

APPENDIX B

REGIONAL MEETING ROUND 2

Round 2 Regional Meeting Summary December 2023

Issued January 24, 2024



OKLAHOMA
Water Resources Board



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SECTION 1 ROUND 2 REGIONAL MEETING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In December 2023, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) hosted the second in a series of regional meetings across the state to engage with local officials, water utility suppliers, regulated industry, commercial agricultural producers, economic development entities, and other organizations to converse on local water challenges share opportunities and identify ways the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) can support local water planning and management.

The meetings began with a welcome by [Owen Mills, OWRB's Planning Director](#), and a local success story. The OCWP team extends another big thank you to the City of Enid, Oklahoma Rural Water Association, Choctaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, and City of Edmond for sharing their success stories! The OCWP team provided an update on water demand projections, physical supply evaluation, legal supply evaluation, and water quality assessment. Public water system participants were encouraged to submit their [Local Projects and Programs](#) (or capital improvement projects) as this data will be used as the foundation of estimating costs to meet future water needs across the state. All participants were encouraged to complete and invite their friends and colleagues to complete the [Public Outreach Survey](#), which allows you to share your priorities, concerns, and how the OCWP can provide value to you.

In August 2023, OWRB held the first round of regional meetings. During the first round of regional meetings, three categories emerged to frame breakout group discussions at the second round of meetings in December. While the conversations and suggestions varied across the regions, the following summary captures some broad takeaways and discussion items that were supported by many participants.

[Permitting / Policy / Regulations](#). Many participants expressed support for increasing timely enforcement of existing rules and use limits. Ideas for achieving this included establishing regional OWRB offices or representatives, local management authorities, or modifying enforcement rules.

Nearly all participants expressed views that some form of local control or management of water resources would be beneficial, although there was no consensus on what management structures should be implemented or what kinds of authorities, if any, should be established.

[Funding / Financing](#) and Infrastructure Improvements. There was broad support regarding the development of a more robust education program for system management and board training, expanded planning and technical assistance programs, and providing significant and permanent state funding for water and wastewater management. Most agreed that these could be accomplished within existing program authorities if these programs were provided additional funding and/or staff.

[Collaboration / Partnership](#). Many participants expressed support for developing regional water plans, and for the role coordination can play to leverage and improve individual plans within a region. Participants noted that regional water plans can be useful tools in identifying capital project needs for water supply, and that the state could help incentivize regional planning through financial programs to assist with funding regional plan development and by either requiring, or providing bonus points for, inclusion of a capital project in a regional water plan as a condition for approving or prioritizing state funding for that capital project.

Participants identified several best management practices (BMP) for managing water and mechanisms through which the state can encourage or incentivize these voluntary BMPs. Examples include providing training and/or technical assistance for utilities to implement effective utility management and sustainable utilities practices (e.g., appropriate rate structures, regular rate increases, long-term planning, etc.).

Subscribe to the [OCWP Newsletter](#) for updates on the project and to learn about upcoming meetings.

SECTION 2 ROUND 2 REGIONAL MEETINGS

In December 2023, OWRB hosted in-person meetings in Goodwell, Lawton, Talihina, Tahlequah, and Oklahoma City, plus a statewide virtual meeting, as part of the ongoing project to update the OCWP. This was the second in a series of meetings designed to engage with local officials, water utility suppliers, regulated industry, commercial agricultural producers, economic development entities, and other organizations to converse on local water challenges, opportunities, and information the OCWP can provide to support their needs and efforts.

2.1 Welcome

Owen Mills, OWRB's Planning Director, welcomed guests by reminding them of the goals for the regional meetings, reviewing the agenda, and introducing key OCWP team members as well as legislators, local officials, and OWRB Board Members.

Public water system participants were encouraged to submit their [Local Projects and Programs](#) (or capital improvement projects) as this data will be used as the foundation of estimating costs to meet future water needs across the state. So far, only about 16% of systems have responded. Using the information they provided, along with data collected from the unfunded American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) request list, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) survey requests, and other sources, the total *reported* water and wastewater needs are \$15.8 billion, a vast majority of these needs are projects needed within the next 5 years. We know that the real needs are much larger than this so please continue to submit your information to us.

All participants were encouraged to complete and invite friends and colleagues to complete the [Public Outreach Survey](#), which allows you to share your priorities, concerns, and how the OCWP can provide value to you.

In each of the regions, a local success story was told.

- [Murali Katta, City of Enid](#), Director of Engineering, shared the history and ongoing work for the Kaw Lake Pipeline. The pipeline, along with expanding the well field, is anticipated to provide enough water to meet Enid's projected demands of 10.5 million gallons per day (mgd).
- [Charlene Westmoland, Oklahoma Rural Water Association](#), Source Water Specialist, shared about Bridgeport's groundwater well protection project, which improved access, corrected the drainage around the wellhead, and enlarged and secured the perimeter around the well.
- [Ahndria Ablett, Choctaw Nation](#), Director of Water Resources, shared a success story at Sardis Lake Water Authority. With technical support from the nation and funding support from the nation and OWRB, Sardis Lake Water Authority was able to improve their treatment and distribution system allowing them to fulfill their commitment to provide clean, safe water for all their residents.
- [Shella Bowlin, Cherokee Nation](#), Secretary of State, welcomed guests and talked about the Nation's ongoing water planning and sustainable utility activities. One specific highlight is the work that the nation is doing as part of Mankiller-Soap Water Act, which allocates \$2 million each year to eliminate barriers to clean water access across the reservation.
- [Jennifer Boaz, City of Edmond](#), Utility Program Specialist, discussed the City's ongoing outreach and water conservation efforts. Edmond has implemented permanent odd/even outdoor watering, is intentional in digital outreach and providing tours, and is in the process of implementing a Smart Meter program which will provide customers with real time water use information.

2.2 OCWP Update

The OCWP is a multi-year project that seeks to define and address water supply challenges and solutions. In recognition of the variability across the state, we complete our analysis at the basin or regional level. We seek input from stakeholders across all water sectors to support technical and policy work.

The OCWP seeks to provide consistent information across the state to assess reliable water supply, which depends on physical supply (*is wet water available*), legal availability (*do I have the water right to use the water*), and water quality. All of this depends on infrastructure (*do I have infrastructure in place to access, treat, and distribute or use the water?*).

Water demand projections are being developed for public supply, self-supplied domestic, crop irrigation, thermoelectric power, self-supplied industrial, livestock, and oil and gas sectors. We use the best available data to develop projections for each of the water use sectors.

"Physical supply" looks at the wet water available to meet demands. We utilize OWRB's newly updated H₂O Tool to compare physical supply with demands. We have monthly streamflow data for seven decades in each of the 82 basins. When we look at demands, we also want to think about the monthly demand pattern of the water uses in that basin, recognizing that there may be months when, for example, demands are high and supplies run low. We project out monthly demands over 50 years, so we have a long-term perspective on where things are headed. But we do not stop there, we know that future streamflows might vary from the historical record, so we look at potential weather variability and weather extremes to understand how that supply picture might change in the future. When you put all that together in the H₂O Tool, it allows us to anticipate future surface water shortages that will be driven in large part by drought and hydrologic variability. We will use this to determine the magnitude, frequency, and duration of the shortage and is important in characterizing the severity of the impact to water users.

In addition to looking at whether wet water is available, we need to assess whether we have the **legal right** to use the water. Using OWRB's surface water runoff model, we look at whether the stream/lake is fully allocated. For groundwater, we evaluate whether additional lands are available to dedicate over each aquifer. These analyses look at current and future conditions and are helpful in answering the questions of whether nearby sources are available to use.

We also evaluate current **water quality** conditions and trends and aim to present that in a way that is meaningful to users. We are seeking to answer the question, is the water of suitable quality to meet users' needs? For example, in lakes and reservoirs, we may show historical and trending information for parameters like chlorophyll a, turbidity, Secchi depth, conductivity, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and temperature. We recognize that we have less data on groundwater quality (but are collecting more thanks to the Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment Program (GMAP) implemented as part of the previous OCWP recommendations), but we are planning to show the data we have like iron, manganese, nitrate, conductivity, and arsenic.

How do we bring it together? By looking at demand projections through the lens of wet water, legal water, and water quality, we have an opportunity to look at where we can anticipate the most significant water issues in the state as we look to the future. In each of the 82 basins, we will assess the potential effectiveness of a range of **water management strategies**.

To help define the infrastructure needs, the OCWP team has been collecting data from Public Water System participants were encouraged to submit their [Local Projects and Programs](#) (or capital improvement projects) as this data will be used as the foundation of estimating costs to meet future water needs across the state.

2.3 Round 1 Regional Meeting Recap

In August 2023, OWRB held five in-person and two virtual meetings around the state. Figure 1 summarizes the topics that came up during these discussions. The bigger the box, the more frequently the topic was brought up. Across the state, the top three topics were infrastructure improvements and funding/financing, permitting/regulations/policy, and collaboration/partnership. These topics were discussed in separate breakout sessions in the December 2023 meetings.



Figure 1 Round 1 Regional Meeting Recap

Examples of comments received regarding the Permitting/Regulations/Policy topic during Round 1 meetings were:

- Water use metering and/or more broadly reporting and accuracy.
- Flexible regulations that adapt to changing technologies and conditions.
- Recognizing the connection of surface water and groundwater when permitting.
- Enforcement of existing rules.
- Coordination between agencies/groups to eliminate or reduce the number of unidentified wells.
- Better coordination between agencies on granting water permits. For example, offer an avenue to provide comments on a permit application other than by submitting an official protest.
- Well spacing, property line set-back, noncontiguous land dedication.

Examples of comments received on Infrastructure Improvements and Funding/Financing topic were:

- Concern about how to pay for upgrades to meet current and future regulations.
- Improve access to and/or knowledge of funding opportunities, especially in small communities.
- Difficulty in raising water rates – need help to educate the public and boards about the true cost of water.

- How do we get more money to producers for infrastructure to improve water efficiency?
- Outreach emphasizing the Connection between water and economic development/vitality of communities.
- Difficulty for utilities, specifically small ones, to provide matching funds for existing programs.

Examples of comments received on the Collaboration and Partnership topic were:

- Informal collaboration between water systems is already happening.
- Partnerships between state and tribal nations, economic development, private partners, and local communities would be beneficial to meeting long-term water goals.
- Partnerships between urban and rural areas and with all water users for bigger impact and region improvement.
- Would forming an irrigation district provide benefits?
- What support is available and/or needed to form an irrigation district or other local group?

With this background in place, breakout groups (or short discussions in the virtual meeting) were held.

2.4 Round 2 Breakout Groups

Ideas discussed in the **breakout groups** are presented below. There were some themes that appeared in multiple breakout groups and/or ideas that were presented. A few examples are:

- Provide permanent funding and resources to support the water industry for planning, technical assistance, enforcement, infrastructure projects, education, and outreach.
- Encourage and/or incentivize use of BMPs, which can improve the water sector without mandates.
- Develop regional planning or governance committees to offer several benefits, including local control or management of water resources, provide avenue for coordination of planning efforts and supply sources, and be useful tools in identifying capital project needs for water supply.

2.4.1 Permitting / Policy / Regulations

Generally, the participants in the Permitting and Policy breakout groups across the state expressed concerns over better management of water supplies to prepare for growth, address declining water tables, acknowledge groundwater and surface water interactions in rule making, and implement policies that protect the environment. Many expressed opinions that if the state agencies do not do a better job and get ahead of growth, the state could be heading toward significant trouble in the form of conflicts or severe environmental degradation.

On **setback buffers for wells** from property lines, some expressed that the current process and rules work well, while others expressed concerns such as disagreement among participants as to whether large wells impact other wells spaced nearby each other.

In terms of **metering**, participants expressed varying opinions on expanding mandatory metering in the state:

- Some participants expressed views that metering should be mandatory for all water use permits statewide with no exceptions.
- Others disagreed altogether with any form of mandate.
- Some thought metering should be mandatory for some uses, for uses above a certain threshold, mandatory in areas where there are high user conflicts, and/or mandatory in areas where surface and groundwater supplies are more fully allocated.

Participants who disagreed with mandatory metering cited reasons, such as intrusion on private property (assuming a government official would read meters), metering could result in reduction of groundwater allocations, there are other less expensive methods than meters (such as nozzle settings for irrigators or from remote sensing), and/or general concerns over government overreach. Participants who supported metering cited reasons, such as use in enforcing existing rules and use limits, resolving user conflicts, and better measurement and reporting of actual use. Some participants noted that if metering were to be legislatively required of users, then minimum thresholds could be established to avoid unintended economic consequences on small businesses or users (e.g., use over a certain annual volume must be metered), or that a state program to subsidize meter costs could be established to help offset costs and improve acceptability. Metering was noted by some as critical because it is foundational to many other initiatives and proper management, such as accurate estimates of water use and enforcement of permit limitations.

Related, the idea of a program for measuring water withdrawals and permitted usage via satellite imagery keying on local evapotranspiration was discussed. One participant noted that other states use remote sensing to validate permitted use each year. Some participants agreed that satellite imagery might be useful as a second layer of measurement or validation, while other participants thought such a program would not be useful for immediate resolution of user conflicts or might not be trusted and should not be considered over metering.

Of participants who spoke out, there was consensus that there should be more swift **enforcement of existing rules and use limits**. Given the limitation in OWRB staff and because OWRB does not have regional offices, immediate enforcement was acknowledged as difficult. Suggestion that regional offices could be established, or that local management authorities could be set up for enforcement.

Several participants mentioned that **surface water** users should not be penalized for not using their full permitted use (referring to the "use it or lose it" doctrine in the OWRB Rules. One participant suggested that OWRB look to Oregon for an example of a balanced approach to surface water permit holder framework. One participant noted that in areas where streams are more fully allocated, holding permits but not using them can hold up growth. However, permit holders should not lie or be wasteful just to keep a permit.

Nearly all participants expressed views that some form of **local control or management of water resources would be beneficial**, although there was no consensus on what management structures should be implemented nor what authorities, if any, should be established. At a minimum, participants agreed that water users of a **shared source** need better cooperation, information, and resource sharing.

One participant recommended the state establish aquifer planning commissions with specific regulatory authority, that of which would be no less stringent than state law allows. Another group suggested implementation of "Regional Water Governance Committees." This would be a local/regional committee with established rules for balanced representation of industry, community, economic growth, and the environment, for example. Some ideas on what the committee would do include review and comment on permit applications and establish a local system of checks and balances. The goal of such a management structure if established, would be to protect aquifer health and water supplies, and assure sustainable use. It was noted that the goal of sustainable groundwater use is not aligned with current state laws, which are designed with the intent for groundwater to be mined.

Generally, participants agreed that if there are minimum standards established by the State, a local management approach would make sense and would help with local buy-in, lessen potential or perceived region-to-region conflicts, and improve local cooperation and collaboration. These groups could potentially handle the enforcement of water use permit infractions. How to address and implement legislatively was acknowledged as difficult. Participants thought that rural water districts or county commissioners might be a good place to start those conversations. It was noted that regional planning groups would require oversight, especially if these groups were given authorities.

The topic of the State establishing *instream flow (ISF)* considerations within Oklahoma's water rights system was discussed. Some participants thought strongly that ISF should be established for all streams and rivers, while others were more cautious due to potential impacts to existing water users and the potential to overregulate permit holders. Some, but not all, agreed that if some type of ISF process were adopted, it should apply statewide so that piecemeal approaches do not emerge. One noted that there were too many stakeholders involved the last time the state legislature looked at ISF alternatives, suggesting that perhaps a more science led approach should prevail. One participant expressed concerns that the flow standards could create ever changing, moving targets.

In the meetings held in Northeast Oklahoma, a recommendation was made (and agreed upon by all participants) to expand and modernize the *water quality monitoring* network for both surface water and groundwater. An expanded water quality monitoring network should cover more areas of the state, have more sites, and should include an expanded list of constituents. The modernization should use the best available equipment, science, and technology. With this data, baseline levels for contaminants of concern should be established. Further, the Central Oklahoma participants agreed that water quality mandates must be enforced by the state, noting that with the adoption of alternative water supplies (such as reuse and aquifer storage and recovery) enforcement of rules are even more important.

Participants in Northeast Oklahoma recommended that industry permits related to water (both water and wastewater) be granted under a larger umbrella that pulls together approvals from OWRB, Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (ODAFF), and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). Participants thought industrial users should be required to submit environmental mitigation impact plans along with permits.

The groups discussed the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) proposal to review water use permits. Generally, there was no consensus among participants. Concerns were expressed that review of all permits could drastically slow the approval process, add too much additional regulation, or could lead to additional authoritative grabs. There were no concerns over ODWC and OWRB better collaborating for ODWC/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) comment on permits, although it would be difficult to draw a line on how OWRB incorporates the comments. OWRB must follow the established laws and policies.

Several additional comments were offered by individual participants as follows:

- The state needs to implement strategies that improve groundwater recharge.
- The state should issue a moratorium on new well drilling during periods of aquifer decline.
- The state should not allow the diversion of water from a stream or river that is then sold for fracking.
- Surface water permits should have seasonal limitations to account for variations in monthly streamflow.
- The hearing process for contested permits should be changed to allow for an unbiased, third-party expert witness to the hearings that would review and comment on the scientific information presented to the court.
- The state would benefit from a reuse and water conservation program or initiative, to assure proper treatment of water once it is used and efficient use.
- Appointed boards and commissioners should have balanced representation to assure that diverse interests are represented, such as environmentalists, industry, business and economic developers, landowners, etc.
- Rural water district contractor bidding processes need oversight, accountability, and transparency to assure fair pricing and right-sized solutions.

- Some participants expressed concerns over the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) and how they manage water. The recommendation was for the legislature to review their domain and authority.
- One participant was concerned with the lack of education on existing, new, or upcoming regulations for rural water suppliers. The suggestion is that OWRB establish a program of training and education, with circuit riders that have knowledge and authority.

2.4.2 Funding / Financing

Generally, the participants in the Funding/Financing breakout groups across the state expressed concerns over increasing costs of water infrastructure, operations, and maintenance, and the need for establishing ongoing state funding to support water infrastructure, education, technical assistance, and other items.

Across the state, there was consensus regarding the need to develop a **more robust system management** possibly by providing training to utility board members focused specifically on the business side of a utility. There are certainly well managed, even award-winning treatment plants across our state; however, for many communities recruiting local experienced business leaders to serve on boards or run the business end of the utility can be very difficult. A utility is a business that must be run like a business to properly maintain the millions of dollars of infrastructure, pay its employees enough to attract and retain talent, respond to customers, plan for future needs, set rates, anticipate future regulatory hurdles, etc. Participants discussed options for providing training, such as expanding and improving existing programs rather than creating new programs. Such training has the potential to make systems less reliant on future grants and provide better water for Oklahomans.

Many participants discussed the need to **expand planning and technical assistance programs**. Oklahoma Rural Water Association, Oklahoma Strategic Alliance (OSA), Oklahoma Municipal Assurance Group (OMAG), Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Cherokee Nation, and others offer planning and technical assistance programs to water systems. These are frequently available for free or at low cost, but often are limited based on funding and staffing. Current programs offer assistance for water audits, leak detection, and individualized technical advice, but participants identified that it would be good to expand existing offerings and include planning (local and regional) as well as oversight to aid utilities, when needed, with reviewing technical deliverables by others. Expanding the subjects and curriculums of these programs and funding to support additional trainers would help address the large demand for these services across our state.

Across the state, there was consensus that **permanent state funding for water and wastewater is needed**. A few ideas on how to administer this funding included:

- Utilize existing programs to administer additional funds in lieu of creating new programs.
- Expand role of OSA to prioritize use of additional funds.
- Provide state matching funds with appropriate oversight and requirement to implement best management practices (like sustainable planning, minimizing water loss, water rate structures, etc.).
 - Consider an approach that provides more state match funding as more best practices are implemented.
 - Consider how to prioritize funding for systems of different sizes and with different needs (e.g., resolving existing violations versus improvements needed to avoid future violations).
- Provide funding to recruit and retain water industry workers including outreach to schools, conducting training, etc.

Several additional comments were offered by individual participants as follows:

- The state should do a better job of informing its citizens about the true cost of water. Use the phrase "we cannot raise water rates" as an opportunity to educate board members, customers, and the public about the true cost of water.
- All systems in Oklahoma should pass an automatic rate increase set at regular intervals (e.g., biannually) to adjust for inflation and other needs as identified.
- Property tax is not available to be used for water infrastructure and hence another reason that finding ways to pay for water infrastructure is so challenging.
- 30-year sales tax increases are a common way to help fund a loan but can create even bigger challenges for local businesses to compete and stay solvent. Often additional loans (and hence additional increases to local sales tax) are taken out *before* the initial loan is paid.
- For very small communities, some of the few entities in town are tax exempt entities, such as the post office, co-ops, and churches, and thus sales tax revenues may be stretched too thin to use for loans.
- Many small systems have only a few hundred taps for revenue, and yet to appropriately address their problems. will require millions of dollars. This is an extremely challenging ask for their ratepayers.
- Increasing rates on ratepayers can be politically challenging.
- Workforce in water/wastewater treatment is an enormous challenge as young individuals move to larger communities and higher pay with far less responsibility are easy to find. *Example: Two communities mentioned upgrading starting pay from \$11-\$12/hour to \$16/hour resulting in far better retention and job satisfaction.*
- Consider developing a better way to identify "disadvantaged" communities. For example, participants expressed concern that they felt there were communities that should qualify as a disadvantaged community, but it does not because a handful of wealthy households throw off the current identification calculations.
- Provide additional educational materials that describe existing funding opportunities, programs, eligibility, requirements, etc. to make the process of identifying funding opportunities easier for communities, especially those small and very small utilities. One example would be identifying federal funding and/or matching opportunities.

2.4.3 Collaboration/Partnership

The participants in the collaboration/partnership breakout group focused on: regional water planning, regionalization, and BMPs for water systems and uses. Participants noted that broader education regarding the benefits of collaboration and partnership is needed. The fact sheet that was used to support this breakout group's discussion could be a foundation or starting point for those efforts.

Many participants expressed **support for developing regional water plans**, and for the role they can play in consolidating and coordinating local plans within a region. Participants also noted that regional water planning and regionalization can work together in many ways to meet local water demands more efficiently, or at a shared/reduced cost or could not have been met. Regional plans can provide a roadmap for local leaders and help individual water providers and water users share resources, challenges, and goals. They were also viewed as a potential avenue for supporting and developing the statewide OCWP, including coordination of planning efforts and supply sources between different regions across the state. Participants noted that it is important to determine how best to coordinate tribal nations' water planning efforts with regional water planning.

However, regional plans will be most effective in these roles if they are more consistently developed to include a defined list of minimum requirements for contents and outputs, and if every area of the state is included in a regional plan. Other states (e.g., Texas, Colorado) have had success by specifying the content of regional plans, providing state funding support for regional planning, and synthesizing information from regional plans into the statewide plan. Oklahoma's existing approach of self-initiated, self-organized, and self-funded regional plans accomplish portions of these objectives.

Participants noted that regional water plans can be useful tools in identifying capital project needs for water supply, and that *the state could help incentivize regional planning through financial support for regional plan development and by either requiring or providing bonus points for inclusion of a capital project in a regional water plan* as a condition for approving or prioritizing state funding for water projects. They also noted that public supply systems that do not have diversified supply sources would more strongly benefit from regionalization/regional planning efforts than those that do have diversified supply sources.

Participants noted that these groups can also provide emergency support services to each other both in terms of possibly providing emergency equipment or personnel, possibly through expanding the existing [SOONERWARN](#) program, Oklahoma's Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network.

Each of the collaboration/partnership breakout groups discussed *regionalization* and the different ways that term can be defined. While it is common to think of regionalization in terms of consolidation or management takeovers of individual water systems, this can have negative connotations regarding loss of system identity and loss of local control. However, case studies were discussed of successful outcomes of system consolidation, and participants suggested that the state and the OCWP can help support information sharing regarding the potential benefits of consolidation.

Regionalization can also consist of sharing water supply sources, equipment, operations staff, and/or infrastructure. It can also include system interconnections to bolster reliability and resilience to a wide range of water supply system interruptions. Several examples were cited from across Oklahoma and other states of where this type of regionalization led to operational benefits, cost-effective water service, and water system reliability.

Regionalization is founded on trust between partners, and some participants noted that it is important to establish trust prior to partnering on regionalization projects. The state could support trust-building through convening water users within a region, supporting regional water planning efforts, and by assigning staff to one or more regions to help look for potential regional partnerships and specific regionalization opportunities and benefits.

In each regional meeting, collaboration/partnership breakout group participants were asked to identify the types of voluntary BMPs that should be encouraged for water users across the state, and ideas for how the state could encourage or incentivize those BMPs without issuing mandates.

Voluntary BMPs identified by participants include:

- Implement effective utility management and sustainable utilities practices.
- Develop a conservation plan for each public supply system.
- Develop a drought management plan for each public supply system.
- Leak detection/water loss prevention programs.
- Partnerships to share staff under challenging or emergency circumstances.
- Increase system knowledge retention through infrastructure mapping efforts; avoid duplication of efforts on a given system, which could allow more systems to be mapped.
- Develop flood maps beyond the minimum requirements and inform those who are at risk, even in low-risk areas.

- Integrate business practices/teaching into board member training.
- Avoidance of dead-end distribution lines and coordination of municipal system flushing.
- Tiered water rates.
- Enforcement of permit limits.

Mechanisms through which the state can **encourage or incentivize these BMPs** that were identified by participants include:

- Support training and rollout of effective utility management/sustainable utility practices at the regional and local level.
- Communicate success stories associated with these BMPs including a description of benefits achieved.
- Link state funding programs to BMPs, e.g., provide financial incentives and support for developing conservation plans and drought plans, and bonus points for state funding of actions or projects that are included in conservation and drought plans.
- Develop "How To" guides or templates for key BMPs that are tailored to Oklahoma; provide regional technical support staff to guide local/regional adoption of the BMPs.
- Incentivize staying in compliance. For example, many funding programs provide additional prioritization points to systems with consent orders and/or notices of violations. It is important for these systems to come back into compliance, and it is important to help systems reliably stay in compliance. Look for ways to achieve both goals.
- Develop statewide codes for efficient water fixtures.
- Provide encouragement and guidance for rate structures that can fund conservation rebate programs.
- Raise revenue via a surcharge for urban landscape irrigation systems.
- Provide public education to promote/incentivize water-wise landscaping.
- Develop tax incentives for use of new technologies and help fund the development of new technologies.
- Address the "use it or lose it" concern with metering.
- Conduct site-specific impact studies for new uses of aquifers.

2.5 Look Ahead

Owen Mills thanked participants for their participation in the regional meetings. Over the coming year, the OCWP team will follow up on the discussion items, explore other priority topics, present data and findings from technical studies, and discuss recommendations to include in the OCWP. Reach out to Owen with any questions or to discuss the OCWP.



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APPENDIX A MEETING PRESENTATIONS

Round 2 | Presentation

2025 OCWP Regional Meetings

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Northwest	Goodwell	December 5
Southwest	Lawton	December 11
Southeast	Talihina	December 12
Northeast	Tahlequah	December 13
Central	Oklahoma City	December 14
Virtual		December 14



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Facebook: Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan



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Welcome

Goals for the OCWP Regional Meetings

Why and how we want you to participate!



Identify the most pressing local water issues and policy needs.



Guide the identification and deployment of solutions to those issues and needs.



Chart a course toward reliable, resilient water management locally and statewide.

Agenda

01 Welcome and Share Success Story

02 OCWP Update

03 Networking Break

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

04 Session 1 – Permitting / Regulations / Policy

Session 2 – Collaboration / Partnership

Session 3 - Infrastructure funding and financing discussion

05 Breakout session reports

06 Look-ahead

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OCWP Team Leaders



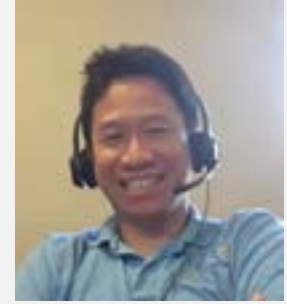
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**Owen
Mills**

*Director of Planning,
OWRB*



**Yohanes
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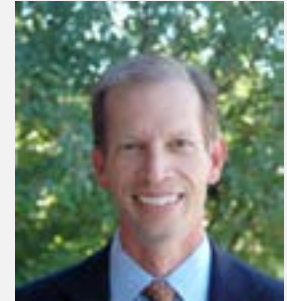
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Welcome



Federal Legislators
State Legislators
Local Government Officials
OWRB Board Members

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Local success story



Murali Katta
City of Enid
Director of Engineering





City of Enid

Kaw Lake Water Supply Program

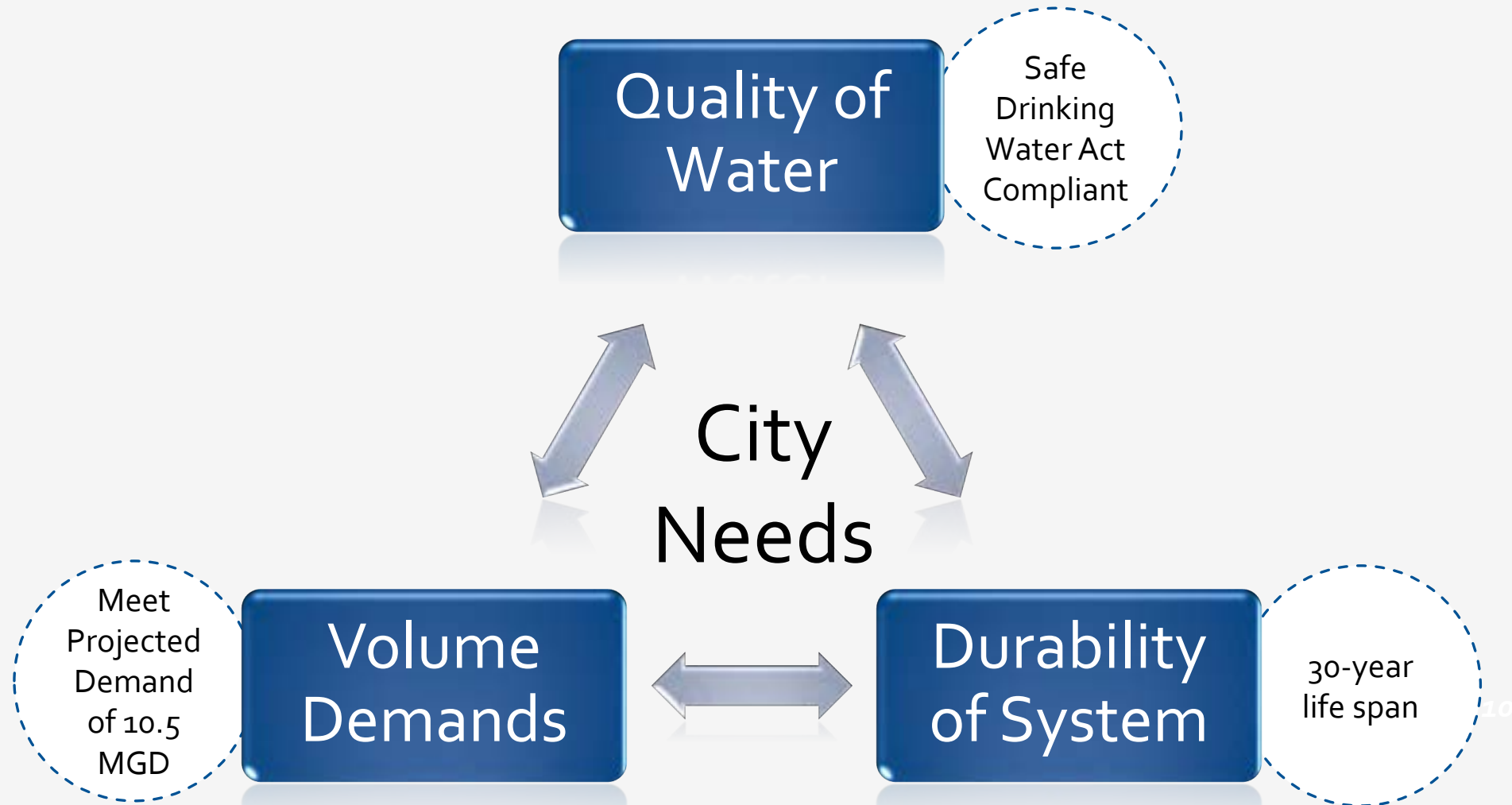
History

December 5, 2023

Agenda

- History
- Current Status

Maintain Program Pillars



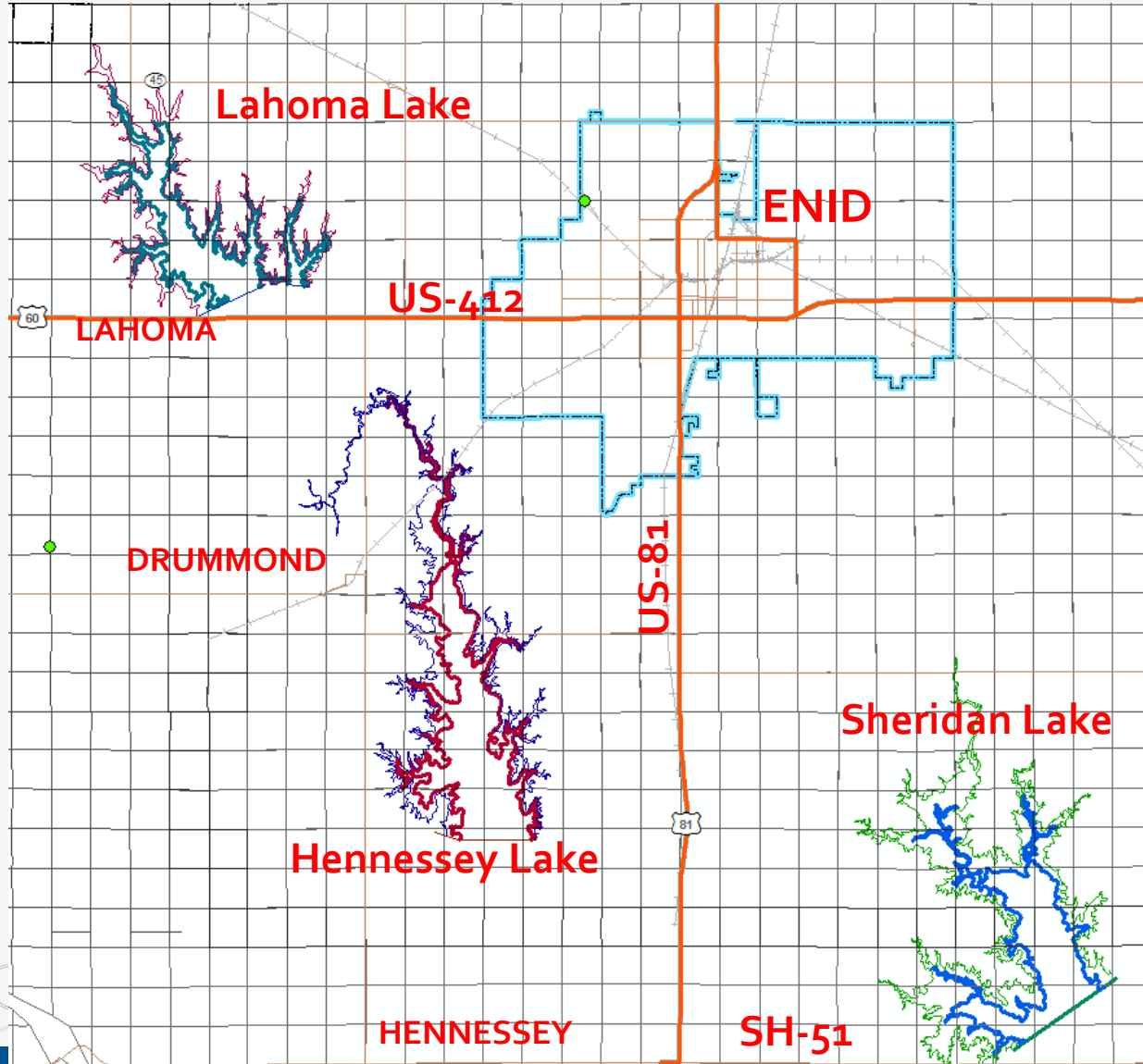
Meet the Demand

- Expanding the well fields
 - Requires ~ 21,000 acres of water rights
 - Competes with Agriculture and Oil/Gas

- Surface Supply
 - Requires ~ 10,000 acres
 - Expand/Maintain well field

Area of Groundwater Investigation

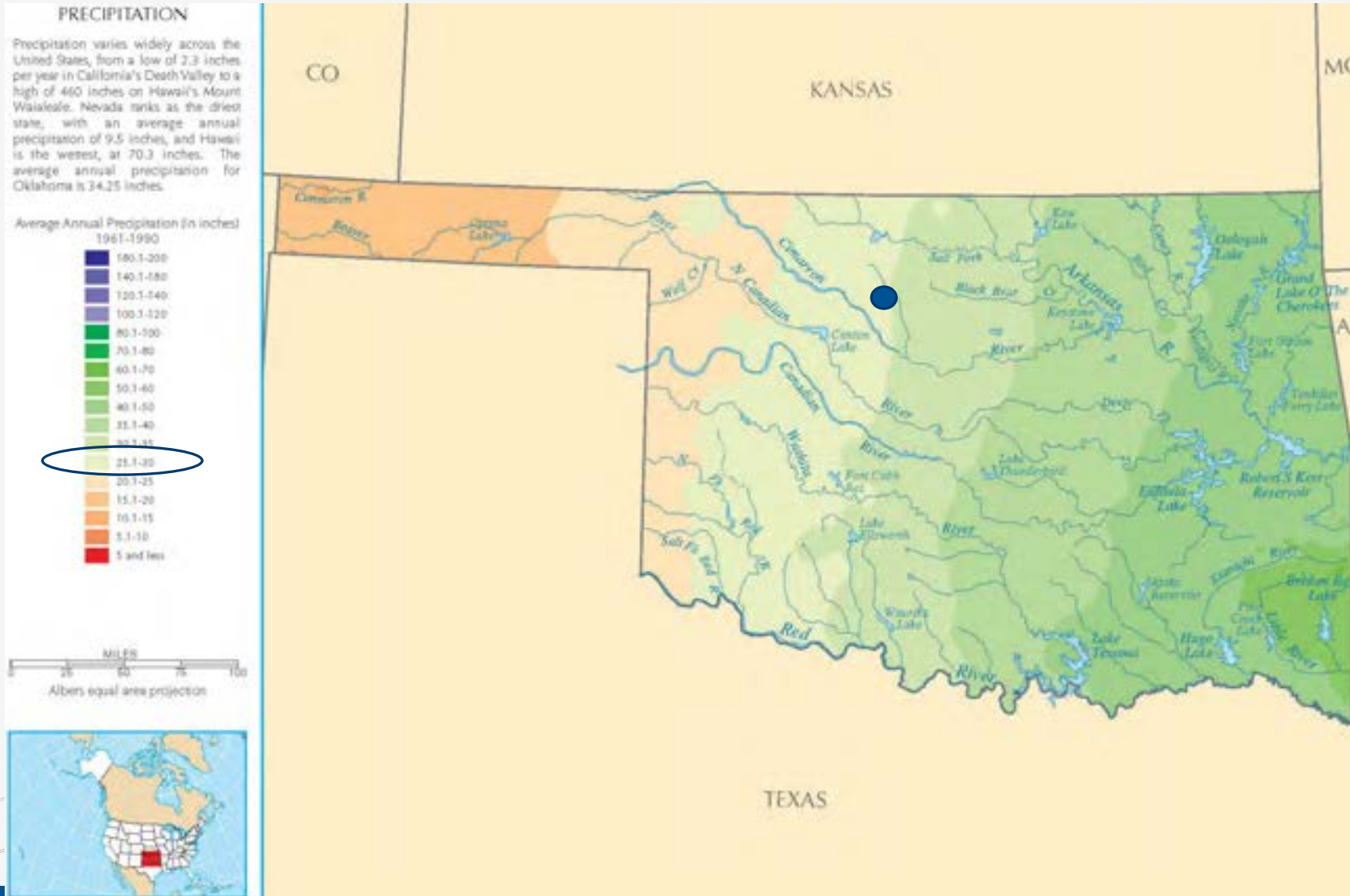
Potential Reservoirs



...What's it take to build a lake

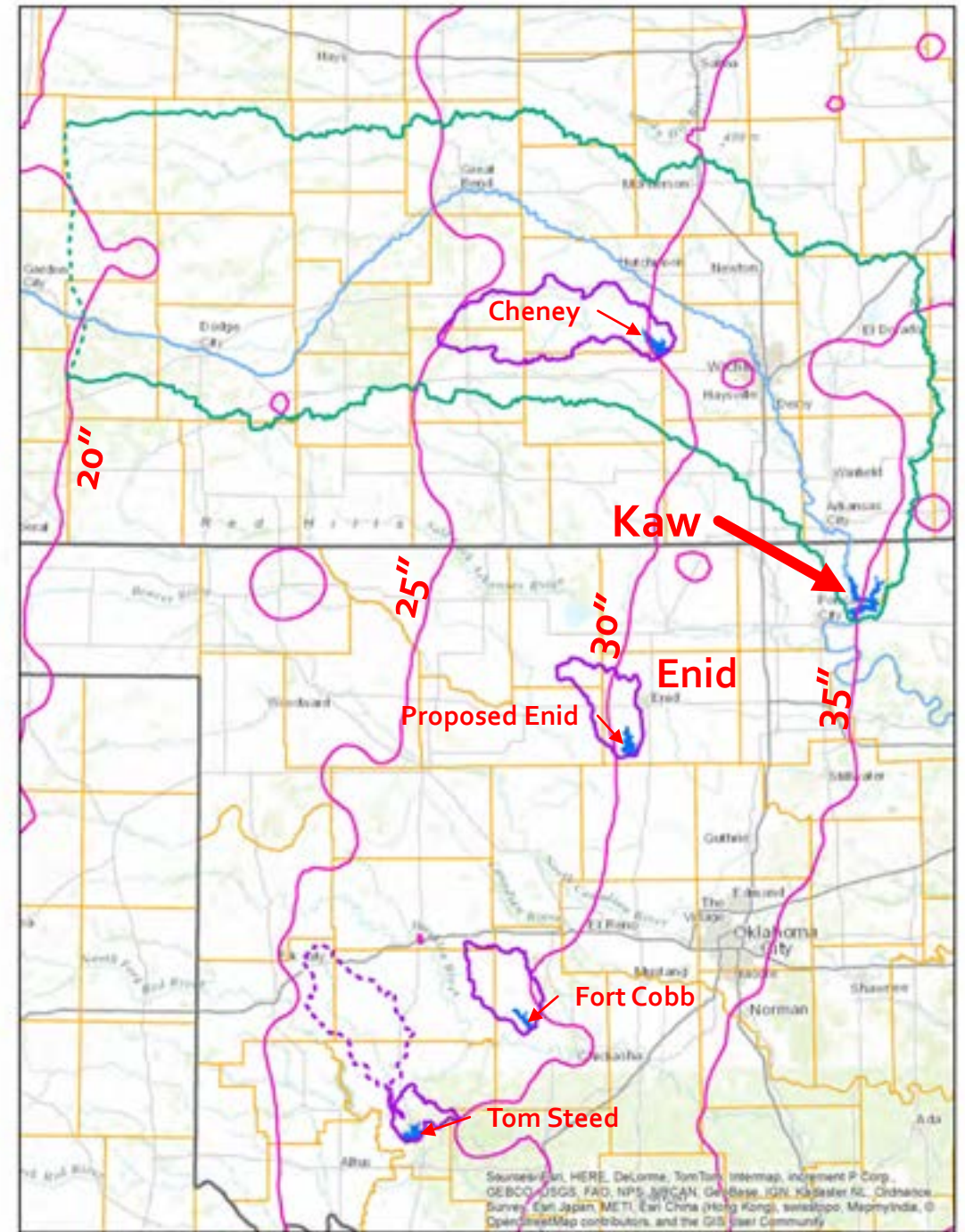
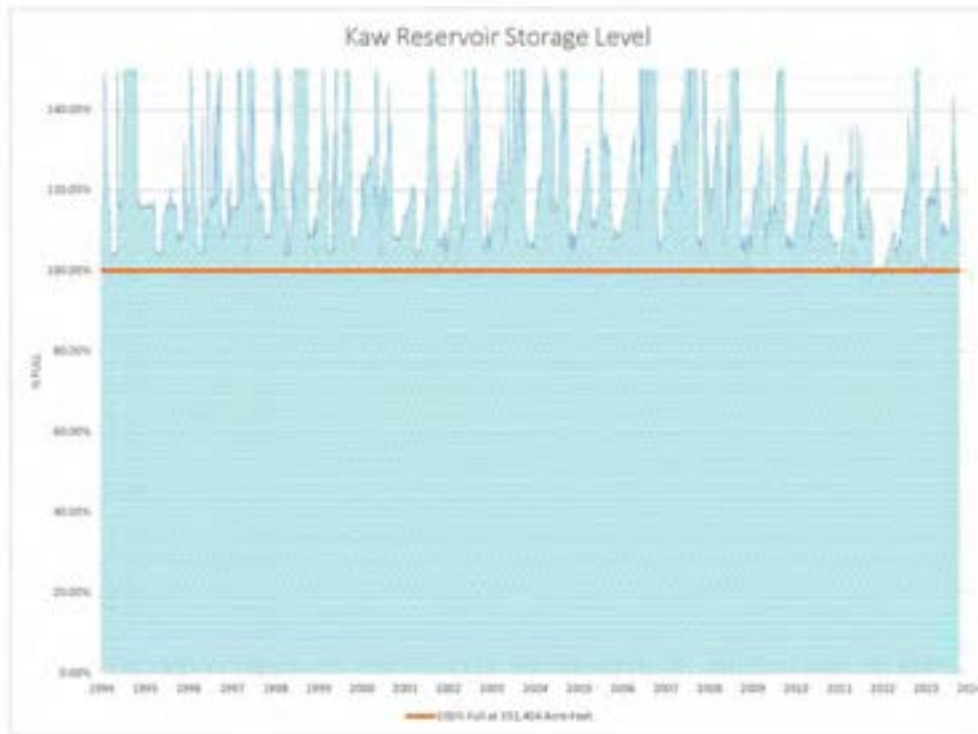
- **Surface Supply**
 - Requires ~ 14,000 to 20,000 acre-feet of water
 - Requires ~ 10,000 surface acres
 - Expand/Maintain well field during development

Oklahoma Precipitation



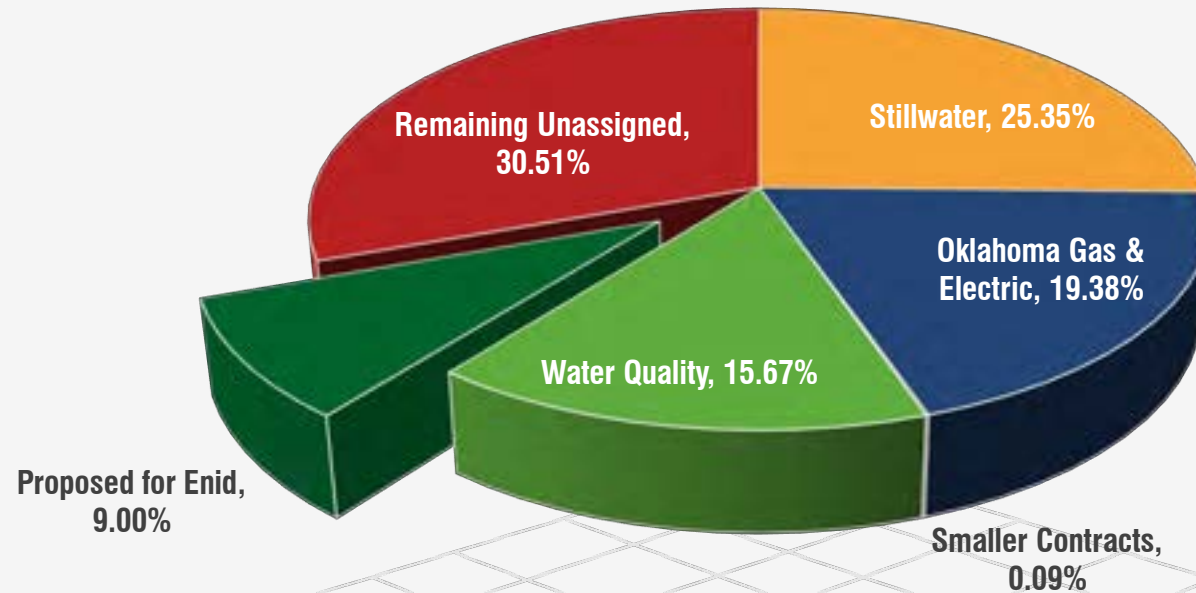
Kaw Reservoir

- Drainage area
- Precipitation
- Lake Levels
- Draught resiliency



Kaw Lake water Allocation

Conservation Storage Allocation



KLWS Program

- Budget : \$317 MM
- GMP: \$256 MM

Major Infrastructure Components

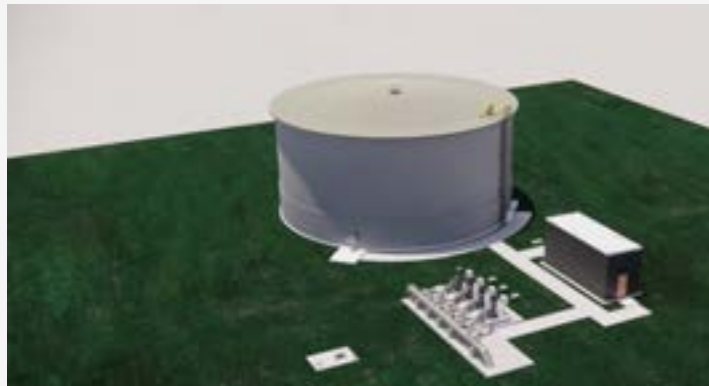
What We're
Building



Intake



Pipeline



Pump Station

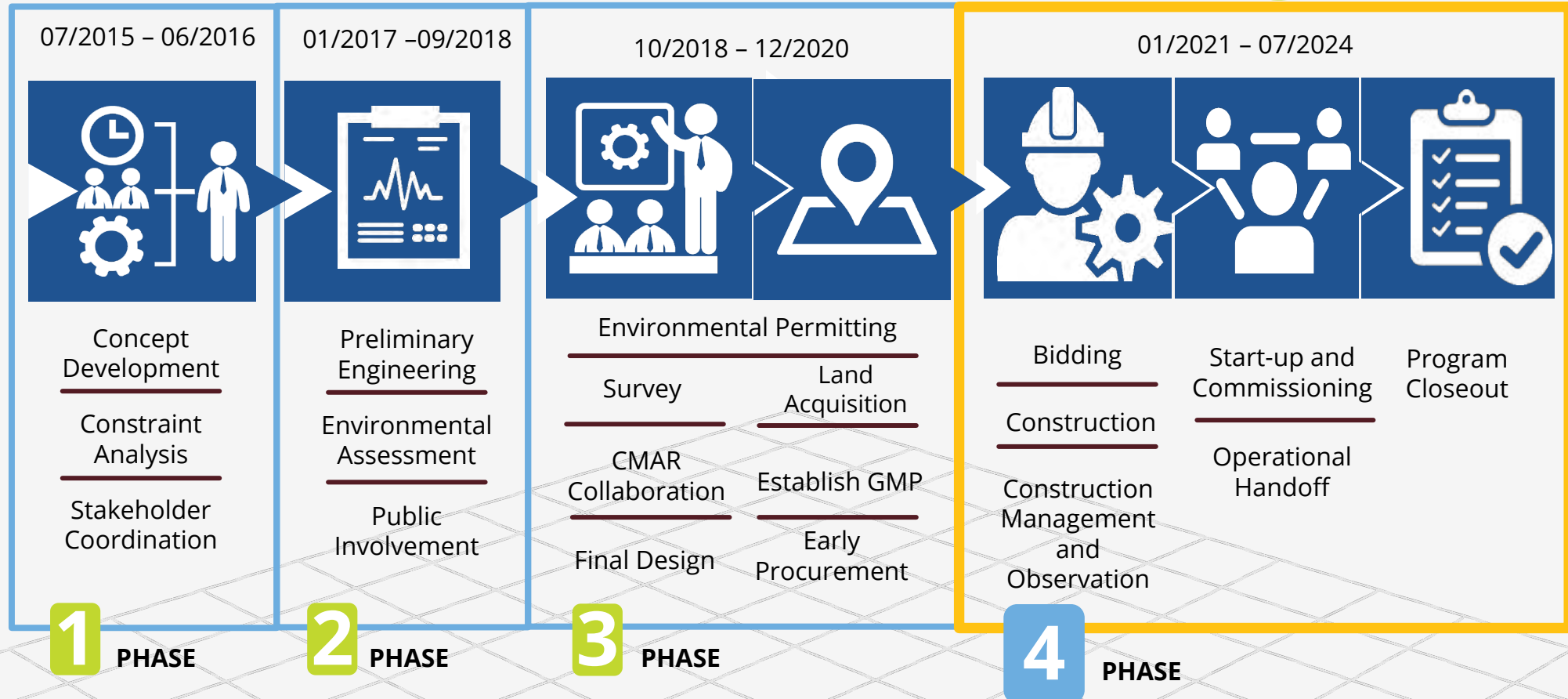


Water Treatment Plant



Distribution

Overview



Intake – Construction



Intake – Construction



Intake – Construction



Intake – Construction



Intake – Construction



Construction Progress

Intake



Transmission Pipe Line



Kaw
Lake

Enid

Pipe Delivery



Top Soil Removal



Transmission Main Installation



BP 5.05 (Segment 7 Pipeline Installation)



Surface Preparation



Surface Restoration



Garney Construction
KLWS Segment 3
3195+00 Seeding
04.13.2023 01:55 PM
36.46985, -97.58616
OK-15, Garber, OK 73738, USA



Intermediate Booster Pump Station

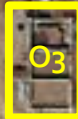


Intermediate Booster Pump Station





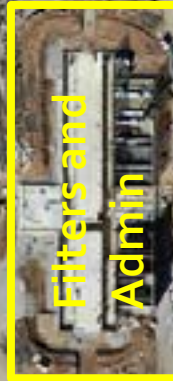
Sedi.
Bild.



O3



Chem.
Bild.



Filters and
Admin



Finished
water



Ex. Plant #2

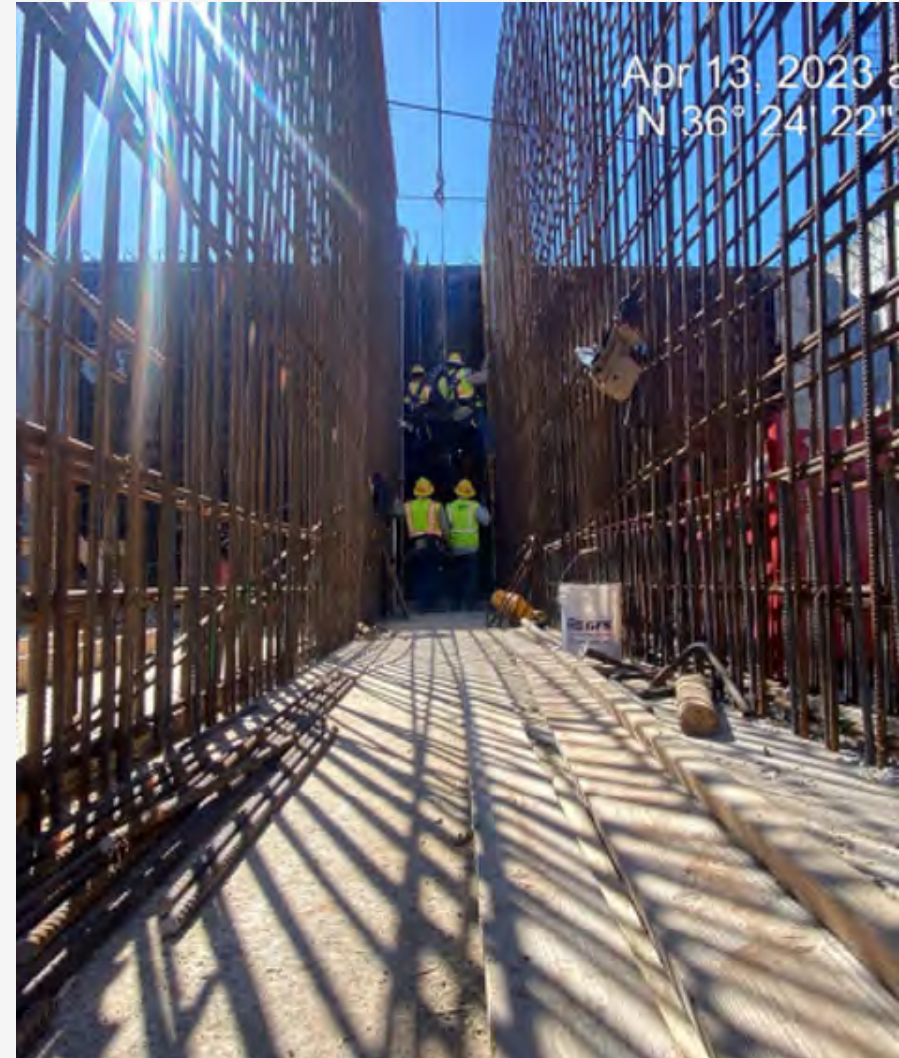


Terminal Storage



Sludge Lagoons

Water Treatment Plant Construction Progress



Water Treatment Plant Construction Progress



Water Treatment Plant Construction Progress





Thank you for your
valuable time

....

Local success story



Charlene Westmoland
Oklahoma Rural
Water Association
Source Water Specialist



Bridgeport - Progress in protecting a groundwater well



Access to the Well by walking from road or driving through ditch.

Bridgeport - Progress in protecting a groundwater well



The Well is more secure due to perimeter fence and gate.

Bridgeport - Progress in protecting a groundwater well



Gravel Road - Access road

Local success story



Ahndria Ablett Choctaw Nation

Director of Water Resources
Office of Water Resource Management
Environmental Protection Service
Department of Risk Management
Division of Legal and Compliance



....

Local success story



Shella Bowlin
Cherokee Nation
Secretary of State



....

Local success story



Jennifer Boaz
City of Edmond
Utility Program Specialist
Water Resources



City of Edmond Water Resources



Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, Round 2 Meeting

December 14, 2023

Jennifer Boaz, Utility Program Specialist

(405)216-7775 Jennifer.boaz@edmondok.gov



Water Conservation Outreach

- Outdoor water use is the primary driver for infrastructure growth and rate increases
- Winter vs Summer Water Use
 - 8 million gallons per day (MGD) in the winter
 - **22+** MGD in the summer months
- The goal for conserving water is to delay future plant expansions and be good stewards of the vital resource.

Current Efforts on Water Conservation

- Outdoor watering restrictions year-round (odd/even)
 - Can increase restrictions, if necessary
- Tours are offered year-round on our website and through social media posts
 - 22 tours were conducted over FY22-23
 - Groups attending tours include UCO Biology Students, Operators state-wide training for ODEQ license certification, Boy Scouts, Home School Groups, Residents living near the WTP/WRRF
- Conservation University on our website
 - Tips for conserving water
 - Public Outreach Materials
- AMI/Smart Meters will help customers understand their water use when fully implemented
- Public Outreach around the City

Digital Outreach

- Schedule a Tour or Presentation
- Wyland Foundation Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation*
- Conservation University Commercials
- Water & Wastewater Rate Changes
- Request Volunteers for Annual Lead & Copper Testing
- Seasonal conservation messages
- Drinking Water Week



Outreach Around the City And Water Resources Facilities

- Boy Scout's Rain Gutter Regata
- COE Touch a Truck
- Water Conservation Classes
- Governor's Water Conference, Water for 2060 Excellence Awards*
- Wyland Foundation National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation
- Dear Neighbors Notifications



Conservation University



STUDY GUIDES

- Articles from the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Office

CLASSES

- Video recordings of classes provided to COE Residents

OUTDOOR WATERING

- Current stage of Water Conservation and further details on determining resident's schedule

PLANT DATABASE

- Database from the OSU Extension. Allows residents to find optimal plants based on light available and other individual characteristics of their lawn

DOLLARS AND SENSE

- Infographics on water and wastewater bills and capital projects for water and wastewater.



Studying up to save water? Check out these handy guides to help you ace outdoor water conservation!

- Prevent Frozen Pipes
- Watering Your Lawn
- Simple Irrigation Plan
- Indoor Conservation Tips
- Managing Pressures in the Home Irrigation System
- Water-Saving Design Ideas for Oklahoma Landscapes
- Smart Irrigation Technology, Controllers and Sensors
- Simple Irrigation Audit for Home Lawns in Oklahoma

Online Classes:

- Rainwater Harvesting & Gray Water Use
- Advanced Composting for the Homeowner
- Water Efficient Plants
- Made in the Shade
- Slip Into Soaks
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Drought Resistant Plants for Oklahoma
- Home Irrigation Checkup
- Smart Irrigation Technology 2019
- Dealing With Difficult Shady Areas
- Composting

WASTEWATER BILL

WATER BILL

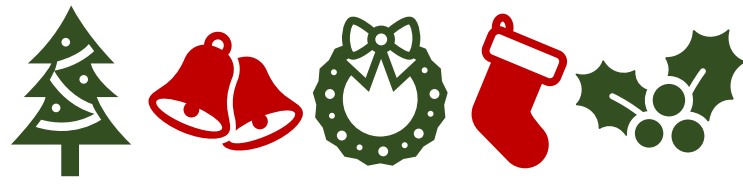
OUTDOOR WATERING SCHEDULE

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS

STUDY GUIDES

CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Happy Holidays from the City of Edmond's



Thank you for your time!

- Please feel free to contact me to schedule a tour, presentation, or if you would like to hold your meeting at one of our facilities!

Jennifer Boaz

Utility Program Specialist

Email: Jennifer.boaz@edmondok.gov

Office: (405)216-7775

Cell: (405)508-0890



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02

OCWP Update

1:30 pm

15 minutes

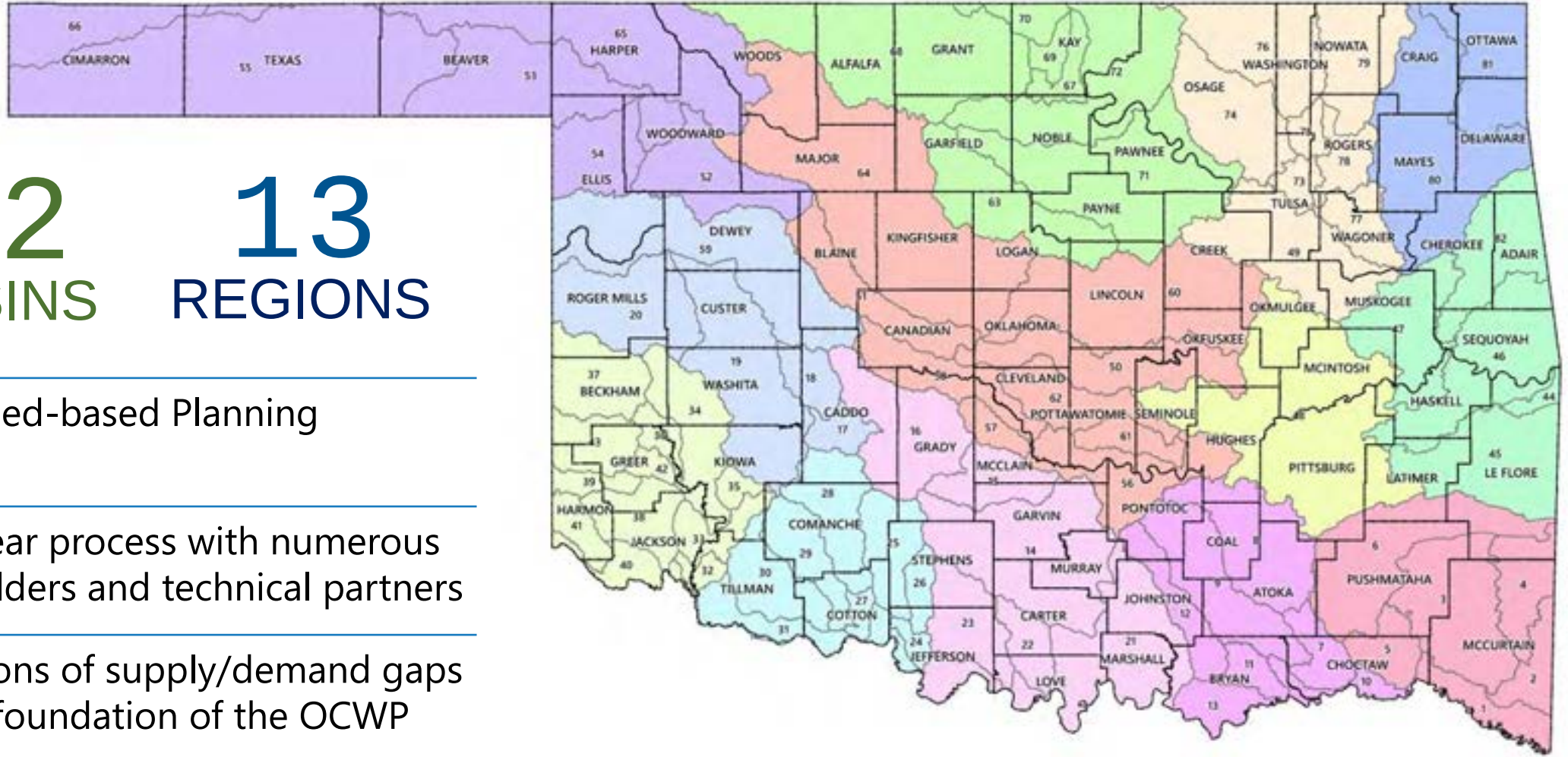
Supply Issues and Solutions Vary Across the State

82 BASINS
13 REGIONS

Watershed-based Planning

Multi-year process with numerous stakeholders and technical partners

Projections of supply/demand gaps are the foundation of the OCWP



Technical Studies Support All OCWP 2025 Focus Areas



Identify basins with projected water challenges or opportunities



Identify and **recommend** water management strategies



Identify **infrastructure investment needs** & financial solutions



Advance 2012 OCWP Policy Recommendations



Integrate Oklahoma's first statewide **Flood Plan**

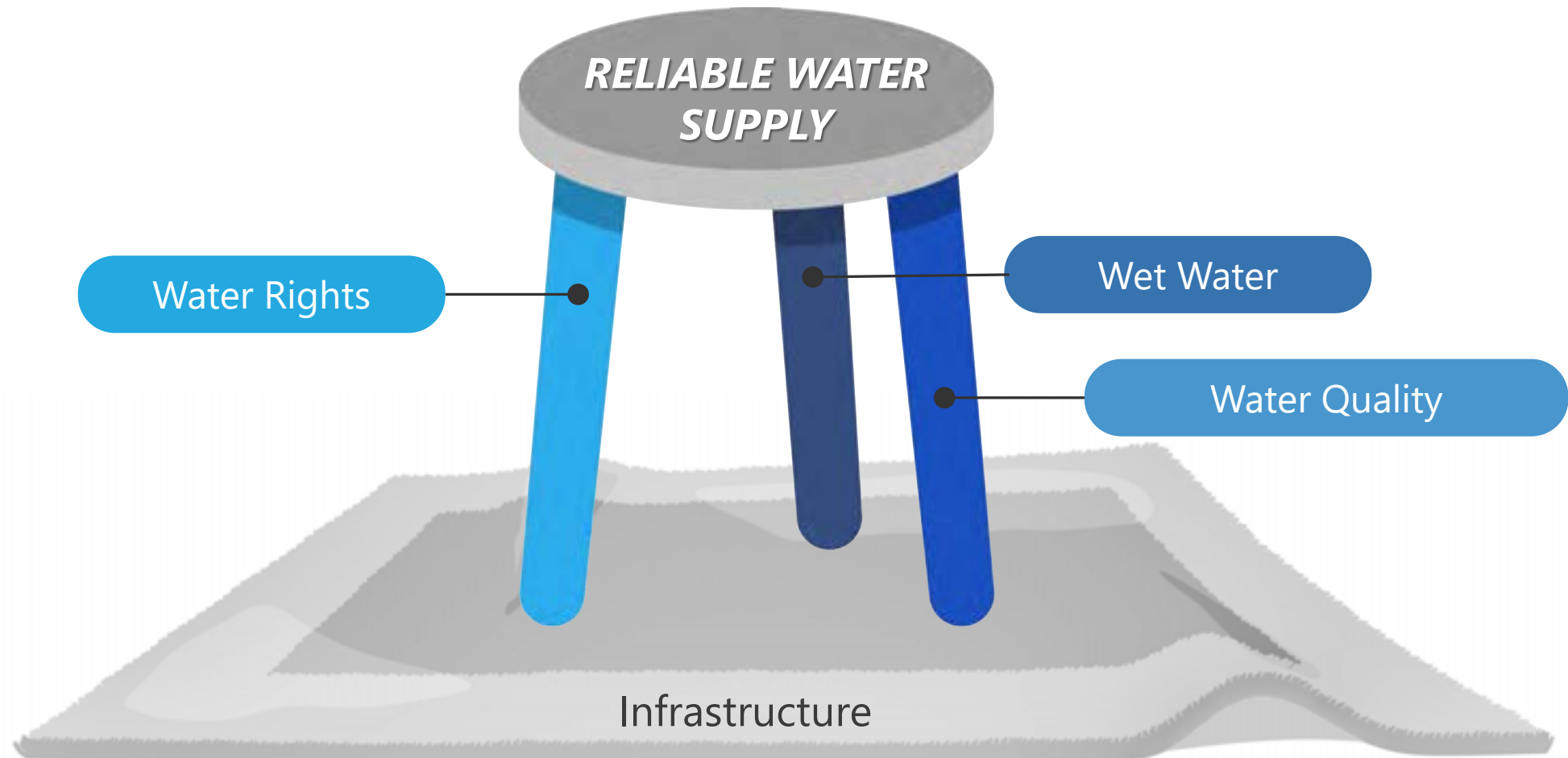


Conduct **focused engagement** throughout the process



Provide **greater access** to OCWP deliverables

OCWP Data Provides Critical Information for Planners



....

Water Demand Forecasts for Every Sector

➤ Projections of water use through 2075

Public Supply



Self-Supplied Domestic



Crop Irrigation



Thermoelectric Power



Self-Supplied Industrial



Livestock



Oil & Gas



Key Inputs Drive Forecasts for Each Sector

➤ Projections of water use through 2075

Public Supply

- Reported municipal water use
- Population projections (Dept. of Commerce)

Self-Supplied Domestic

- Per capita water use by county (USGS)
- Population projections (Dept. of Commerce)
- Proportion of residences that self-supply (USGS)

Crop Irrigation

- Irrigation Guide by crop by station (NRCS)
- Withdrawals by source and method (USGS)
- Current & historical irrigated acres (FSA)
- Use trends

Thermoelectric Power

- Historical water use (EIA)
- gal/kWh by fuel type (literature)
- Regional energy generation through 2050 by fuel type (EIA)

Self-Supplied Industrial

- Water use data for large industrial users (OWRB)
- Employment by county & industry (BLS)
- Employment projections (OK Employment Security Commission)

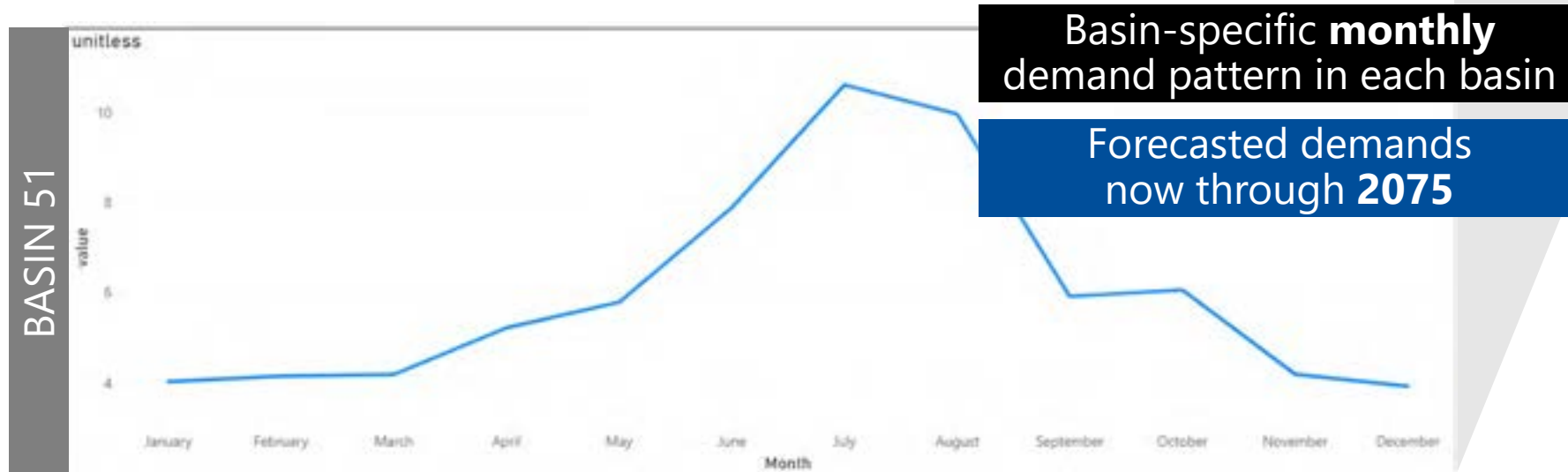
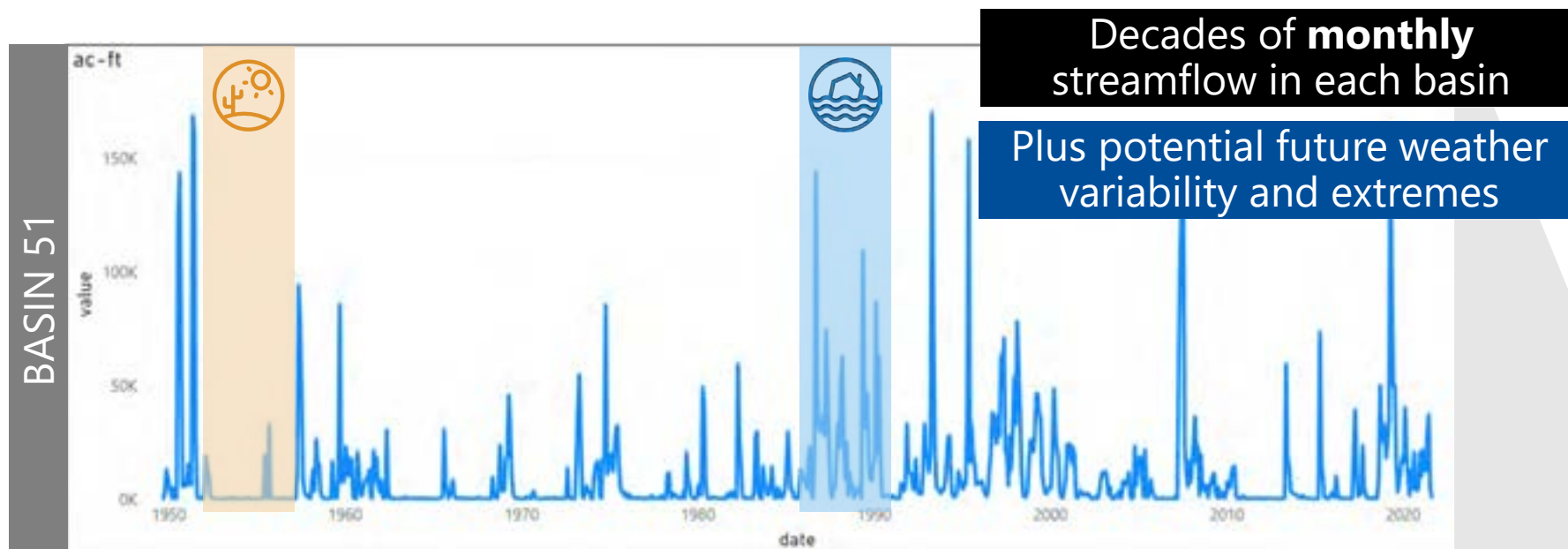
Livestock

- Daily animal water requirements (USGS)
- Livestock count at county level (OK Ag Census)
- US meat production forecast (FAPRI & FAO)

Oil & Gas

- Water use per drilling activity (industry input)
- Recent historical drilling activity (OK Corporation Commission)

Physical Supply: Surface Water Example



FUTURE
SURFACE WATER
SHORTAGES

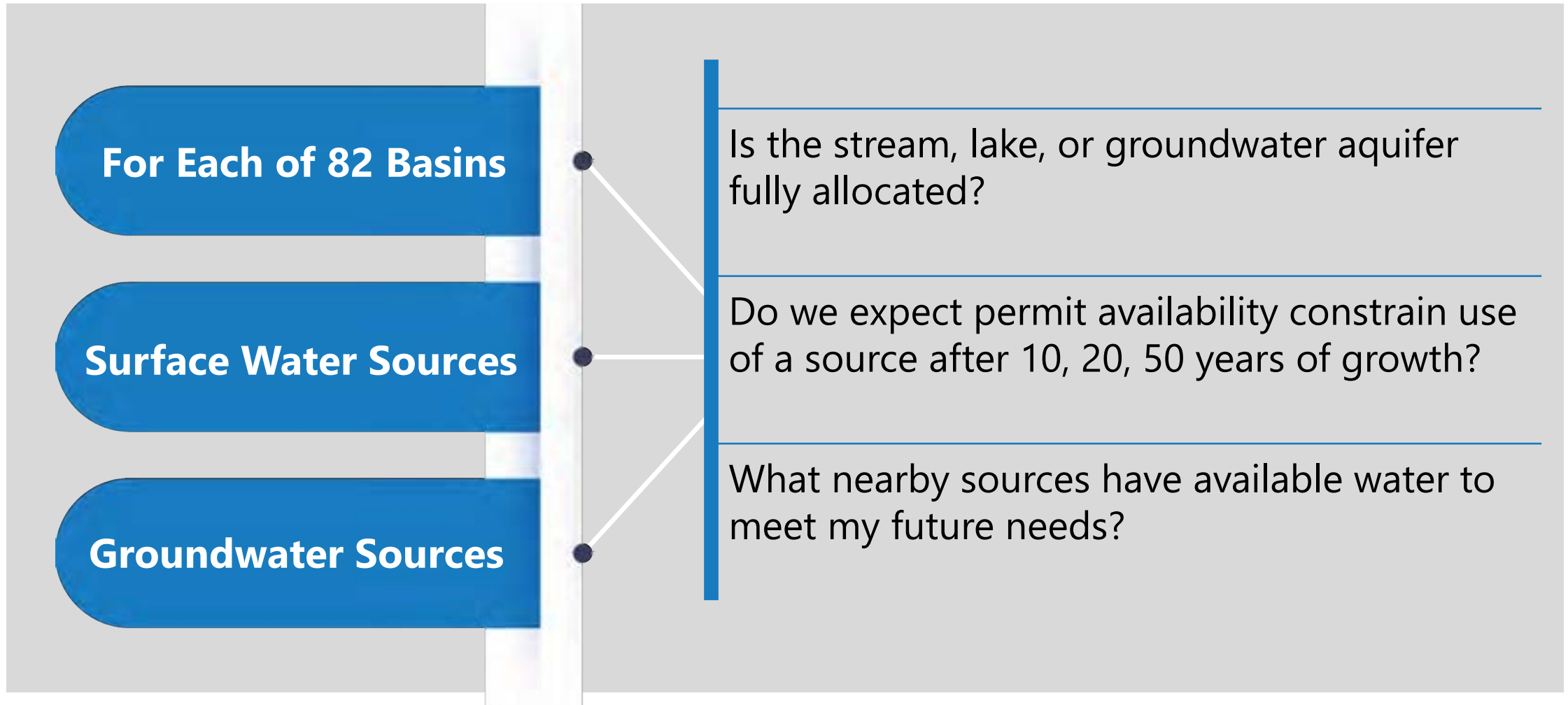
Where: By Basin

When: By Decade

How much:

- Magnitude
- Frequency
- Duration

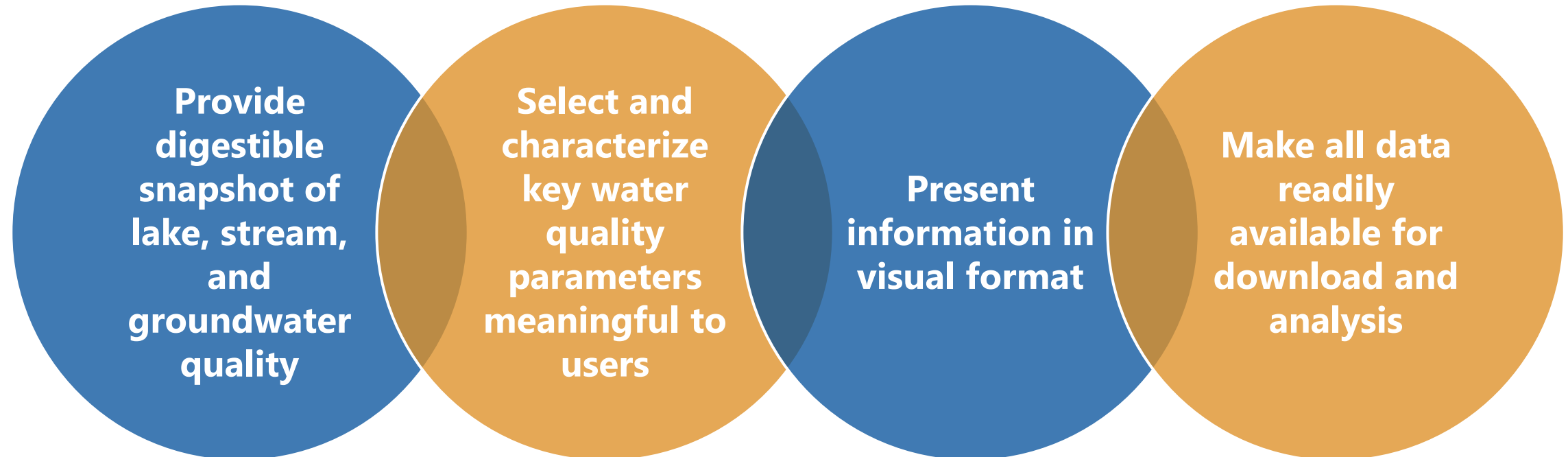
OCWP Permit Availability Analyses Address Key Questions



....

Objectives of Water Quality Assessment

➤ **Considering current water quality conditions and trends**



Key Parameters for Summary and Trending

Lakes and Reservoirs

1. Chlorophyll a
2. Turbidity
3. Secchi Depth
4. Conductivity
5. Total Nitrogen
6. Total Phosphorus
7. Surface water temperature

Streams and Rivers

1. Turbidity
2. Conductivity
3. Total Nitrogen
4. Total Phosphorus
5. Temperature

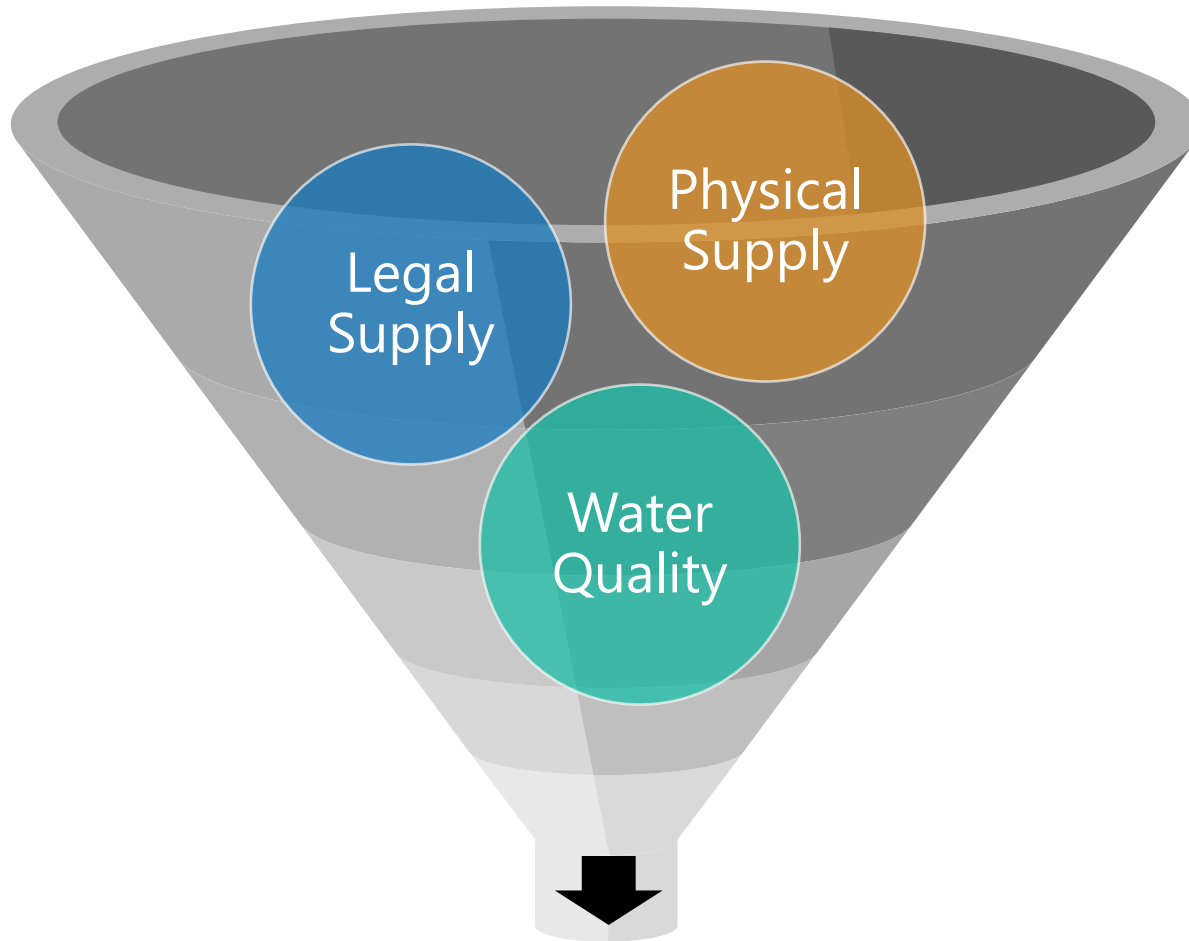
Groundwater

1. Iron
2. Manganese
3. Nitrate
4. Conductivity
5. Arsenic

Subject to potential modification as analyses are completed

....

Identification of Focus Basins



FOCUS BASINS

Example from OCWP 2012



Figure 1.1 Hot Spot Basins

OCWP Water Management Strategies: the Response

Tier 1: Effectiveness in Each Basin

Demand Management

Agriculture Options

Water Transfers

Surface Water

Increase Reliance on Groundwater

Stormwater Capture and Use

Water Reuse

Tier 2: Application in Focus Basins

Additional Wells

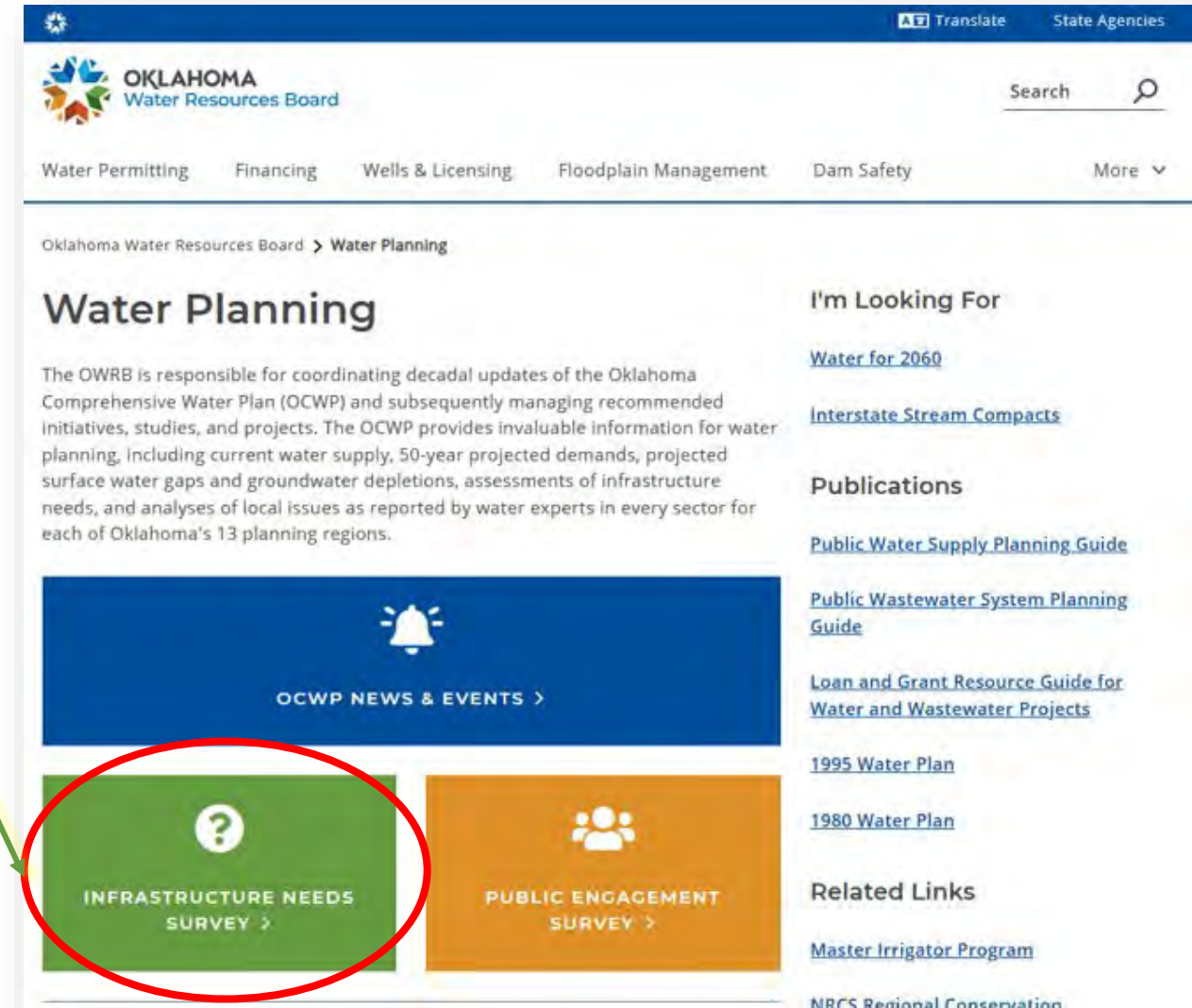
Brackish Groundwater

Artificial Aquifer Recharge and Recovery

.....

Provider data utilized to estimate infrastructure needs

Launches the OCWP
LPP Data Collection
Form for Water
Providers



....

Round 1 regional meeting recap – statewide comments



Round 1 regional meeting recap

Permitting / Regulations / Policy

- Water use metering and/or more broadly reporting and accuracy
- Flexible regulations that adapt to changing technologies and conditions
- Connection of surface water and groundwater
- Enforcement of existing rules
- Coordination between agencies/groups to eliminate or reduce number of unidentified wells
- Better coordination between agencies on granting water permits
- Well spacing, property line setback, noncontiguous land dedication

Infrastructure Improvements and Funding / Financing

- Concern about how to pay for upgrades to meet future regulations
- Improve access to and/or knowledge of funding opportunities, especially in small communities
- Difficulty in raising water rates – need help education the general public and boards about the true cost of water
- How do we get more money to producers for infrastructure?
- Connection between water and economic development/ vitality of communities
- Difficulty providing matching funds for existing programs

Collaboration and Partnership

- Informal collaboration between water systems is already happening
- Partnerships between state and tribal nations, economic development, private partners, and local communities
- Partnerships between urban and rural areas and with all water users for bigger impact and region improvement
- Would forming an irrigation district benefit folks?
- What support is available and/or needed to form an irrigation district or other local group?

Round 2 regional meeting – Breakout Sessions

Permitting / Regulations / Policy

- *Changes in permitting and spacing rules*
- *Enhanced enforcement of existing rules*
- *Water management districts and/or irrigation districts*
- *General discussion*

Collaboration / Partnership

- *Regional water planning*
- *Regionalization*
- *Encouraging best water management practices*
- *Water management districts and/or irrigation districts*
- *General discussion*

Funding / Financing

- *Changes to existing funding / financing programs*
- *Ideas for new funding / financing programs*
- *General discussion*

.....
03

Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1 – Permitting / Regulations / Policy

Breakout 2 – Collaboration / Partnership

Breakout 3 – Funding / Financing

2:00 pm

80 minutes

.....
04

Breakout session reports

3:30 pm

20 minutes

Breakout Session Reports

Permitting / Regulations / Policy

- *Changes in permitting and spacing rules*
- *Enhanced enforcement of existing rules*
- *Water management districts and/or irrigation districts*
- *General discussion*

Collaboration / Partnership

- *Regional water planning*
- *Regionalization*
- *Encouraging best water management practices*
- *Water management districts and/or irrigation districts*
- *General discussion*

Funding / Financing

- *Existing funding / financing programs*
- *New funding / financing programs*
- *General discussion*



.....
05

Look-ahead

3:50 pm

10 minutes

....

Future rounds of regional meetings



Follow up on
today's
conversations



Explore other
priority topics



Present data and
findings from
technical studies



Discuss
recommendations
to include in the
OCWP

LPP Data Collection Form

Launches the OCWP
LPP Data Collection
Form for Water
Providers



....

Provide feedback to us

- Which types of studies or data are most needed?
- Topics of priority to you



Owen Mills | Director of Water Planning
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
405.530.8904 Office | 405.421.4127 Cell
Owen.Mills@owrb.ok.gov

APPENDIX B HANDOUTS

- Breakout Questionnaire
- Fact Sheets:
 - Permitting/Policy/Regulations
 - Funding/Financing
 - Collaboration/Partnership

APPENDIX B.1 BREAKOUT QUESTIONNAIRE



COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP

1. Regional water planning.
- a. How might shared collaborative planning improve your water supply future?

b. If industry, towns, farmers, tribes, RWDs, that depend on a common water source(s) collectively planned, lobbied, sought grants, and shared resources for water needs, how might their water future improve?

c. How can state-level and regional-level planning support each other?
2. Regionalization.
- a. How might shared collaborative use of common supply sources or conveyance/ treatment infrastructure improve your water supply future?

b. Would additional interconnections between public water supply systems be effective? Practical?

c. What are the risks or downsides of collaborative planning and additional interconnections? How do we overcome or address these challenges?

d. How might the state support regionalization? For example, meeting facilitation, technical assistance, funding, etc.
3. Encouraging best water management practices (BMPs).
- a. What water management practices should be encouraged?

b. What types of water uses should be prioritized – if any?

c. What types of incentives would be most effective?

d. What would be ineffective?
4. Water Management Districts and/or Irrigation Districts.
- a. What can be gained or lost through a local water cooperative and local control?

b. What if towns, industries, producers, and others managed water together?

c. How could local management be paid for and managed?
5. General discussion.
- a. How would these changes and ideas be implemented?

b. What are the key challenges with implementing these ideas, and how could we address them?

c. Who would take the lead on proposing and implementing these ideas?



Regional Meetings
Round 2
DECEMBER 2023

- December 5, 1:00 pm
- Panhandle State University,
Student Union Ballroom

Goodwell, OK
- December 11, 1:00 pm
- Cameron University,
McMahon Centennial
Complex, McAsland Ballroom

Lawton, OK
- December 12, 1:00 pm
- Kiamichi Technology Center,
Conference Room A/B

Talihina, OK
- December 13, 1:00 pm
- Chota Center

Tahlequah, OK
- December 14, 1:00 pm
- Francis Tuttle Technology
Center - Portland Campus

Oklahoma City, OK
- December 14, 9:00 am
- Virtual 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Breakout
Session Topics

- Funding / Financing

➤ Permitting / Regulations / Policy

➤ Collaboration / Partnership



OCWP Regional Meeting 2
Breakout Session Feedback Form



FUNDING / FINANCING

1. Changes to existing funding/financing programs.

- a. Which programs are you familiar with or have you used?
- b. Why did you use (or choose not to use) these programs?
- c. What worked well?
- d. What could be improved?
- e. What “gaps” are there in existing state and federal programs? Is it a dollar gap (insufficient funds to meet needs), a gap in eligible entities, a gap in eligible project types, or something else?

2. Ideas for new funding/financing programs.

- a. Is a new funding/financing program needed or does it make more sense to expand/modify existing programs?
- b. Should a funding program require or incentivize best water management practices? e.g., certain “effective utility management” practices like having an approved water conservation plan or drought response plan?
- c. Frequently more priority points are awarded to entities that have permit violations (to help bring them back into compliance). Should we consider switching the narrative to balancing how priority points are given (for example, points given to entities that are proactively addressing projects prior to having permit violations)?
- d. Should we consider a state-local match program? If so, what is the minimum state match that would be needed to incentivize use of best water management practices? For example, in some states and depending on the type of project, the state matches between 10-75% for water related projects.
- e. Should any cost-share program (were it to be enacted) be contingent on a cost/benefit analysis to determine if a project warrants funding?

3. General discussion.

- a. How would these changes and ideas be implemented?
- b. What are the key challenges with implementing these ideas, and how could we address them?
- c. Who would take the lead on proposing and implementing these ideas?



PERMITTING / REGULATIONS / POLICY

1. Change in permitting & spacing rules.

- a. Should there be a setback/buffer from your neighbors’ property lines?
- b. Should groundwater be able to be used on land that is noncontiguous to the dedicated land that it was withdrawn from?
- c. Should groundwater metering be mandated and enforced? If so, how should it be implemented?
- d. Should surface water metering be mandated and enforced? If so, how should it be implemented?

2. Enhanced enforcement of existing rules.

- a. What policies or rules require more enforcement?
- b. What does more enforcement look like?
- c. Would local management make more sense?
- d. Should it vary by region?
- e. Can you manage what you don’t measure? If so, how?

3. Water Management Districts and/or Irrigation Districts.

- a. What can be gained or lost through a local water cooperative and local control?
- b. What if towns, industries, producers, and others managed water together?
- c. How could local management be paid for and managed?

4. General discussion.

- a. How would these changes and ideas be implemented?
- b. What are the key challenges with implementing these ideas, and how could we address them?
- c. Who would take the lead on proposing and implementing these ideas?

APPENDIX B.2

FACT SHEETS: PERMITTING / POLICY / REGULATIONS

Maximum Annual Yield Determinations

OWRB FACT SHEET

Groundwater in Oklahoma belongs to the land surface owner and may be used subject to reasonable regulation by the OWRB. State law provides for the OWRB to conduct hydrologic investigations of “groundwater basins” (distinct underground bodies of water under contiguous land having substantially the same geological and hydrological characteristics and yield capabilities) and to determine amounts of water permitted users may withdraw. The maximum annual yield (MAY) of a groundwater basin is a term used to describe the total amount of fresh groundwater that can be withdrawn while allowing a minimum 20-year life of the basin. Once the MAY has been established, the amount of water allocated to each permit applicant will be proportionate to the amount of land owned or leased by that applicant. This is referred to as the landowner’s “equal proportionate share.”

Certain factors must be considered in the determination of the MAY of a major groundwater basin: total land area overlying the basin, the amount of water in storage in the basin, the rate of recharge to the basin and total discharge from the basin, transmissivity of the basin, and the possibility of pollution from natural sources. Furthermore, for a sensitive sole source groundwater basin, the MAY will ensure that the natural flow of water from springs or streams emanating from the basin will not be reduced.

Hydrologic Investigation

The first step in determining the MAY of a major groundwater basin is to conduct a hydrologic investigation, which is usually performed by the OWRB or an outside expert agency or institution such as the U.S. Geological Survey. To obtain the necessary information to evaluate the MAY, hydrologists require information on the geology and the hydrogeologic framework. Hydrologic information on precipitation, evaporation, surface water runoff, water level, and geochemical data are used to analyze the movement of groundwater through the system. Many investigations entail the construction of a digital groundwater flow model to evaluate impacts of water withdrawals on the aquifer.

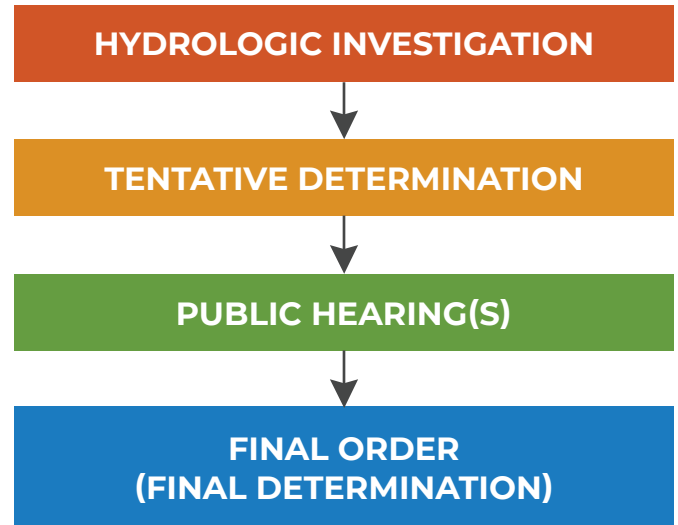
Tentative Determination

After a hydrologic investigation is complete, the OWRB makes a tentative determination of the MAY of the basin.

Public Hearing

Results of the investigation are made available for public review and one or more hearings are scheduled so that

MAY Determination Process



citizens can present evidence supporting or contradicting the evidence behind the tentative determination.

Final Order

Following the hearings, the OWRB issues a “final order” containing findings of fact and conclusions of law. Thereafter, based on the newly calculated equal proportionate share, regular permits are issued to holders of existing temporary permits and to applicants for new permits.

At least every 20 years after issuance of the final order determining the MAY, the OWRB is required to review and update the hydrologic investigations, if necessary.

Equal proportionate shares have yet to be determined on many major groundwater basins in the state. For those aquifers, “temporary” permits are granted to users allocating two acre-feet of water per acre of land per year for one year at a time and must be revalidated annually.

A [map showing groundwater basins with a final order](#) and more information on hydrologic investigations can be found on the [OWRB website](#).



OKLAHOMA
Water Resources Board
(405) 530-8800 · www.oklahoma.gov/owrb

Water Permitting

OWRB FACT SHEET

As the state's designated water management agency, the OWRB appropriates stream water and groundwater through water use permitting. Permits must be obtained from the OWRB for all uses of water in Oklahoma except domestic use. Domestic use includes the use of water for household purposes, farm and domestic animals up to the normal grazing capacity of the land, and the irrigation of land not exceeding a total of three acres in area for the growing of gardens, orchards, and lawns. Domestic use also includes water used for agricultural purposes by natural individuals, use for fire protection, and use by non-household entities for drinking water, restrooms, and watering of lawns, provided such uses do not exceed five acre-feet per year.

Applying for a Long-term Water Use Permit

To apply for a long-term permit to use water, you must submit a [Long-Term Application for Groundwater or Surface Water Use](#) to the OWRB. Applications must include the appropriate filing fee and documents showing an interest in the surface of the land dedicated or ownership of groundwater rights (for groundwater permits). Other documentation may be required. Applications requiring review, corrections, and public notice may have a processing time of four months or longer.

90-Day Provisional Temporary Permits

90-Day Provisional Temporary (PT) permit applications to use groundwater and surface water may be submitted online using the OWRB's [Online Provisional Temporary Permitting System](#). All PT permit applications must be submitted with either proof of ownership or written permission from the landowner to access the diversion points of stream water or to access wells and use groundwater.

Water Permit Fees

Fees vary by type of permit and amount of water requested. Long-term applications and some groundwater permit amendments use a sliding scale based upon the amount of water being requested to determine the fee. The fee for 90-Day Provisional Temporary permits is \$200 for regular processing or \$300 for expedited processing.

Water Use Reporting

The OWRB mails water use reporting forms to permit holders annually in January. The forms must be completed

and returned to the OWRB within the specified time period. Willful failure to complete and return the reporting forms with the annual water right administration fee may be considered by the OWRB as nonuse of water under the permit. Timely filing of water use forms and administrative fees will help ensure that a water right is official and on file with the OWRB. Additionally, for temporary groundwater basin permits, submittal of the completed form and fee payment will revalidate the permit for another year. For stream water right holders, the water use report forms reflect actual usage as compared to the appropriation amounts, and no reported use within the seven-year sliding scale or applicable schedule of use may be cause for reduction or cancellation of the water right.

The OWRB sends water use reporting forms to the most recent contact associated with a permit until notification is given of an ownership change.

Well Spacing Restrictions

Well spacing restrictions are in place for some groundwater basins, typically 660 feet for alluvial aquifers and 1,320 feet for bedrock aquifers. Additional restrictions apply within sole source groundwater basins.

Self-supplying Water to Grow Marijuana or Hemp

If you are self-supplying your own water from a groundwater well or surface water source to grow marijuana or hemp (i.e., not purchasing water from a municipality, rural water district, or other entity) a water use permit is required prior to using water. If the water use permit holder is growing medical marijuana or industrial hemp, a copy of their license from the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, and/or Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry must be submitted to the OWRB. The associated water use permit number must be clearly identified in some manner (such as through a cover letter).

More information can be found on the [OWRB website](#). Contact a permitting specialist to request an appointment at waterpermitting@owrb.ok.gov.



OKLAHOMA
Water Resources Board
(405) 530-8800 • www.oklahoma.gov/owrb

APPENDIX B.3

FACT SHEETS: FUNDING / FINANCING

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION

Loan and Grant Resource Guide

January 2020

Includes potential funding sources for water and wastewater projects.

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

OKLAHOMA COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT

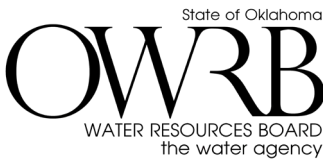
COMMUNITIES UNLIMITED

OKLAHOMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

OWRB
the water agency

January 2020

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD



3800 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone (405) 530-8800
Fax (405) 530-8898
www.owrb.ok.gov

The Financial Assistance Division of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is dedicated to assisting communities and rural water districts in maintaining adequate water and wastewater facilities. We are pleased to provide this booklet as a tool for identifying potential funding sources for water, wastewater, stormwater, and water quality projects. The following pages will help you identify funding sources, the type of funding they provide, and relevant contact information.

The following guide is for informational purposes only. It is not an endorsement by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board of any of the programs of other agencies or groups. Any information contained herein is subject to change at the discretion of the respective agency. The respective agency should be contacted to verify program information. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board cannot be held responsible for potential changes.

We look forward to assisting you with your future projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Freeman".

Joe Freeman, Chief
Financial Assistance Division

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OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Emergency Grants

Contact	Jerri Hargis, Projects & Operations Manager
Address	Financial Assistance Division Oklahoma Water Resources Board 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Website	www.owrb.ok.gov/financing
Phone Number	(405) 530-8800
Fax Number	(405) 530-8898
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Up to \$100,000; 15% local contribution required
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Counties, towns, municipalities, public works authorities, rural water districts, water conservancy districts, rural sewage districts, irrigation districts, and school districts.
Eligible Projects	Water supply reservoirs, rural water and sewer systems, water supply or distribution lines, water or wastewater treatment, wastewater collection systems, and related water or wastewater projects.
Other Information	Point-based program designed to assist in emergency situations – defined as a life, health, or property threatening situation. Point-based system is based on degree of emergency, utility rates, community’s ability to finance the project, etc.

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grants

Contact	Jerri Hargis, Projects & Operations Manager
Address	Financial Assistance Division Oklahoma Water Resources Board 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Website	www.owrb.ok.gov/financing
Phone Number	(405) 530-8800
Fax Number	(405) 530-8898
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Up to \$150,000; no match requirement
Deadline	September 1, each year
Eligible Applicants	Cities, towns, and unincorporated areas with populations of 7,000 or less with priority given to communities of less than 1,750 or unincorporated areas less than 525 taps.
Eligible Projects	Sewer line construction or repair, storm or sanitary sewer projects, water line construction or repair, water treatment systems, water acquisition, water distribution or recovery systems, and other water or wastewater projects.

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (CWSRF)

Contact	Lori Johnson, Assistant Chief
Address	Financial Assistance Division Oklahoma Water Resources Board 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Website	www.owrb.ok.gov/financing
Phone Number	(405) 530-8800
Fax Number	(405) 530-8898
Type of Funding	Loan
Available Funding	Contact agency
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Counties, towns, municipalities, public works authorities, rural water districts, water conservancy districts, rural sewage districts, irrigation districts, and school districts.
Eligible Projects	Project planning and design; construction of new wastewater facilities or the replacement or rehabilitation of existing facilities for primary, secondary, and advanced treatment; inflow and infiltration (I&I) correction; collector and interceptor sewers; combined sewer overflow correction, and related wastewater projects; nonpoint source projects; green infrastructure; water/energy efficiency projects; brownfields, and related stormwater pollution control projects, and source water protection.
Other Information	Up to 30-year term. Interest rate of approximately 60% of AAA market rate with 40% savings through interest subsidy.
Loan Forgiveness	Contact Agency



OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (DWSRF) *co-administered with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality*

Contact	Joe Freeman, Chief
Address	Financial Assistance Division Oklahoma Water Resources Board 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Website	www.owrb.ok.gov/financing
Phone Number	(405) 530-8800
Fax Number	(405) 530-8898
Type of Funding	Loan
Available Funding	Contact agency
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Counties, towns, municipalities, public works authorities, rural water districts, and water conservancy districts.
Eligible Projects	Water projects that include new construction, expansion and rehabilitation of water facilities for drinking water treatment, supply, distribution, and storage. Refinancing of existing debt obligations for such projects.
Other Information	Projects are ranked on a priority rating system to address those systems with the most serious risk to human health. Applications are referred to OWRB through ODEQ with OWRB serving as financial administrator for the co-managing of this program. Up to 30-year term. Interest rate of approximately 70% of AAA market rate with 30% savings through interest subsidy.
Loan Forgiveness	Contact Agency



OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Financial Assistance Loan Program

Contact	Joe Freeman, Chief
Address	Financial Assistance Division Oklahoma Water Resources Board 3800 N. Classen Blvd. Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Website	www.owrb.ok.gov/financing
Phone Number	(405) 530-8800
Fax Number	(405) 530-8898
Type of Funding	Loan
Available Funding	Contact agency
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Counties, towns, municipalities, public works authorities, rural water districts, water conservancy districts, rural sewage districts, irrigation districts, and school districts.
Eligible Projects	Water/wastewater facility expansion, replacement, improvement, and/or repair; dams, reservoirs, and other water storage projects; floodplain restoration and stream bank stabilization; storm sewer and drainage improvements; and refinancing of existing debt obligations for such projects.
Other Information	Up to 30-year term. Low interest rate based on the OWRB's AAA credit rating. No reserve requirement when: debt coverage ratio is 1.4x or higher, applicant obtains a minimum rating requirement of at least A- up to 18 months prior to loan issuance, or cash reserve is met.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (DWSRF)
co-administered with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Contact	Eddie Rhandour, P.E., DWSRF Engineering Manager Water Quality Division Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
Street Address	707 N Robinson Oklahoma City, OK 73102
Mailing Address	P. O. Box 1677 Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
Website	www.deq.state.ok.us
Phone Number	(405) 702-8100
Fax Number	(405) 702-8101
Type of Funding	Loan
Available Funding	Contact agency
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Counties, towns, municipalities, public works authorities, rural water districts, and water conservancy districts.
Eligible Projects	Water projects that include new construction, expansion and rehabilitation of water facilities for drinking water treatment, supply, distribution, and storage. Refinancing of existing debt obligations for such projects.
Other Information	Projects are ranked on a priority rating system to address those systems with the most serious risk to human health. Applications are referred to OWRB through ODEQ with OWRB serving as financial administrator for the co-managing of this program. Up to 30-year term. Interest rate of approximately 70% of AAA market rate with 30% savings through interest subsidy.
Loan Forgiveness	Contact Agency

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Community Development Block Grants Economic Development Infrastructure Financing (EDIF)

Contact	Marshall Vogts, Director
Address	Community Development Oklahoma Department of Commerce 900 N. Stiles Oklahoma City, OK 73104
Website	www.okcommerce.gov
Phone Number	(405) 815-6552 or Toll-Free at (405) 879-6552
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	See ODOC website
Deadline	See ODOC website
Eligible Applicants	Units of general local government (incorporated towns, cities, and counties)
Eligible Projects	Water and wastewater, transportation improvements, rehabilitation and new construction of publicly owned industrial buildings.
Other Information	Publicly owned and maintained improvements that will provide basic infrastructure services to a new or expanding business.

Community Development Block Grants Water/Wastewater Engineering

Contact	Marshall Vogts, Director
Address	Community Development Oklahoma Department of Commerce 900 N. Stiles Oklahoma City, OK 73104
Website	www.okcommerce.gov
Phone Number	(405) 815-6552 or Toll-Free at (405) 879-6552
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	See ODOC website
Deadline	See ODOC website
Eligible Applicants	Units of general local government (incorporated towns, cities, and counties)
Eligible Projects	Water/Sewer Phase 1 Engineering: CDBG funds utilized for engineering costs associated with developing the W/S project and securing the ODEQ construction permit. Once permitted, ODOC will automatically provide the remaining grant portion for construction.

Community Development Block Grants
Water/Wastewater Construction

Contact	Marshall Vogts, Director
Address	Division of Community Affairs and Development Oklahoma Department of Commerce 900 N. Stiles Oklahoma City, OK 73104
Website	www.okcommerce.gov
Phone Number	(405) 815-6552 or Toll-Free: (405) 879-6552
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	See ODOC website
Deadline	See ODOC website
Eligible Applicants	Units of general local government (incorporated towns, cities, and counties)
Eligible Projects	Water/Wastewater Construction: This program is for applicants that are ready to begin construction on a water or wastewater project. Eligible units of local government that provide documentation of final plans and specifications or a construction permit secured through the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) may apply under this category. CDBG funds may only be utilized for construction, inspection, and administration costs. Engineering costs are prohibited.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WaterSMART Grants Water & Energy Efficiency

Contact	Collins Balcombe, Planning & Project Development Manager
Address	Oklahoma-Texas Area Office 5316 Hwy 290 W. Ste 110 Austin, TX 78735
Email	cbalcombe@usbr.gov
Website	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/index.html
Phone Number	(512) 899-4162
Type of Funding	Grant, federal share not to exceed 50% of total project cost.
Available Funding	Up to \$300 thousand per project (2-year project) or \$1.5 million per project (3-year project).
Deadline	See USBR website
Eligible Applicants	States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, other organizations with water and power delivery authority.
Eligible Projects	Projects that conserve and use water more efficiently, such as canal lining/piping; municipal metering; irrigation flow measurement, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Irrigation Measures; and hydropower projects that are related to water management and delivery.
Other Information	Grants are competitive. Funding solicitations are announced once per year depending on appropriations. The projects aim to improve water supply reliability, reduce competition for water supplies, improve sustainability, reduce environmental impacts, and improve energy and hydropower efficiency.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

WaterSMART Grants Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Contact	Collins Balcombe, Planning & Project Development Manager
Address	Oklahoma-Texas Area Office 5316 Hwy 290 W. Ste 110 Austin, TX 78735
Email	cbalcombe@usbr.gov
Website	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html
Phone Number	(512) 899-4162
Type of Funding	Grant, federal share not to exceed 50% of total project cost.
Available Funding	Up to \$75,000 per project. Total project construction costs shall be no more than approximately \$150,000 - \$200,000.
Deadline	See USBR website
Eligible Applicants	States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts or other organizations with water or power delivery authority.
Eligible Projects	Small-scale on-the-ground water efficiency projects which seek to implement work identified in an applicant's water planning efforts. Example projects include, but are not limited to: Canal Lining/Piping, Municipal Metering, Irrigation Flow Measurement, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Automation, and Irrigation Measures.
Other Information	Grants are competitive. Funding solicitations are announced once per year depending on appropriations. These projects have been prioritized through planning efforts led by the applicant and are generally in the final design stage environmental and cultural resources compliance has been initiated or already completed, and the non-Federal funding, necessary permits, and other require approvals have been secured.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Title XVI & Desalination WINN Act Programs

Contact	Collins Balcombe, Planning & Project Development Manager
Address	Oklahoma-Texas Area Office 5316 Hwy 290 W. Ste 110 Austin, TX 78735
Email	cbalcombe@usbr.gov
Website	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/title/index.html
Phone Number	(512) 899-4162
Type of Funding	Grant, federal share not to exceed 25% of total project cost.
Available Funding	Up to \$20 million per project.
Deadline	See USBR website
Eligible Applicants	States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States are eligible to apply under the program. Applicants must have a completed Title XVI Feasibility Study that Reclamation has reviewed and found to meet all requirements of Reclamation Manual Release WTR 11-01.
Eligible Projects	Research, planning, design, and/or construction of activities supporting a project that involves the treatment of an impaired water source for beneficial use purposes. Impaired source water may include treated effluent emanating from agriculture, municipal, or industrial operations; storm water, or other sources impaired by naturally occurring contaminants such as radionuclides, heavy metals, etc. Beneficial uses may include potable water or non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation. Desalination activities include planning, design, and/or construction of an ocean or brackish water desalination project.
Other Information	Grants are competitive. Funding solicitations are announced once per year depending on appropriations. Prior to the enactment of WINN, funding for water recycling project construction could only be provided for congressionally authorized Title XVI projects. The WINN amendments now provide Reclamation with blanket authority to fund any new eligible "WINN Title XVI Project".

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Drought Response Program Resiliency Projects

Contact	Collins Balcombe, Planning & Project Development Manager
Address	Oklahoma-Texas Area Office 5316 Hwy 290 W. Ste 110 Austin, TX 78735
Email	cbalcombe@usbr.gov
Website	https://www.usbr.gov/drought/
Phone Number	(512) 899-4162
Type of Funding	Grant, federal share not to exceed 50% of total project cost.
Available Funding	Up to \$300K per project (2-year project) or \$750K per project (3-year project).
Deadline	See USBR website
Eligible Applicants	States, Indian tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the Western U.S.
Eligible Projects	Types of projects include (but are not limited to) infrastructure improvements and system modifications; storing water and/or recharging groundwater supplies; developing projects that provide protection for fish, wildlife, and the environment.
Other Information	Grants are competitive. Funding solicitations are announced once per year depending on appropriations. Drought Resiliency Projects increase water management flexibility, make water supply more resilient and helps prepare for and address the impacts of drought. Proposals submitted must demonstrate that the proposed project is supported by an existing drought planning effort.

U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program

Contact	Thomas Michalewicz, P.E., Civil Engineer
Address	Oklahoma-Texas Area Office 5316 Hwy 290 W. Ste 110 Austin, TX 78735
Email	tmichalewicz@usbr.gov
Website	https://www.usbr.gov/native/programs/techasst_activities_tap.html
Phone Number	(512) 899-4166
Type of Funding	Grant or Cooperative Agreement; up to 100% federal share.
Available Funding	Contact agency
Deadline	See USBR website
Eligible Applicants	Federally-recognized Indian Tribes
Eligible Projects	Water needs assessments; water management studies; short term water quality data collection and assessments; short term water measurement data collection and assessment; training for tribal staff in areas of water resources' development, management and protection; minor rehabilitation of existing tribal owned, water related structures and facilities; minor infrastructure installation projects such as efficient landscape irrigation or domestic/stock wells; minor projects related to riparian or aquatic habitat with the goal to maintain or improve water quantity or water quality; developing basin plans.
Other Information	Grants are competitive. Funding solicitations are announced once per year depending on appropriations. Projects submitted for the Native American Affairs Technical Assistance Program may be performed by Reclamation staff in collaboration with the tribes, by other Federal entities, or by the Indian tribe and their representative.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Pre-Development Planning Grants

Contact	Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director
Address	3001 Azalea Park Drive, Suite 3 Muskogee, OK 74401
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(918) 913-3209
Fax Number	(855) 423-4048
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Annual Appropriation
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Public bodies, nonprofit corporations, and tribal governments and towns of up to 10,000 people and all rural areas.
Eligible Projects	Assist applicants, without resources, in paying costs, such as engineering or environmental reports, associated with developing a complete application for a proposed water or wastewater project.

Emergency & Imminent Community Water Assistance Grants

Contact	Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director
Address	3001 Azalea Park Drive, Suite 3 Muskogee, OK 74401
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(918) 913-3209
Fax Number	(855) 423-4048
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Annual Appropriation
Eligible Projects	Assist eligible applicants who have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of water, or in which such a decline is considered imminent, to obtain or maintain adequate quantities of water that meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Public bodies, nonprofit corporations, and tribal governments in towns of up to 10,000 people and all rural areas.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Native American Section 306C Water and Waste Grants

Contact	Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director
Address	3001 Azalea Park Drive, Suite 3 Muskogee, OK 74401
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(918) 913-3209
Fax Number	(855) 423-4048
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Annual Appropriation
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Federally-recognized Native American tribes or public bodies and nonprofit organizations where 50 percent of those served are tribal members.
Eligible Projects	Assist eligible applicants in developing or improving public water or wastewater facilities.

Rural Economic Development Zero-Interest Loans

Contact	Brian Wiles, Business & Cooperative Programs Director
Address	100 USDA, Ste 108 Stillwater, OK 74074
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(405) 742-1061
Fax Number	(855) 423-4044
Type of Funding	Zero-Interest Loan
Available Funding	Maximum \$740,000
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Eligible electric and telecommunications utilities.
Eligible Projects	Applicant provides zero interest loan to public or private projects for rural economic development and job creation, infrastructure, and community development projects.
Other Information	Funding selections are made monthly. Loans are evaluated on a point system.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Technical Assistance and Training Grants

Contact	Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director
Address	3001 Azalea Park Drive, Suite 3 Muskogee, OK 74401
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(918) 913-3209
Fax Number	(855) 423-4048
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Annual Appropriation
Deadline	Between October 1 and December 31 each year
Eligible Applicants	Private non-profit organizations
Eligible Projects	Training and technical assistance programs designed to enhance the operation and maintenance of water and waste disposal facilities under 10,000 population. Projects must be cost-effective. Priority given to projects completed within one year.

Solid Waste Management Grants

Contact	Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director
Address	3001 Azalea Park Drive, Suite 3 Muskogee, OK 74401
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(918) 913-3209
Fax Number	(855) 423-4048
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Up to 100 % of eligible project costs
Deadline	Between October 1 and December 31 each year
Eligible Applicants	Nonprofit organizations and cooperatives, local governments, and Indian tribes
Eligible Projects	Evaluation of landfill conditions to determine threats to water resources. Providing technical assistance and/or training to help communities under 10,000 population reduce solid waste stream; enhance operator skill; and assist operators of landfills that are closed, or will soon be closed, with the development and implementation of plans for closing and future land use.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Water and Waste Disposal Loans and Grants

Contact	Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director
Address	3001 Azalea Park Drive, Suite 3 Muskogee, OK 74401
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(918) 913-3209
Fax Number	(855) 423-4048
Type of Funding	Loan, Grant
Available Funding	Annual Appropriation
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Public bodies, nonprofit corporations, and tribal governments in towns of up to 10,000 people and all rural areas.
Eligible Projects	Construction, installation, repair, improvement, and expansion of community water, wastewater, solid waste, and storm sewer systems including acquisition of land, water rights, legal fees, or engineering.

Guaranteed Water and Wastewater Loans

Contact	Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director
Address	3001 Azalea Park Drive, Suite 3 Muskogee, OK 74401
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(918) 913-3209
Fax Number	(855) 423-4048
Type of Funding	Guaranteed Loan to an eligible lender
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Nonprofit organizations, public bodies, and Indian tribes in towns where the population does not exceed 10,000 and all rural areas.
Eligible Projects	Construction, installation, repair, improvement and expansion of community water, wastewater, solid waste, and storm sewer systems including acquisition of land, water rights, legal fees, or engineering.
Other Information	Loan made by lenders, such as banks, and savings and loan associations directly to applicant. RD provides up to 90% guarantee to lender on loss of interest and principal on loan. Rates and terms are negotiated between the lender and borrower.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant Mitigation Assistance

Contact	Ronnie Jones, Community Programs Director
Address	3001 Azalea Park Drive, Suite 3 Muskogee, OK 74401
Website	www.rd.usda.gov/ok
Phone Number	(918) 913-3209
Fax Number	(855) 423-4048
Type of Funding	Loan, Grant
Available Funding	Annual Appropriation
Deadline	Ongoing
Eligible Applicants	Public bodies, nonprofit corporations, and tribal governments in towns of up to 10,000 people and all rural areas.
Program Description	Assist eligible applicants who have experienced a significant decline in quantity or quality of water, or in which such a decline is considered imminent, to obtain or maintain adequate quantities of water that meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards.
Cost Share	No cost share required

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Public Works and Development Facilities Grant Program

Contact	Jessica Falk, Area Director
Address	EDA Austin Regional Office 903 San Jacinto, Suite 206 Austin, TX 78701-2858
Website	www.eda.gov
Phone Number	(512) 381-8150
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Average Grant: \$886,031
Deadline	Published in Federal Register
Eligible Applicants	State, political subdivision of a state, Indian tribe, special-purpose unit of state and local government, or a nonprofit organization.
Eligible Projects	Water and sewer facilities primarily serving industry and commerce; access roads to industrial parks or sites; port improvements; and business incubator facilities. Proposed projects must be located within an EDA-designated Redevelopment Area (RA) or Economic Development District.
Other Information	Grants are provided to help distressed communities attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and generate long-term, private sector jobs.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Clean Water Act Indian Set-Aside Grant Program (CWISA)

Contact	Salvador Gandara, Regional CWISA Coordinator
Address	Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, Water Division Mail Code: 6WD-AI 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75270-2102
Email	gandara.salvador@epa.gov
Phone Number	(214) 665-3194
Fax Number	(214) 665-6490
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Up to 100% of project costs (no grant match required).
Eligible Applicants	Federally-recognized Indian Tribes.
Eligible Projects	Planning, design, and construction of wastewater projects including interceptor sewers, conventional or alternative wastewater treatment facilities, infiltration or inflow correction, collection sewers, major sewer rehabilitation, and on-site treatment (e.g., septic) systems.
Other Information	To be eligible for this grant, tribes must first identify their needs to the Indian Health Service (IHS) Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS), which has five deficiency levels ranging from communities that need only routine maintenance to those lacking adequate wastewater facilities. Once eligibility is determined, projects are ranked in the SDS based on eight factors: health impact, existing deficiency level, previous service, capital cost, O&M capability, contributions, local tribal priority, and local conditions.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Small & Disadvantaged Communities Drinking Water Grant

Contact	See below
Website	www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-assistance-small-and-disadvantaged-communities-drinking-water-grant
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	States, as the receiving entity, are required to provide the 45% cost share. States may require some cost share from the communities receiving the assistance; however, consideration should be given to the fact that the purpose of this program is to assist communities with limited financial capacity.
Eligible Applicants	ODEQ applies for the grant with a work plan of eligible projects.
Eligible Projects	Drinking Water Projects
Other Information	Some examples are meter replacements, water testing (QAPP required) construction projects (NEPA required), planning and design projects, and contracts. Once eligibility is determined, the ODEQ contact for the Grant, ranks the projects based on factors of the small and disadvantage communities.

Contact Information

Anisa Pjetrovic, Region 6 Coordinator

Environmental Protection Agency

Region 6, Water Division

Mail Code: 6WD-AI

1201 Elm Street, Suite 500

Dallas, Tx 75270-2102

Phone: (214) 665-3103

Email: pjetrovic.anisa@epa.gov

Brandon D. Bowman, Environmental Programs Manager

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 1667, 707 North Robinson, 8th Floor

Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677

Phone: (405) 702-8270

Fax: (405) 702-8101

Email: brandon.bowman@deq.ok.gov

Website: www.deq.state.ok.us

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside Grant Program

Contact	Salvador Gandara, Tribal Set-Aside Coordinator
Address	Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, Water Division Mail Code: 6WD-AI 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75270-2102
Email	gandara.salvador@epa.gov
Website	www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/allotments/tribes/
Phone Number	(214) 665-3194
Fax Number	(214) 665-6490
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Up to 100% of allowable project costs (No grant match required)
Eligible Applicants	Federally recognized Indian tribes.
Eligible Projects	Planning, design, and construction of drinking water treatment facilities including Disinfection, water storage / transmission / distribution, source water rehabilitation, and consolidation of water supplies.
Other Information	To be eligible for this grant, tribes must first identify their DW needs on an "EPA Notice of Intent" Form and submit their proposals to EPA. Funds for these projects are based on a Region 6 Priority Ranking System generated from using accumulated data from EPA compliance files, IHS's Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) reports and tribal input.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Lead Testing in Schools & Childcare Facilities Grant Program

Contact	See below
Website	https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-drinking-water-schools-and-childcare-facilities
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Lead Testing Funding (no grant match required)
Eligible Applicants	Schools and Childcare Facilities
Eligible Projects	Lead testing in schools and childcare facilities, outreach, education and training.
Other Information	To be eligible for this grant, the school/daycare must submit an application with a plumbing plan/facility plan and work with the State contact at ODEQ in developing a sampling plan. The school/daycare must identify a point of contact who will receive training to complete water sampling for fountains, hoses, tea kettles, faucets, and sources of drinking water. Once grant eligibility is determined, schools/daycares are ranked by ODEQ and the State contact based on factors which determine the level of lead risk within the entity's faucets, pipes, and solder.

Contact Information

Anisa Pjetrovic, Region 6 Coordinator Environmental Protection Agency

Region 6, Water Division

Mail Code: 6WD-AI

1201 Elm Street, Suite 500

Dallas, Tx 75270-2102

Phone: (214) 665-3103

Email: pjetrovic.anisa@epa.gov

Brandon D. Bowman, Environmental Programs Manager Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 1667, 707 North Robinson, 8th Floor

Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677

Phone: (405) 702-8270

Fax: (405) 702-8101

Email: brandon.bowman@deq.ok.gov

Website: www.deq.state.ok.us

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Water Infrastructure Finance & Innovation Act (WIFIA)

Contact	Michael Vaughn, Environmental Protection Specialist
Address	Environmental Protection Agency Region 6, Water Division Mail Code: WDAI 1201 Elm Street, Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75270-2102
Email	vaughn.michael@epa.gov
Website	www.epa.gov/wifia
Phone Number	(214) 665-7313
Type of Funding	The WIFIA program offers loans with low, fixed interest rates and flexible financial terms. Borrowers and their customers benefit from significant cost savings.
Available Funding	Congress provided \$55 million in budget authority for the WIFIA program in the “Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020,” (Appropriations Act) signed by the President on December 20, 2019.
Eligible Applicants	WIFIA assistance can go to any state and will be awarded competitively based on letters of interest received for eligible, creditworthy projects. In making awards, EPA will consider geographic diversity.
Eligible Projects	Clean Water SRF projects; Drinking Water SRF projects; enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities; brackish or seawater desalination, aquifer recharge, alternative water supply, and water recycling projects; etc.
Other Information	The WIFIA program accelerates investment in our nation’s water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Sanitation Facilities Construction Grant Program

Contact	Johnny B. Taylor, Director
Address	701 Market Drive Oklahoma City, OK 73114
Phone Number	(405) 951-3782
Fax Number	(405) 951-3932
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Annual Appropriation
Deadline	Applicant information may be provided anytime, but must be received by June 1 for consideration for funding for the following fiscal year. Applications must be received in time to include information in the IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) for the IHS budget request to Congress.
Eligible Applicants	Federally recognized tribal members; and based on a Native American Prorata share, town and water districts under 10,000 population.
Eligible Projects	Water/wastewater and solid waste facilities construction projects on an individual or community basis.

Emergency Funds Grant Program

Contact	Johnny B. Taylor, Director
Address	701 Market Drive Oklahoma City, OK 73114
Phone Number	(405) 951-3782
Fax Number	(405) 951-3932
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Annual Appropriation
Deadline	Applicant information may be provided anytime throughout the year.
Eligible Applicants	Federally recognized tribal members; and based on a Native American Prorata share, town and water districts under 10,000 population.
Eligible Projects	Water/wastewater and solid waste facilities construction projects on an individual or community basis.
Other Information	Lack of maintenance does not constitute an emergency.

OKLAHOMA COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT

Rural Economic Action Plan (REAP) Grants

Contact	Local Councils of Government (see below)
Type of Funding	Grant
Available Funding	Varies by Council of Government
Deadline	Funded yearly
Eligible Applicants	Towns, cities, unincorporated areas, or other qualified entities with populations less than 7,000
Eligible Projects	Projects include, but are not limited to, water/wastewater system improvements; solid waste disposal; road and street construction or improvement; health care services and/or emergency medical care; and construction or improvement of telecommunication facilities.
Other Information	REAP was created by the Oklahoma State Legislature to enable rural communities to maintain a standard of living imperative to business expansion. Priority is given to communities with populations less than 1,750 or to those with weakened fiscal capacities.

Oklahoma Councils of Government Contact Information

Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG)

Mark W. Sweeney, Executive Director

4205 North Lincoln Boulevard

Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Phone: (405) 234-2264

Fax: (405) 234-2200

Counties: Canadian, Cleveland, Logan, Oklahoma

Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG)

Ken Jones, Executive Director

P.O. Box 1647, 802 Main Street

Duncan, OK 73534-1647

Phone: (580) 736-7972 or 1 (800) 658-1466 ext. 244

Fax: (580) 252-6170

Counties: Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Grady, Jefferson, McClain, Stephens, Tillman

OKLAHOMA COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT

Central Oklahoma Economic Development District (COEDD)

David Hinkle, Executive Director

P.O. Box 3398, 400 N. Bell

Shawnee, OK 74802-3398

Phone: (405) 273-6410 or 1 (800) 375-8255

Fax: (405) 273-3213

Counties: Hughes, Lincoln, Okfuskee, Pawnee, Payne, Pottawatomie, Seminole

Eastern Oklahoma Economic Development District (EODD)

Ernie Moore, Executive Director

P.O. Box 1367, 1012 N. 38th Street

Muskogee, OK 74402-1367

Phone: (918) 682-7891

Fax: (918) 682-5444

Counties: Adair, Cherokee, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okmulgee, Sequoyah, Wagoner

Grand Gateway Economic Development Association (GGEDA)

Edward J. Crone, Executive Director

P.O. Drawer B, 333 S. Oak

Big Cabin, OK 74332-0502

Phone: (918) 783-5793 or 1 (800) 482-4594

Fax: (918) 783-5786

Counties: Craig, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Washington

Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG)

Rich Brierre, Executive Director

2 W. 2nd Street, Suite 800

Tulsa, OK 74103-3116

Phone: (918) 584-7526

Fax: (918) 583-1024

Counties: Creek, Osage, Rogers, Tulsa, Wagoner

Kiamichi Economic Development District (KEDDO)

Danny Baldwin, Executive Director

1002 Highway 2 North

Wilburton, OK 74578-0638

Phone: (918) 465-2367 or 1 (800) 722-8180

Fax: (918) 465-3873

Counties: Choctaw, Haskell, Latimer, LeFlore, McCurtain, Pittsburg, Pushmataha

OKLAHOMA COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT

Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA)

Jonathon Cross, Executive Director

2901 N. Van Buren

Enid, OK 73703

Phone: (580) 237-4810 or 1 (800) 749-1149

Fax: (580) 237-8230

Counties: Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Major, Noble

Oklahoma Economic Development Authority (OEDA)

Jonathon Cross, Executive Director

P.O. Box 445

Hooker, OK 73945

Phone: (580) 823-7639

Fax: (580) 823-7729

Counties: Beaver, Cimarron, Dewey, Ellis, Harper, Texas, Woods, Woodward

Southern Oklahoma Development Association (SODA)

Steven C. Mills, Ph.D., Executive Director

P.O. Box 709

2704 North 1st Street

Durant, OK 74701

Phone: (580) 920-1388

Fax: (580) 920-1391

Email: smills@soda-ok.org

Website: www.soda-ok.org

Counties: Atoka, Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Johnston, Love, Marshall, Murray, Pontotoc

South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA)

Debora Glasgow, Executive Director

P.O. Box 569, Building 420 Sooner Drive

Burns Flat, OK 73624-0569

Phone: (580) 562-4882 or 1 (800) 627-4882

Fax: (580) 562-4880

Counties: Beckham, Custer, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Washita

Community Resource Assistance Loan Program

Contact	See below
Website	www.communitiesU.org
Type of Funding	Loan
Available Funding	\$500,000 maximum (per entity)
Length of Term	15 years maximum
Deadline	On-going
Eligible Applicants	Public bodies and private nonprofit corporations
Eligible Projects	Water/wastewater facility expansion, replacement, improvement, and/or repair.
Other Information	Provides technical assistance at no cost.

Communities Unlimited Contact Information

Karen M. Conrad, Oklahoma State Coordinator - Environmental
Communities Unlimited, Inc.

P.O. Box 468

Miami, OK 74355

Phone: (918) 919-1653

Email: karen.conrad@communitiesU.org

Arthur Pittman, Senior Environmental Management Consultant
Communities Unlimited, Inc.

P.O. Box 138, 508 West 64 Highway

Morrison, OK 73061

Phone: (405) 612-8084

Fax: (580) 724-9377

Pager/Cell: (405) 612-8084

Email: arthur.pittman@communitiesU.org

Gaylene Riley, Community Environmental Management Specialist
Communities Unlimited, Inc.

P.O. Box 164

Atoka, OK 74525

Phone: (580) 364-4345

Email: gaylene.riley@communitiesU.org

Julie Hudgins, Community Environmental Management Specialist
Communities Unlimited, Inc.

P.O. Box 1424

Westville, OK 74965

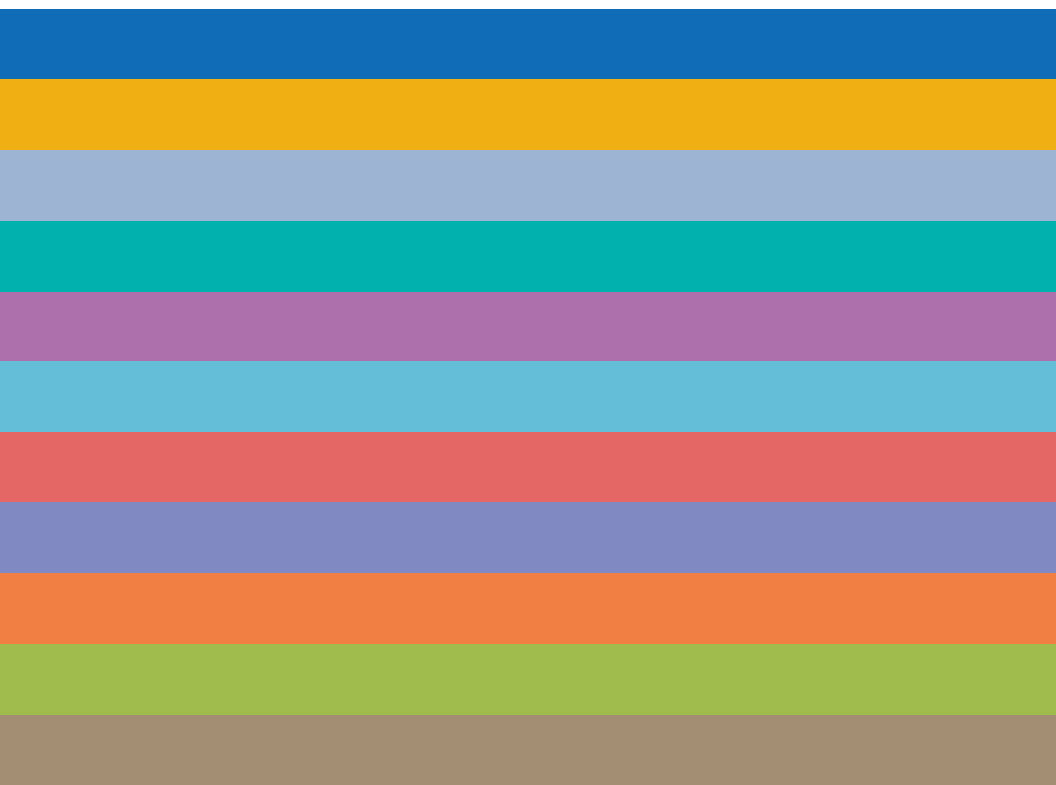
Phone: (918) 507-1596

Email: julie.hudgins@communitiesU.org

OKLAHOMA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

Oklahoma Rural Development Finance Corporation

Contact	Kylee Finley
Street Address	1410 S.E. 15th St. Oklahoma City, OK 73129
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 95349 Oklahoma City, OK 73143
Email	kylee@orwa.org
Website	www.okruralwater.org
Phone Number	(405) 672-8925
Fax Number	(405) 672-9898
Type of Funding	Low interest, competitive loans
Available Funding	\$500,000 maximum
Length of Term	Flexible 3-7 year terms depending on type of loan
Deadline	On-going
Eligible Applicants	Public water and wastewater systems in Oklahoma.
Eligible Projects	Pre-development (planning), equipment replacement, system upgrades, maintenance and small capital projects.
Other Information	Simple application process, 2-4 week turn around.





Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loans

OWRB FACT SHEET

Eligible Entities

- Counties, towns, and municipalities
- Public works authorities
- School districts
- Districts formed under Title 82 of the State's statutes as follows:
 - Water conservancy districts
 - Rural sewage districts
 - Irrigation districts

Eligible Projects

- Secondary and advanced treatment
- Inflow and infiltration correction
- Sewer replacement and rehabilitation
- New collector and interceptor sewers
- Nonpoint source implementation
- Land acquisitions necessary for treatment
- Decentralized wastewater systems
- Facility security systems
- Urban brownfield projects
- Stormwater projects
- Green infrastructure projects
- Energy efficiency projects for publicly owned treatment works (POTW)
- Water efficiency and reuse projects
- Automated meter readers to reduce demand on POTW
- Environmentally innovative projects
- Habitat protection and restoration practices
- Planning/assessment and monitoring practices
- Dam rehabilitation

How to Apply

- Complete the CWSRF Project Priority List (PPL) Request Form
- Complete the loan application
- Prepare supporting documentation:
 - Engineering Report following the format adopted by the Funding Agency Coordinating Team (FACT) and any planning or specification documents
 - Weighted Loan Term Worksheet
 - Environmental Information Document (EID)
 - Request for Environmental Categorical Exclusion
- Select bond counsel
- Submit the application and supporting documentation to the Financial Assistance Division at fad@owrb.ok.gov

Loan recipients must comply with cross-cutting federal authorities.

Loan Terms

- Below market interest rate approximately 60% of AAA market rate with 40% savings through interest subsidy
- 0.50% administration fee
- Up to 30 year term determined by the useful life of project components
- 1.25x debt coverage ratio requirement
- No cash reserve requirement
- Construction draw note with no interest charged on unused loan portion

Visit www.oklahoma.gov/owrb/financing for more information on financing opportunities.



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Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loans

OWRB FACT SHEET

The DWSRF Program is co-administered by the OWRB and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ).

Eligible Entities

- Counties, towns, and municipalities
- Public works authorities
- School districts
- Districts formed under Title 82 of the State's statutes as follows:
 - Water conservancy districts
 - Rural water districts

Eligible Projects

- Drinking water treatment system
- New intake/raw water lines
- Major distribution/storage system rehabilitation
- New storage
- Engineering
- New transmission/distribution systems
- Wells
- Automatic meter readers

How to Apply

- Contact the ODEQ's DWSRF program to submit a Project Priority List (PPL) placement request letter and any necessary supporting documentation
- Complete the loan application
- Select bond counsel

- Submit the application to the OWRB's Financial Assistance Division at fad@owrb.ok.gov

Loan recipients must comply with cross-cutting federal authorities.

Loan Terms

- Below market interest rate approximately 70% of AAA market rate with 30% savings through interest subsidy
- 0.50% administration fee
- Up to 30-year term determined by the useful life of project components
- 1.25x debt coverage ratio requirement
- No cash reserve requirement
- Construction draw note with no interest charged on unused loan portion

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Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Procedures and Strategy

Many Oklahoma water systems are looking for affordable financing options for improvements to their drinking water systems to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) was authorized by the 1996 Amendments to the SDWA and is funded by EPA capitalization grants to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) jointly administer this low interest loan program.

Eligible Entities

- Towns and municipalities with proper legal authority
- Rural water districts established under Title 82 of the Oklahoma Statutes

Eligible Projects

- Drinking water treatment
- New intake/raw water lines
- Major distribution/storage system rehabilitation
- New storage
- Engineering
- New transmission/distribution systems

Program Requirements

- Projects must be listed on the DWSRF Project Priority List and current Intended Use Plan maintained by DEQ
- Projects that are ready to proceed will receive the highest priority
- Environmental review as required by DEQ
- Engineering report as required by DEQ, including cost-effective analysis
- Public participation/public hearing with public notice
- Project will be required to comply with federal SDWA requirements and federal cross-cutting laws and authorities



DWSRF Loan Terms

- Interest rate equal to 70% of Municipal Market Daily (MMD) AAA scale spot rates for each year through maturity plus 40-76 basis points, calculated 10 days before loan closing
- 0.50% administration fee
- 20-30 years maximum payback period
- 1.25 rate covenant factor
- No reserve requirements (unless required by borrower's existing outstanding debt)
- Loan proceeds drawn down as costs are incurred
- Interest and administrative fees billed every 6 months
- Principal will be billed every 6 months after construction completion

Contacts:

Candy Thompson

DWSRF Engineering Manager
Water Quality Division
707 N. Robinson, PO Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
Telephone: (405) 702-8100
Fax: (405) 702-8101
candy.thompson@deq.ok.gov

Vicki Reed

DWSRF Program Coordinator
Water Quality Division
707 N. Robinson, PO Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
Telephone: (405) 702-8100
Fax: (405) 702-8101
vicki.reed@deq.ok.gov

Joe Freeman, Chief

Financial Assistance Division
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
Phone (405) 530-8800
Fax (405) 530-8900
www.owrb.ok.gov

For additional information on this subject please contact your local DEQ representative or the Water Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality at (405) 702-8100.





Emergency Grants

OWRB FACT SHEET

Statutory Restrictions

- Maximum of \$100,000 per project per applicant during any fiscal year
- 15% local match required
- Emergency situation which could not have been avoided by reasonable care
- Applicant cannot reasonably finance the project without assistance from the OWRB

Eligible Entities

- Counties, towns, and municipalities
- Public works authorities
- School districts
- Districts formed under Title 82 of the State's statutes as follows:
 - Water conservancy districts
 - Rural water and/or sewage districts
 - Irrigation districts

Eligible Projects

- Water supply reservoirs
- Storage tanks
- Water supply treatment and distribution systems
- Wastewater collection and treatment systems

How to Apply

- Email the Financial Assistance Division at FAD@owrb.ok.gov describing the emergency. The OWRB will notify the applicant if the emergency is eligible for funding.
- Prepare supporting documentation:
 - Trust indenture/organizational documents

- Authorizing resolution
- Rate ordinance or minutes
- Engineer's report and cost estimate
- Most recent audit or agreed upon procedures (must be less than two years old)
- Verification Form signed by the authorized signer and attorney
- Complete the Emergency Grant application

Ranking Process

Applications are ranked based on the following criteria:

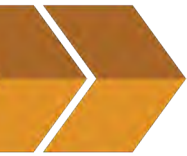
- Nature of emergency (50 point maximum)
- Water and sewer rates (13 point maximum)
- Monthly debt payment (10 point maximum)
- Median household income (10 point maximum)
- Applicant's ability to finance the project (12 point maximum)
- Local contribution (10 point maximum)
- Benefit to other systems (5 point maximum)
- Amount of grant requested (points vary)
- Application number (up to 14 point deduction)

Applications receiving 60 or more points will be placed on a Project Priority List and ranked from highest to lowest priority based on total points. Applications are recommended for approval to the Board when all other funding sources are secured and adequate grant funds are available for obligation.

Visit www.oklahoma.gov/owrb/financing for more information on financing opportunities.



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Financial Assistance Loans

OWRB FACT SHEET

Eligible Entities

- Counties, towns, and municipalities
- Public works authorities
- School districts
- Districts formed under Title 82 of the State's statutes as follows:
 - Water conservancy districts
 - Rural water districts
 - Rural sewage districts
 - Irrigation districts

Eligible Projects

Any project related to water and/or sewer system improvements or refinancing of existing debt obligations incurred by communities for projects such as:

- Water/wastewater facility expansion, replacement, improvement, and/or repair
- Water supply reservoirs
- Water rights acquisition
- Storage tanks
- Water storage rights acquisition
- Water supply and distribution lines
- Land acquisition for source water protection and water/wastewater systems
- Wastewater treatment, distribution, and storage
- Water collection and treatment
- Combined stormwater/sewer system overflow correction
- Environmentally innovative projects
- Habitat protection and restoration practices
- Storm, sewer, and drainage improvements

- Floodplain restoration and stream bank stabilization
- Planning/assessment and monitoring practices
- Dam rehabilitation

How to Apply

- Complete the loan application
- Prepare supporting documentation:
 - Engineering Report for water or wastewater projects and any planning or specification documents
 - Weighted Loan Term Worksheet
- Select bond counsel
- Submit the application and supporting documentation to the Financial Assistance Division at fad@owrb.ok.gov

Loan Terms

- Low interest rate based on the OWRB's AAA credit rating
- 0.20% administration fee
- Up to 30-year term determined by the useful life of project components
- 1.25x debt coverage ratio requirement
- Local reserve requirement is satisfied when one of the following is met:
 - Cash reserve up to 10% of the loan amount
 - 'Super Debt Coverage Ratio' of 1.40x
 - Minimum credit rating of A- affirmed in the last 18 months
 - Surety policy in the amount of not less than the cash reserve requirement

Visit www.oklahoma.gov/owrb/financing for more information on financing opportunities.



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Rural Economic Action Plan Grants

OWRB FACT SHEET

Priority is given to REAP grant applicants in cities, towns, and municipalities with a population less than 1,750, school districts with less than 525 students, and rural water and/or sewer districts with less than 525 non-pasture taps.

Statutory Restrictions

- Entities must have a population of 7,000 or less
- Maximum of \$150,000 per project per applicant during any fiscal year
- No local match required

Eligible Entities

- Counties, towns, and municipalities
- Public works authorities
- School districts
- Districts formed under Title 82 of the State's statutes as follows:
 - Water conservancy districts
 - Rural water and/or sewage districts
 - Irrigation districts

Eligible Projects

- Sewer line construction or repair and related storm or sanitary sewer projects
- Water line construction or repair
- Water treatment
- Water acquisition
- Distribution or recovery and related projects

How to Apply

- Prepare supporting documentation:
 - Trust indenture/organizational documents

- Authorizing resolution
- Rate ordinance or minutes
- Engineer's report & cost estimate
- Most recent audit or agreed upon procedures (must be less than two years old)
- Verification form signed by the authorized signer and attorney
- Complete the REAP Grant application between July 1 and 5:00 p.m. on the first working day of September

Ranking Process

Applications are ranked based on the following criteria:

- Population (55 point maximum)
- Water and sewer rates (13 point maximum)
- Indebtedness per customer (10 point maximum)
- Median household income (10 point maximum)
- Applicant's ability to finance the project (12 point maximum)
- Need/consent order (5 point maximum)
- Amount of grant requested (5 point maximum)
- Benefit to other systems (5 point maximum)
- Fiscal sustainability (10 point maximum)
- Previous grant assistance (points vary)

Applications receiving 40 or more points will be placed on a Project Priority List and ranked from highest to lowest priority based on total points. Applications are recommended for approval to the Board when all other funding sources are secured and adequate grant funds are available for obligation.

Visit www.oklahoma.gov/owrb/financing for more information on financing opportunities.



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Oklahoma Conservation Commission

Water Quality Division <https://conservation.ok.gov/water-quality-division/>

Nonpoint Source Management Program

- Blue Thumb Stream Protection
- Water Quality Monitoring
- Wetlands Program
- Carbon Sequestration Certification Program
- Soil Health
- Priority Watershed Projects
- Water Education Today
- Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program

Conservation Programs Division <https://conservation.ok.gov/conservation-program-division/>

- Flood Control Program
- Flood Control Rehabilitation
- Locally Led Cost-Share Program
- Small Watershed Upstream Flood Control

Land Management Division <https://conservation.ok.gov/land-management-division/>

- Land Restoration
- Conservation & Nutrient Management Planning
- Unpaved Roads

5

Steps to Assistance

How to Get Assistance from NRCS
for Farms, Ranches and Forests

1 PLANNING

Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2 APPLICATION

With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3 ELIGIBILITY

Find out if you're eligible for NRCS' variety of financial assistance programs.

4 RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5 IMPLEMENTING

Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.

Get Started with NRCS

Do you farm or ranch and want to make improvements to the land that you own or lease?

Natural Resources Conservation Service offers technical and financial assistance to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners.

1 Planning

To get started with NRCS, we recommend you stop by your local NRCS field office.

We'll discuss your vision for your land.

NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes: resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Your conservation planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

2 Application

We'll walk you through the application process. To get started on applying for financial assistance, we'll work with you:

- To fill out an AD 1026, which ensures a conservation plan is in place before lands with highly erodible soils are farmed. It also ensures that identified wetland areas are protected.
- To meet other eligibility certifications.

Once complete, we'll work with you on the application, or CPA 1200.

Applications for most programs are accepted on a continuous basis, but they're considered for funding in different ranking periods. Be sure to ask your local NRCS district conservationist about the deadline for the ranking period to ensure you turn in your application in time.

3 Eligibility

As part of the application process, we'll check to see if you are eligible.

To do this, you'll need to bring:

- An official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID)
- A property deed or lease agreement to show you have control of the property; and
- A farm tract number.

If you don't have a farm tract number, you can get one from USDA's Farm Service Agency. Typically, the local FSA office is located in the same building as the local NRCS office. You only need a farm tract number if you're interested in financial assistance.

4 Ranking

NRCS will take a look at the applications and rank them

according to local resource concerns, the amount of conservation benefits the work will provide and the needs of applicants.

5 Implementing

If you're selected, you can choose whether to sign the contract for the work to be done.

Once you sign the contract, you'll be provided standards and specifications for completing the practice or practices, and then you will have a specified amount of time to implement. Once the work is implemented and inspected, you'll be paid the rate of compensation for the work if it meets NRCS standards and specifications.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

To find out more, go to: www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted

Environmental Quality Incentives Program – Oklahoma

Oklahoma's EQIP Priority Resource Concerns for FY2024:

- Degraded Plant Condition
- Soil Quality Limitations
- Pest Pressure
- Wind and Water Erosion
- Field Sediment, Nutrient, and Pathogen Loss

Conservation Stewardship Program – Oklahoma

The following CSP ranking criteria are included in the "Program Questions" section of ranking pools for CSP, with the weighting of each question based on State-level priorities:

PROGRAM QUESTIONS

1. Has the applicant had a CSP terminated in the past 3 years?
2. Has the applicant had a CSP contract cancelled in the past 2 years?
3. Select ONE: At the time of application, the applicant meets:
 - State priority resource concern categories across *at least one to all* land uses included in the operation
 - State priority resource concern categories across *at least one to all* land uses included in the operation excluding farmstead and associated ag land
 - None of the these apply

RESOURCE QUESTIONS:

1. Select ONE By the end of the contract, the applicant will implement additional conservation activities across the operation that allows the producer to
 - *Meets or exceed* the stewardship threshold for *1 to more than 3* additional resource concern categories on *1 to at least 2* land uses
 - None of the above apply

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Oklahoma

Under the **Agricultural Land Easement component**, NRCS may contribute up to 50 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement. Where NRCS determines that grasslands of special environmental significance will be protected, NRCS may contribute up to 75 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land easement.

Wetland Reserve Easements – Oklahoma: The 2024 Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) appraisal percentage value and not to exceed (NTE) value statewide are: For all areas an 80% GARC will be applied to the individual appraisal with the NTE rate of \$2,000.00 per acre.

APPENDIX B.4

FACT SHEETS: COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP

BREAKOUT TOPIC: COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP

Of the almost 900 community water systems (defined as those that each serve at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serve 25 year-round residents), approximately 750 are classified as small systems (defined as those serving 3,300 persons or fewer). Many of these systems have declining populations, aging or inadequate infrastructure, impacted water sources, difficulty meeting water quality standards, and/or declining revenues, which challenge the delivery of safe and dependable drinking water.



REGIONALIZATION

Regionalization refers to the merging or alliance of two or more water systems, either through structural or nonstructural measures or a combination of both, to improve planning, operation, and management of the systems (EPA 1983).

Nonstructural regionalization options are generally administrative or managerial arrangements that allow the participating water suppliers to maintain identity and independence. System interconnections or shared infrastructure are examples of nonstructural regionalization strategies.

Structural regionalization includes options that result in the creation of a new water supply entity or a shift in control of policy and functions from one or more water providers to another, whether existing or new.



POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- » Ability to finance large water projects through shared commitment and a larger ratepayer base
- » Increased water supply reliability via accessing multiple water sources
- » Increased drought resilience through shared shortages and diversification of supplies
- » Access to alternate supplies during a short-term water disruption or emergency in the primary supply(ies)
- » Reduced costs for ratepayers through economies of scale, shared operation and maintenance costs of regional facilities
- » Strengthened maintenance crews, better knowledge pool and more capacity to cover shifts and respond to emergencies



POTENTIAL CHALLENGES

- » Technical feasibility of connections between distribution systems
- » Costs of developing interconnections and treatment facilities
- » Sharing control over supply and/or treatment
- » Developing and operating under intergovernmental agreements
- » Mixing of dissimilar waters (e.g., groundwater and surface water or different water quality) may cause adverse impacts in the distribution system

Increasing Transfer of Responsibility

INFORMAL COOPERATION

- Sharing equipment
- Sharing bulk supply purchases, such as chemicals
- Mutual aid agreements

CONTRACTUAL ASSISTANCE

- Contracting operations, billing, and/or management
- Outsourcing engineering services
- Purchasing water/receiving and treating wastewater

SHARED GOVERNANCE

- Joint powers agencies
- Sharing system management and/or operators
- Sharing source water

OWNERSHIP TRANSFER

- Acquisition and physical interconnection or satellite management
- Becoming a larger system or new entity made up of more than one individual system



REGIONAL PLANNING

Regional planning refers to groups representing a variety of interests that work together to develop a regional water plan. The 2012 OCWP recommended forming 13 Regional Planning Groups that would be **non-regulatory** and consist of local stakeholders from all water sectors and appropriate agency representatives. The groups would be charged with developing regional water plans in a manner consistent with minimum requirements set by OWRB, in support of the OCWP and its implementation priorities. Such plans would include the identification of projects that are synergistic (better than the sum of multiple single system projects) designed to address the unique needs and issues identified by Regional Planning Group participants.

Since the 2012 OCWP, several grassroots water planning groups have been organized across Oklahoma (Arbuckle-Simpson, Consortium of Master Conservancy Groups, Central Oklahoma Water Resource Authority, Northwest Action, Panhandle, Tulsa Regional, Southwest Water Action).



Some of the most effective regional plans in other states are those that complement (and/or are a component of) state-level planning. Effective regional plans have consistent goals and methods, defined expectations and deliverables, and geographic coverage of 100 percent of the state's area. Regional-level planning could be conducted statewide starting in the late 2020s, with the resulting regional plans supporting and informing development of the next OCWP update that will follow the 2025 OCWP.

	Low level of engagement	Moderate level of engagement	High level of engagement
	STATE LED APPROACH	HYBRID APPROACH	LOCAL LED APPROACH
Population	State determines baseline and growth projections.	State suggests baseline and growth projections and individual utilities are surveyed and can adjust within parameters. Local studies can be used.	Local utilities provide baseline and projections. Where not provided, the State uses a process to develop projections.
Demand	State determines demand based on per capita projections.	State suggests demand based on per capita projections and individual utilities are surveyed and can adjust within parameters. Local studies can be used.	Local utilities provide demands based on their per capita projections. Where not provided, the State uses a process to develop projections.
Supplies	State determines a single metric or range for calculating/modeling supplies (water right availability, average annual yield, firm yield, safe yield etc). Limited by infrastructure constraints or water quality.	State suggests a metric or range for calculating/modeling supplies, but local utilities can request a variance to develop a modified approach. Local studies can be used.	Local utilities determine supply based on local water rights, capacity constraints or local studies. Modeling of supplies may have been conducted in local studies. Where not provided, the State uses a process to develop availability.
Needs	State defines needs.	State defines needs, but a local utility can add a safety factor or buffer. Local studies can be used.	Local utilities determine needs based on local experience.
Strategies	State identifies strategies and cost or a suite of strategies to be implemented based on the supply available and need.	State recommends a suite of strategies or cost which local utilities can select from or supplement. Local studies can be used but cost estimates should conform to a standard.	Local utilities provide list of strategies and cost. Local studies can be used.
Scale	Can be completed at the State, Basin, or County level.	Can be completed at the Basin, County or Local level and rolled up to the State level.	Can be completed at the Local level; while outputs can be rolled up to Basin or State levels, results from different areas are not comparable since they were developed with inconsistent methods.