

**Local Input Meeting Report # 1
Beaver, OK**

**April 12, 2007
Beaver County Fairgrounds Pavilion
6:30 p.m.**

Meeting Agenda

Time	Topic	Speaker
6:35 pm	Welcome	Rick Nelson, Educator Beaver County Cooperative Extension Service
6:40 pm	Purpose of Meeting	Mike Langston, Assistant Director Water Research Institute
6:45 pm	Water Challenges in Oklahoma	Duane Smith, Executive Director Oklahoma Water Resources Board
7:05 pm	Introduction of WRI Staff and Facilitator	Mike Langston
7:10 pm	Explanation of Meeting Process	Andrea Braeutigam, Facilitator Institute for Dispute Resolution
7:15 pm	Comments from the public	
8:20 pm	Meeting adjourned	

Attendees

Water Research Institute Staff

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

Oklahoma Water Resources Board Staff

Duane Smith, Executive Director
 Dave Dillon, Water Plan Coordinator

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Staff

Rick Nelson, Beaver County Extension Educator

Council of Government Representative

Kirk Fisher, Deputy Director, Oklahoma Economic Development Authority

Public Participants

103 citizens

Comments

Sixty-eight comments were received from the meeting participants. Comments were submitted both orally and by comment card. The comments are organized by topic in no particular order. *Additional comments were submitted online to the website but are not included below.*

Conservation

- We should meter wells and place a seal on the meter so the use or overuse is recorded. There should be a penalty for overuse.
- Water conservation should be considered in the plan.
- We need to conserve the water we have.
- Water conservation incentives and requirements need to be incorporated into the water plan and state statute.
- I am concerned about Tamarisk or Salt Cedar along riverbanks because they use so much water.
- We should conserve water by xeriscaping. Landscaping should match the area's climate.

- OKC has the right to surface water in Beaver County. Conservation by area citizens should be considered to help recharge the area's aquifer or use farm ponds to keep the water from flowing into the surface water area that OKC owns.
- We should encourage land stewardship that conserves water resources on a basin-wide scale.
- City people need to use drought resistant grasses, plants, etc. and leave enough water for human consumption. Most farms use drought types of plants and grasses such as buffalo.
- We should meter all corporate farms for their use of water.
- Home swimming pools should be limited at city homes. That's a waste of water. Instead of private pools, people should use public pools, which should be free to kids.
- I am concerned about the quality and quantity of water. The banks of Paloduro Creek are covered in salt cedar, which can use 200 gallons of water a day and add salt to the water.
- We need to use water conservation techniques for agriculture/horticulture such as building in organic matter to soils, using moisture-holding polymers, using anti-transpirants for some crops, xeriscaping yards, and using improved varieties of buffalo grass.
- The control of invasive woody species in riparian zones and in watersheds should be encouraged in the Water Plan as water conservation measures.

Conjunctive Use

- We should change the law regarding the relationship between stream water and groundwater.
- Corporations are not monitored as far as well water use. This is drawing down other wells in the area. I am specifically concerned about drawdown effects on Six-Mile Creek.
- I am concerned about groundwater being depleted. We need to conserve our surface water for the future.
- Our springs have all dried up from overuse of water.
- Oklahoma water law needs to recognize interconnection between ground and surface water.

Education

- We need proactive education plan for all Oklahoman's regarding water conservation.
- We need additional funding for education regarding fertilization and irrigation, as well as for alternative fertilization and irrigation methods.
- OKC needs to be educated about where their water comes from and recognize the needs of western Oklahoma.

Ecological Use

- Protection of stream flows needs to be incorporated into water plan – for environmental purposes.
- The water needs of Oklahoma-listed, federally-listed, and at-risk species needs to be addressed now – not only in the water plan but Oklahoma law as well to avoid future conflicts.
- Environmental flow standards need to be established for all stream reaches statewide based on the best scientific techniques and information available.

Groundwater

- Use of water for agricultural purposes should be recognized as important.
- We should require accurate well logs and identifiable information regarding the wells.
- I am concerned about how overuse is defined. Agriculture use may require additional water at certain times of the year or during certain years and this should not be considered overuse.

- We should not allow new irrigation wells; or if new ones are drilled, then close the older ones.
- I am concerned that municipalities are not able to obtain groundwater via wells because they are not landowners.
- We need more education on water quality to address contamination of aquifers from agricultural activities.
- We should monitor recharge rates on state's aquifers.

Planning

- I am concerned that the State should be working with municipalities and rural communities to maintain adequate water supplies.
- The 5 F's (food, feed, fiber, fuel, and fun) priority list should be addressed in the plan.
- The State should go from a utilization approach to a conservation approach to manage water.
- I am concerned about the decrease in flow of the rivers in the area. We are losing our history and I am concerned future generations won't have the same opportunities that past and current generations did.
- Maybe we need more dams to help keep our water here.
- The water plan should take into account regional differences, especially regarding aquifers and watersheds to consider the different needs of each area. The Panhandle's needs must be addressed and not overlooked in the water plan.
- The water plan should include projections of water resources for the next 50 years; we need to know how much water we have.
- OWRB needs to set flat rules that everyone must follow and not based on the type of entity or use.
- We need to recognize water's economic impact and value to economic development across the State.
- There should be better coordination between the states that overlay the Ogallala aquifer.
- What ever happened to the study about bringing water from Eastern Oklahoma to Western Oklahoma? Maybe this should be looked at again instead of selling to Texas.
- How will the plan prioritize water uses?
- We should make sure that rural Oklahoma is informed throughout the water planning process and stays informed about what is going to happen with Oklahoma's water resources.
- Do something now so we don't run out!
- Drought in several parts of Oklahoma nearly shut down water for towns.
- I want the 3 Panhandle counties' water resources more regionalized since they receive less rainfall than the rest of Oklahoma and are in a drought condition more often than the rest of the state.
- We need a priority list of water uses for now and for next 50 years.
- Use of water should be regulated in a way that is fair to all.

Quality

- I am concerned about the quality of the water coming into the State.
- Identify all the sources of pollution; don't just blame agriculture.
- We should make pollution laws more strict. This should include older corporate swine farms.

Quantity

- When drought hits, water is short until recharge and farm people don't want to re-drill water wells deeper.

Reclamation

- How can salt water from oil/gas wells pumped into disposal wells be reclaimed for use in an economically feasible way?
- Corporate swine farms need to clean and reuse those huge amounts of wastewater left in retention ponds at each farm. Sludge needs to be squeezed dry and reused as fertilizer. Effluent should not be sprayed on land.
- Research money needs to be spent on reclaiming as much water as possible from industrial uses. Produced water is just one example.
- We should recycle water using biofiltration and other purification technologies and bio-remediation for wastewater and reclaimed water. We should encourage on-site conservation.

Recreation

- Surface water affects more than just drinking water or household use. It affects wildlife and recreation and those should be considered in the water plan.
- Some surface water should be available for water sports.

Surface Water

- I would like to see a change in the surface water policy to allow for private uses in the Panhandle, such as ponds, catchment systems, and reservoirs.
- The relationship between stream water quantity and quality needs to be addressed.

Sales and Transfers

- What happens when water runs out and then how water will be distributed across the state?
- I am concerned that other parts of the State and other states think Oklahoma has surplus water to sell, which may not be true.
- I am concerned that T. Boone Pickens will deplete the Ogallala Aquifer through his plans to sell water within Texas.
- We should limit water to corporate farms now. They use enormous amounts.