

With passage of House Bill 3055 (the “Water For 2060 Act”) in 2012, Oklahoma became the first state in the nation to establish a bold, statewide goal of consuming no more fresh water in 2060 than is consumed today.

Water for 2060 emphasizes the use of education and incentives, rather than mandates, to achieve this ambitious goal without limiting Oklahoma’s future growth and prosperity.

Water for 2060 Advisory Council

A fifteen-member advisory council was created in 2013. The Council is chaired by J.D. Strong, OWRB Executive Director, and is comprised of fourteen members appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

The 15 members are tasked with studying and recommending appropriate water conservation practices, incentives, and educational programs to moderate statewide water usage while preserving Oklahoma’s population growth and economic development goals.

The OWRB has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to support the work of the Advisory Council. Quarterly meetings and workshops at the OWRB’s Oklahoma City office have provided the Council an opportunity to hear from leaders in public water supply, crop irrigation, and a variety of industries.

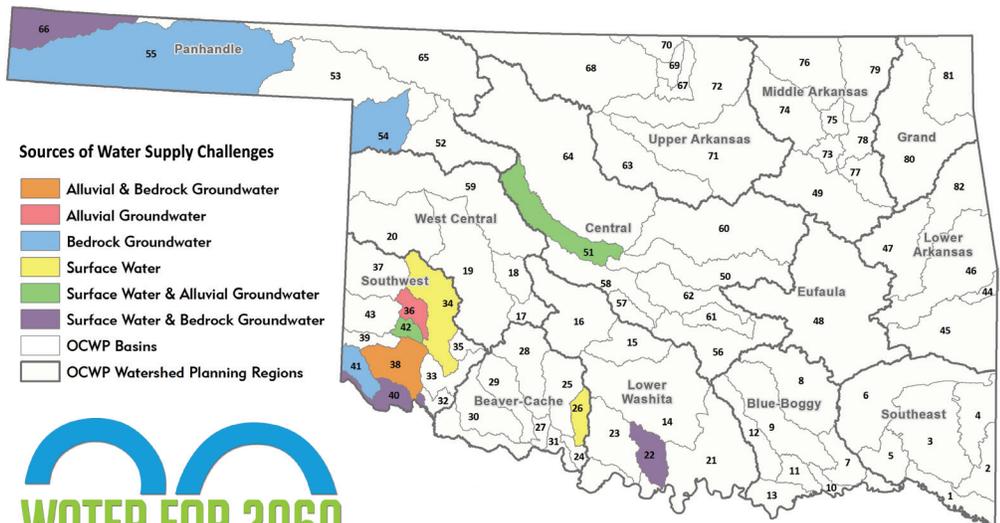
Information gleaned from these workshops will be used to shape the recommendations to be submitted to the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President Pro Tempore by late 2015.

HOT SPOT BASIN MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATION STUDIES

During the spring of 2014, four public meetings were held in Western Oklahoma at Guymon, Quartz Mountain, Duncan, and Yukon to share information and obtain feedback on water conservation strategies that could mitigate projected water shortages in Oklahoma’s most compromised areas. The meetings were attended by agriculture producers, water providers, and interested citizens residing in and around twelve basins determined in the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) to have the potential for the most significant water supply challenges within the next 50 years.

The OWRB and its planning partners are now initiating three in-depth studies. The studies will focus on water conservation initiatives in Basin 26, part of the Beaver-Cache Watershed Planning Region located near Duncan; public water supply system regionalization in Basin 38, part of the Southwest Watershed Planning Region located near Altus; and the use of marginal quality water supplies in Basin 51, part of the Central Watershed Planning Region located between Watonga and Yukon. These studies will help address the needs of the basins and demonstrate the effectiveness of these strategies for other areas of the state.

OCWP “Hot Spot” Basins



For more information on Water for 2060, including Advisory Council membership and meeting information, please visit www.owrb.ok.gov/2060.

