

Public Participation Process

An Update

Dr. Will Focht, Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute

29th Annual Governor's Water Conference 2008

Planning Goals

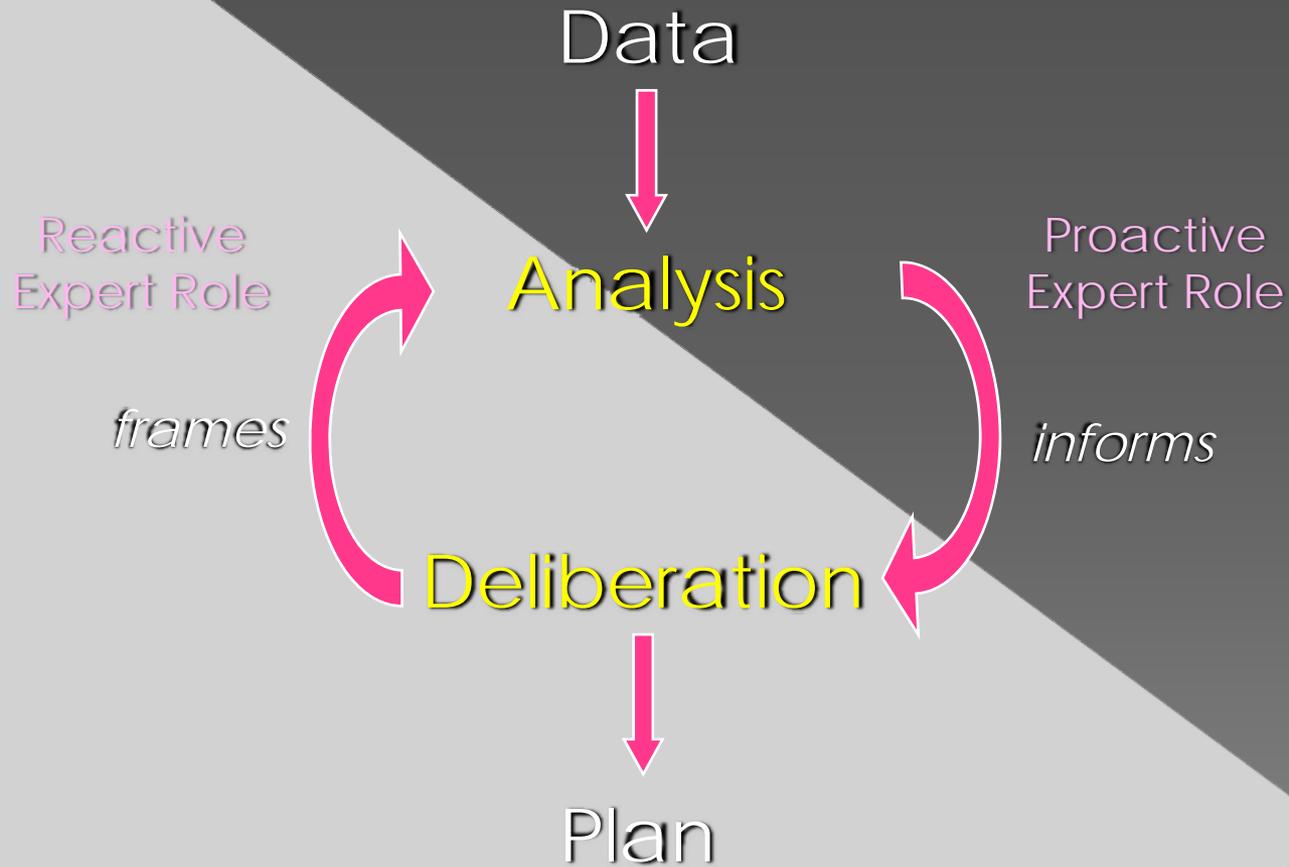
- ◉ A “good” plan is:
 - › a plan that works on paper...
 - › ...which is a function of good science

- ◉ The “right” plan is:
 - › a plan that is supported by the public...
 - › ...which is a function of good process

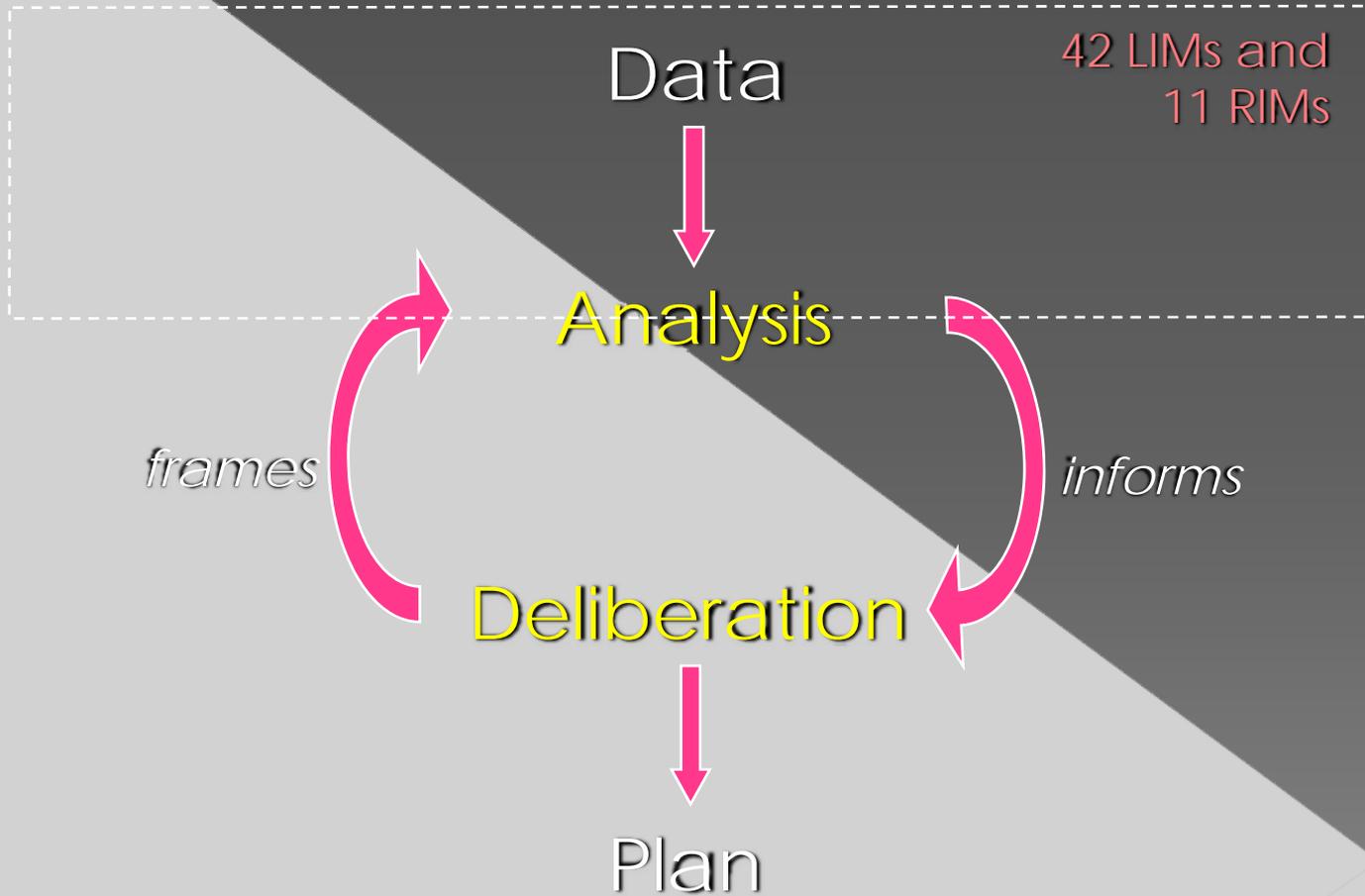
Coupling Good and Right

- ◉ **Challenge:** How to couple competent scientific analysis with legitimated public deliberation about water resource management strategies?
- ◉ **Solution:** Coupling should be recursive
 - › Analysis used to inform deliberation
 - › Deliberation used to frame analysis

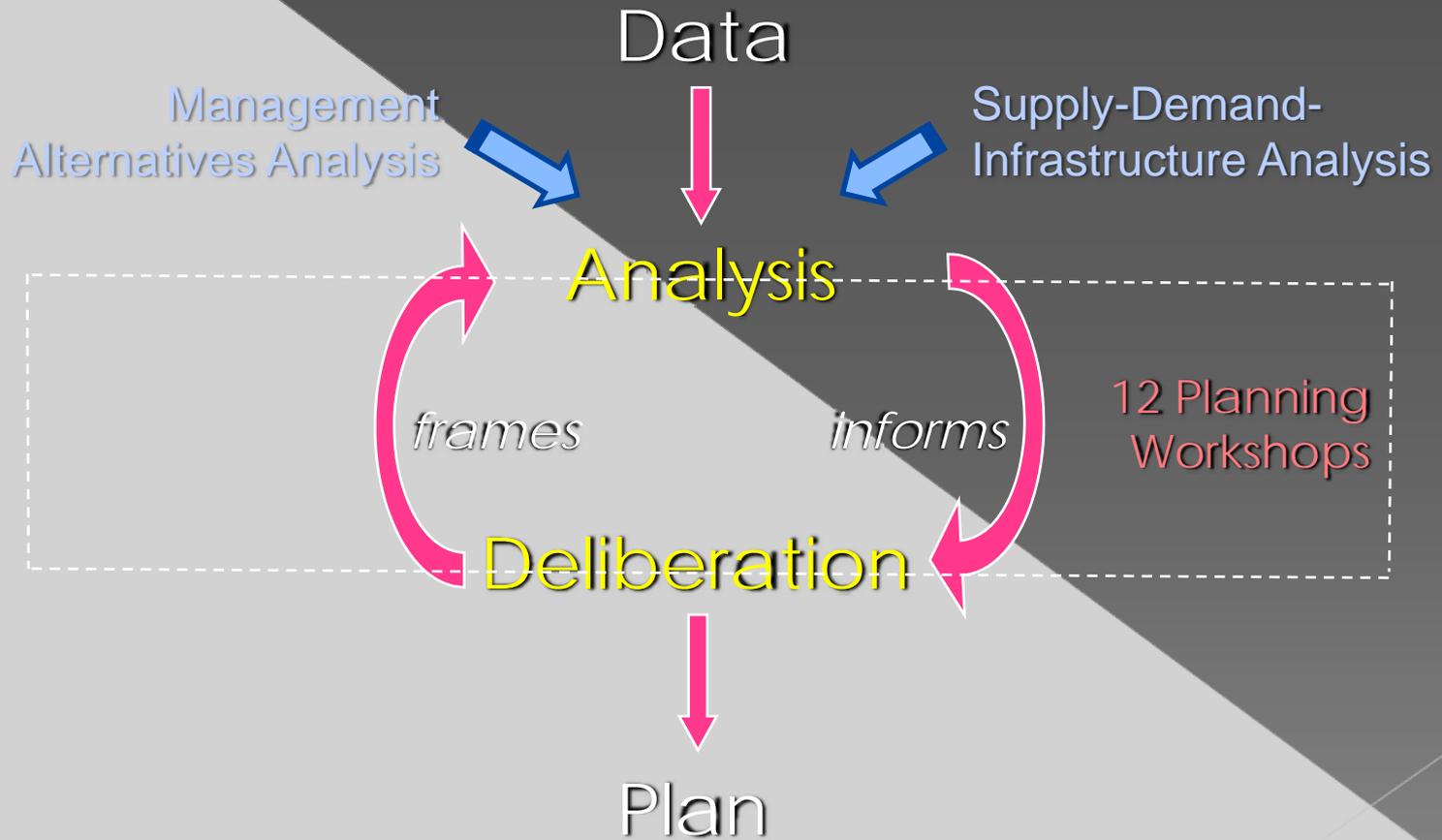
A&D Framework



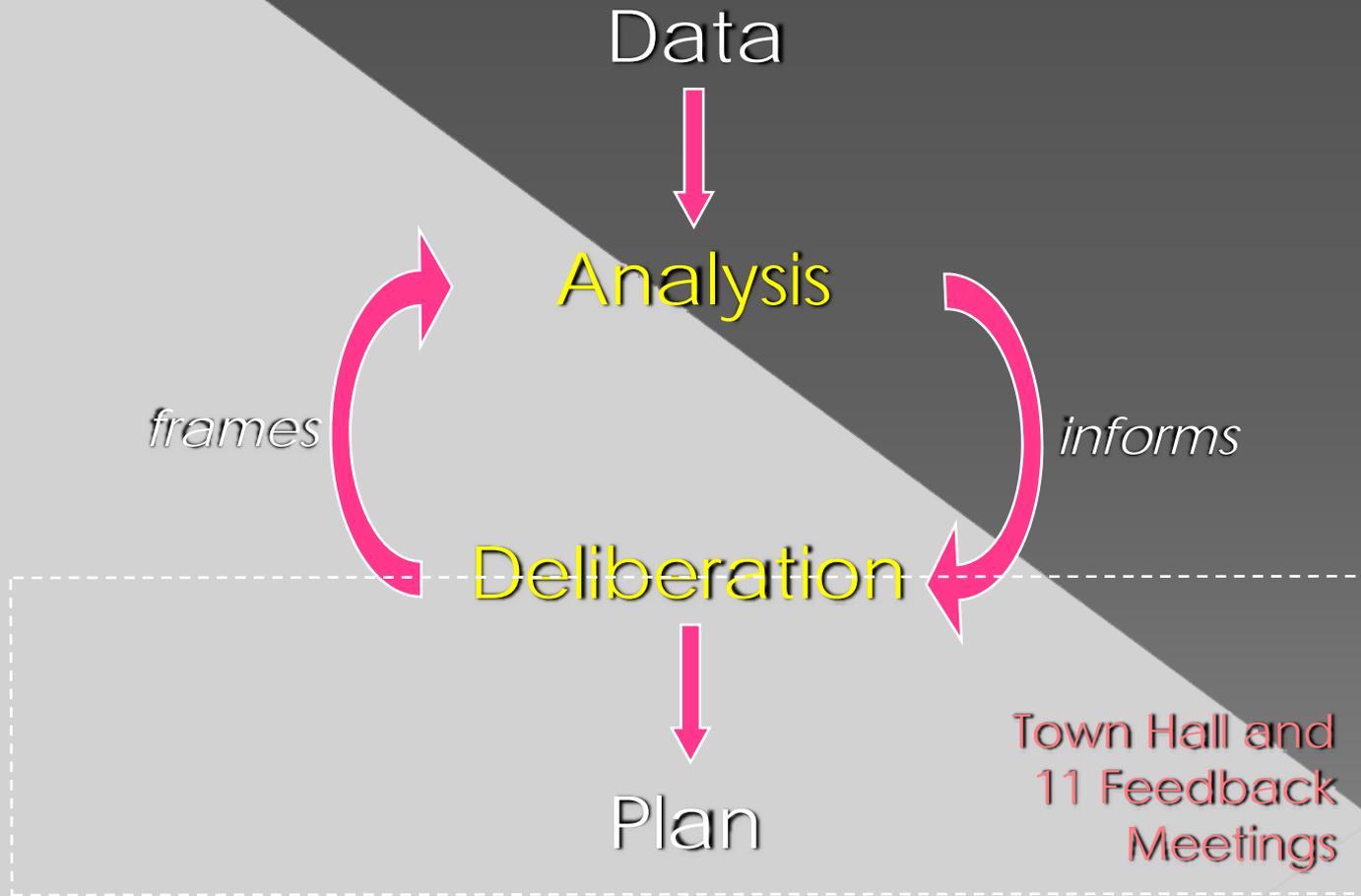
Stage 1: Agenda Setting



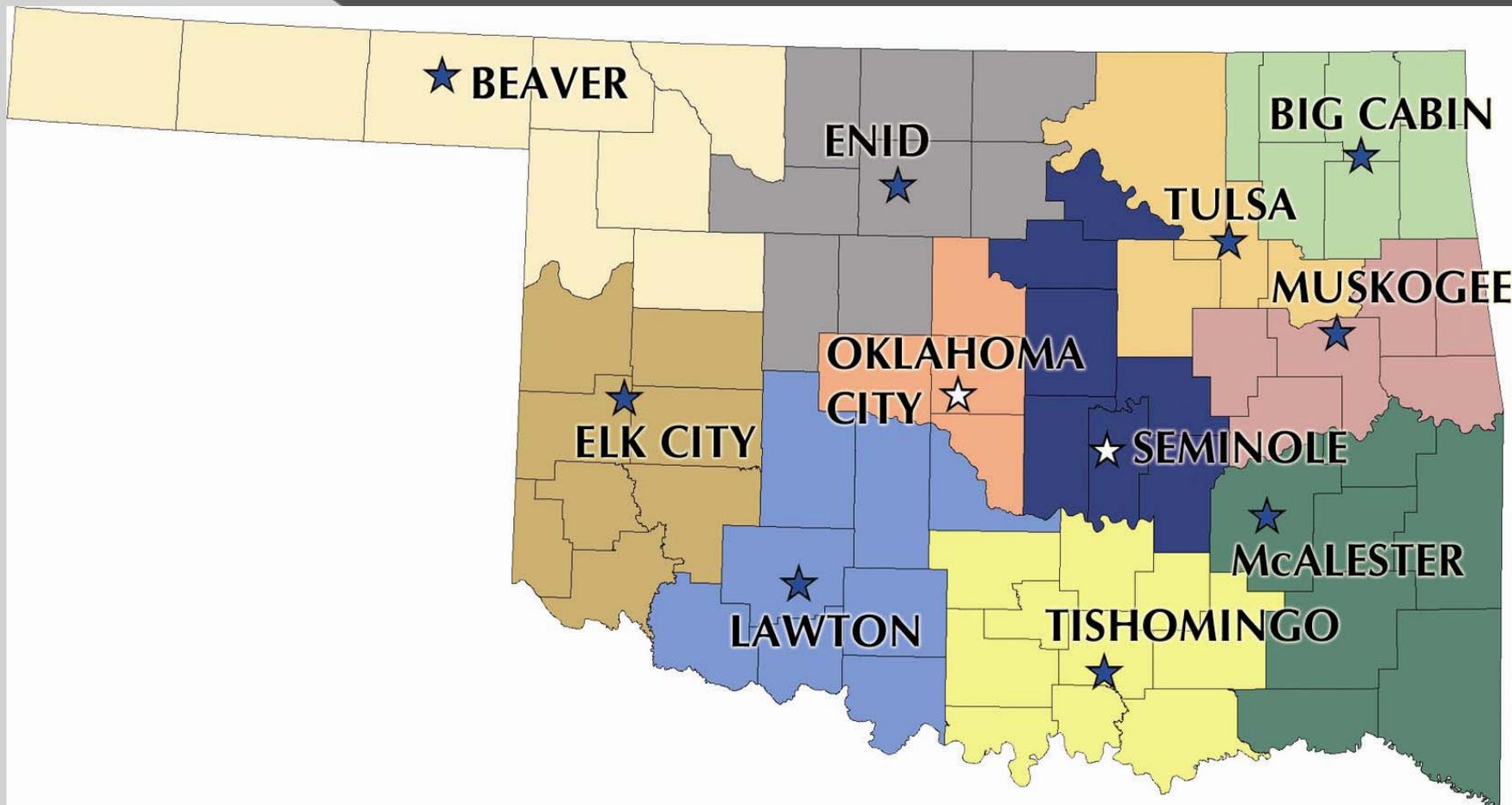
Stage 2: Brainstorming



Stage 3: Recommendations



Update on RIM Sessions



Preliminary RIM Findings

RIM Protocol

- 1238 LIM comments grouped into 54 issues
- At each RIM, ~30 citizens invited to discuss these issues
 - › Local stake, knowledgeable, committed to process, unique perspective, think broadly
- Discussants rated each issue as high or low for inclusion on the planning agenda (“TIA”)
 - › Is the issue timely for planning?
 - › Is the issue appropriate for planning?
 - › Is the issue important for planning?
- Discussions followed by public comment

Consensus High TIA Ratings

- Infrastructure improvements
- Availability of water for economic development
- Balancing supply and demand
- Water sales and transfers
- How to work with other states
- How to deal with region-specific needs
- Public education about water conservation
- Land use effects on water
- Unfunded mandates for water treatment

TIA Differences Across Regions

- Effects of climate change
- Improved water treatment technology
- Incentives to promote conservation
- Changes to local agency jurisdictions/operations
- Revisions to OWRB permitting process to make it more efficient
- Differences not attributable to regional characteristics; only who participated

Mixed Ratings Within Regions

- Timeliness of considering tribal issues and research needs
- Appropriateness of considering tribal issues and changes to state agencies
- Importance of hazards, public involvement, conflict resolution, enforcement consistency
- Possible strategic objections to ground/surface water rights, conjunctive management, and water use priorities
- Most discussion on need for increased infrastructure capacity for fire fighting

What's Next?

- Finish RIMs in November
 - RIM reports available at okwaterplan.info
- Identify workshop themes based on analysis of all RIM reports
- Recruit workshop participants
- Train workshop facilitators
- Identify workshop experts
- Prepare and distribute workshop briefing documents
- Start workshops in mid-2009