Oklahoma’s Comprehensive Water Plan

Why it matters to me...
Why it should matter to you...
“It’s perilous and foolhardy for the average citizen to remain ignorant about global issues.....”

“How can we affect policy – or even make intelligent decisions in our own lives – if we don’t grasp the underlying issues?”

Carl Sagan
Underlying (Consumer) Issues

1. Cost
2. Supply
3. Quality/Safety
Oklahoma Water History

Before Statehood

- Water rights granted
- Procedure outlined

20th Century

- Irrigation & Flood Control
- Shipping
- Management/Regulation
Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

1974 – Legislature mandated initial comprehensive water plan
1980 – Plan unveiled
2006 – Revision process begins
2011 – Draft Plan available at
http://www.owrb.ok.gov/supply/ocwp/ocwp.php
Timeline

2007 – 42 listening sessions
2008 – 11 regional meetings
2009 – planning workshops focused on needs
2010 – Town Hall meetings
2011 – Regional feedback & implementation meetings
2012 – Plan presented to legislature
Discussion Topics

1. Water Supply
2. Conservation/Land Management
3. Governmental Relations
4. Water Management
Planning Regions

13 Watershed Regions
82 Watershed Basins
Water “Hot Spots”

- Average Rainfall
- Storage Capacity
- Supply Gaps
- Water Quality
Beaver/Cache Watershed Basin 28
Cost

Basic Question

How much will water cost?

Informed Questions

Am I willing to share development costs?
Do we need new technology?
Is infrastructure adequate?
How will we pay for upgrades?
Will sales impact costs?
Supply

Basic Question
Will there be enough?

Informed Questions
What is the long term outlook for my area?
How long will the supply be adequate?
Will my habits impact quality and the environment?
Quality/Safety

Basic Questions

Is it safe?
Does it taste good?
Will it get my clothes clean?

Informed Questions

Where does my water come from?
How can I protect and preserve the water supply?
How can I learn more about water?
“It’s perilous and foolhardy for the average citizen to remain ignorant about water.”

“To make intelligent decisions we must understand the geographic, scientific and political issues to make informed decisions and influence policy.”
References

Overview of Water and Related Resources, OWRB
Evolution of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan
Oklahoma Water Information Sheet; Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute
Beaver-Cache Regional Report; Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan
Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan; 2010 Status Report
Water Shortages possible in 12 Oklahoma watersheds; Randy Ellis; NewsOK.com; June 5, 2011
Supplying Oklahoma’s Water Needs will be difficult, costly; Randy Ellis; NewsOK.com; June 5, 2011