

Public Outreach, Education and Engagement for State Water Planning:

A Survey of Western States Water Council Members

Information compiled by

Montana Watercourse

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Purpose of the Survey

The Water Resources Division of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is updating the Montana State Water Plan. As directed by the legislature, the 2015 Montana Water Supply Initiative (MWSI) engages citizens in a planning process to develop statewide water management strategies and recommendations to meet the state's future water needs.

DNRC contracted with Montana Watercourse to conduct a survey of members of the Western States Water Council. The purpose of the survey is to identify best practices to help the public understand the importance of water planning and involve them in the planning process. Identifying the lessons learned from other states, allows both DNRC and Montana Watercourse to create an effective public outreach, education and engagement program.

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The Process

The survey process began with an extensive internet search for information about water planning efforts of Western States Water Council member states. Phone calls and emails to key people in each state followed. Survey questions listed below guided the interview process.

- 1) Please provide some background information regarding the water planning process in your state: when was/is it done, how often is the plan reviewed, etc.?
- 2) How has the public been engaged in the planning process?
- 3) Who is responsible for public outreach?
- 4) What process of communication works best in your state? What avenues are, or have been used?
- 5) What products for education and outreach have been created?
- 6) How are the products/results of water planning shared with the public?
- 7) What have been the biggest public engagement successes?
- 8) What are the lessons learned that might help us?
- 9) What, if anything would you change in the process?

Terms

Clarification of terms used in the survey and report may prove helpful to the reader.

Public refers to citizens. It includes stakeholders (those with a direct connection to water usage and management) and the broader public (those water users who know that water comes out of their faucet, but who might not know much more about their water source, delivery system or other water management concerns).

Outreach includes all methods of disseminating information to all citizens. This includes face-to-face interactions at meetings, hearings, community events, workshops, trainings, or any other gathering of citizens, and through publications, on-line information, and use of print, video, audio and social media.

Education involves the content of the outreach efforts. Examples of education outreach might include basic water science, water supply and demand, water rights, water management, future water projections, or protecting state water resources, to name a few.

Engagement goes beyond the outreach and education. Citizens are part of the planning process. Their input into the planning process involves expressing concerns, offering solutions, providing data, and ultimately supporting the work done through a collaborative effort.

O&E is the abbreviation for outreach and education, and is often expressed as one process.

Results

This report is a state-by-state synthesis of the findings. Information for each state includes a bit of water planning background, including who is responsible for planning and public involvement, information on channels of communication, products of outreach, lessons learned for public outreach, education and engagement, and website content.

Although the focus of the survey and this report identifies efforts to educate the public about water planning, and to involve them in the planning process, some information offered during the interview sessions applies to the structure of the entire planning process. This information should be helpful to DNRC water planners as they work through plans in the state's four basin areas.

Summary Observations

Several comments about both public education, outreach and engagement, and working through the planning process were repeated in various forms from state to state. Due to the frequency of the comments, and the importance placed on them, it is important to take note of the following overriding observations.

- 1) Craft the message. Make clear from the beginning that water planning is not a water rights issue. Repeat the message at every meeting during the planning and review stages. The message needs to be clear to all stakeholders, decision-makers, the legislative body and the general public.
- 2) Employ various communication tools. Although email listservs and posting to websites were most commonly used, direct mailings, phone calls, print and electronic newsletters, press releases, videos, webinars and social media tools were all employed in addition to meetings and live presentations.
- 3) Be available. Meeting people on their turf, although time consuming and costly, seems to offer great payback with increased public participation, creative solution options and support.
- 4) Be transparent. Public should be invited to attend *all* meetings. Website postings of all agendas, meeting minutes, recommendations and draft reports provide the public with easy access to information and allow all water users to feel involved in the process.
- 5) Capitalize on partnerships. Partner agencies, non-governmental organizations, water districts, member organizations, and other stakeholders can help send the message that this is a collaborative process. Side benefit: It is cost effective to use partners to advertise the planning, post water planning information, and help with meetings in each basin.
- 6) Use impartial / neutral facilitators. State agencies that played a secondary role in planning meetings found that the public viewed the process as being more collaborative. Local facilitators help build trust.
- 7) Establish and follow the framework. Regional/basin planning allows flexibility to meet needs of each area. Since the result is a statewide plan, a framework that guides the process is essential. Facilitators for each area need to follow the same guidelines, and rules for such things as data collection need to be identified and followed in order to meld into a statewide plan.

State by State Results

Arizona

Arizona has no overall state water plan. The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) oversees planning and management done by regional Planning Areas and in designated Active Management Areas (AMA's). The Planning Areas are composed of groundwater basins. The AMA's exist in areas of high population, where most groundwater is used, and where financial resources for management are available. The AMA's must meet statutory management criteria.

The Water Resources Development Commission, charged with identifying the needs of the entire state for 25, 50 and 100 years, began a recent update process by reaching out to all interested parties. Outreach is through email blasts to all stakeholders. Emails that announce public meetings, agendas, and meeting minutes, go to heads of all agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGO's), water user groups, irrigation districts, mayors, city managers, etc. Further dissemination passes from heads of each targeted entity. Additionally, all public meetings and agendas are posted online at the ADWR website.

The result of a 2½-year planning process that began in 2007 is a series of eight Water Atlases, published in 2010. The Arizona Water Atlas (Atlas) supports water planning and development efforts by providing local, regional and statewide water-related information, and serves as an educational resource for the public. The Atlas is to be updated on a regular basis. A Water Sustainability Assessment (Volume 9), anticipated to be completed in 2011, is not available at the time of this report. The Atlas is available at the [ADWR website](#).

Twenty-eight entities responded to a recent call to engage in the planning process. The resulting recommendation to the legislature was to develop Rural Water Augmentation Authorities (RWAA's) at the county level, to plan for projected future water needs. The bill was killed in the 2013 legislative session, due mostly to the fact that RWAA's were seen as a taking of water rights. ADWR will start over with statewide visioning through a series of more casual meetings on a local level.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Email blasts to stakeholders.
- 2) Website.
- 3) Public meetings and agendas posted online and at ADWR headquarters.
- 4) Heads of agencies, NGO's, water user groups, irrigation districts, cities, etc.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Public meetings and agendas posted on the website.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) ADWR has very little funding for water planning, and no money is earmarked for public education. Budget cuts of 60%, resulted in severe staff cutbacks during the update period. With no financial and staff support for public outreach and education, it was difficult to craft messages, to reach the public, and to have the public on board with recommendations.
- 2) Public engagement was difficult without funding.
- 3) Better public education may have prevented the killing of the bill to develop the RWAA's.

Website content:

[Arizona Department of Water Resources](#) home page links to all aspects of the ADWR department, postings of public meetings and agendas, Atlas, and a great [interactive water history timeline webpage](#).

Arkansas

Beginning in 1969, state agencies were responsible for developing a “comprehensive water plan.” Statute was vague and stated the need to update “from time to time” and “make the public aware of updates.” In 1985, the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission updated the original water plan, and developed the 1990 Arkansas State Water Plan that addressed state needs for the next 20 years.

Currently, the Arkansas Legislature and Arkansas Game and Fish are financing the \$4 million total project cost to update water planning, which started in 2011. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (Commission) has the duty to adopt the plan by Rule, which mandates public comment and input. The planning process will reach the rulemaking stage for public comment by 2015.

The current water planning process began with the Commission working together with state and federal agencies to hone a scope of work. An engineering firm was engaged to oversee the planning process. The firm contracted with a public relations firm to deal with public outreach. Public involvement was limited until later in the process.

Outreach and education (O&E) is a shared process among the Commission, the engineering firm and a public relations firm. Most communication takes place through e-mail and web and with postal mail for those who request it. The process works this way:

- 1) O&E with agencies such as Natural Resource Conservation Service, Health Department, Environmental Quality, Law School, United States Geologic Survey, extension offices, Game and Fish. These entities made up the core, or steering committee for the water planning.
- 2) O&E to recruit the “Demand Work Group” because the planning deals only with water demands at this time and through 2050. This group is composed of representatives from entities with lobbying duties such as Farm Bureau, environmental groups, power companies, and agricultural concerns.
- 3) O&E to all stakeholders began June 2013. Twenty public meetings will be held around the state with presentations of the draft demands and projections.

All reports, brochures, and other products of the planning process are posted on the Commission’s website (see below).

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Emails.
- 2) Webpage.
- 3) Electronic and print newsletters.
- 4) Limited print ads.
- 5) News releases.
- 6) Social media: Twitter, Facebook.
- 7) Public meeting and presentations.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Monthly e-newsletters - readable, educational, and offer opportunities to get involved with water planning process. *See example newsletter in the State Resources section.*

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) The public wants to be involved, but until the legislature approved the funding, public involvement was lacking.
- 2) This is VERY IMPORTANT: Before you begin, make sure you have someone in-house who is an expert at all web-based social media, understands the planning process, and promotes the plan using all the tools available.

- 3) It is important to help the public understand that the draft contains only projections, and that the plan will be reassessed over time.
- 4) Public needs help understanding some of the data.
- 5) Best success of public outreach was the feedback on the best data to estimate demand and supply, and feedback on the formulas used to calculate current and future forecasts. Capitalize on the expertise and wisdom from people who have volunteered to assist on the work groups.

Website content:

[Arkansas Natural Resources Commission](#) water plan webpage links to twelve basin reports and the Executive Summary of 1990, to public hearings, meetings, etc.

The [Arkansas.gov](#) website on current water planning efforts features an invitation from the Director of the Natural Resource Commission to the public for involvement in current planning. This site also provides links to water planning meetings, newsletter, schedule, and to the Natural Resources Commissions webpage above. This website is very user-friendly and welcoming to the public.



- Home
- AR Water Plan Meetings
- Water Plan Newsletter
- Water Plan Schedule
- Resources

[Click here to sign up for Arkansas Water Plan Updates](#)

For more information E-mail address for questions and comments on the Plan: arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com

Point of contact: Edward Swaim, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 350, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201, 501-682-3979, edward.swaim@arkansas.gov

[Click Here to Review the Demand Forecast Presentation](#)

Welcome from Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Director J. Randy Young P.E.

There is no resource more important to our state than water. We depend upon water for our very existence. Water grows the food we eat, nourishes our bodies, and supports our businesses, industries, and overall economy. Water is equally vital to our natural environment, fisheries, wildlife, and recreation opportunities.



I invite all Arkansans to join me in charting our path forward for the wise and efficient use, management, and development of our precious water resources.

It has been over 20 years since we completed our last comprehensive update of the Water Plan. In 2011, we embarked on our current update. The cooperation and support of all of our citizens, our various water use sectors, and our political and business leaders are vital to ensure a successful process.

Get involved in the public participation process and become part-owner in the 2014 Arkansas Water Plan.

The Benefits of Water Planning

Statewide water planning has a long history in Arkansas. The Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission started handling the Plan in 1969. In 1985, the legislature directed the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission to update the original plan and this update was completed in 1990. The 1990 Arkansas State Water Plan was successful in addressing the needs of the state over the last two decades. [Click here to view the EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND BASIN REPORTS ON THE ANRC SITE.](#)

During the water plan update, projected water needs will be evaluated to the year 2050 for all of our state's major water demand sectors Municipal, Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural, and Energy.

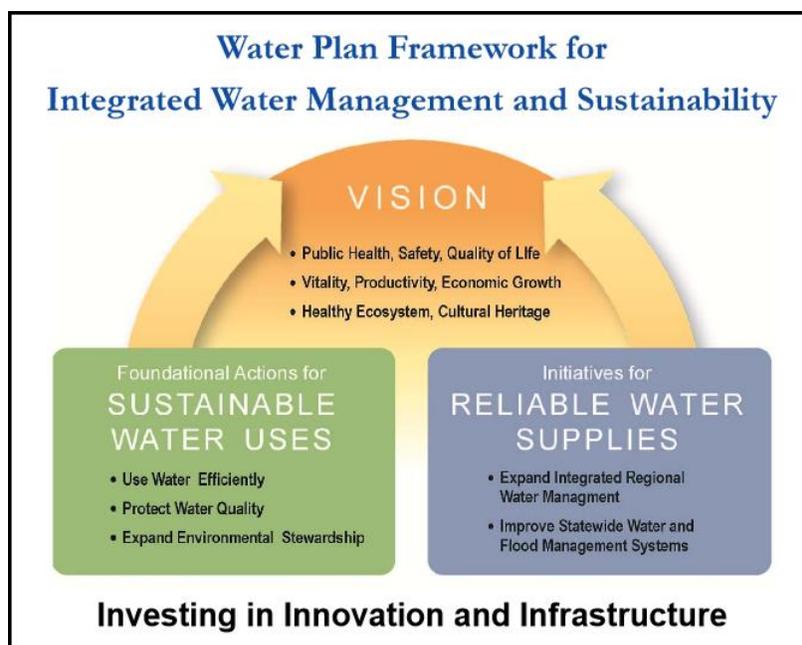
Estimates of available water supplies will also be completed incorporating needs to protect fish and wildlife.

Where shortfalls between supply and needs occur, solutions will be identified to help ensure a safe and reliable water supply for our citizens and the environment.

A special thank you to the Arkansas Legislature and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission for financing the water plan update. Through the leadership of the General Assembly and Governor Beebe, we have embarked on this effort to improve the management of one of our most important natural resources.

California

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is currently updating the state water plan as part of a well-defined and ongoing program of 5-year updates of state and regional plans. Support for the statewide Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program comes through bond funding, which has been cut substantially in recent years. Current funding for 2013 is \$2.1 million from the General Fund, and \$1 million from the State Water Fund. The 2013 California Water Plan Update is an integrative plan, encompassing water quality, and water quantity and ecosystem/health/safety/economic issues as illustrated in the vision of the Plan.



Emphasis for the Update is on local planning. The focus is on solutions for meeting water demands. Because funding water projects is a concern, the 2013 Plan Update will include a finance plan that focuses on critical priorities for integrated water management activities along with recommendations for innovative and fiscally responsible financial strategies and revenue sources.

Beginning soon after the 1998 Plan Update, statute required greater public input. This public involvement resulted in support of the 2005 Plan update, where stakeholders worked hard to get the Plan approved by the legislature. Starting in 2009, the process was even more collaborative, with 28 state agencies helping to write the plan.

The 2013 Plan Update incorporates input from the Public Advisory Committee, the Tribal Advisory Committee, the State Agency Steering Committee, and even a Federal Agency Network. These committees each provide opportunity for public engagement. All meetings, agendas, and reports are available online. Regional Forums, held around the state, allow for local input from diverse interest groups and individuals. Some Regional Forums, held at satellite sites, allow stakeholders to link in via the web. Each of the state's 14 regions creates a design team whose job is to advertise meetings and craft agendas. Local leaders are used to run regional meetings as a way to facilitate consensus and take away from the perceived view that planning is all agency directed, rather than being a collaborative process.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Email.
- 2) Webinars - (satellite link sites for regional meetings).
- 3) Documents posted on Water Plan website.
- 4) Options for mailing documents or sending as CD's.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Weekly Water Plan E-newsletters with important water management information and dates of upcoming meetings, workshops and other opportunities to become involved in water planning/management.
- 2) [Brochure](#) posted on home page of DWR and on the DWR Water Plan webpage.
- 3) Documents describing the water plan, regional forum minutes, contact information, etc.
- 4) Internal planning documents such as the "California Water Plan Tools to Improve Communication, Transparency, Access, Collaboration, Alignment, & Tracking Performance." *This document is included in the State Resources Section.*

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) The greater the public involvement, the greater the value of the plan because there is more buy-in by the public. The process takes longer, but is worth it.
- 2) Best practice is to use professional, trusted, neutral facilitators to lead public meetings. Use local leaders (i.e. Local water boards, etc.) to give more of a "home-grown" feeling vs. state directive. Access free mediators/facilitators from other agencies.
- 3) Local stakeholders in regions advertise and help craft agendas (Regional Design Teams).
- 4) Using local leaders rather than agency personnel is cost effective and builds trust.
- 5) When providing data - use real numbers rather than models - people do not trust models.
- 6) Good idea to post basin planning information on website during the planning process.
- 7) Include other state agencies in planning - Prior to doing this, the public saw water plan as "DWR's water supply."
- 8) When posting documents on the web, use low resolution and break them into sections for easy access.
- 9) Use satellite sites for meetings. This allows stakeholders to join either remotely through their computer, or in person.

Website content:

The [California Department of Water Resources](#) water plan website links to weekly newsletter update, brochure, regional outreach forums, and other information.

Colorado

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) regularly updates the State Water Supply Initiative (SWSI). This is not an overall state water plan. Instead, the legislated Inter-Basin Compact Commission at the state level, and nine Basin Roundtables at the local level, do planning. Over 300 stakeholders participate in water supply discussions throughout the state. The Interbasin Compact Committee (IBCC) guides discussion and voluntary negotiations regarding conflicts between basins. The 2004 SWSI, was mostly agency directed and projected water needs to 2030. In 2006, the SWSI expanded to include conservation, agricultural water transfers and environmental needs. The 2010 SWSI began in 2008 and incorporated a greater diversity of stakeholders charged with projecting water needs through 2050. [Key findings](#) are summarized in a document for the public. Planning is now underway for the 2015 SWSI update. Water Supply planning is well funded - about \$1 million/year. Just under \$50,000 was spent to survey the public regarding water issues of importance to them. This will help direct E&O work as the planning moves forward.

Education and outreach is the responsibility of each Basin Roundtable. The Public Education, Participation and Outreach (PEPO) Workgroup is a legislated committee of the IBCC. This workgroup consists of two educational liaison members from each Roundtable. The group creates the process to inform, engage and educate the public on the IBCC's activities. They also develop the mechanisms for public input and feedback to relay to the IBCC. PEPO educates the IBCC and Roundtable members on water issues. PEPO funnels \$2,000/year to each Roundtable for Education and Outreach. Additional funds are awarded through a grant process to Roundtables that complete an Education Action Plan. The Colorado Foundation for Water Education (CFEW), Colorado Watershed Assembly and the Colorado Water Institute work closely with CWCB and the PEPO workgroup. More information is available at the [IBCC Public Education, Participation and Outreach Workgroup webpage](#), which links to the 2010 Basin Roundtable Education Survey conducted by CFEW.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Done through the PEPO Workgroup and Basin Roundtables.
- 2) Roundtables address specific local education needs through brochures, classes, outreach events, etc.
- 3) Roundtables are unique in use of social media, websites, use of emails, etc.

Public outreach products - examples include:

- 1) Headwaters magazine ([Colorado Foundation for Water Education](#)).
- 2) Press releases.
- 3) Interpretive signs at boat launches (Colorado Roundtable Workgroup).
- 4) Host community riparian restoration event and workshop (Arkansas Basin Roundtable Workgroup).

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) Is E&O meant to inform or involve the public? Plan your efforts based upon the answer.
- 2) Local messengers are best.

Website content:

[Colorado Water Conservation Board](#) Water Supply Planning webpage provides a rationale for planning and a brief overview of the state water supply. Site features links to water management information as well as information specific to state water planning such as the 2010 SWSI and Basin Roundtables. The Public Information tab at the top of the page links to several other pages containing information for the public. One link is to the [Education & Outreach page](#). Here, links lead to classroom education information and to IBCC Public Education, Participation and Outreach (PEPO) Committee information.

Idaho

The Idaho Water Resource Board, a section of the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR), oversees the development of the Idaho Comprehensive State Water Plan. The Plan incorporates statewide water policy and basin as well as aquifer plans that cover specific geographic areas of the state. Strategic planning began in 1976 with updates every 5 years through 1999, at which time the statute was struck from legislation. The process picked up again in 2007. Five years later, in 2012, the new State Water Plan was completed. The Plan focuses on policy issues, not projects, and includes a drought management implementation plan, but not a developed water supply-demand balance assessment. The State Water Plan is a living document with sections to be updated on an ongoing basis.

Statute requires a 90-day public comment period prior to submission to legislature, followed by a 60-day period for legislators to accept or reject recommendations. The Department has no public info officer, so public engagement is lacking.

A sub-group of the Water Resource Board that formed the water planning revision process, initiated organization for the 2012 Plan. Their 40 meetings were open to the public. Additionally, they held seven public hearings around the state, which were advertised during the 90-day public comment period. The Board took comments on advisement and submitted conditional language to the legislature for acceptance. The public was encouraged to attend all hearing meetings.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Webpage with postings.
- 2) News releases prior to local hearings.
- 3) Board Chair invited response to draft documents posted on IDWR website.
- 4) Email list with several hundred contacts.

Public outreach products:

- 1) All draft versions posted on the website.
- 2) Past and current State Water Plans posted for viewing or downloading.
- 3) No specific products such as brochures and flyers were developed during the 2012 Plan update process.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) Information to legislators is needed on a regular basis.
- 2) Talking with groups/associations is very effective - face time is important.
- 3) Present at annual conventions of water user groups, Rotary Clubs, Association of Cities and Counties, etc.
- 4) Prepare and send updates to partner agency and organization newsletters, etc.
- 5) Public needs to understand that this is the position of the state - not a federal program to impose regulations.
- 6) The State Water Plan helps downstream states understand the state position.
- 7) There was strong opposition by some legislators who did not understand that this was policy not regulatory. There were complaints about not being involved prior to 60-day comment period.
- 8) Public complained that they did not know about meetings, did not have adequate time to respond.
- 9) Public remained confused about the intent of the Water Plan - goals, need, etc.

Website content:

The [Idaho Water Resource Board](#) webpage for Comprehensive State Water Planning contains a brief overview of the planning process, and links to water inventory documents as well as links to other webpages and to the current 2012 State Water Plan.

Kansas

The Kansas Water Office (KWO) is responsible for developing the Kansas Water Plan (KWP). As required by statute, the 5-year update of the most recent plan (2009) is currently underway. The 2014 Kansas Water Plan will address current resource issues and plan for future needs. Planning is done on a regional basis. As volumes of the 2014 Plan are drafted, links will be posted online for review. Volumes include Introduction & Background, Statewide Water Assessment, Water Plan Goals and Priorities, Basin Sections, and Kansas Water Plan Atlas.

The 1989 statutory funding of the State Water Plan Fund provides revenue to fund the KWP. Revenue is subject to annual appropriations and is generated by water protection fees from public supplies, industrial, and stock watering as well as from fees imposed on pesticides and fertilizers, fines for pollution violations, and sand royalties. The 2014 appropriated funding is just over \$14 million.

Basin Advisory Committees (BACs) conduct most public outreach and education. These citizen advisory groups represent stakeholders in 12 river basins and provide insight, track issues and alert the KWO and Kansas Water Authority (KWA) about areas of concern in each region. The number of members serving on each BAC, and the stakeholder categories in each BAC, provide maximum citizen input on Basin issues. All BACs consist of seven "core" categories: agriculture, conservation/environment, fish and wildlife, industry/commerce, municipal public water suppliers, recreation and one slot for an at-large public member. Two to four additional members represent diverse stakeholder interests unique to each BAC.

The KWO and the BAC's will coordinate additional outreach this coming fall. Their work with the state's three water centers focuses on awareness of the Kansas Water Plan and solicits input on water plan priorities from the centers' visitors.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Most education and engagement for local activities is done through local BAC's.
- 2) KWO outreach includes:
 - a. Post information on Facebook and Twitter.
 - b. Email listserv.
 - c. Some press releases about the State Water Plan.
 - d. Booth at Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas - October 2013 with anticipated 700 attendees.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Flyers.
- 2) Brochures.
- 3) Fact sheets.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) Work with BAC's to keep educational outreach local and pertinent.

Website content:

The [Kansas Water Office](#) website includes the Director's welcome to the public. A prominent tab leads the viewer directly to the [Kansas Water Plan](#) where the brief overview of statutory requirement for water planning highlights links to the current 2009 Kansas Water Plan, and to the updated 2014 Plan volumes (as they become available).

Nebraska

Nebraska manages its water resources through Integrated Water Management Plans (IWMP). The state has created 23 fully appropriated Natural Resource Districts (NRD's). These NRD's are local government units representing a basin or reach, and are governed by a locally elected board of directors. Each NRD develops its own IWMP that identifies available water supplies and current uses, future water projections, management for water quality, and conservation programs. NRD's have authority to levy taxes to run their operations. Water planning is an on-going process.

Each NRD is responsible for its own outreach. Some NRD's hire engineering firms or public relations firms to run public involvement programs and to facilitate meetings.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Newspaper PSA's.
- 2) Phone calls from NRD Boards to local stakeholders.
- 3) Websites for most NRD's.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Outreach products vary among the NRD's, but most common are:
 - a. Quarterly newsletters.
 - b. Postings of meetings, agendas and minutes.
 - c. Drafts for public comment.
 - d. Invitations for public to participate in IWMP updates.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) The NRD's that engaged the public the most, took longer to get plans in place, but stakeholders had a better understanding of the process and needs although they may not have total "buy in." Plans better reflected the needs of stakeholders in these Districts.
- 2) Suggest joining the National Association for Public Participation - IAP2. This organization has model plans for facilitation.
- 3) Get a handle on stream flow. It is more indicative of supply than groundwater assessments.
- 4) Should Plan be statewide or basin-wide? One argument is that a collection of basin plans really IS a statewide plan. Basin plans are more flexible to the needs of the basin and constituents.

Website content:

The [Nebraska Department of Natural Resources](#) website contains almost no narrative that provides background. Rather, it has links to all divisions, departments, reports, maps and other technical information. However, it does have a prominent link to [Integrated Water Management](#), where links lead to approved plans for all 23 Natural Resource Districts. More information can be located at websites of individual NRD's. This information can be accessed through the [Nebraska Association of Natural Resources Districts](#).

Nevada

The last state water plan for Nevada was completed in 1999. The Division of Water Resources (DWR) no longer plans on a statewide basis. Major suppliers in key urban areas where growth has exceeded projections do local and regional planning independently. There is no specific implementation approach. Focus is on policy rather than quantifying supply and demand. DWR has developed future projections and compared these needs to current use, but no quantitative water budget exists for the state or regions. In light of recent drought issues, the State of Nevada Drought Plan was completed in 2012.

Legislative funding is needed for future state water planning. Statute only requires water suppliers to have conservation plans in place. The DWR website lists 146 approved conservation plans from separate entities such as subdivisions, RV parks, hotels, prisons, etc. Currently, the Division is compiling draft water conservation plans from all required entities. All finalized water conservation plans will be posted on the website later in 2013 or early 2014.

DWR does no education outreach. (A DWR employee indicated the need for education due to the 100's of calls per week dealing with water law and permitting questions, people complaining about someone drilling a well, etc.) The DWR website is very basic, with nothing that invites the public to become involved. The methods of engagement and levels of involvement are at the discretion of each water supplier.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Local water suppliers provide public outreach and education to those in their service areas.

Public outreach products:

Information can be found on websites of water suppliers. An example: [Trukee Meadows Water Authority](#) provides online access to public meetings, e-newsletters, workshops and tours. Water conservation information is readily available. Information on the water resources, water quality, treatment, distribution, and other topics of interest includes videos, documents and other helpful information.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) The Division needs to play a more active role in this area. People are confused, especially about water rights.

Website content:

The [Nevada Division of Water Resources](#) website for the State Water Plan includes a brief overview and links to the '99 State Water Plan. A link to water-planning publications, references the 2012 State of Nevada Drought, but the link is broken. Information for public engagement and education about water planning is absent or dated.

New Mexico

New Mexico has a well-defined, ongoing program for water planning that involves periodic updates of state and regional plans. The Office of the State Engineer (OSE) and the Interstate Stream Commission (ISC) carry out the planning duties. Regional, grass roots planning for the entire state began in the 1990's for 16 regions of the state. Legislation in 2003 required a statewide plan with 5-year updates, and budgeted \$680,000 annually for the next update. The process to develop the 2003 State Water Plan (SWP) was very much citizen-driven. Twenty-nine public meetings took place that year. A report synthesized public comments from these meetings, and melded them with the regional planning reports from the '90s into a statewide plan.

The most recent update began in 2008 and ended in 2009. This SWP focused on broadening input from all state agencies. During this period, with limited funding (\$600,000 in 2008), twenty-two public meetings were held around the state. Facilitators from the University of New Mexico Law School led meetings in 2003 and 2008. A 50-page [synthesis of public comments](#) for the 2003 planning provides insight into the process, as well as comments from stakeholders.

Local advisory committees direct the water planning in each of the 16 regions. Tribal involvement is part of the comprehensive plan, with a full-time state Tribal liaison in place. The SWP identifies 14 strategies that form the core of state water policies. SWP does not detail specific construction-type projects, but serves to guide decisions.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) OSE website is sole communication channel for public and stakeholders - limited budget provides only one person to do outreach.
- 2) Interstate Stream Commission (ISC), a division of OSE, is responsible for education and outreach.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Fact sheets on various water topics: water rights, adjudication, water resources, terms, etc. were distributed at all public meetings.
- 2) Online questionnaire requesting public response to planning questions.
- 3) Questions for Public Meetings on State Water Plan. *This document is included in the State Resources section.*

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) Public was more engaged in '90's, but since water is of such great importance to citizens, they stay involved. Funding in the 2013 legislature came from citizens' pushing for more support to continue the state water planning efforts. There has been no recent funding for work on regional/state plans.
- 2) Not all decision-makers and stakeholders were at the table in 2003 and 2009 - thus lacking diverse stakeholder representation.
- 3) Hired consultants facilitated meetings. They followed a set of guidelines that worked well to maintain consistency.

Website content:

The [New Mexico Office of the State Engineer](#) State Water Plan webpage introduces the requirement for the plan and how planning is carried out. Emphasis on public outreach is evident, with links to a public outreach webpage that contains FAQ's, staff contact information, postings of meetings and an online questionnaire. Links on the page lead to many documents of interest to the public, including the past SWPs and most current 2008 State Water Plan Review and Proposed Update, as well as the 2009 State Water Plan Update Public Outreach documents.

North Dakota

The State Water Commission has developed and maintained plans for water resource development since the first statewide water plan was published by the State Planning Board in 1937. State Water Plans are completed on a 10-year rotational cycle. The 2009 Plan is the most recent. Every two years, project-driven Water Development Reports (WDR) supplement the Plan. The current 2013-2015 WDR, also called the Strategic Plan, provides updated information regarding the state's water development project needs, the ability to fund those needs, and serves as the State Water Commission's formal request for funding from the Resources Trust Fund (oil extraction tax). Projections for future water planning is done at the local level.

Oil revenues amply fund the planning process. The Planning Division employs a staff of eight, with one employee being a full-time education outreach person. This role is expanding beyond working with teachers and students, to a more inclusive public outreach role dealing with many water issues. Therefore, the Division does not contract out to neutral parties for outreach.

Department planners are responsible for sending notices of upcoming meetings that target stakeholders at the county level. The Department provides outreach education classes for law enforcement officials. New outreach will begin the fall of 2013 in the major watersheds with eight meetings planned throughout the state. All are open to the public.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Website.
- 2) Emails.
- 3) Targeted mailings invite stakeholder representatives in each county to local water planning meetings.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Brochures.
- 2) Water Development Reports and State Water Management Plan Executive Summary posted online.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) Use websites of other stakeholders to advertise and link to information - Example: They used the Fishing Buddies website to educate about new laws pertaining to recreational activities above high water mark (sovereign lands) on the Missouri.
- 2) State tries to go "above and beyond" to engage the public, but unless the issue is of importance to them, it is hard to engage the public.

Website content:

The [North Dakota State Water Commission](#) oversees development and management of the State Water Management Plan. The [Reports and Publications](#) webpage lists notifications of meetings, water permitting process, and information on flooding, projects and reports. The site also links to other resources such as education, maps and publications, and to the 2013-2015 Strategic Plan.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma's first State Water Plan was completed in 1995. No further funding was available until 2006, when the legislature funded a 5-year planning process by earmarking \$1.2 million/year in oil overcharge funds for water planning. 2007-2011 were planning years. The Oklahoma Water Resource Board (OWRB) adopted the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) in October 2011. The Plan identifies local and regional water use and management through 2060 and beyond. Statute requires plan updates every 10 years. Funding is now secure through 2016.

Planning is done on a regional basis with local advisory committees directing planning in each region. No formal process is in place for tribal participation, but all meetings are open to the public. The Plan includes a comprehensive inventory of water rights and legally available supplies to identify net surplus or deficit for each region.

Public participation was a focus of the recent round of water planning, as required by statute. In 2006, the OWRB contracted with the Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute (OWRRI) for policy and public participation process development. Public engagement and education followed a well-developed format:

Phase One - 2007 - Forty-two Local Input Meetings, or listening sessions
These meetings were held throughout the state and were well attended.

Phase Two - 2008 - Eleven Regional Input Meetings
Over 340 appointed participants and members of public at large, who provided input, attended these meetings. The purpose was to ensure the full range of Oklahoma's water issues and policy recommendations be identified for inclusion in the final statewide plan. The University Extension Service provided facilitators for public meetings. Water education workshops for these participants covered topics such as water law, and water science. Ten themes were identified for evaluation at the next phase of Planning Workshops.

Phase Three - 2009 - Ten Planning Workshops
Workshops were organized according to five water supply themes and five water management themes. At each workshop, 20 participants outlined water management alternatives for each supply and management theme that addressed issues, concerns and suggestions that were raised during the first two phases.

Phase Four - 2010- A 3-day Town Hall meeting
Hosted by The Oklahoma Academy (statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan, member organization), the focus was recommendations of the Planning Workshops.

Phase Five - 2011 - OCWP Feedback Meetings
These provided a forum for citizens to review draft findings for both technical evaluation and policy recommendations.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Website.
- 2) Press releases.
- 3) During the 5-year planning process, when OWRRI was contracted to carry out public participation, a special OWRRI webpage was devoted to the water planning process. Postings included meeting dates and locations, summaries of meetings, etc.
- 4) OWRB posted links to the OWRI site, plus links to technical reports.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Numerous brochures, fact sheets and flyers during planning process.
- 2) OCWP Executive Report with findings from 13 Watershed Planning Regions.
- 3) Quarterly newsletters posted online.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

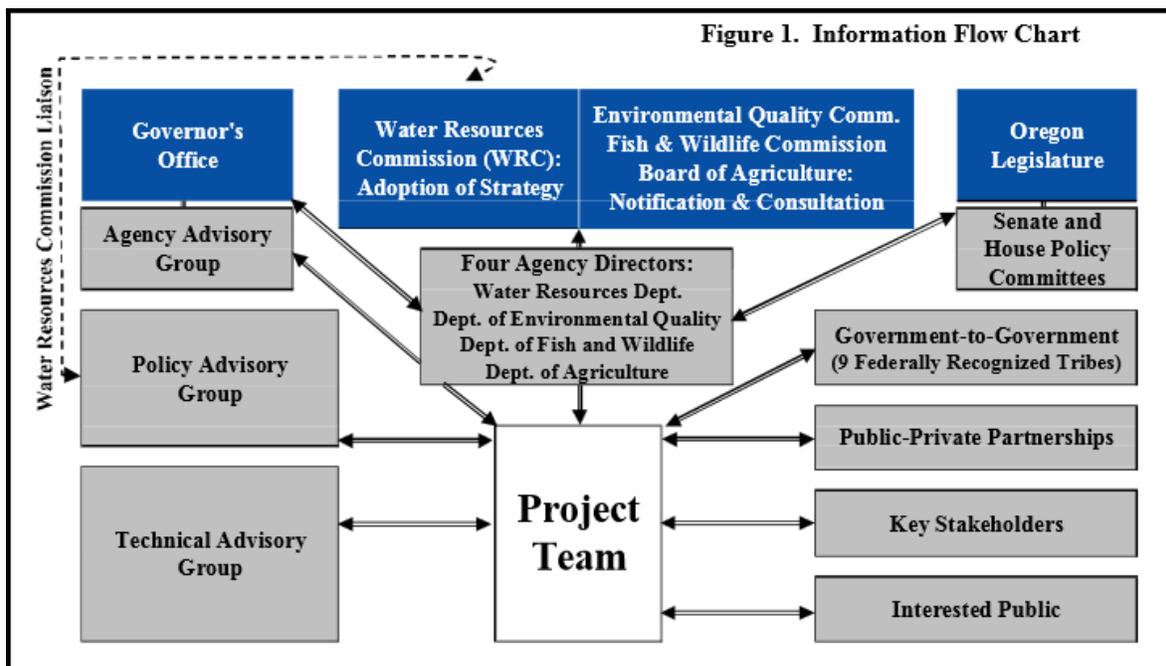
- 1) A very dedicated group of participants from the 13 planning regions is still engaged. They attend the annual "Governor's Water Conference". It is interesting to note that the only form of payment for their attendance to the many meetings was hotel costs when incurred.
- 2) Best public turnout was earlier in process. The final workshops were not well attended. This could have been burnout, or it could have been that they were pleased with the planning and the product. Feedback indicated that the public was pleased with their involvement in the planning process.
- 3) Provide plenty of time to advertise meetings on websites and through public notices.
- 4) Have agency directors, legislative types, etc. present and visible at planning meetings. The more important the position, the better the public participation was.
- 5) Use of neutral facilitators from OWRRRI and Extension Service was positive.

Website content:

The [Oklahoma Water Resource Board](#) homepage is not narrative in approach, but provides links to everything water- Meeting & Events, Tweets, Comprehensive Water Plan, Letter from the Director, legislative issues, technical studies, etc. This site is full of informational links and very easy to navigate. A link to the [Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan](#) is prominent, and the OCWP webpage contains a section on Public Participation. This is a very complete and well-organized website in terms of information for the public, with easy access to documents and thorough information.

Oregon

The Oregon Water Resources Commission (OWRC) adopted the state’s first Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) in the summer of 2012. The Strategy encompasses water quantity, water quality and ecosystem needs, and provides better understanding to meet in-stream and out-of-stream needs. As required by statute, OWRC worked jointly with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Department of Fish and Wildlife (F&W), and Department of Agriculture (AG). The Water Resources Commission was responsible for adopting the Strategy. This chart illustrates the organization of the planning process.



The Project Team developed a “Public Involvement Plan” - their outline for how to communicate key messages. Transparency of the process was at the heart of this plan. Forty stakeholder workshops in three months sought input and spread the message: “This planning process is important to state. It does not represent new regulation.” Ten family-friendly Open House events were held early on. The push was for general public involvement, not just stakeholder involvement. An online survey, designed to assess concerns and issues, was available to anyone. Briefers introduced the Strategy, Project Teams and Advisory Groups. All draft Issue Papers were posted online for public comment. Comments were also posted. The process took several months.

Budget for this planning was two FTE's. There was no funding to host workshops, open house events, etc. so existing agency staff volunteered time to help. Consultants and stakeholders also helped advertise planning efforts.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Partners (DEQ, AG, and F&W) helped advertise through their communication channels.
- 2) Emails.
- 3) Local papers.
- 4) IWRS listserv was developed and used during the planning process.
- 5) OWRC and partner websites.
- 6) Workshops and Open Houses.
- 7) Stakeholders passed information to their constituents.

Public outreach products:

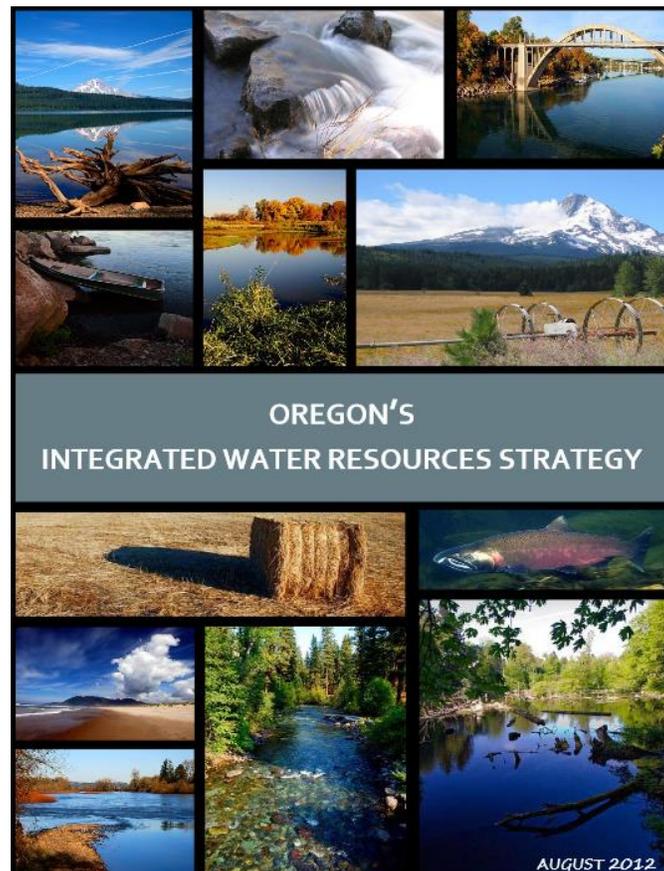
- 1) 20-minute [“Overview of Oregon’s Water Strategy”](#) video on YouTube that explains the IWRS in detail.
- 2) Report to 2011 Legislature.
- 3) Bulletins.
- 4) Online survey.
- 5) Briefers. *See example in State Resources section.*
- 6) Flyers for Open House events. *See example in State Resources section.*
- 7) Issue papers.
- 8) Fact Sheets (Meet the Team, Meet the Advisory Group, etc.).

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) EVERYTHING was labeled as DRAFT version throughout two public comment periods. This worked out well - people felt they were listened to and that their concerns were addressed.
- 2) Issue papers had placeholders that indicated "more work/information needed here" - this encouraged more public input.
- 3) Use local faces at public meetings, not agency people, to take notes on chart paper, mediate the session, etc. OWRC used conservation districts, Soil & Water, and community college people.
- 4) The Open Houses were best use of time because the meetings built trust.

Website content:

The [Oregon Water Resource Department](#) website features a brief introduction to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and links directly to the [IWRS](#) and other related water planning documents.



South Dakota

The 1972 State Legislature established the State Water Plan to ensure benefits of the water resources through conservation, development, management and use of the resources. The Board of Water and Natural Resources (Board) is responsible for the Plan. The 2012 Annual Report and 2013 State Water Plan (SWP) are the current operating documents.

The SWP consists of: 1) State Water Facilities Plan (listing of potential water projects), and 2) State Water Resources Management System (identifies large, costly water projects requiring state cost share). The Board approves placing projects on to the State Water Facilities Plan. This however, is not a guarantee of funding.

The SWP is very project specific. There are no education and outreach activities associated with the process. The public is invited to participate, but other than a few of the projects' sponsors for the larger projects on the State Water Resources Management System portion of the plan, there is seldom public engagement.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Information posted on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) State Water Plan webpage - nothing that engages public involvement.

Public outreach products:

- 1) State Water Plan is available by contacting the DENR, but it is not posted on the website.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

Because of limited efforts to engage the public, no information was provided by DENR.

Website content:

The [South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources](#) State Water Plan webpage includes a brief explanation of intent of SWP. Information links include departmental upcoming events, application forms and currently funded projects.

Texas

The Texas Water Development Board develops the State Water Plan (Plan). Comprehensive planning began in 1997. Prior to that, the process was top-down. Since 1997, a bottom-up process requires public involvement for state and regional planning. Planning is done on a regional level. Sixteen regions, based on watersheds, aquifers and metro areas, produce updated plans every five years. The last round of updates resulted in approved plans for all sixteen regions in 2011. The 2012 State Water Plan was adopted by the Board in December of 2011 and approved by the Governor in early 2012.

The 2012 Plan is the ninth state water plan and the third plan based upon the regional water planning process. The regions were established following two public comment periods and modifications. Following the establishment of region boundaries, the public was involved in the regional planning process. The planning process for updates begins with meetings of Regional Planning Groups, each made up of representatives from twelve stakeholder groups. Each region does its own planning following basic rules. Data management and modeling are linked to the planning process. Detailed supply and demand assessments in each region use consistent methodologies. A mandated public comment period follows each regional update. Then the Water Protection Bureau has one year to meld regional comments into a statewide document. The most recent round of updates involved over 400 individuals.

Regional planning is linked to legislative funding for water projects. Funding from the state passes to each region. Apportionment is based upon such things as number of water user groups, and size of each region. In November 2013, voters will decide the outcome of a proposed constitutional amendment to fund the Plan by creating a State Water Development Bank. Proposed funding sources are \$2.5 Billion from the State Water Implementation Fund and \$3.5 Billion from the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund. The 2012 Plan calls for \$53 Billion to fund a portion of necessary water projects in the state.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Communication done at regional level.
- 2) Website includes links to regional meetings.

Public outreach products:

- 1) Regional groups developed information specific to the region.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) Cornerstone of water planning is respect for water rights. Planning groups have no authority to change water rights. This message must be made clear to the public.

Website content:

The Water Planning webpage for the [Texas Water Development Board](#) provides a brief background of water planning and links to all nine water plans since 1961, and to the state's Regional Water Plans. The website does not invite public input. Emphasis on urgency for managing the water resource is evident.

Utah

The state currently has two planning processes underway: the Governor’s Water Ways Process, and updating the State Water Plan. Both processes are the responsibility of the Utah Department of Water Resources. Governor Herbert has issued an invitation for public comment on “Utah’s Water Future.” Targeted topics include water efficiency, competition for resources, environmental protection, construction and maintenance infrastructure funding, agricultural water availability, and water law. Six listening sessions around the state in summer of 2013 will culminate in a Water Summit in October. Goals of the listening sessions are to compile issues of concern from all stakeholders and their hopes for the state’s water future. These meetings involve an open mike session followed by breakout groups to discuss the topics listed above. Concerns and future hopes from each listening session will be compiled in a White Paper for the Governor’s review.

The State Water Planning process is also just underway in the summer of 2013. Work on this should conclude in 2015, and will incorporate the more recent basin water plans and many reports on water supply topics and future demand scenarios.

The state has a well-funded program of periodic updates of state and regional plans and staffing commitments. The \$6 million per year support for water planning comes from the General Fund and the State Revolving fund, split about half-and-half. Local advisory committees direct water-planning efforts in each region. Extensive public and interagency involvement is part of the process.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) State and Federal agencies, conservancy districts and other partners advertise meetings and post links to DWR website.
- 2) DWR staff meet with municipalities to advertise and seek input.
- 3) A public relations firm facilitates listening sessions and crafts outreach tools.
- 4) Website postings.
- 5) PSA’s and press releases.
- 6) Video.
- 7) Print flyers posted around communities advertise local listening sessions.

Public outreach products:

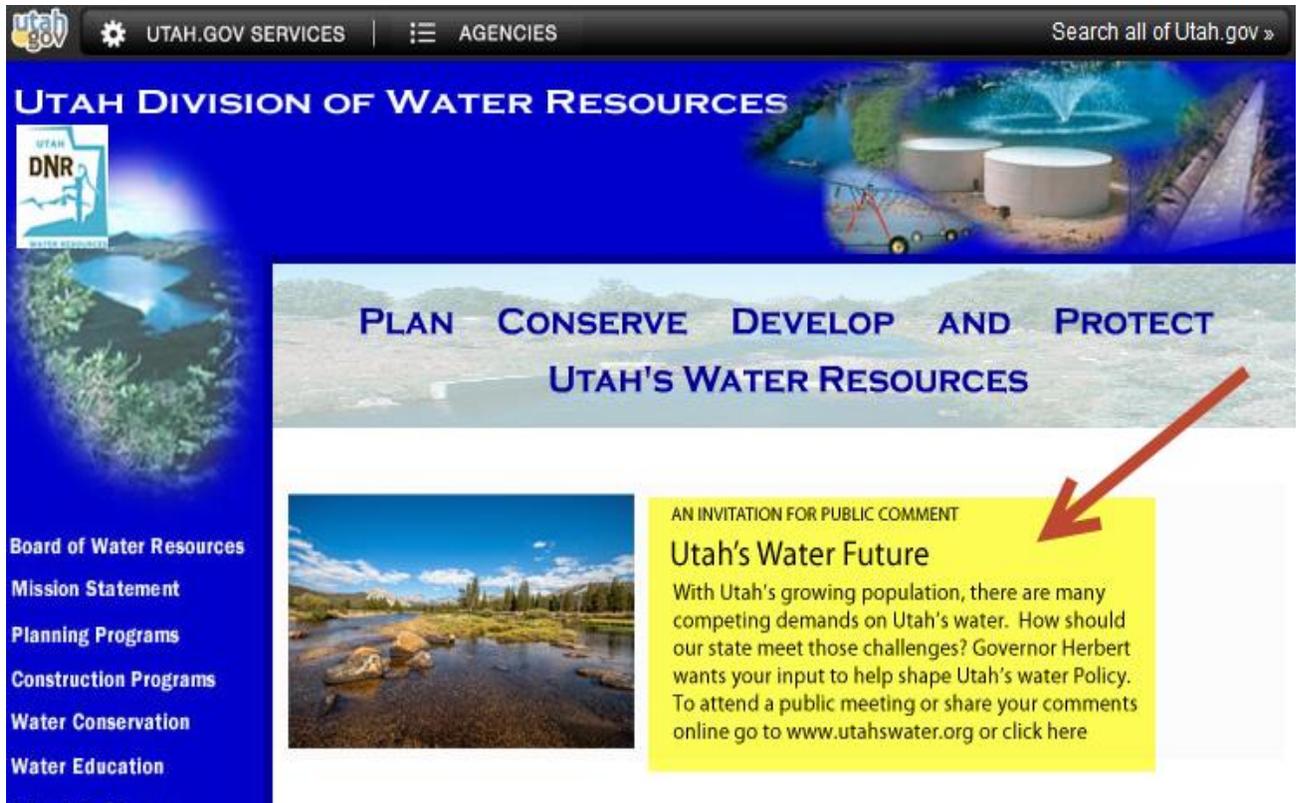
- 1) Brochures.
- 2) State and regional reports.
- 3) Topical reports on costs of water, water use, climate change, and many more.
- 4) Water education webpage for water educators.
- 5) The Governor’s “Invitation for Public Comment.” *This document is included in State Resources section.*

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) The greater the effort placed upon outreach and advertising for public participation, the greater the turnout.
- 2) Hire a neutral facilitator for listening sessions and advertising.
- 3) It is important to meet face-to-face with state agencies, municipalities, and other water user/management groups.
- 4) Public gave accolades to the final documents. This was probably because they felt listened to and integral to the planning process.

Website content:

The [Utah Division of Water Resources](#) main webpage contains a link to the Governor’s 2013 invitation to participate in planning for the state’s water future. This is known as the “Governor’s Water Ways Process.” The Department has created a number of reports. All are identified on the homepage, with links to downloadable versions. The site includes links to past water plans, committees, brochures, stream conditions, conservation and more.



Washington

Washington has no statewide water plan. The Washington Department of Ecology (WDE) administers the watershed basin level planning. Beginning in 1998, the state funded a three-phase planning effort. Watershed groups could opt to participate. Most groups did participate due to funding. They received about \$1 million each for a 4-5 year period.

Phase 1 - Organization and Outreach - Each watershed group developed an operational inventory of water assets, and organized committees.

Phase 2 - Assessment and Analysis - Water resource data was collected, current water rights, in-stream and out-of-stream flows were analyzed, and strategies to meet future needs were mapped out.

Phase 3 - Write and Recommend - Water plans were written. Plans included recommendations for water quality and quantity, in-stream flow and salmon restoration.

In addition to the watershed plans, Seattle and the surrounding areas undergo a voluntary process for regional water supply planning. The state is now winding down after two decades of state projects. State agencies now oversee and support some local planning efforts. Pass-through grants to local entities address local supply issues, storage and conservation, and prepare for long and short-term demands and future allocations.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) During the three-phase planning process, local watershed committees conducted their own public outreach and engagement.
- 2) Currently, the WDE has a webpage devoted to ecology for the public. The Public Involvement Calendar identifies public hearings, meeting, workshops and open houses that deal with all matter of environmental issues. Links lead to numerous helpful and informational documents and other resources.
- 3) The WDE Water Resources webpage links to water resources program activities for 2012-13, and Water Availability Focus Sheets with information specific to water availability in 62 watersheds.

Public outreach products:

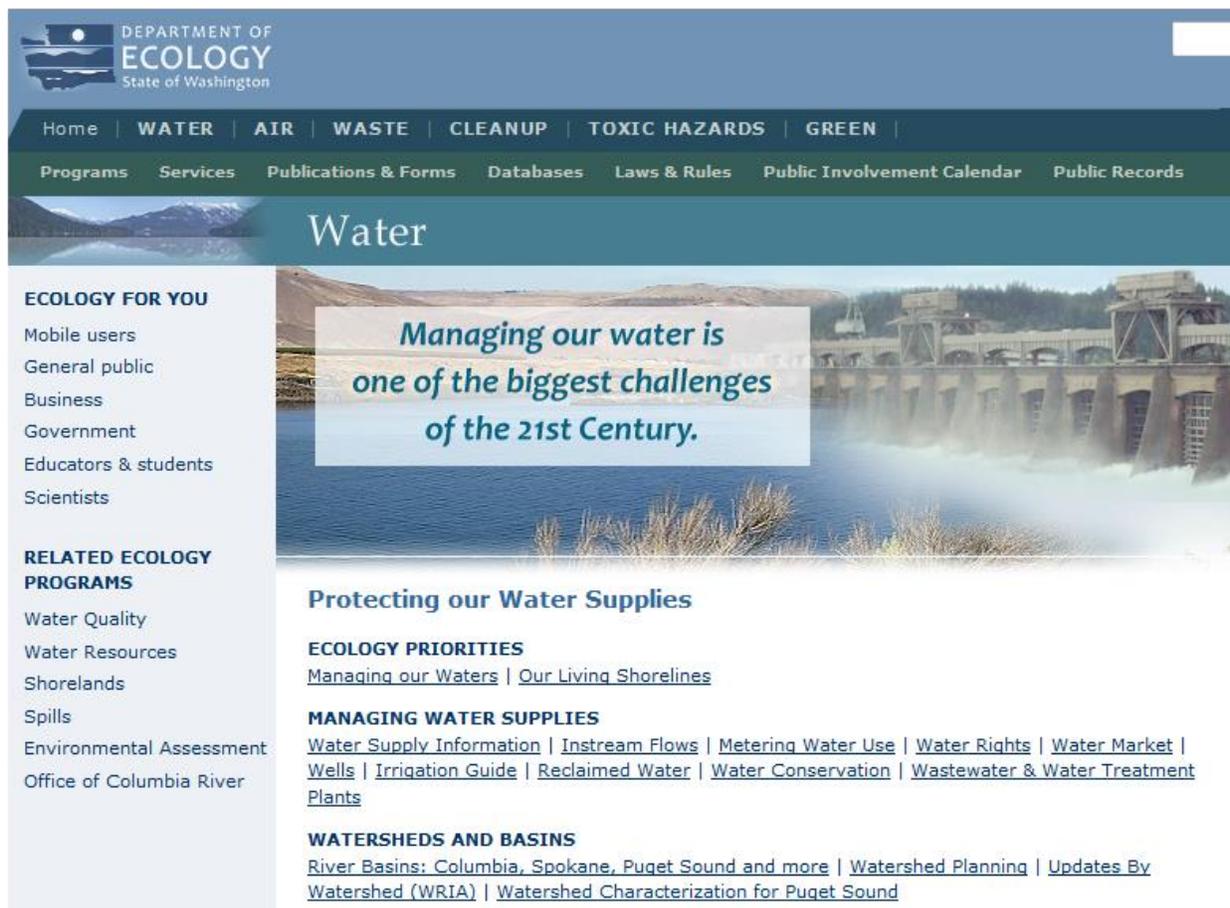
- 1) Local Water Plans.
- 2) Sixty-two Water Availability Focus Sheets.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) The best facilitation comes from those who know policy and politics. Knowledge of water laws and legislative requirements is imperative. Good facilitators have knowledge beyond just knowing the basics of facilitation.
- 2) Listening sessions can be very helpful if people understand that the state may not be able to accommodate all recommendations.
- 3) It is best to use neutral, local people to lead the listening sessions - they will be trusted more than state agency personnel.
- 4) Address this question up front: How is public input that deals with needs at the local level, going to morph into a statewide plan?
- 5) WDE learned that they needed to “go to the back of the bus” and let the local entities come up with such things as keeping agricultural water needs secure, protecting stream flow, coming up with the mitigation scheme, and setting in-flow rules. This occurred during 2010-2011 planning, and resulted in local groups coming up with some brilliant plans.
- 6) Ask this question: Who needs to be on our side? When it comes to future rulemaking, who will support the legislation? Decision makers who matter need to be at the table from the start.

Website content:

[Washington Department of Ecology's Water](#) website has links to watersheds and basins, managing water supplies, water quality, floods, ground and surface water. The [Water Resources webpage](#), seen below, provides links to water management such as adjudication, water markets, water rights, Water Resources Advisory Committee, and water availability in watersheds - also called Water Resource Inventory Areas.



The screenshot shows the Washington Department of Ecology website's 'Water' section. At the top, the department's logo and name are displayed. Below this is a navigation menu with links for Home, WATER, AIR, WASTE, CLEANUP, TOXIC HAZARDS, and GREEN. A secondary menu includes Programs, Services, Publications & Forms, Databases, Laws & Rules, Public Involvement Calendar, and Public Records. The main heading 'Water' is prominently displayed. A large banner image of a dam with the text 'Managing our water is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st Century.' is featured. On the left, a sidebar lists 'ECOLOGY FOR YOU' (Mobile users, General public, Business, Government, Educators & students, Scientists) and 'RELATED ECOLOGY PROGRAMS' (Water Quality, Water Resources, Shorelands, Spills, Environmental Assessment, Office of Columbia River). The main content area includes 'Protecting our Water Supplies', 'ECOLOGY PRIORITIES' (Managing our Waters, Our Living Shorelines), 'MANAGING WATER SUPPLIES' (Water Supply Information, Instream Flows, Metering Water Use, Water Rights, Water Market, Wells, Irrigation Guide, Reclaimed Water, Water Conservation, Wastewater & Water Treatment Plants), and 'WATERSHEDS AND BASINS' (River Basins: Columbia, Spokane, Puget Sound and more, Watershed Planning, Updates By Watershed (WRIA), Watershed Characterization for Puget Sound).

Wyoming

Statewide, comprehensive water planning in Wyoming began in the late 1960's and resulted in the 1973 Framework Water Plan. The Wyoming Water Development Program, established in 1975, accomplishes its work through the Wyoming Water Development Commission (WWDC), a part of the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO). The Commission is composed of 10 governor-appointed representatives of the four state water divisions and the Wind River Reservation. Funding for the Water Development Program comes from severance tax distributions.

The WWDO coordinates statewide water and land resources planning. The 1996 legislature directed WWDO and the State Engineer's Office (SEO) to prepare recommendations for updating the 1973 Framework. A staff planning team from WWDO, SEO, and the University of Wyoming (UW) was formed and charged with including a grass-roots, public interaction effort in the update process. The update process included a pilot analysis on one river basin, and a statewide water data inventory. An independent consulting firm contracted with WWDC to assist in developing implementation recommendations.

The process used for the update process, which began in 1997 and resulted in the approved 2007 State Framework Water Plan, included phased tasks:

Phase 1 - Wyoming Statewide Public Opinion Survey - to gauge public opinion on water issues, build consensus and support for a planning process - over 1400 responses were summarized and distributed to survey participants.

Phase 2 - Pilot Basin Citizen Advisory Group (BAG) - public involvement in a grassroots process where, from the more than 80 attendees, a group of 15 was selected to form the BAG, with representatives for agriculture, local government, industry, environmental and recreational interests. Group met monthly for six months to: 1) identify specific water and water-related management issues of the Basin, 2) create a template for the organization and operation of BAGs in other areas.

Phase 3 - Statewide Data Inventory (SDI) - Water Resources Center at UW developed the inventory from various agencies and compiled them in electronic format. Final SDI findings were posted to WWDO website.

Phase 4 - Consultant Feasibility Study - development of an implementation strategy for the water planning process. A consulting team was contracted to evaluate the public involvement program, recommend storage and retrieval criteria for planning process products, evaluate staffing and support needs for planning process, and refine a scope of services by the Wyoming Water Development Commission.

The result of this planning process has been the successful completion of legislatively funded efforts for the remaining six river basin water plans as well as the Statewide Framework Water Plan. \$3.7 million was devoted to the one-time, seven basin planning. \$300,000 is the current annual budget for planning staff and ongoing efforts.

Channels/tools for public outreach, education and engagement:

- 1) Newspapers.
- 2) Post cards.
- 3) Emails.
- 4) Phone calls.
- 5) Post agendas and minutes on website.

Public outreach products:

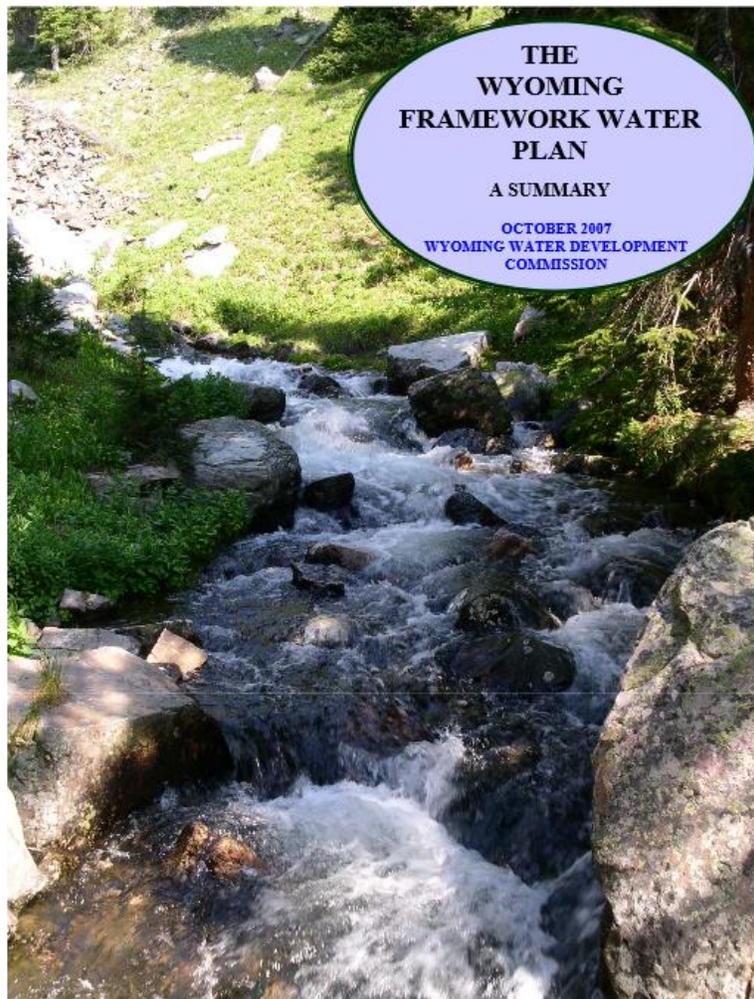
- 1) Each Basin Advisory Groups produced their own tools such as a water atlas and digital mapping tools.
- 2) WWDO posted meeting schedules on their website.
- 3) Fall and spring newsletters posted on the WWDC webpage.

Public outreach, education and engagement lessons:

- 1) Be flexible- each basin is unique, but every basin should use the same framework - to be able to get the same information for a statewide plan. Wyoming used different consulting firms to lead basins. The result was a hodge-podge of data and recommendations that were difficult to meld into a statewide plan.

Website content:

The [Wyoming Water Development Commission](#) website provides a summary of state water planning, links to river basin plans, and to the State Framework Water Plan.



Next Steps

The information compiled through this survey provides insight into public outreach, education and engagement best practices, and the planning process itself. Learning from the missteps and successes of others, allows us to reflect on the aspects that will provide:

- 1) Best practices for designing the outreach, education and engagement process, given the funding level and the time available.
 - 2) Direction for developing a collaborative process that engages all interested parties, in the creation of the Montana Water Supply Initiative - a living document that outlines options to meet the state's future water needs.
-

State Resources...

Public Outreach & Engagement Examples



More than 500 Attend Meetings

The second round of Arkansas Water Plan update public meetings has now been completed. During May and June, representatives from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) traveled throughout the state to lead 25 meetings and presentations and respond to questions and comments from audiences. Visit www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov to view the presentation and get additional information.

Approximately 550 Arkansans attended the meetings, which were designed to give the public an understanding of Arkansas's existing water demand and the predictions of what that demand will be 40 years from now.

The draft current and future water use estimates for our major water uses are estimated to increase statewide by 13% by the year 2050. Water demands include withdrawals from ground and surface sources for: agriculture (crops and livestock); public water systems (cities and water districts); private household wells; industrial and commercial water for businesses; and water for Arkansas's thermoelectric power plants. Currently 27% of the water demands in the state are met using surface water; the other 73% comes from groundwater. Agriculture and crop irrigation are the largest water users.

Later this fall, the third round of public meetings will be held to talk about the currently available water supply and how much we estimate will be available four decades from now. Keep checking the website for additional details: www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov.

What Does the Plan Do for You?

One of the recurring questions during the meetings was quite simple, but very important: "Why does Arkansas need an Arkansas Water Plan Update?"

A successful future for ourselves and later generations depends on abundant, clean, affordable water. We must prepare to meet our future needs. A saying that has been around for a long time is still true: "The failure to plan is a plan for failure."

Our state's legislature recognized several years ago the need to keep the Water Plan up to date. Now, using the best science available, combined with the priceless input of Arkansans who have real-life experiences managing water for their farms, industries, and communities, we are updating the 1990 Plan to help provide a strategy to help us ensure we can meet our state's future demands.

Facts about Arkansas's Water....

Current water demand in Arkansas is about 10% of the total precipitation that falls here annually.

The average Arkansan uses 157 gallons of water daily.

Those who own or lease land adjacent to a waterway have a property right to reasonably use that water on their land.

Groundwater furnishes 73% of the state's total consumption of water, and 95% of the groundwater comes from the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer.

Comments are welcome!

Email Comments or Questions to: arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com

Website: www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov

Telephone: Edward Swaim, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, (501) 682-3979

Mail: Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Attention: Water Plan

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 350, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

ANRC encourages you to reproduce and distribute this newsletter.

California Water Plan Tools to Improve Communication, Transparency, Access, Collaboration, Alignment, & Tracking Performance

Outcome	Tools Used in Updates 2005, 2009 & 2013
Improve Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • e-Government technology • Surveys & assessments • Organizational briefings • Open stakeholder/public meetings • Water Plan eNews (4,800 subscribers) - Updates 2009 & 2013
Improve Transparency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process diagrams & documentation • Assumptions & Estimates Report • Volume 5 Technical Guide • Post interim & final data & documents on website • Post public comments on website
Improve Access to Communities of Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Advisory Committee • Topic caucuses - Update 2013
Improve Access to Communities of Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Advisory Committee • Annual Regional Workshops & All-Regions Forum - Update 2009 • Continuous Regional Forums (multi-purpose) - Update 2013
Improve Access to Tribal Communities & Govts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Advisory Committee • Tribal Communication Committee - Update 2009 • Tribal Water Summit - Updates 2009 & 2013 • Tribal Advisory Committee - Update 2013
Improve Access to Technical Community & SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Advisory Committee • Resource Management Strategy (RMS) authors • Statewide Water Analysis Network (SWAN) - Updates 2009 & 2013 • Climate Change Technical Advisory Group (CCTAG) - Updates 2009 & 2013
Broader Public Participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Review Forum • Topic specific workshops • Annual Plenary Meeting - Updates 2009 & 2013
Improve Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neutral facilitation & Facilitation Team • Joint problem solving • Consensus-seeking • Collaborative solutions & recommendations • Synchronize content with public outreach process
Improve Agency Alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Advisory Committee • RMS authors • State Agency Steering Committee - Updates 2009 & 2013 • Companion State Plans - Update 2009 & 2013 • Federal Agency Network - Update 2013 • Companion Fed. Plans - Update 2013 • Begin conversation on regulatory alignment - Update 2013
Tracking Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder assessments • No negative press & positive feedback • Water Plan cited & strategies in legislation • Collaboration Statistics • Progress Report - Update 2013 • Sustainability indicators - Update 2013 • Finance metrics - Update 2013



QUESTIONS FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS ON STATE WATER PLAN

These questions will be asked in the final portion of the public meeting, after an extensive presentation and significant discussion about the water planning to address water supply deficit in New Mexico due to projected population growth and climate variability. The intention behind these questions is to gain public input for the 2009 State Water Plan Update that is focused on addressing:

1. Projected population growth
2. Statewide conservation strategies
3. Climate variability planning
4. Water projects and programs

-
- 1. What should your region and the state as a whole do to assure water for a growing population?**

 - 2. What water conservation strategies would help meet increased constraints (population growth, climate variability) on water in your region and the state as a whole?**

 - 3. Have you observed climate variability (e.g. drought, flooding, severe storms) in your region? What should be done to prepare for these extreme circumstances in your region and the state as a whole?**

 - 4. What water projects are needed in your region? How should these projects be prioritized for funding?**



Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy

September 23, 2009 Briefing

Introduction

The 75th Legislative Assembly passed HB 3369 in 2009, directing the Oregon Water Resources Department to develop a statewide, integrated water resources strategy in consultation with the Departments of Environmental Quality and Fish and Wildlife. The Water Resources Commission will provide notice of the strategy to the Environmental Quality Commission, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The strategy will become effective upon adoption by the Water Resources Commission.

What Is a Statewide Integrated Water Resources Strategy?

The strategy, when finished, will be a roadmap for the state to follow as it prepares to meet Oregon's water needs now and in the future for both instream and out-of-stream uses from surface water and groundwater. The approach will be *integrated*, taking into consideration water quantity, water quality and ecological needs. The intent is to develop a framework, consisting of a set of tools, data, and resources with *statewide* relevance that communities can use to develop their water resource needs. The intention is not to overhaul Oregon water law as it relates to quantity and quality. Nor is the intention to lay out a plan that re-allocates water. If, during the process, statutory modifications are needed to achieve the objectives of the strategy, the Department will forward recommendations to the Legislature as part of its 2012 report.

Why Do We Need an Integrated Water Resources Strategy?

Surface water is nearly fully allocated during the summer months and groundwater is declining in many areas. More than 1,861 water bodies are impaired and not meeting water quality standards. There are also twenty-four fish species that have been identified as Threatened or Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act, while another 31 are listed as state sensitive species. These pressures, along with the potential challenges presented by climate change, population growth and changes to land use, highlight the urgency for an integrated strategy that meets Oregon's water needs.

Vision Statement

A statewide integrated water resources strategy will bring various sectors and interests together to work toward the common purpose of maintaining healthy water resources to meet the needs of Oregonians and Oregon's environment for generations to come.

Draft Preliminary Workplan and Issue Papers

In an effort to convey the urgency of planning for the future of Oregon's water resources, the Project Team, with help from other commissions and stakeholders, has developed a set of draft Issue Papers. A draft Preliminary Workplan has also been developed to define the strategy, outline the project timeline (Phases I through V), and describe the ways in which information will flow. The

Issue Papers and Preliminary Workplan are available on our website and can be accessed through the links below. The Project Team seeks your input and comments on these documents, both of which are still in development. Your suggestions will be shared at the next Water Resources

Commission meeting scheduled for November 19 & 20, 2009, in Salem, Oregon.

http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/Issue_Papers.pdf

http://www1.wrd.state.or.us/pdfs/Preliminary_Workplan.pdf

Get Involved

We want your help in shaping the strategy! Any comments, suggestions, or input we receive from you are important components of this process. Here are some ways you can get involved and receive new updates: Fill out our kick-off survey, post a comment, or contact the project team. Visit: http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/Integrated_Water_Supply_Strategy.shtml.

Sign up to receive news and notices about the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Visit: <http://listsmart.osl.state.or.us/mailman/listinfo/iwrs>.

Host a workshop for your board or association members.

E-mail: waterstrategy@wrds.state.or.us or call: 503-986-0911.

Recent Activity

In August and September 2009, the project team met with the following groups to provide updates and solicit feedback on the strategy:

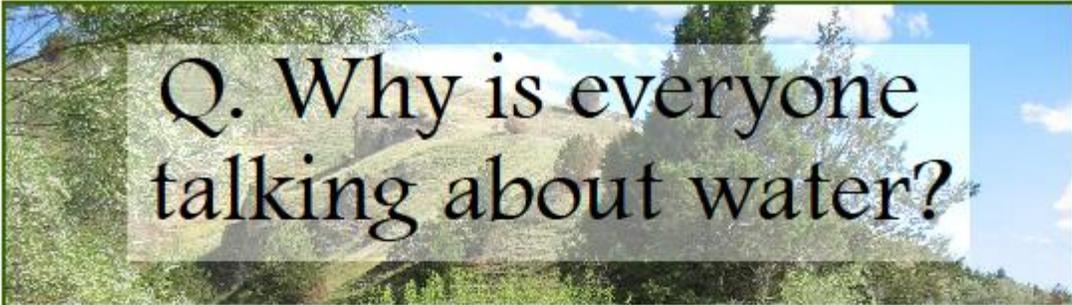
- Farm Bureau Water Committee
- Water Resources Commission
- Environmental Quality Commission
- Council of State Governments (OR, WA, ID, MT)
- Governor’s Economic Revitalization Team
- Legislative Commission on Indian Services
- Oregon Planning Institute

Upcoming Events

- Oregon Water Resources Congress’ 2009 Water Law Seminar
- Oregon Association of Nurseries’ 2009 Annual Membership Convention
- Oregon Water Utility Council’s September 2009 Meeting
- Senate Environment and Natural Resources Interim Committee’s September Hearing • House Environment and Water Interim Committee’s October Hearing

Project Timeline & Progress Bar

Phase I: Setting the Stage (Fall 2009)	Phase II: Identifying Water Resource Needs (Spring 2010)	Phase III: Developing a Toolbox (2010/2011)	Phase IV: Producing the 1 st Strategy (2012)	Phase V: Project Review (2012)



Q. Why is everyone talking about water?

A. Local, state, and national news media are filled with stories about water, from drought and scarcity to flooding and pollution.

Oregon's east side receives very little rain, and in the summer months, the whole state is hot and dry. Groundwater levels are declining in many places; many of our water bodies have impaired water quality; and fish and their habitat are not as healthy as they used to be. Demands for all types of water use continue to change.

These challenges, along with those posed by climate change, population growth, and land-use change, highlight the urgency for a state-wide strategy that meets Oregon's water needs.

Oregon's natural resource and economic development agencies are now developing Oregon's first Integrated Water Resources Strategy and invite you to an open house in Ontario to share your concerns and priorities for Oregon's water future.



Ontario Open House

Wednesday, April 7, 2010

4 p.m. to 7 p.m., MDT

Holiday Inn, Sawtooth Banquet Room

1249 Tapadera Avenue, Ontario, OR 97914

- **Project Overview, followed by Discussions**
Program begins at 4:00 and again at 5:30
- **Project Showcase**
Local water resource partnerships and projects
- **Map Gallery**
Challenges & opportunities for our water resources
- **Kids' Center**
Water-related word find, coloring, and more



Owyhee
Irrigation
District

Thank you to our local open house partners!



Fowler Basin
Watershed
and Stream
Health Committee



Continued →

Utah's Water Future

An Invitation for Public Comment



What would you like Utah to look like in ten, twenty or fifty years from now? This summer, Governor Herbert is asking you to help decide.

Utah is the second driest state in the nation. It is also among the fastest growing. That combination presents obvious challenges for how we manage our water.

We need to act wisely now to ensure our children and grandchildren enjoy a vibrant economy and the beauty of Utah's great outdoors.

The remedies of the past won't necessarily be the solutions of the future. The Governor is seeking innovative solutions to our water needs that don't break the bank or dry up our streams—ideas that are a win/win for all Utahns. To assist him in this task, he has brought together a group of water experts who will gather public input about the use, development and conservation of water in our state.

To succeed, this must be a collaborative process—where everyone has a voice and where all ideas are welcome. You are invited to participate in this important effort. Do you have comments or suggestions about:

- Using our water most efficiently?
- Addressing competition for water resources?
- Meeting the water needs of our growing population while protecting the environment, and the beauty and outdoor lifestyle we enjoy?
- Funding the construction of new and maintenance of existing water infrastructure?
- The availability and use of water for agriculture?
- Addressing the complicated issues around water law and its application?
- Other issues relating to Utah's long-range water future?

If so, the Governor's team wants to listen.

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Come to an open meeting near you.

All meetings will be held in the evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

July 9 Richfield	Sevier County Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall, 410 East 200 S.
July 1 Layton	Layton City Council Chambers, 437 North Wasatch Drive
July 16 Price	Price City Hall, Room 207, 185 East Main Street
July 18 Provo	Provo High School, Auditorium, 1125 N University Ave
July 25 St. George	Dixie State U, Dunford Auditorium, 225 South 700 East
Aug 6 Vernal	Vernal City Council Chambers, 374 East Main Street
Aug 13 Salt Lake	Dept. of Nat. Resources, Auditorium, 1594 W.N. Temple
Aug 15 Logan	Mount Logan Middle School, 875 North 200 East

A public comment period will be followed by breakout sessions on specific areas of focus.

Tell us what you think.

If you can't attend a meeting, please submit your comments online. These comments, along with all remarks made at public meetings, will be summarized and submitted to the Governor to help guide Utah's water future.

1.
2.
3.

Comments

The best ideas generated by the public will be incorporated into Utah's water strategy to secure our long-term quality of life.

WESTERN STATES CONTACT INFORMATION

State	Website	Contacts	Phone	Email
Arizona	http://www.azwater.gov/azdwr/default.aspx	Michelle Moreno, Public Information Officer	602-771-8530	mamoreno@azwater.gov
Arkansas	http://www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov/	Edward Swaim, ANRC Water Resources Division Manager	501-682-3979	edward.swaim@arkansas.gov
California	http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/	Kamyar Grevechi, Mgr, Statewide Integrated Water Mgmt.	916-653-3937	Kamyar.Guivetchi@water.ca.gov
		Paul Massera, Program Manager Lewis Moeller, Project Manager E-mail		cwpcom@water.ca.gov
Colorado	http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning/Pages/main.aspx	Jacob Bornstein, Water Supply Planning Section, Program Manager	303-866-3441 x 3248	jacob.bornstein@state.co.us
Idaho	http://www.idwr.idaho.gov/waterboard/WaterPlanning/Statewaterplanning/State_Planning.htm	Helen Harrington, Mgr Water Planning Section	208-287-4848	helen.harrington@idwr.idaho.gov
Kansas	http://www.kwo.org/default.html	Katie Patterson-Ingels, Communications Director	785-296-3185	Katie.Ingels@kwo.ks.gov
		Debra Baker, State Water Plan, Water Resource Planner		debra.baker@kwo.ks.gov
Nebraska	www.dnr.ne.gov/website/MainPage.aspx	Karen Amen, board member, Lower South Platte Natural Resource Dist.-Heads Public Education Programs	402-423-3220	KarenSAmen@gmail.com
		Doug Hallum, U of NE, Survey Hydrogeologist	308-696-6743	dhallum2@unl.edu
Nevada	http://water.nv.gov/programs/planning/stateplan/	Susan Joseph-Taylor, Deputy Administrator	775-684-2861	
New Mexico	http://www.ose.state.nm.us/publications/state_water_plans.html	Angela Bordergaray, State Water Planner	(505) 827-6167	angela.bordegaray@state.nm.us
North Dakota	http://www.swc.state.nd.us/4dlink9/4dcgi/redirect/index.html	Dawn Petersen, Planning & Education Division	701-328-4989	dapetersen@nd.gov
Oklahoma	http://www.owrb.ok.gov/	Terri Spark, Planning Section Head	405-530-8865	
Oregon	http://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/Pages/index.aspx	Brenda Bateman, Public information Officer	503-986-0879	Brenda.O.Bateman@wrd.state.or.us
South Dakota	http://denr.sd.gov/dfta/wwf/statewaterplan/statewaterplan.aspx#Resources	Mike Perkovich, State Revolving Fund	(605) 773-4216	Mike.Perkovich@state.sd.us
Texas	http://www.twdb.state.tx.us/waterplanning/swp/	Dan Hardin, Interim Deputy Executive Administrator	512-936-0880	Dan.Hardin@twdb.texas.gov
Utah	http://www.water.utah.gov	Todd Adams, Assist Dir	801-538-7272	
Washington	http://www.ecy.wa.gov/water.html	Dan Partridge, Communication & Outreach	360-407-7139	dpar461@ecy.wa.gov
		Cynthia Nelson, Watershed lead for Olympic Peninsula	360-470-0276	cynthia.nelson@ecy.wa.gov
Wyoming	http://waterplan.state.wy.us/	Phil Ogle, Water Development Commission	307-777-7626	