

Local Input Meeting Report



#42

Idabel, Oklahoma

Kiamichi Technology Center

Idabel Campus Seminar Center

November 15, 2007

Project Description

The Water Research Institute, at Oklahoma State University, is working under contract with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board to update Oklahoma's Comprehensive Water Plan. The Institute has designed an innovative process that combines citizens' ideas with the assistance of water experts in formulating policy recommendations. This process seeks to rely on the citizens' values for guidance in making tough choices about management of our State's water resources.

The first phase of this process consisted of 42 Local Input Meetings held throughout the State beginning in April 2007, at Beaver and ending on Nov. 15, 2007, at Idabel. The purpose of the meetings was to gather citizens' ideas, questions, suggestions and concerns about Oklahoma's water resources. This report is a comprehensive list of the comments received at this meeting.

In addition to the Local Input Meetings the public participation process consists of four other components. During the second phase, beginning in 2008, the Institute will conduct 11 regional meetings where selected participants will review the comments, consolidate similar issues, and prioritize them. Planning workshop, where participants will work to development management alternatives, is scheduled to begin in 2009. The Oklahoma Academy for State Goals will hold a special Town Hall meeting, in the spring of 2010, where citizens will develop consensus recommendations. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board for consideration/inclusion in a draft updated Comprehensive Water Plan. In the final phase the Institute will again conduct 11 regional meetings. At these meetings, the Institute will receive feedback and implementation suggestions on the draft Water Plan. Comments received at these meetings will be forwarded to the Water Board who will finalize the Plan and submit it to the legislature and the governor.

For more information visit the Institute's website at <http://okwaterplan.info>, email them at waterplan@okstate.edu, or by phone at 405.744.9994. You may also contact the Oklahoma Water Resources Board at www.owrb.ok.gov or 405.530.8800.



Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
6:40 pm	Welcome	Dennis Bailey, Educator McCurtain County Cooperative Extension Service
6:42 pm	Welcome	Representative Jerry Ellis
6:45 pm	Purpose of Meeting and Introduction of Staff	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:56 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Kyle Arthur, Environmental Program Manager Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:12 pm	Comments from the public	Public Participants
9:28 pm	Meeting adjourned	

Attendees

Water Research Institute Staff

Dr. Will Focht, Director
Mike Langston, Assistant Director
Jeri Fleming, Communications Manager
Alison Stone, Administration Specialist

Oklahoma Water Resources Board Staff

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

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Staff

Dennis Bailey, County Extension Educator

Public Participants

162 citizens

Comments

Ninety-seven comments were received from the meeting participants. Comments were submitted both orally and by comment card. The comments are organized alphabetically by topic. Each comment is preceded by a unique identification number that will remain with the comment throughout the process. *Additional comments were submitted online to the website and are not included below; however, there is a separate report that lists all comments received through the website, by fax, mail and phone.*

Water Management

Agencies

- *State*
 - **Id14** We have dealt with the legislature and governor of this State and they are not on our side. We need to have something on our side to stop them. Our government is supposed to represent us but they do a lot of representing to us.
 - **Id47** If any elected official tries to sell our water, then I think the citizens of Oklahoma need to take a close look at these officials, and ask ourselves, are they doing what is best for us or what is best for them?

Economic Impacts

- **Id1** The lakes and rivers in this area are the basis of our tourism and economy. People come from all over the world to see the rivers and lakes; if we lose that then we have nothing left. It's not just recreation, we have other industries also. Our logging industry is dependent on our water resources here and we don't want people to come in and steal our water.
- *Development*
 - **Id7a** Arkansas is just as concerned about water quality as Oklahoma. Barge traffic into the State can have a positive impact on the State's economy. Currently 70,000,000 gallons of water a day out of Millwood Lake goes to the paper plant. A power plant SWEPCO is planning a power plant and they will need 10,000,000 gallons a day. Oklahoma needs to continue to push for clean water and an adequate supply. Oklahoma should begin to push for barge traffic up the Red River to the Dennison Dam. This would boost the economy for southeast Oklahoma.
 - **Id64a** Water is one of the top most valuable resources we have. Water will be top priority for industrial development in the future. Only one in 10 tracts of land has running water streams. We currently have adequate water. Future wars will be fought over food and water. We need to develop our water resources, not sell future water resources. Lake Baikal in Siberia is said to have 20% of the world's potable water. No more valuable natural resource exists than Baikal. McCurtain County is not far behind Baikal.
- *Population Change*
 - **Id22b** The state of Oklahoma cannot afford to overlook growth in the entire State. I expect the growth in McCurtain County will be close to 50% over the next 50 years either permanent or part-time residents.
- *Recreation*
 - **Id10k** We have economic growth here because of tourism and our water (that we don't get credit for).
- *Sales*
 - **Id31** When we voted on legalized gambling, all the money was supposed to go to the schools. Where is that money now? How much of the money from water sales will end up in our county? It won't help us, and it's not going to work.
 - **Id18** New Mexico had a contract with Texas [to supply water] for 100 years and Texas sued New Mexico three times in a short period of time. The farmers in the Hatch, New Mexico area grew the best peppers and were dependent on this water. Texas didn't care if they put long-time farmers out of business. The fine print in the contract will have a clause that says the contract can be renewed after 100 years. New Mexico is an arid

land and without water they are dead. Everyone in Hatch lost everything they had three different times. Texas sued New Mexico and a federal judge saw that N.M. paid \$25 million to Texas and said turn the tap back on. Oklahoma does not have an extra \$25 million to do that and you need to remember this.

- **Id24** After seeing what has happened to Georgia and Tennessee, hearing what has happened to New Mexico, and that the people of the Upper Colorado [River] can't get enough water to irrigate, [I think that] if we sell our water to Texas, we better get ready to sing "Amazing Grace" cause it's all going to be over.
- **Id25** We don't need to agree to sell any water, because I don't think there has been any contract or compact that has gone more than 3 years without litigation. I don't have any objection to lawyers making money, but Oklahoma will have to beef up its legal staff if this happens.
- **Id34a** We have some county schools on well water; if this area had more water supply you would see it develop more economically. There will be no money from any water sale; it will only go to a few. They will sell your natural resources before they will go get a job. The sale to Texas is not about need it is about greed. There is a huge Oklahoma oil company that has purchased 200,000 acres of land in and around Tarrant County and that is the reason they want our water, to drill.
- **Id59** I am adamantly opposed to the sale or transfer of any water across State lines. Selling water will kill the future of our State's development. Keep it for ourselves, Oklahomans.
- **Id60** We need our own water. We need to look out for ourselves. Let Texas get it from somewhere else, not us. We need it for the cattle and tourism and just to survive. Texas can mind their own business. They can come visit, but they can leave our water alone. We need what we have.
- **Id32c** When we remove the water from the Red River I am concerned Arkansas or Louisiana will sue us because the water quality will change. We will be sued for more money than we would ever realize from a water sale. This study should address the legal aspects of the environmental impact to Arkansas and Louisiana.

Health

- *Ecological*
 - **Id64b** Blue Thumb volunteers are monitoring monthly my beautiful Buffalo Creek as it enters Oklahoma from Arkansas. I assist monthly. Water quality (dissolved oxygen or ten other attributes) is critical for fish.

Infrastructure

- *Needs*
 - **Id10h** Access to rural water should be extended to every single citizen in Oklahoma.

Planning

- **Id10i** Don't let anyone rush the planning process through!
- **Id22a** If the major scientists of the world still cannot decide if the warming trend is made by man or nature, it is still there and still has to be dealt with. We must consider the current warming trend and the plan must look at more than 4 years.
- **Id30c** I think there have been a lot of things planned before we had this meeting.
- **Id36c** In the 1930s, 70% of the population lived on farms and by the 1940s 70% lived in municipalities. I think more people will move into the State especially from California and

the plan needs to take this into consideration. There could be as many as 6 million people living in Okla. by 2060.

- **Id38b** I have a major concern about the factual data. How old is it?
- *Interstate Cooperation*
 - **Id57** I would like to see more working together of Oklahoma Water Resources Board with the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission. As President of the Lower Little River Watershed Coalition, we would like an opportunity to work more with OWRB to seek projects that we could join with Oklahoma in making the Little River Basin (1.8 million acres in Arkansas and 1.4 million acres in Oklahoma) a better basin for our water.
 - **Id5b** Just as we, FUSE, stand by the principle that one region should not raid another region's resources within the state; e.g. Dallas/Fort Worth has no right to flood our Northeast Texas woodlands, farms, and ranches against our wishes or steal water from Oklahoma – a corollary is that one state should not impose upon another in this way. In other words, Texas or Arkansas should not injure the air or water quality of Oklahoma, nor vice versa.
 - **Id5e** Good neighbors may easily remain good neighbors by each one's merely considering the just feelings and needs of the other. Litigation should come as a last resort, and that is when all parties have exhausted, or shunned, comity without using fairness in their proceedings. We believe that unpardonable point has not been reached and that, in fact, what we on both sides of the state line do now may result in amicable and just future actions for all. FUSE believes this is the goal we should all seek. It can be achieved. It must be. It is the essence of what a good neighborhood should be. We respectfully urge you, as our neighbors, to consider our concerns.
 - **Id6** My concern is Buffalo Creek as it comes into Oklahoma from Arkansas. Arkansas dumps its treated sewage into Buffalo Creek. I cannot get the reports about the water quality of the creek. An independent organization monitors the water and sends the report to Arkansas [state government]. We cannot get a copy of it. I go out to the creek for Blue Thumb and monitor it and I get copies of those reports but not the Arkansas reports. [There should be some way for us to access that information.]
- *Priorities*
 - **Id33** The State should give priority to developing a method for replenishing the aquifers. In years of excess rainfall, we would give a first priority to using the excess water to replenish the aquifers over any other use.
- *Public Participation Process*
 - **Id10a** I don't appreciate being last in the State for the water meetings. We are first in the State for water we should be first for the meetings.
 - **Id28** Is everything we have said here tonight going to be left the way we say it? You have done a good job of recording them [our comments] but we have had people come from the City to do this, and when the comments get translated they are not what we said.
 - **Id34b** We want a good water study done. I do wish we had more young people involved because it is going to be their water in the future.
 - **Id36b** Are you meeting in Norman because it is a political thing – that is where the population is?
 - **Id38a** Make sure you take every single day to study all the facts and citizens' concerns for this plan. Make sure all citizens are included in the water usage studies whether they have water opportunities at present or not. A huge contingent of this State does not have

the opportunity for rural or city water usage. They must be included for a true water plan study.

- **Id10g** You should listen to the citizens in the area for your information. You will need scientific data but also you need to listen to the people that live the water, not the ones that want to make money off it, but the people that live the water.
- **Id20** It is kind of sad that there are not more young people here [at this meeting] as we are the ones that will be affected the most. The Broken Bow spillway has only spilled water about three times since it was built. [Thus, there is not as much water as you might think. Therefore,] Oklahomans needs to start looking out for ourselves and our future generations.
- *Research*
 - **Id32a** We just want to make sure the process is transparent. Most of all we would like the plan to be based on sound science. Before we can call this a comprehensive plan, the data must be current and represent truly scientific data. If the data is not current, then it should be stated in the plan that it is incomplete or inconclusive.
 - **Id39b** Scientific evidence must be current data. Use the entire time [for the plan] to be as accurate as possible.
 - **Id10e** In the past, 1991, we dug our well with a backhoe, it was 13' deep, in 2006 that well went totally dry. We have lost 9' of groundwater in our well. The aquifer slide shows the Antlers Aquifer down only 3' but my well is down more than that. Where are the facts coming from, are they only coming from permitted wells? The studies should include more wells in this area. Is the water plan data going to be 20-years old as some data has been in the past?
 - **Id22c** There are only 11 wells [reported on your graph for] the Antlers Aquifer, while the Arbuckle-Simpson, which is smaller has eight. So, I question the data that the slide is based on.

Policy/Regulations

- *State Regulations*
 - *Water Rights*
 - **Id66a** In the Oklahoma Water Law page from the OWRB handout, it refers to three classes of water: stream water, groundwater, and diffused surface water -- sometimes called sheet water/flow because it runs over the surface of the land before it flows into any definite stream. I believe this third class of water should belong to the surface owner of the land that it falls on if they can collect and hold it. Landowners who have ponds or reservoirs on their property have designated these specific areas to store water. The reasons or purposes could be for irrigation, livestock, fish, or to control erosion, or possibly even other reasons or purposes. Whatever the purpose, it has been taken out of other forms of production to serve this purpose. For the State to claim this as public water, seems like double talk and ridiculous. With the value of water possibly a \$1,000 or more per acre-foot, the taking of this from one's own property would be an extremely high tax, or an uncompensated taking of "stores for potential or future domestic use." Many ponds are spring-fed and these springs would be "groundwater" that is supposedly considered "private property like oil, gas, coal, and other minerals." For the State to consider private-property groundwater as public after it hits the surface on private property is ridiculous and inconsistent. Landowners as a whole should have the same right to own water impoundments as Oklahoma City does, otherwise it is discriminatory.

- *State Statutes*

- **Id5c** We are all downstream or downwind from someone else. In the water issue, we in Texas and Arkansas, in this area, are downstream from Oklahoma. For this reason, we have a litigable interest in Oklahoma's water plan to the extent it may affect us. We would feel the same if Oklahomans faced potential risks from Texas or Arkansas planning or actions. With this in mind, we strongly urge you to consider the impact of taking what might be labeled (erroneously) "excess" water from the Red River and its tributaries, such as that used for irrigation downstream, which in turn would deleteriously affect the salinity of the flow downstream. Such an impact would breach the intent of the Red River Compact and, even more to the point, create dissension among good neighbors.
- **Id23** The OWRB has designated Mountain Fork as a high quality river and this means that anyone who takes water from the river must put back water of the same quality.
- **Id66b** Several times I have heard that Oklahoma water law was written to promote the use of water. It seems that it should be evident that it now needs to be re-written to conserve and protect the water. Evidently OWRB has over permitted unavailable and/or non-existent water supplies. These practices need to be corrected and sustainable water supplies and levels need to be the goals and practices if we are to have adequate quality water supplies for future generations.
- **Id30b** I think McCurtain County should be represented on the Water Board.
- **Id39** The amount of representation should depend on the amount of water contribution from each area. The largest amount of water source should have a majority representation on the Oklahoma Water Resources Board.

Sales and Transfers

- **Id5d** There is additionally, the problem of pollution, of which we (FUSE) are painfully aware, and the taking of more water from the river's flow will only concentrate the poisons which are already being poured into it, from both Oklahoma and Arkansas sources. We do not accept the shopworn mantra that "Dilution is the solution to pollution," as any reasonable solution at all. But that seems to be the present policy by some State agencies in this region. This means that if more water is taken from the river flow, there will be less dilution for the pollution, even if no additional pollution is produced. In other words, with more clean water taken from the flow, it would be tantamount to an increased pollution output from the industries during normal flow – in effect, an unpermitted increased dirtying of the water. We, FUSE, find this offensive and unacceptable.

- *Compensation*

- **Id32d** I want to know where the money from a sale would go. I am very concerned McCurtain County won't get any more money than any other county in the State even though we would be the donor basin.
- **Id16b** I am opposed to selling water out of state but if water has to be transferred within the State then there should be some form of payment from the receiving area to the basin of origin. This should go to the county and the county commissioners should be involved in this.

- *Control*

- **Id12** Nowhere in the pyramid [public participation process] is there any place for the people to vote on the plan and water sales. If there is a vote, it should be in the watershed that would be affected and not statewide.

- **Id2** When anyone comes in and tries to buy, take or transfer our water we should file a felony against them. If you let them take your water off your property, you will have nothing left but dirt. They already have our mineral rights.
 - **Id4** The Tarrant Regional Water District has sued the state [of Oklahoma] to be the first in line and you talk about the “first in time, first in right” rule, but does Oklahoma have priority over out-of-state interests? Will we ever have a right to vote, one man, one vote [on water sales]? I suggest we do both of these things [give Oklahoma priority over out-of-state interests and establish a vote on water sales].
 - **Id10c** If the governor of Georgia can't turn the tap off to Florida, then Duane Smith can't turn the tap off to Texas either.
 - **Id29** I am concerned that if the issue of selling water were put to a Statewide vote, that vote may not come out how we think it will. Dallas would come in and run ads in unaffected areas of the State and make promises that people in other parts of the State may find more attractive (such as money) than not selling the water. I suggest that on any water sale the counties within the watershed hold a vote, and if it passed, the proceeds would benefit the counties within the watershed.
 - **Id56** Ask the old-timers around Lake Eucha about what happened when smart lawyers sold their water rights to Tulsa years ago. Tulsa now controls development and uses in the watershed as well as any development around the lake itself.
 - **Id62** The articles that I have read stress that Texas only wants to buy “surplus water.” In the last 25 years, there have only been a few times that we have had “surplus water.” That was during extreme flooding. The courts have upheld “down stream dependency.” We won't be able to stop the flow when we need it. The flora and fauna that depend on the water that is flowing down the streams don't think the water is surplus.
 - **Id30a** McCurtain County has more rainfall than any county in the State. Why would the rest of the State have an equal right or equal vote as McCurtain County? We have no control over the oil and natural gas in the rest of the State and have never been invited to their meetings. Why should they have a say in what we do with water? I am not sure there should be equal representation about water issues because there are not equal amounts of water across the State.
 - **Id58** Allow the people who live where the water is located to make the decisions about what we do with it.
- *Interstate*
 - **Id3** I lived in Dallas for several years and I lived on a lake and they drained that lake every year [by withdrawing water for drinking water]. If we let them take our water, then they will do the same thing to us. I have heard they are going to take my woods; I don't want them to take our water too. This old world does not belong to us; it belongs to our kids and grandkids.
 - **Id5a** FUSE has taken a strong and unrelenting posture of fighting for fair practices related to water planning. Years ago, FUSE's members committed to opposing the proposed Marvin Nichols reservoir that would take thousands of acres from residents in Northeastern Texas, a scheme that we exposed as a backroom deal that would make millions, if not billions, for contractors and others who claimed that Dallas was drying up and would need this reservoir or perish. We continue to contend that such was nothing more than promoters' excessive zeal talking. In other words, balderdash. Whatever needs Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas really has, it already has the means of solving its own projections through conservation and tapping already-available sources, as well as exploring such possibilities as Toledo Bend and Texoma which might be negotiated with Louisiana and Oklahoma.

- **Id9** There has never been a compact or contract signed in the U.S. between two states regarding water, that has not ended up in the courts. Oklahoma is at a disadvantage in the courts because of the amount of federal legislators Texas has. I beg you people, don't let them take your water from you.
- **Id10f** There is no such thing as excess water if you count every citizen in Oklahoma. Not that we would take advantage of it (the water), but we should have the opportunity to it first.
- **Id13** I have already drilled a 350 ft well because I need about 500 gallons a day for my chicken houses. If my well goes dry, then I will have to haul water. Where am I going to haul it from if our lakes are sucked dry? If we sell water, we won't have any water for swimming pools or agriculture. It will all be flushed down the commode in Dallas.
- **Id17** Our rural water district has proposed a water system that would feed all of McCurtain County, but it was killed for political reasons. That is why people are so concerned about selling water. The Corps would control the water (that is sold to Texas). We would not be able to stop them because of the political power of Texas. We only have 5 votes (in Congress). We don't stack up very well against the southern states. I've never talked to anyone wanting to sell the water in this county; everyone I have talked to has been against it. There are a few with a personal interest that want to make a lot of money. We are here for Oklahoma, not for Texas. You know we have the best water in the world. The water here is so clean that at the one time you could sell it without any treatment except chlorination. I am asking you to do all you can to keep our water in Oklahoma.
- **Id21** I have never seen Broken Bow Lake get as low as it has the past 2 to 3 years because of the [water releases to support the] damn trout. Can you imagine what will happen if we send water to Texas; it will get even lower.
- **Id26** I would like to hear someone get up and tell me why they want to sell this water. [What is the benefit of selling water to Texas?]
- **Id35** We can't get water in northern McCurtain County, [even though] we've already made deposits for rural water development and now they want \$8 million more. They want to send our water to Texas, but we can't even get any of it.
- **Id38c** There is no excess water ever until every citizen in this State has the opportunity for all water usage (municipality).
- **Id43** We do not need to sell our water to Texas or any other state.
- **Id44** I am a fourth generation resident of McCurtain County, Oklahoma. I grew up on a farm on the banks of the Mountain Fork River, north of the small community of Watson. My grandfather told me as a young boy, "Son, someday that water that feeds us, our farm, our cattle, hogs, horses, chickens, etc. will someday be more valuable to us than the oil up in Tulsa." Then I really didn't know what he was telling me but now I do. What happened to the oil in Tulsa; they don't have much left. Why those people, I am not acquainted with, would want to sell the good water nature has blessed us with? We have been working to get rural water in northern McCurtain County for several years. I would like to know that when we are ready for the water there will be enough for us to use. Please do not let a few people who are more interested in money than water take this valuable natural resource from us. We live here, we love here, and we want to stay here with the resources we have and we want those resources to be here for our children, grandchildren, and future generations. If we don't have water, we won't have any need for any other resources.
- **Id45** [I am] against all water sales, period. If they need more water supplies, they can build more lakes there [Texas] to support themselves.

- **Id46** We need our water to stay here where it belongs. If we send our water to Texas, there will come a time when we will need it more than them. If Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas needs water, they need to build more lakes for themselves. Leave our water alone!!
- **Id47a** One concern I have is obligating our water to other states. If we get into drought conditions and our water continues to be released from our lakes due to this obligation, we could lose everything in our region. Look to Georgia as an example. They say charity starts at home, so I suggest Oklahoma takes care of Oklahoma first. We do not need to sell our water and therefore obligate ourselves.
- **Id48c** I don't want to change anything about our water. I want it left in a natural state for the people who live here. No sale. No more dams. No deviation of the flow. Leave it alone for southeast Oklahomans.
- **Id49** I am opposed to any water sales for reasons too numerous to mention. Not enough room for them [to all be listed here].
- **Id50** Don't sell the water, please.
- **Id51** Do not sell water.
- **Id52** Please don't sell our water!!! We need it!!
- **Id53** We own a poultry operation and depend on, at the minimum, 17,000 gallons of water per day to operate. We currently have 4 water wells. We do not have access to rural water. We need to keep our water in Oklahoma. Without water, we can't live, therefore nothing else matters. Keep our water!!!!!!
- **Id54** No sale. If Texas is looking to the future and amassing water rights, perhaps we should also plan for the future and keep ours. The only way to sell water outside the State should be by the bottle.
- **Id55** I think the water should be left alone. We had a dry period for two years and the lake was very low and the creeks were dry, and the rivers were nearly dry. I don't see how anybody could sell Oklahoma water to Texas. I am not for selling water to Texas. No.
- **Id61** Do NOT sell McCurtain County water to anyone outside of the state of Oklahoma.
- **Id63** Don't sell our water.
- **Id65** No water for sale!
- **Id10j** Don't sell a drop period.
- *Intrastate*
 - **Id34c** If water is moved from one location to another in the State, then the basin of origin should be taken care of (in terms of water supply) for immediate needs and in the future.

Water Rights

- **Id32b** We would like the plan to address who owns the water in the State.
- *Native American*
 - **Id10b** I don't understand how the plan will work. The State compacted with the tribes for half of the water and if the plan is for all the water then there is a problem. If the State only owns half the water, then we should get double the money when it is sold.

Water Security

- *Disasters*
 - **Id41** First, we need to realize where our water comes from! We should be thankful that we are not in a drought situation like in 2006 when we didn't have a cup full of water to sell!! As commissioner of [Rural Water] District #3 McCurtain County, in the year 2006, we had a crew that worked 7 days a week hauling water to stock ponds for cattle to drink. At any given time we are 2 weeks away from a drought! In 2007, we've had an abundance of rain. This is November and it's too dry to maintain roads properly without hauling water now! As a resident my entire life here in McCurtain County, I've witnessed droughts, floods, and freezes. We have them all here, but the most alarming thing is fire. It doesn't matter if it is arson or accidentally set, it destroys lives, homes, and properties. No water – no fire fighting! Let's keep our water here in McCurtain County for our own protection, our economy, and our families!
- *Terrorism*
 - **Id27** Oklahoma needs to address the issue of terrorism. The terrorists are trying to get to us through our economy. They could also do it through our water supply. They could poison our water, which would wipe out everyone in McCurtain County, and no one could drink it for 100 years. The caretakers, US Army Corps of Engineers, have done a good job controlling the floods and sucking up to the politicians, but they are not protecting our water supply.

Water Sources

Groundwater

- *Quantity*
 - **Id11** I don't have access to rural water. I have to use groundwater and that is my livelihood for logging, farming, poultry, hunting and fishing. During 2005, we had to clean out our ponds and drill new wells. I had an 18 ft well and now have a 300 ft well. I am very concerned about the decrease in groundwater levels in this area. With the drought our water levels went way down. Without our water we have nothing. It is our livelihood.
 - **Id40** In 2004, I moved here and there was mud in my front yard. It has not been there since. I am concerned about the drop in groundwater in McCurtain County.
 - **Id48d** I am very concerned about the groundwater because several of my neighbors have hit dry holes trying to drill for water.

Surface Water

- *Quality*
 - **Id7b** Many say Red River water is wastewater because of the salinity, but the water can be used for irrigation. For example, Madison Farms has achieved 250 bushels per acre of corn using this so-called wastewater.
- *Quantity*
 - **Id9** Even though we have now moved to Arkansas we will continue to help protect Oklahoma water. There is no such thing as excess water in Oklahoma. During the drought Broken Bow Lake was 21 feet below normal and the amount of water flowing into the lake was only 6' wide and 2" deep.
 - **Id10d** The Mountain Fork runs through my property and fluctuates greatly. I've seen it flood, I've seen it trickle, and I've seen it flow, but I damn sure don't want to see it run dry.

Water Uses

Agricultural Use

- **Id8** The poultry industry in eastern Oklahoma depends a lot on the water in the State to keep it going. We need to protect the water in this part of the State.

Ecological Use

- *Habitat*
 - **Id16a** Full consideration should be given to maintaining our wildlife and fisheries habitats.

Oil and Gas Use

- **Id36a** I am the 4th generation Choctaw to live on my family's allotment. I have an oil well on my property that is not producing yet. It took 85,000 barrels of water to drill and frac that well and people should remember that.

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