal dollars).

Water Treatment

- **OL13e** Study demineralization/purification of poor quality, or contaminated, waters. Especially look at solar powered evaporation-recovery systems.
- *Artificial*
 - **OL145c** We [Lake Texoma Association] are concerned about the cumulative effects of excessive chloride and water removed from the Red River and Lake Texoma. The Lake Texoma Economic Engine and Ecosystem will experience irreversible damage that was addressed in our previous input to the Oklahoma Water Plan at the Durant, OK public input meeting. Moreover, removing chlorides from the Red River watershed will allow the DFW metropolitan area and other municipal and irrigation water districts to remove major quantities of water. They will avoid or significantly delay serious conservation and water management results, political issues and construction of new fresh water reservoirs to meet future development requirements. As a result, minimum required environmental and other flows will be very difficult or impossible to meet throughout the Red River basin.
 - **OL146c** Desalination of the Red River and all its tributaries should be a priority. The Red River basin has the potential to provide an abundance of fresh water for drinking and irrigation and livestock production if the salt springs are controlled. Recreational fishing should not be a priority for the Red River desalination effort. Those species that are not native to the Red River basin fishery should not take priority over human drinking water and irrigation for food and fiber production.

- **OL143h** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Desalinization of water taken from bodies of water high in salt that would not pose a threat to local environment to be used for agricultural or domestic purposes.
- **OL18b** The Chloride Control Project is a crucial start to giving us a new viable source of water which we can one day capture. Please keep it on the front burner.
- *Natural*
 - **OL149b** Forestry Services offers the following comments for consideration during the comprehensive water planning process: Value of Forests in Watershed Protection The value of forests in protecting water quality is well recognized. Forest watersheds and riparian forests capture and store water, thus contributing to the quantity of water available and the seasonal flow of water; filter and sequester nutrients and pesticides; reduce non-point source pollution, erosion and sedimentation; manage stormwater runoff; provide habitat for aquatic species and microorganisms; sustain biological diversity; moderate water temperatures in streams; stabilize stream banks and channel morphology; increase infiltration rates and reduce flooding. In addition to watershed values, forests also provide other significant benefits - so-called ecosystem services. These include habitat for terrestrial wildlife, aesthetics, recreational greenways, timber production, specialty forest products, and carbon sequestration.
 - **OL73** Filtering water through a planned wetland purifies that water. Wetlands have been successfully used to treat stormwater run-off and waste water treatment plant effluent and could provide a consistent water source for Lake Thunderbird. According to G.A. Moshiri, over 200 municipal, industrial, and stormwater treatment systems exist in North America (see Constructed Wetlands for Water Quality Improvement, 1993). This technology is over 50 years old and well established.

Watershed Management

- **OL136c** I might note that invasive species and trees like the salt cedar and the red cedar need to be controlled because they suck up on average 100 gallons of water per tree per day. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on these important issues. Thank you!
- **OL127i** Develop a plan to monitor and control feral hog populations that are multiplying exponentially across the southeast 1/3 of Oklahoma. Hogs destroy wildlife habitat, reduce water quality by stream bank erosion and wallows and spread disease to domestic livestock.
- **OL77c** Reduce rural and agricultural runoff. Strongly encourage retaining land in a "natural" prairie state; practices of soil conservation (crop rotation), use of crops which restore nutrients and retain water and utilize the filtering capacity of the soil and plants to help prevent runoff.
- **OL77d** Reduce urban runoff. Encourage the installation of vegetation in parking lots; the use of permeable surface materials for driveways, sidewalks and parking lots.

Water Sources

Both Groundwater and Surface Water

- *Quality*
 - **OL157g** While most attention seems to be placed on water supplies and demands, please be sure that the plan attends adequately to protection of water quality. Oklahoma's water resources are seriously threatened by myriad forms of pollution, from sewage and oil-industry wastes to poultry poop runoff.

- **OL134** We have gallons of water but none fit to drink. This needs immediate attention.
- **OL67** I want to see greater conservation efforts and protection of our waters from mercury, lead, and metals.

Groundwater

- **OL152d** Water issues do not discern between chargeable and rechargeable aquifers.
- *Quality*
 - **OL14a** There should be a ban put on the use of fresh water in petroleum water floods and also for the OWRB and Okla. Corp. Comm. to work hand-in-hand to stop/monitor pollution from saltwater injection wells and for those wells to be monitored/tested more frequently (there are at least 3 places of known pollution in my area).
- *Quantity*
 - **OL131c** Thousands of gallons of water are lost each day due to invasive species like the Eastern Red Cedar and the Salt Cedar. These trees on average suck up 100 gallons of water per tree per day. Clearly controlling these and other invasive species would be one way to help increase our water levels in Oklahoma. Programs to control these species such as the state conservation cost-share program should be considered in formulating the state-wide water plan. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments. OACD
 - **OL76** There are legislative improvements that need to be made regarding Oklahoma's water law. 1. There should be a rule of Law that 25 to 33 1/3% of the stream water is all there should be taken from a flowing stream when irrigation is in progress. 2. The law now is mandatory granting of a water use permit if you own the surface. Oil law disallows depletion, but water rights do not have depletion. A new law should be that is adjoining property owners suffer at 25 to 33 1/3% decline in water availability in the wells - the permit should not be granted. The next issue is wells drilled without permits. There should be a statute that lets either the Water Board deny usage of all wells in that section for a period of time, that are owned by the person who failed to get legal permits. The issue of drilling a well or wells on your land, and piping said water to adjoining land should be a separate permit (and this type of permit can be stopped by adjoining land owners if their water usage is decreased by 10% or more). There should be a statute if a legal well pumps water to adjoining areas or farms without the proper permit, this well is closed for (1 to 5 years) the legislators decide on this.

Recycled Water

- *Waste Water*
 - **OL21e** Properly treated waste water can be economically treated where it is safe for human consumption. We turn up our nose and make horrible noises when this is suggested. It is terribly ironic that all of the surface water sources that we use for municipal water have been contaminated to some degree by fish waste, bird waste, animal waste (domestic or feral), etc. We even add to petroleum pollution of the water by allowing motor boats, etc. Groundwater may not have the exact same type of contamination, but it too is of no better quality or no safer than properly treated waste water. Recycled water has to be considered at some point as a viable water source for blending. It should be apparent by now that my comments all have to do with funding, financing, economically driven factors or what can be summarized as MONEY! I have not addressed any specific project because all projects are affected by how they are funded. We have to be fiscally smart. We have to be willing to invest in sound programs. I'm ready. I think most Oklahomans are too. They may need educating but don't sell them short on intelligence. The hardest sell is showing an immediate impact or an issue that deserves immediate attention. Otherwise, we will leave it to future generations for them to

pay the debt for our cavalier attitudes. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to make comments.

Surface Water

- **OL24c** Anything that effects the rivers can also affect the landowners that border the rivers and anything done to the river affects those landowners and that needs to be remembered before anything is done.
- *Quality*
 - **OL153** Texas water districts are seeking to use “surplus” water that flows to the mouth of Cache Creek, before it enters the Red River. Cache Creek provides the only significant fresh water that flows into the Red River for many miles, and removal of that fresh water source would increase salt content in the Red and diminish fisheries values in the region. Water that falls in Oklahoma should be reserved for conservation in Oklahoma, and economic growth in North Texas should not be fueled with our limited resources.
 - **OL151** I applaud the OWRB for opening comment on the Plan. However, water quality in eastern Oklahoma specifically the Spavinaw and Illinois water sheds is deteriorating. The impact of commercial farming operations, i.e. poultry farming, is impacting on the water quality of eastern Oklahoma to the extent that Oklahoma's most valuable resource, water, is threatened. Please remember that because of the current state of the quality of water in the, above, water sheds, this water must be treated for human consumption. The treatment costs are considerable. The water untreated and utilized by humans for recreation is unacceptable. In the end, because Oklahoma is not adequately enforcing existing regulations, reviewing and changing regulations where appropriate and/or accepting responsibility for the water quality in the, above, water sheds, the citizens suffer.
 - **OL91** RAW ANIMAL SEWAGE IN OUR LAKE. Raw animal sewage, chemical sludge. I would like to help conserve the highest quality of the water in all Oklahoma to start and all the lands. I have grave concerns as to vegetation killing chemicals being doused in my **Brooken** Cove neighborhood only 200 feet from the Lake's water edge being poured by the gallon in drainage ditches running directly into a creek into the Lake only 50 to 100 feet also. I believe there should be a state wide ban on all man made pesticides and strict organic standards set to sustain our healthy thriving bodies. 2. I have witnessed raw sewage, mass chicken droppings having been plowed into untouched thriving dry-swamp nature areas with salmonella, antibiotics, pesticides, diseases, all contained in raw sewage being spread over 20 or more acres within 10 to 100 feet of the south dam Lake Eufaula recreation area on recreation area service lands off road on lake shore and along adjacent land fencing. Native vegetation has been clear cut and mass raw poultry sewage and droppings spread out on these clear cut areas on corps recreation lands. 3. Angus beef farmer bordering to south dam recreation area an over populated cattle farm land remnants of raw animal sewage, the smell is unbearable draining directly without composting or treatment only 200 feet from waters edge, and directly on and at a creek flowing into lake.
 - **OL79** What is the cause of the degradation of water quality of Spring Creek? What is being done to restore it to the cleanliness and clarity of a decade ago? Please protect our pristine waterways.

Water Uses

Agricultural Use

- **OL152c** The things done in the early 90s to allow CAFOs to have open sewage systems is completely against what municipalities have to do. CAFOs should have to have closed systems like dairies so avoid contaminating water.
- **OL14b** We should stop the use of fresh water to move/manage animal waste to open air lagoons.
- *Biofuels Growth*
 - **OL127g** Investigate or provide incentives for producers of alternate fuels such as switchgrass **cellulosic** ethanol that could result in large areas being allocated to vegetation in place of livestock production or cropland. (Shell Petroleum seems very oriented toward **cellulosic** ethanol and has a realistic view of the unlikely economics of using corn for ethanol). Oklahoma could be a leader in the production of **cellulosic** ethanol due to the large amount of suitable soils/land.

Conservation Use

- **OL158f** Aside from developing improved, technically based environmental flow prescriptions and improved administrative systems for implementing those prescriptions, it is important that water conservation be promoted widely as a major means of addressing future water demands. These demands will become increasingly difficult to meet, particularly if provisions are made for leaving and restoring environmental flows in streams. While new, traditional water resource development projects can help supply future demands, opportunities for such projects are limited and increasingly face problems of high costs for potential benefits. In contrast, more efficient use and re-use of water resources usually are found to offer highly feasible means of supporting desired water uses, while avoiding many of the impacts associated with traditional water development projects. The U.S. FWS believes it is in the public's best interest for the Oklahoma Water Plan, and associated water management programs, to aggressively promote application of water conservation measures as a part of all consumptive uses of water.
- **OL153** Anglers, boaters and fish need water too, and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation hopes that a comprehensive, progressive state water plan will include those needs- that we'll focus less on development and use- and more on conservation as a way to meet demand. We hope that the state will view fisheries not just as byproducts of impoundments or as disposable factors of unregulated development, but as valuable and significant components of our state's water resources.
- *Reuse*
 - **OL138** How much water would be saved if golf course landscaping used something other than potable water and can we reuse old water?
 - **OL68** I think Oklahoma needs to consider various conservation practices when evaluating options for protecting our water supplies. One area of conservation that shows much promise is special treatment for greywater. Greywater, which is household wastewater that does not include waste from toilets, makes up the lion's share of household wastewater. This water can be separated from the waste stream and treated more efficiently through various greywater systems for irrigation, leading to considerably less load on wastewater treatment facilities and less cultural eutrophication of our rivers, lakes and streams. A lot of new construction in Oklahoma means a good opportunity for installation of greywater systems. The water can then be used to water trees and shrubs and flowers, further reducing demand for water while reducing pollution, and reducing strain on wastewater treatment facilities.

- **OL61** I was the Project Manager to develop and manage the construction of a 240 mw combined cycle electric generation plant for Public Service Co. of Oklahoma in 1970, at Lawton. Water for the cooling water system required as much as 3,000 gal./minute. This was not available in this part of the state, but we determined that the City of Lawton was required to upgrade their sewage waste water system with a tertiary (3rd treatment) system including chlorination adequate for domestic water usage because the city of Comanche, just 10 miles downstream was using this waste water for drinking water. PSO made a long term contract with the City of Lawton to purchase, I believe, 3,000,000 gal. of water a day. Adopting this method of water treatment would make Oklahoma water adequate for centuries to come. In the case of the Tulsa water system, we could add the necessary waste water treatment to the existing system and pump it back to Lake Yahola for use in the present system. To provide for a purer drinking water to the homes in Tulsa, a much smaller, independent and isolated system could be piped to each home and utilize new fresh water from Spavinaw Lake. This supply would be only about 1% (or less) of the present usage. The existing city water system could remain in place and continue to serve all the domestic water needs (toilet, laundry,& industrial, etc.) When the City of Tulsa contracts to sell water to other towns, it should put in the contract the rights to their treated sewage waste water. Development of this water could be a tremendous value to attract new businesses and industry.
- **OL45b** Conservation and re-use should be important parts of this water plan.
- **OL45d** Golf course and yard watering should be done with recycled water.
- **OL38b** My suggestion has to do with reuse, specifically of Norman's treated effluent. At least in times of moderate to severe drought, why not have in place a return line to an appropriate inflow point into Lake Thunderbird so the water can be recycled? The quality of the treated effluent is suitable to be used by people downstream from Norman, and it would be re-treated to potable quality by the Norman Water Department. This same approach could be applied to any number of populated areas.
- **OL33** One aspect of conservation and sustainability of Oklahoma's groundwater may be the implementation of reclaiming treated wastewater for other purposes. I believe this aspect should be examined thoroughly as pharmaceuticals and other **ingestants** have been found in soils (etc.) that have been irrigated with reclaimed wastewater.
- **OL19** I would like to see an aggressive program established to help urban and rural property owners and communities conserve storm water run-off. Encourage use of cisterns for watering lawns and gardens. Study St. Paul, MN's plan and encourage Rogers County/Claremore in their studies of this kind of project.

Ecological Use

- **OL157a** I attended one of your local input meetings. I have many interests in water but would say my greatest interest probably is in water's importance to living things other than people. I recognize that people need water too but don't worry much about that because people always will make sure they get the water they want. Wild things have no ability to secure water for themselves but must rely on unselfish people to protect their interests. Also, in addition to being directly essential to nonhuman species, water serves important environmental functions, when left in its natural stream courses, wetlands, and aquifers, including functions that benefit humankind greatly, even though this often is not appreciated. I would like to see the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan emphasize such natural values of water.
- **OL157e** Oklahoma surface water law should be revised extensively, especially to allow reconsideration of existing allocations and ironclad protection of any flows the state decides to leave in its streams. The state must be about protecting natural flows from development claims, including by covetous interests outside the state.

- **OL143q** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members oppose with regard to water law, usage, and statewide planning: Use of the Ogallala Aquifer for the establishment of artificial wetlands.
- *Habitat*
 - **OL153** I need to speak for maintaining the diversity of Oklahoma's aquatic resources by mentioning that we are home to 169 fish species, most of which are not pursued by anglers. Several of those species have evolved to fill very specific habitats that are threatened by current water policy and demands. Specifically, the Red River pupfish and several other species endemic to SW Oklahoma require salty water, and they'll be lost if plans continue for removal of that salt from the Red River largely to meet demands of cities in North Texas. We also harbor an uncommon species of dace in northern Comanche County that only survives in spring waters that are now threatened by surface and groundwater withdrawals for development in the area. Medicine Creek and East Cache Creek are unique resources in Southwest Oklahoma. They harbor several fish species usually found farther to the east, primarily because they flow clear and year-round. You won't hear from many others about rare fish species like these, but I believe that we and future Oklahomans lose if we don't consider the whole ecological picture when we develop without bounds. Water resource development in Oklahoma could result in the listing of threatened fish species under the Endangered Species Act, and those long-term restrictions on water users and costs to taxpayers should be considered up-front.
 - **OL131f** The OWRB should proceed cautiously with any future wetlands requirements. There are significant changes ongoing at the federal level regarding wetlands. The OWRB should minimize any actions on wetlands rules until this issue is resolved at the federal level. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input into the updating of Oklahoma's Comprehensive Water plan. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our issues.
 - **OL77a** Preserve, protect and expand wetlands in the state. This would be over and beyond any federal regulations. Given the vitally important function of wetlands to serve as water purifying systems; their role in flood control; their role in the recharge of both groundwater and of aquifers -- both of which have been dropping to dangerously low levels here in Oklahoma as well as nationally; and their role for vegetation and as habitats for animals and birds.
 - **OL63i** While it may be true that we as humans use only 1% of the Kiamichi River, the waters of the Kiamichi are certainly not "unused" – those waters are vital for a rich diversity of aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna.
- *Research*
 - **OL158b** Key to implementing sustainable water management is the determination of environmental flow needs (i.e., the amount and timing of water flows required to maintain the species, functions, and resilience of freshwater ecosystems). Oklahoma's preceding water plans referenced the importance of conservation and stream flow maintenance, but failed to go as far as defining or reserving a portion of natural flows. In Oklahoma as elsewhere, the integration of ecosystem considerations into water planning efforts is hampered by the technical challenges, financial costs, time constraints, and other obstacles related to determining environmental flow needs. Nonetheless, recent advances in the science of specifying environmental flows have greatly facilitated the ability of states to overcome the inherent difficulties and make significant gains toward sustainable water management, including the protection of environmental flows. We believe Oklahoma is now in a favorable position to pursue such gains during the process of updating its Water Plan. The U.S. FWS, The Nature Conservancy, the Oklahoma Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, the U.S. Geological Survey, The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, and other resource agencies and organizations

have worked together over the past 6 months to examine the various methodologies available to incorporate environmental flow protections into the state's updated Water Plan. The results of this analysis, along with associated recommendations, are summarized in a proposal that has been submitted to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. The U.S. FWS supports this proposal and recommends that it be implemented to allow the development of information and associated conservation measures within the updated Water Plan.

Industrial Use

- *Biofuels Processing*

- **OL109** My hope is that you will look at everything, including the fact that Oklahoma is getting seriously involved in ethanol and I read that it takes 1,000 gallons of water to produce 1 gallon of ethanol!!

Mining Use

- **OL139** What stirred me up was the guaranteed use of 80 million gallons of water from the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer and/or Johnson County streams with which to wash rocks and then that water is discarded or wasted. Meridian Aggregates, a subsidiary of Lockheed Martin, is taking Oklahoma rocks, washing them with Oklahoma water and sending them to Texas for highway construction. Oil well servicing companies I worked with for 18 years paid 10 cents a barrel for water they used. Why doesn't Meridian Aggregates pay? Water is good and precious to the last drop. A gallon saved is a gallon earned. Maybe the water could be recovered, recycled, filtered and reused. Investment into a 5,000 gallon transport with vacuum pump could be used in the recovery or recycling process. I remember when they said water is free. Boone Pickens has shown me it is not. It is another commodity.

Oil and Gas Use

- **OL131a** To ensure the State's economy remains strong, the OWRB's future water plan, policies, rulemakings, permitting requirements, and other various water-related activities should ensure that any actions it takes will not impede or prevent crude oil and natural gas exploration and production activities in Oklahoma that would drive oil and gas operations out of our state and into surrounding states.
- **OL131b** Our industry [oil and gas] must have access to adequate quantities and sources of supply of water for drilling, completion, and production activities. Our industry expends significant amounts of funds to explore, drill, complete, and produce crude oil and natural gas in the state, and the use of water in our activities is integral to the success of those activities. The loss of adequate quantities of water and/or sources of supply may cause the loss of literally millions of dollars to the state, royalty owners, and operators, not to mention a much needed energy source. The State's water plan should not include any actions that would limit water quantities, sources of supply or prioritize water uses that would impede or prevent the use of water for crude oil and natural gas exploration or production activities.

Private Domestic Use

- **OL143d** General concepts which OK Farm Bureau members support with regard to law, usage, and statewide planning: Protection of domestic water use for all farmers and ranchers. This includes ground and surface water.
- *Well Water*
 - **OL89** I am concerned about the growing number of developments with wells and the impact on future water supply from well sources in the Yukon/Mustang area.

- **OL41b** Limit drilling for groundwater in populated areas that have city or rural water available to them.

Public Domestic Use

- **OL152e** The local small [drinking water plant] operators are being overrun by [water quality] requirements because everyone is afraid of being sued.
- **OL70** I would like to know who controls the cities that have long-term (year or longer) problems with nitrates in their water. Citizens keep getting warnings that there is a problem with the city's drinking water but what is really done about it, if anything. I think they (the cities) should be made to let the town people know all about the problems and what is or can be done. Cities should post notices in the town newspaper and other in other ways to make sure everyone is informed. I think people that drink any water that is not up to standards should be told why it is not up to par. Water is very important.
- *Municipalities*
 - **OL8a** Many towns the size of Waynoka experienced palatable drinking water problems.
 - **OL21d** Too many water and sewer projects have been overbuilt! Normally an engineer's fee is determined by the price of the overall project. Most engineers find ways to jack the price of the project up so they can also get paid more. The result has been systems that are over designed and can never be used as proposed. There are communities throughout the State where they have had enormous lagoons built that wind up being so shallow, it stinks all the time. Or they have multiple lagoons but only one has ever been used because the entity doesn't produce enough sewage to ever use the additional lagoons. The same thing happens with water projects. If two options are viable, the most expensive is always the one that is recommended because it translates into more cash flow for the engineering firm. There should be some accountability to the state and federal government when their funding is involved.
- *Rural Water Districts*
 - **OL105a** I have owned property on Fish Farm road in Tuskahoma for 5 years. We have been trying to get rural water service that long. We have signed applications, gone to meetings, etc. Still no water service. I am against any water being sold or rights given to any other than the people of Pushmataha County until all have rural water.

Recreational Use

- **OL108** The land taken by the federal government to impound the water for Lake Eufaula was removed from the property tax roles. The annual amount of money appropriated by Congress as the alternative to the lost taxes has never been equal to what would have been collected in taxes. The Lake, however, has created a local economy based on recreation and tourism which has helped to offset the loss of tax revenue. The Southwest Power Administration through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates hydro turbines to generate electricity which requires 1.4 billion gallons of water every 24 hours power is being generated. Lake Eufaula lake levels have rarely remained consistent and in most of the years that this lake has existed the lake levels have been drawn down to the point that fish spawns/fry survival and growth have been adversely affected, as well as other wild life, the habitat, recreation and tourism. In short, This Lake struggles to maintain appropriate levels for all the intended purposes. Many of the surrounding towns, municipalities, rural water districts, etc. rely on this lake for their water supply. In short, the most beneficial use for this lake is recreation, tourism, and water supply for the towns and water districts immediately surrounding the lake. With the Federal Govt. taking water to generate electricity at will with no regard to the other purposes listed above. Lake Eufaula is not capable of sustaining hydro power generation and water supply for large metropolitan areas such as Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Dallas/Ft Worth and the like. To support my contention, I offer two examples: Lake Mead on the Colorado river, built by

the Army Corps of Engineers for water supply to Los Angeles that because of lack of inflow of water due to draught was, regardless, drawn down to over 100 ft. below normal by the Corps to generate hydro power in 2005 and 2006; Lake Sidney Lanier built by the Corps of Army Engineers to supply water to Atlanta, GA currently, in 2007, is nearly dried up due to a lack of inflow of water because of draught, regardless the Army Corps of Engineers continues to use over a billion gallons of water per day to generate electricity and provide for endangered species downstream. Atlanta, GA has been forced to impose water rationing on its citizens who I consider to be an endangered species at this time. Atlanta is suing the federal government. Except for limited water supply use, hydro power generation and large water supply use are not compatible and even though the state of Oklahoma "owns the water in Lake Eufaula and the federal government owns the 'pot'" the Corps of Engineers obviously controls and has unregulated use of almost all of the water in the Lake. In conclusion, major water supply draw downs should not be permitted from hydro power lakes, especially those controlled by the federal government. The most beneficial use for Lake Eufaula water is recreation and tourism because of the need for a "healthy lake" to support the economy, provide jobs, create tax revenue, increase property values and supply water to the communities, and counties surrounding the lake.

- **OL100** I made a comment at last night's Muskogee meeting that needs clarification. I realize the state does not have the authority to allocate federal reservoir water and say who gets what and how much. That comes through the Senate and Congress in Washington through the Water Development Act or WRDA. We need the support of both of our Senators and Congressional delegation to get water allocated for recreation, and fish and wildlife useage. It's very important our Senators get behind us on this project. Thanks.

- *Fishing*

- **OL153** I am a native Oklahoman of 49 years and a fisheries biologist managing fishing and conserving fisheries resources in Southwest Oklahoma for 25 years. I owe my living and a good deal of my recreation time to Oklahoma's water resources including its reservoirs, and I understand the role of the OWRB and the many demands placed on the agency. I hope that in these meetings you'll hear not just from those that view water as a tool for economic development, but also those who enjoy and make a living from water that remains in our streams and lakes. Fishing is itself a \$500 million dollar sustainable industry in OK. The Lake Texoma striped bass fishery alone is worth \$30 million to that area's economy each year. Fishing and boating contribute greatly to the quality of life for Oklahomans. A recent OSU survey confirmed that fishing remains the most popular outdoor activity in Oklahoma. About 1 million Oklahomans fish, and we have 230,000 registered boats here. Our reservoirs were largely constructed in a time before fishing and boating values were high, and current uses and water management policies seldom account for recreational needs. Times have changed, and a truly comprehensive water plan for Oklahoma should account for that change. I represent anglers and boaters in Oklahoma, and ask the OWRB to formally consider their needs when making water decisions, policy and law. We have endured a drought recently that has focused attention on water needs from all users- including the recreational component. In the worst-case scenario, Lake Altus Lugert was nearly drained each of the last 6 years by irrigation. It was constructed in the 1940s with no consideration for recreational needs. In the last 5 years fishing and boating has been minimized there, and we will feel that impact for several years to come. Locally, fishing and related businesses at Lake Ellsworth were devastated over the last 5 years under virtually unlimited water use in Comanche County, and only minor conservation measures were initiated while the lake fell 12 feet to a 25-year low. The once-renowned bass fisheries in the Duncan Lakes has been lost largely due to water over-use. Fishing at Tom Steed Reservoir is poor because too little water has flowed in and so much has been used.

Storage

- **OL155** Build a series of dams on the Canadian River from Norman west to the OK state line. Also, build wind turbines in the high wind areas along the river. Then use the off-peak power not needed by utilities to pump water upstream from dam to dam to provide permanent storage for use by towns and farmers in western Okla.
- **OL7** Maybe consider the construction of catchment basins which include large sieve wells in the bottom to help recharge the state's aquifers. The funding could come possibly from a federal program or at least regional scientific research should be done to study the possibility.

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