

APPENDIX E

## REGIONAL MEETING ROUND 5

# Round 5 Regional Meeting Summary March 2025

Issued May 2025



OKLAHOMA  
Water Resources Board



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

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## SECTION 1    **ROUND 5 REGIONAL MEETING**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In March 2025, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) hosted a fifth series of Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) 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 OCWP can inform and support local water planning and management.

Meetings began with a welcome and team introduction by OWRB Staff and then proceeded with an update on OCWP activities and progress. Technical analyses have been completed to characterize projected demand and physical supply availability, and then to identify Basins with projected water supply challenges. The draft results of these studies are summarized in the [Round 3 Regional Meeting Summary](#). A water management strategy evaluation was conducted to identify potential solutions for all 82 Basins, with particular focus on Basins facing projected water supply shortages. Draft results were presented in the Round 4 regional meetings and can be previewed [here](#). Other components of the OCWP include [identifying infrastructure needs](#), incorporating the [State Flood Plan](#), and advancing the 2012 OCWP recommendations. These items have been used to build content so the OCWP Team could collect feedback from stakeholder engagement. Policy needs and concerns identified in the [first four rounds of regional meetings](#) have been carried into the development of the preliminary draft recommendations. All data presented at these meetings will be made available on OWRB's website through an interactive dashboard.

The primary goal of this fifth round of regional meetings was to collect feedback on the preliminary draft recommendations for the 2025 OCWP Update and possible new water funding programs that could be used to increase revenues dedicated to water planning, management, and infrastructure. Ideas for these programs were originally discussed in the [Round 4 Meetings](#) and at the [2024 Governor's Water Conference](#). The following outlines key feedback shared by meeting participants.

- As previously highlighted in the 2025 OCWP engagement process, the formation of regional planning groups in Oklahoma is a high priority for water users across the state. Organizing these groups by a shared water resource (i.e., watershed or aquifer, rather than counties or other political boundaries) received support by many participants.
- Oklahomans support OWRB and their role to enforce the statutory requirements of their water rights administration program. It is a shared belief among many participants that improving this program will make the permitting process more efficient while protecting existing and future water rights holders.
- It is recognized that more funding is needed to support water local projects and programs throughout Oklahoma with current and potential future programs.
  - Sports betting tax proceeds, an additional tax on medical marijuana, an additional tax on bottled water/plastic bottles were highly regarded as possible water funding programs that could be implemented and raise sufficient funding to be effective at addressing water planning, management, and infrastructure challenges. Many supported these programs because they would be additional fees on discretionary spending items, rather than necessary items.

To address region-specific concerns, recommendations were prepared and reviewed within each meeting region for participants to provide feedback. OWRB staff concluded the meetings by thanking participants and providing a reminder to stay engaged in the OCWP process as we move forward completing this update later this year.

## SECTION 2    **ROUND 5 REGIONAL MEETINGS**

In March 2025, OWRB hosted in-person meetings in Lawton, Woodward, Tulsa, Tahlequah, and Oklahoma City, and a statewide virtual meeting, as part of the ongoing 2025 OCWP update. An additional listening session was held at the [2025 Oklahoma Municipal Utility Providers \(OMUP\) Water & Environment Summit](#) in early April. This was the fifth in a series of regional 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. Appendix A contains the handout provided during the meetings and Appendix B contains the presentation slides.

### **2.1    Welcome**

OWRB 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.

### **2.2    OCWP Update**

The 2025 OCWP Update is a multi-year project that seeks to define and address water supply challenges and solutions. 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/permit availability (*do I have the water right to use the water*), and water quality. All of this depends on infrastructure (*do I have the necessary infrastructure in place to divert, treat, distribute, and use the water*). In recognition of variability in hydrology and water uses across the state, analysis is completed on the Basin and Regional level. The OCWP Team seeks input from stakeholders across all water sectors to support technical and policy work through the identified focused areas. These focus areas and how they have been supported through this OCWP update are as follows:

- Identify basins with projected water challenges or opportunities
  - In April and May 2024, OWRB hosted a third series of OCWP regional meetings across the state. During the Round 3 regional meetings, the OCWP Team presented draft baseline scenario data, illustrating the degree to which demands in each of the state's 82 planning Basins (Figure 1) are projected to change from 2020 to 2075. Physical water supply gaps and depletions are defined as conditions where, respectively, surface water and groundwater supplies are insufficient to satisfy projected demands. These gaps/depletions vary over time and geographically across the state. Navigate to the [Round 3 Regional Meeting Summary](#) on OWRB's website for more information. Dashboards with the latest water demand projections and shortage information will be published later in 2025 on OWRB's [water planning website](#).
- Identify and recommend water management strategies
  - In October 2024, OWRB hosted a fourth series of regional meetings across the state. The OCWP Team presented ideas on how to meet water supply needs from 2020 to 2075 using various water management strategies. These are tools that could be used to reduce projected gaps between water demand and supply. The categories of water management strategies evaluated for each Basin across the state are demand management, agricultural options, water transfers, increase reliance on surface water, increase reliance on groundwater, stormwater capture and use, and reuse. Results from this analysis can be found on OWRB's website in the [Round 4 Regional Meeting Summary](#).



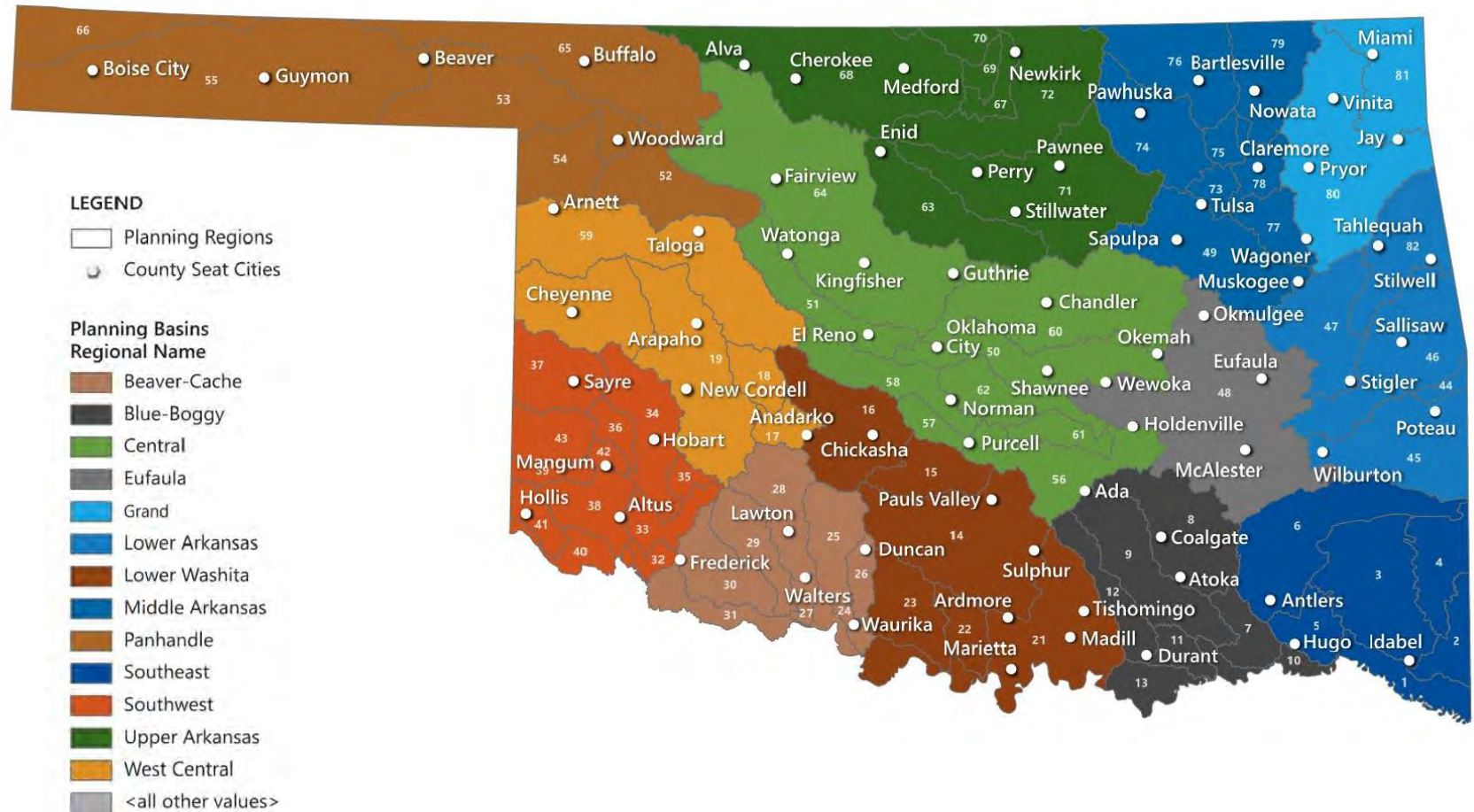


Figure 1 OCWP Statewide Planning Map

- Identify infrastructure investment needs & financial solutions

OWRB has been collecting Local Project and Programs data to incorporate into the [Infrastructure Needs Dashboard](#), which is divided by legislative district, and continues to collect these data. This tool is actively being used by OWRB staff to discuss funding and financing needs with legislators. So far, \$24 billion dollars of water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure need has been identified. Submit your Local Project or Program through the [survey](#) on OWRB's website or send them to [Matt Cogburn](#).

- Advance 2012 OCWP Policy Recommendations
  - When the 2012 OCWP was published, the Oklahoma State Legislature was interested in the recommendations and consequently dedicated funding to support several of them. Examples of legislation and collaborative studies that directly or indirectly resulted from the 2012 OCWP are highlighted in Appendix B. The 2025 OCWP seeks to carry forward recommendations such as regional water planning, nonconsumptive water, and water project funding.
- Integrate Oklahoma's first statewide Flood Plan
  - One result of the 2012 OCWP is the [State Flood Plan](#). Results of this plan can be found on OWRB's website on the State [Flood Plan Dashboard](#). The OCWP Team is integrating these results into their planning efforts.
- Conduct focused engagement throughout the processes
  - Participants that engaged in [first round of regional meetings](#) set the foundation for the topics discussed and considered throughout the 2025 OCWP process. Topics that were brought up most frequently, such as Infrastructure Improvements & Funding / Financing, Permitting / Regulations / Policy, Collaboration / Partnership, and Water Quantity Issues, have now been integrated into the draft preliminary recommendations.
- Provide greater access to OCWP deliverables
  - The OCWP Team is actively developing interactive dashboards where users can filter data to more readily find, more clearly understand, and download data from the 2025 deliverables. This addresses a request made throughout the 2025 OCWP engagement process. Dashboards to be rolled out include demand (Figure 2), water supply (physical and legal), water shortages, water management strategies, water quality, extrapolated water infrastructure funding needs, and weather extremes analyses (demand and supply).

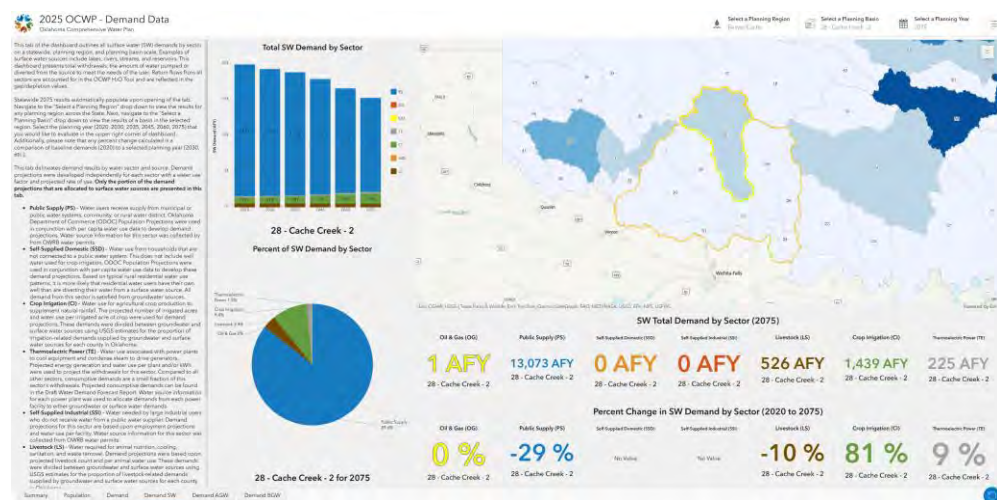


Figure 2 Preview of the Draft Demand Dashboard

## 2.3 Statewide Preliminary Draft Recommendations

Across the state, the OCWP Team consistently heard feedback from stakeholders on several key concepts. These ideas have been refined into Recommendations discussed in the Round 5 Meetings as summarized below. Actions have been developed to further refine the context of each Recommendation. Action numbers are used solely for reference and are not indicative of any order or prioritization. Eighteen draft Actions were discussed for executing Recommendations in five areas:

- Water Infrastructure and Workforce (Actions #1 – 4): Address the \$24 billion Water Infrastructure construction need and build a strong water industry workforce.
- Water Management (Actions #5 – 7): Facilitate a fair, streamlined legal framework and that promotes responsible use and development of Oklahoma’s water supplies for the welfare of our citizens and prosperity of businesses and the economy.
- Regional Water Planning (Actions #8 – 10): Promote regional water planning to meet diverse water and growing demand across the state.
- Water Supplies and Storage (Actions #11 – 15): Improve water supply dependability through effective management, efficiency, and maximizing and developing new water sources and storage.
- Water Data and Information (Actions #16 – 18): Invest in comprehensive water data collection, technical studies, and innovative tools to enable data-driven water planning and policy.

Details on these Actions can be found in the preceding subsections and both Appendix A and B. To frame and encourage discussion, the OCWP Team presented each Recommendation and their associated Actions. Stakeholder feedback was collected from verbal comments, an online survey, written comments, and through a prioritization activity, which is summarized for each region in the proceeding sections. Detailed prioritization activity results are provided in Appendix C. Additional region-specific recommendations were developed based upon feedback collected throughout previous rounds of OCWP meetings, focus basin meetings, and other engagement with stakeholders in the region. These were presented following the Statewide Recommendations, and verbal comments were collected. Participant feedback is summarized below.

### 2.3.1 Water Infrastructure and Workforce

Actions #1 – 4 are associated with the Water Infrastructure and Workforce Recommendation and have been defined below for reference. Feedback collected from each region, virtual meeting, and OMUP sharing session on this Recommendation’s Actions have been outlined in the following sections.

1. **Fully leverage** Oklahoma’s **existing water infrastructure loan and grant programs** and **identify new funding** strategies to increase dollars available to meet current and future needs.
  - a. Increase state appropriated dollars and identify cost-match opportunities to leverage existing low-interest loan and grant programs.
  - b. Explore new funding instruments and partnership opportunities, including cost-share programs, dedicated funding from existing revenue streams (e.g. gross production tax), revenues from new streams (e.g. sports betting, impact, or local tourism tax).
2. Develop and launch **public education** campaign about water careers to address the critical shortage of water workers.
3. Expand state funding and collaboration to deliver small system **technical, financial, and managerial service** to develop system longevity and capital planning and incentivize it through priority ranking points for infrastructure grants.

4. Meet the critical shortage of professional groundwater well drillers and pump installers through **expansion of professional training programs and partnerships** with industry leaders and universities to provide cutting-edge methods and leverage of funding sources.

#### **2.3.1.1 Southwest**

- Actions #2 and #3 build upon one another. Education and workforce advancements will drive the need for water funding.
- Some rural systems have begun regionalizing during emergencies due to workforce shortages and lack of available resources due to funding. Staff in the area can be better compensated for similar roles in other industries that have less risk and responsibility.
- The value of clean, reliable water is under-appreciated. A portion of the public is willing to pay more for housing, food, and other needs but they have issues with paying more for water. Public education improvements should help people understand the true cost of water.
- Substantial investment in water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure should occur sooner rather than later to avoid a crisis.

#### **2.3.1.2 Northwest**

- Participants voiced support for water infrastructure funding and have concerns whether recent administration changes will cut funding from existing water funding programs. However, these concerns could potentially be a call to action for reliable, reoccurring sources of funding for water projects and programs.
- With regards to the water industry workforce, one participant expressed that wages are the primary reason for many rural water districts' inability to recruit and retain staff. Collecting data on these wages (as identified by the water workforce group) would be beneficial to better understand the state of the industry.

#### **2.3.1.3 Northeast**

- Public education regarding water should emphasize the importance of quality in addition to quantity.
- Consideration for adding more hydrogeologists to OWRB's staff and the water industry in general due to the limited water quality data available in Oklahoma. Workforce expansion targeting this career could be helpful to bridge this data gap.

#### **2.3.1.4 Southeast**

- Tribal programs that provide technical, managerial, and financial assistance are a good model for potential State-led programs.
- Many small systems do not understand the true cost to sustain a water system. Providing educational resources and/or expanding managerial training programs would be beneficial to many small systems.

#### **2.3.1.5 Central**

- There should be a shift in the industry to provide financial and technical support on proactive actions. Support is more readily available when systems need an emergency response.
- Broaden Action #2 to include the value of water, conservation, flood prevention, etc., with an emphasis on local outreach.



### 2.3.1.6 Virtual

- One participant voiced support for potentially combining Actions #2 and 4. Once combined or in general, integrating an internship program would be helpful provide an impact on students.

### 2.3.1.7 OMUP Session

- Suggestion to potentially provide clarity to Action #2 to verify that “water careers” refers to both technical roles (e.g. engineers, managers, etc.), and field positions (e.g. maintenance, operators, etc.).
- Action #2 should expand beyond education. Pathways, specifically through Career Technology Centers, to connect students and/or non-traditional workers to training and employments must be established.
- Provide clarification that Action #4 is related to the shortage of professional well drillers for all water uses.

## 2.3.2 Water Management

Actions #5 – 7 are associated with the Water Management Recommendation and have been defined below for reference. Feedback collected from each region, virtual meeting, and OMUP sharing session on this Recommendation’s Actions have been outlined in the proceeding section.

5. Provide **stable funding** necessary to fully **administer** the Oklahoma’s **water rights** administration program to meet the needs of business and protect property rights. Statutory requirements include water availability determination, allocation, permit issuance and administration, user disputes resolution, compliance monitoring and enforcement, water user interference and illegal water use to protect private property.
6. Evaluate **alternative water use accounting** methodologies, use reporting, and information sharing to improve transparency, dissuade unpermitted use or overuse and possible interference between water users.
7. Provide **statutory clarity** in Oklahoma stream water law regarding interference with permitted / domestic use, well spacing, etc.

### 2.3.2.1 Southwest

- Participants have noticed that delays in permit issuance are more often due to other agencies, rather than OWRB.
- Levels of enforcement of OWRB rules can be improved. Complaints are currently the only mechanism for getting a response from OWRB.
- Water use reporting is currently inefficient and inconvenient for permit holders as the system requires physical, by mail submissions. An electronic submission process, which participants suggested to be preferred, is being developed by OWRB.

### 2.3.2.2 Northwest

- Suggestion to standardize well spacing requirements by basin for unstudied aquifers.
- Suggest that the Recommendation statement made broader by adding “agriculture” to the list of entities that should prosper (“...and prosperity of businesses, and the economy, and agriculture.”).

### **2.3.2.3 Northeast**

- The wording for these actions should be modified to include water quality because it is just as critical for a healthy economy and businesses as water quantity. Alternatively, an additional action(s) could be developed to satisfy this acknowledgment.
- Environmental flows are not specifically identified in this list, which was identified as disappointing by various participants.
- Concern that weather variability is not being considered in planning efforts since it is not mentioned within the actions. OCWP planning staff noted that weather extremes analyses are in progress for water supply availability and water demand forecasts.
- Suggestion to modify Oklahoma water policy to incorporate more scientific principles, such as surface water / groundwater interconnection, as other states have done.
- Consider modifying permit structure so that users will have seasonal restrictions, not just volume restrictions, to minimize the interference potential.

### **2.3.2.4 Southeast**

- Permitting and enforcement should not be considered as water management alone. Instead, consideration should be given to whether and/or how water changes might be warranted.
- Funding should be made available for water allocation/availability modeling to support sustainable water management.
- It was suggested that exploring improved and/or alternative methods for measuring and reporting water use in Action #6 expand beyond crop irrigation to industrial water uses. Once a method has been established for each water use type, this method must be made consistent statewide.

### **2.3.2.5 Central**

- There is support for Action #5 because it could potentially lead to more timely responses on permitting requests and questions.

### **2.3.2.6 Virtual**

- Water quality and quantity need to be concurrent topics when water supply is discussed; however, study of these two might have to be conducted independently.

### **2.3.2.7 OMUP Session**

- No comments were provided on these Actions.

## **2.3.3 Regional Planning**

Actions #8 – 10 are associated with the Regional Planning Recommendation and have been defined below for reference. Feedback collected from each region, virtual meeting, and OMUP sharing session on this Recommendation's Actions have been outlined in the proceeding section.

8. Work with stakeholders and lawmakers to establish framework for regional water planning authority and responsibilities that includes funding for technical assistance to groups and administration of a program. This will allow recommendations to be developed and vetted by local interests and allows State to provide technical guidance and quantify funding or legislative needs with specific action items.
9. Investigate region specific long-term water supply needs.

10. Establish substantial competitive cost-share fund that incentivizes regional cooperation and smarter long-term planning.

#### **2.3.3.1 Southwest**

- Actions currently outlined need to be further refined by a regional boundary. The group suggested defining these regions by shared water source(s), not political boundaries.
- It was suggested that all stakeholder groups (e.g. producers, utilities, COGs, etc.) have input on regional water planning efforts.

#### **2.3.3.2 Northwest**

- One participant suggested that regional water planning and statutorily allowed irrigation district formation could be integrated. Funding has thus far limited the formation of irrigation districts. It is important that funding is prioritized if regional planning moves ahead in any form in Oklahoma.
- Many participants support that water boundaries, not political boundaries, be used for defining water planning regions.

#### **2.3.3.3 Northeast**

- Colorado and Texas have boards to resolve conflicts between regional water planning groups. Oklahoma would have to develop something similar, or another method to resolve conflicts before moving forward with this planning mechanism. This and other details must be resolved if a regional water planning approach is to be used.
- COGs should have a role in regional planning in Oklahoma. Before delineating the regional planning groups, how these entities fit in should be considered.
- Larger cities in the state are said to acquire some of their water supply through eminent domain. This negatively impacts low-income areas around the state. Regional planning could potentially help more evenly balance resources across the state with improved communication.

#### **2.3.3.4 Southeast**

- OWRB and the regional planning groups must have defined roles and responsibilities.
- Incentives to participate in regional water planning can be financial, but they do not have to be. A suggested alternative would be to provide the planning group pumping credits for aquifer recharge.

#### **2.3.3.5 Central**

- Support was voiced for defining planning regions by water boundaries, not political boundaries, because a common interest is shared. One barrier to using this model would be incorporating large regional providers with out-of-region water transfers.
- What would the tribal roles in regional water planning look like?
- The Tribal Settlement Agreement could affect permit availability, but its impact has not been quantified.
- Existing Inter-basin transfers are reflected in the physical supply results. Analysis was conducted using permitted quantities and known in source and destination basins.

#### **2.3.3.6 Virtual**

- No comments were provided on these Actions.

#### **2.3.3.7 OMUP Session**

- The implementation of regional water planning in Oklahoma would allow for increased local input since it is a bottom-up approach to water planning.
- Southwest Oklahoma can benefit from regional water planning since cotton farming and other irrigation practices are unique to this area of Oklahoma. Groups should serve an advisory role rather than regulatory, at least upon their establishment, and have the freedom to determine their priorities. Funding these groups local and with donated member time should help guarantee this.

### **2.3.4 Water Supplies and Shortage**

Actions #11 – 15 are associated with the Regional Planning Recommendation and have been defined below for reference. Feedback collected from each region, virtual meeting, and OMUP sharing session on this Recommendation's Actions have been outlined in the proceeding section.

11. Incentivize developing new sources of water supply and storage (ex, reuse, ASR, brackish groundwater, lake yield analyses).
12. Incentivize water use efficiency (like water conservation, loss reduction, lower gallons per capita usage, etc.) across all water use sectors.
13. In collaboration with local stakeholders in stream basins where water-dependent tourism and recreation are a significant economic driver, evaluate non-consumptive stream water needs and economic impact and identify investment, actions, and policy that could contribute to the preservation, maintenance, and promotion of the state's natural assets.
14. Continue the Oklahoma Source Water Collaborative to improve information and outreach on the prevention of contamination to provide safe drinking water supply and reduce treatment costs.
15. Fund and further develop the new Oklahoma Water Reuse Action Plan.

#### **2.3.4.1 Southwest**

- New sources of water supply and storage (e.g., reuse, ASR, brackish groundwater, lake yield analyses) should consider the water rights of downstream users upon permit issuance and use.
- Some participants wish to move forward with non-potable reuse through land application of lagoon effluent. However, they have not been able to do so since their permit has not been issued. Streamlining this permit issuance process would be preferable to make it more feasible for non-potable reuse.
- Suggestion that a dual distribution system be developed (similar to how it is implemented in parts of Israel) for non-potable water, but high infrastructure costs are a barrier. Consider evaluating potable reuse as an alternative approach.

#### **2.3.4.2 Northwest**

- Water reuse should be incentivized. Reuse coincides with the "One Water" concept, where it should be treated in a holistic manner, regardless of drought cycle concerns.
- Eastern redcedars, or invasive species, eradication efforts should be thought of as water efficiency tools.

#### **2.3.4.3 Northeast**

- Water use efficiency is only so effective at the household level; rather, incentive programs need to target high volume users to maximize impact.



- Reservoirs decrease in storage capacity over time as sedimentation occurs, which is concerning as water demand increases. Suggestion to consider a water planning timeline that is greater than 50 years to capture potential impacts on supply.
- Oklahomans have a constitutional right to hunt and fish in the state. Suggestion that a significant decay in water quality across the state might impact this right if fish and wildlife are not sustained.

#### 2.3.4.4 Southeast

- Tourism should not be the only driver for non-consumptive flows. Suggestion to modify the language of Action #13 to make it more inclusive for all Basins' ecological needs. To fully execute this action, it is recognized that statutory changes might be necessary.
- Recommendation to eliminate the “excess and surplus” language from State statute, because it creates a false pretense that there is water supply to spare in the area when it is needed for recreation and habitat maintenance.

#### 2.3.4.5 Central

- Action #13 should be targeted toward non-consumptive flows for the entirety of the state, rather than certain areas that might only be affected by recreation and tourism. Consider evaluating the benefits of nonconsumptive water throughout Oklahoma.

#### 2.3.4.6 Virtual

- No comments were provided on these Actions.

#### 2.3.4.7 OMUP Session

- No comments were provided on these Actions.

### 2.3.5 Water Data & Information

Actions #16 – 18 are associated with the Regional Planning Recommendation and have been defined below for reference. Feedback collected from each region, virtual meeting, and OMUP sharing session on this Recommendation's Actions have been outlined in the proceeding section.

16. **Fully fund the OWRB's Water Assessment, Trends, Evaluation and Research program** that administers Oklahoma's continuous water monitoring network and publishes vital data on water quality and quantity trends and conditions in streams, lakes, and groundwater. This information guides local and regional public water suppliers in drought, flood, and infrastructure needs planning, early warnings, and emergency operations.
17. **Complete basin-specific studies** to provide information to address specific issues and support specific economic sectors or growth areas within a certain region (e.g. potential water storage or innovative efficiency technology to support agriculture sector in arid areas; potential seasonal storage, conservation, or permitting to support water-dependent tourism and recreation economic sector; reservoir interferences by upstream water uses).
18. **Enhance water data sharing**, accessibility, and user-friendly information products. Work with customers to determine needs.

#### 2.3.5.1 Southwest

- OWRB Monitoring and Research Programs are not fully funded, as current sources of funding have not kept up with cost escalation.

### **2.3.5.2 Northwest**

- Some participants voiced support for better characterizing water use – “what is measured is managed.” However, there was no consensus on whether a certain method should be required for this measurement.
- There was general support for OWRB to collect additional data and share it in a user-friendly format because it builds trust among the agency and the public.

### **2.3.5.3 Northeast**

- Enhance water quality monitoring efforts across the state and make data available for public use.
- Conduct studies to see whether groundwater in local aquifers is being depleted with the current and anticipated levels of recharge, and to see whether water transfers out of the basin are making an impact.

### **2.3.5.4 Southeast**

- The time it requires to collect more data for studies and take action on issues, such as nonconsumptive flow, must be balanced. Studies have already been conducted so now might be the time to make decisions and take action.

### **2.3.5.5 Central**

- Comment to provide clarification that the program discussed in Action #16 is different from the 305(d) List.
- Information and data needs in the hands of state agencies should be consolidated into a refined format for improved sharing to maximize efficiency. Agencies that were specifically mentioned are OWRB, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.
- Work to collaborate with the tribes so that state agencies can share and receive data from them, specifically for source water collaborative efforts.
- It is not helpful or an efficient use of resources to collect data for the sake of having it. Upon collection, there needs to be a plan as to how it will be used effectively.

### **2.3.5.6 Virtual**

- No comments were provided on these Actions.

### **2.3.5.7 OMUP Session**

- No comments were provided on these Actions.

## **2.4 Region Specific Preliminary Draft Recommendations**

Additional Region-Specific Recommendations were developed based upon feedback collected throughout previous rounds of OCWP meetings, focus basin meetings, and other engagement with stakeholders in the region. These were presented following the Statewide Recommendations, and verbal comments were collected. Participant feedback is summarized below.

### 2.4.1 Southwest

Feedback from Southwestern Oklahomans has been synthesized into Southwest Actions #1 – 3 (below and Appendix B). Numbering is used for identification only and does not represent prioritization of recommendations.

1. Explore conjunctive management in terms of its possible impacts on water availability, use, and permitting.
2. Reform federal crop insurance requirements that result in wasted water.
3. Invest in irrigation districts specifically as they can provide training, education, and allow local setting of goals and monitoring of groundwater levels to maximize life of the local aquifer.

Overall, participants found that these recommendations were reflective of their sentiments expressed in previous meetings. Participants did not have any comments on Southwest Action #2. Concern was expressed regarding the recognition in Oklahoma water law of surface water / ground water interactions and how this lack of recognition is impacting Southwest water users. Recent observations in the region indicate that there are and will be greater water supply limitations over time, but there is uncertainty whether this viewpoint is widespread.

### 2.4.2 Northwest

Feedback from Northwestern Oklahomans has been synthesized into Northwest Actions #1 – 5 (below and Appendix B). Numbering is used for identification only and does not represent prioritization of recommendations.

1. Invest in a regional 20-30 year economic plan for the region that contemplates a transition to economic drivers that are less water intensive.
2. Invest in regionally proven/promising technology, as well as research and extension for regenerative agriculture and soil health methods of dryland crops, improving rangeland to support local feeder operations.
3. Invest in local interconnections between community water systems.
4. Invest in irrigation districts specifically as they can provide training, education, and allow local setting of goals and monitoring of groundwater levels to maximize life of the local aquifer.
5. Reform federal crop insurance requirements that result in wasted water.

Participants did not have any feedback on Northwest Actions #1 and #2. Northwest Action #3 was positively received as interconnections (regionalization) take advantage of economies of scale. Throughout the state, there have been success stories (e.g., Lake Wister) that demonstrate this and can be used as a tool to communicate why regionalization should be considered. However, one significant barrier for realistic implementation is the distance between small systems in the Panhandle, making infrastructure costs high for the revenue potential available. Participants did not oppose Northwest Action #4 but there was a comment regarding the responsibilities of irrigation districts. These entities could be put in charge of monitoring groundwater levels in their area and potentially specify an annual water table drop limit. Setting this limit could be challenging as significant variation in water level has been noted between short distances. Overall, there is a general concern regarding groundwater use and the current policies regarding well permits. Participants agreed with Northwest Action #5 but suggested that there are other drivers for a poor crop yield in addition to drought, such as hail and freezes, that do not waste water. Even though the crop insurance industry is becoming more aware of such issues, significant changes to their business practice have not yet occurred. One participant suggested that a cost benefit analysis is conducted to understand the crop yield (in dollars) per gallon of water after a damaging weather event has occurred.

### 2.4.3 Northeast

Feedback from Northeastern Oklahomans has been synthesized into Northeast Actions #1 – 3 (below and Appendix B). Numbering is used for identification only and does not represent prioritization of recommendations.

1. Invest in water/wastewater system regionalization, in part at least to address treatment for complex and widespread constituents of concern, workforce challenges, and deteriorating infrastructure.
2. Work with stakeholders to identify near-term actions, necessary data and basin studies, and related information to identify a strategic approach that supports all water use and economic sectors.
3. Continue to support and invest in non-point source mitigation to protect source water quality, including prevention of increased drinking water treatment costs (*as part of Statewide Action 14*).

Regarding Northeast Action #1, heavy metals should be referenced specifically as a water quality concern. Generally, addressing water quality issues should be done regionally, rather than by system, because it is a more effective approach since more resources are available. Success stories, presented by trusted sources, could help spread the word on the benefits of regionalization. OWRB could help identify and reach out to specific organizations that would be willing to help with this effort. Northeast Action #2 was supported by participants, but there was a request to replace “Work...” with “Identify and develop...” to make the statement more actionable. Additional clarification is suggested to demonstrate that all stakeholder voices are equal, not just statutory beneficial users and businesses. One suggested study would be to verify that regionalizing water treatment infrastructure is more cost effective rather than developing individual treatment systems. It was suggested that Northeast Action #3 be expanded to capture the sentiment that maintaining satisfactory water quality is not only for mitigating the high cost of treatment.

### 2.4.4 Southeast

Feedback from Southeastern Oklahomans has been synthesized into Southeast Actions #1 – 3 (below and Appendix B). Numbering is used for identification only and does not represent prioritization of recommendations.

1. Work with stakeholders to Identify near-term actions, necessary data and basin studies, and related information to identify a strategic approach that supports all water use and economic sectors.
2. Complete additional demand/supply/shortage analysis that evaluates areas of rapid and potentially high growth for impacts on long-term water supplies.
3. Per 2012 OCWP water supply reliability recommendation, continue engagement regarding conjunctive management water allocation system to ensure in Basin needs.

Participants suggested that Southeast Action #1 needs to be more specific with the inclusion of a standard technical methodology to accomplish the goal, with some allowance for differences. Studies already completed should be used as reference material. Southeast Action #2 aligned with participants as demand projections based upon employment projections are thought to potentially misrepresent use since different industries are more water intensive than another. Addressing the topic of conjunctive management, as stated in Southeast Action #3, is important to the area as surface water and groundwater interactions affect the area with the Arbuckle-Simpson and Antlers Aquifers. Due to this, there is concern that widespread policy change would not be favorable for the management of these two aquifers due to their unique features. With the Antlers Aquifer specifically, interstate compact implications must be considered.

### 2.4.5 Central

Feedback from Central Oklahomans has been synthesized into Central Actions #1 – 3 (below and Appendix B). Numbering is used for identification only and does not represent prioritization of recommendations.

1. Invest in water/wastewater system regionalization, in part at least to address treatment for complex and widespread constituents of concern, workforce challenges, and deteriorating infrastructure.
2. In collaboration with other agencies, incentivize removal of invasive species, like Eastern redcedar, that have negative impact on water supply.

It was suggested that the language of Central Action #1 should be more specific by adding modifiers such as “multiple communities” or “partnerships” to emphasize that regionalization efforts must be between utilities and/or rural water districts that have a geographic connection. Central Action #2 was positively received but one consideration should be to replace “invasive” with “opportunistic” to make the action more precise. Participants suggested that removal efforts be linked to existing programs (e.g. volunteer days, Eagle Scout Projects, etc.) and incorporated land management. Removal cost could be shared among those who benefit most from their removal.

## 2.5 Funding Discussion

Providing permanent funding for water projects and programs across has been a consistent need identified by stakeholders statewide throughout the 2025 OCWP Engagement. Funding ideas such as collecting revenue from sports betting (Colorado example), adding fees on water and/or water impacting activities (Kansas example), and removing the cap on the gross production tax for water planning / studies were presented in Round 4 of regional meetings. At OWRB’s 2024 Governor’s Water Conference (GWC), the OCWP Team held a focused session on water project funding where participants suggested a variety of potential funding programs. See the [summary](#) of this session’s outcomes on OWRB’s website. A summarized list of these funding ideas from Round 4 regional meetings and GWC were presented to meeting participants to help provoke discussion. This list is captured below and in Appendix B. Participants provided the OCWP Team feedback on these potential water funding programs verbally and through a prioritization activity. Their feedback is summarized in the proceeding sections and detailed prioritization activity results are captured in Appendix C.

1. Sports Betting – In Colorado, 93% of the 10% tax on casino’s proceeds from sports betting goes to Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to fund water projects. CWCB received \$23.8M in FY23/24.
2. Fees on water and/or water impacting activities – Kansas collects \$0.03 per 1,000 gallons on retail, industrial, and livestock water use as well as a portion of fees assessed on pesticide, fertilizer, and sand. Typical revenue from fees is \$13M per year.
3. Tourism or hotel tax – New Orleans imposes tax on hotels and short-term rentals with additional contributions from the City. In 2023, \$21.9M went to the Sewerage & Water Board.
4. Remove cap on gross production tax (for water planning and studies across the entire state) – currently OWRB is capped (~\$2.9M per year) but could receive more money if cap was removed.
5. Specialty license plate or license plate fee.
6. Tax on medical marijuana.
7. Tax on bottled water (or all plastic bottles).
8. Reallocation of existing lottery fees.
9. Boat registration fee.



10. Fee on new developments.
11. Recreation fee on activities that depend on water (examples, golf courses, water parks, boat access).
12. Fee on aggregate removal or quarries.
13. Increase water permitting fee and allocate increase to water projects.
14. Increase water use penalties and allocate increase to water projects.
15. Tax or fee on water being transferred out of basin.
16. Allocate a portion of State's rainy-day fund to water projects.

### **2.5.1 Southwest**

Participants identified that potential water funding programs #6, 1, and 11 are the most implementable and effective of the options presented. Participants noted that all items on their priority list (medical marijuana, sports betting, and recreation activities) are related to discretionary spending, rather than added to everyday taxes and funds. They prefer this approach as many people from rural and/or disadvantaged communities are faced with fixed incomes. However, it was suggested that as the public becomes more aware of the true cost of water through public education efforts, there will be more willingness to support water infrastructure financially.

### **2.5.2 Northwest**

Participants identified that potential water funding programs #7, 4, and 1 / 2 / 6 / 8 are the most implementable and effective of the options presented. There were not any further comments on #7 and #8. One concern mentioned about acquiring funding from sports betting (program #1) is that Oklahoma does not currently have this, so momentum regarding the program might be limited. However, this might be an advantage because funding for water could be prioritized before revenue is divided among other funds. Regarding program #4, there was a concern expressed that removing the cap on the gross production tax for water planning and studies would take revenue away from other programs, so assessing where the remaining portions are assigned would have to be considered before this program moves forward. One participant suggested that programs #5, 6, and 9 would not generate enough revenue to be feasible.

### **2.5.3 Northeast**

Participants identified that potential water funding programs #7, 11, and 4 are the most implementable and effective of the options presented. However, quite a few participants were disappointed that most fees will be added to the public, rather than targeted toward industries and/or institutions that potentially pollute waterways. By protecting these areas, tourism industry in Oklahoma could be protected, which is a substantial revenue stream for communities throughout the eastern part of the state.

### **2.5.4 Southeast**

Participants identified that potential water funding programs #12, 2, and 7 would be the most implementable and effective of the options presented. Program #7 (fee on aggregate removal) aligns with the viewpoints of various participants – since mining is depleting resources, it should be taxed as such. One participant suggested that all programs presented, besides #16 (allocating a portion of the State's rainy-day fund to water projects), are not feasible because they put additional financial strain on Oklahomans beyond the existing taxes and fees. However, it was generally supported that when more water is used by an individual or an industry, they would be the ones to fund that use.

### 2.5.5 Central

Participants identified that potential water funding programs #6, 1, and 2 / 15 are the most implementable and effective of the options presented. It was suggested that program #6 (tax on medical marijuana) be directed specifically towards producers as they are direct water users. Program #11 (recreation fees) could be expanded to capture boat ramp user fee and additional fee on fishing license for water projects, and overall, easy to impose. Some new ideas were suggested by various participants. Generally, lawmakers in Oklahoma are working to reduce taxes and fees. Rather than eliminating taxpayer expenditures, reallocation of these taxpayer dollars to water infrastructure programs may be appropriate. Another idea would be to remove tax deductions and/or credits statewide and apply these proceeds to water projects and programs.

### 2.5.6 Virtual

Participants identified water funding programs #1, 2 / 6 / 7 / 15, and 4 / 5 / 11 / 14 are the most implementable and effective options presented. Generally, it was the belief of one participant that high water users should be contributing the most towards water funding. Other comments included support for using funds from sports betting for water, but expressed concern that implementation might be difficult.

### 2.5.7 OMUP Session

Participants identified that potential water funding programs #6, 1, and 7 are the most implementable and effective of the options presented. There were not any verbal comments on listed Actions. However, there was an additional suggestion to reallocate funds collected from turnpikes across the state to water projects.

## 2.6 Wrap up and Next Steps

Matt thanked participants for their participation in all rounds of the regional meetings and OCWP OMUP Session. Over the coming months, the OCWP Team will follow up on the discussion items of this meeting, explore other priority topics, present data and findings from other technical studies, and finalize recommendations to include in the OCWP. Reach out to Matt with any questions or to discuss the OCWP.



**Matt Cogburn** | Interim Director of Water Planning  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
405.530.8856 | [Matt.Cogburn@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:Matt.Cogburn@owrb.ok.gov)  
[waterplan@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:waterplan@owrb.ok.gov)  
Website: [Oklahoma.gov/OWRB/Water-Planning](https://Oklahoma.gov/OWRB/Water-Planning)  
Facebook: [Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan](#)

# MEETING HANDOUT

ROUND 5 REGIONAL MEETINGS



OCWP Public Comment Form  
Round 5 Regional Meeting

Website: [Oklahoma.gov/OWRB/Water-Planning](https://oklahoma.gov/OWRB/Water-Planning)  
Facebook: Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan



Contact Matt or fill out the Local Projects and Programs (LPP) data collection form on OWRB's website.

To submit a comment or ask a question, please contact:

**Matt Cogburn** | Water Planning Division  
Oklahoma Water Resources Board  
405.530.8856 Office  
[Matt.Cogburn@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:Matt.Cogburn@owrb.ok.gov)  
[waterplan@owrb.ok.gov](mailto:waterplan@owrb.ok.gov)

| Date/Time                      | Location                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 4,<br>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.   | <b>SW</b> – Cameron University, McMahon Centennial Complex – McAsland Ballroom A/B, 2800 W. Gore Blvd., Lawton, OK 73505   <a href="#">West Central, Southwest, Beaver-Cache, and Lower Washita OCWP Planning Regions</a> |
| March 5,<br>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.   | <b>NW</b> – High Plains Technology Center, Seminar Center, 3921 34 <sup>th</sup> St., Woodward, OK 73801   <a href="#">Panhandle OCWP Planning Region</a>                                                                 |
| March 25,<br>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  | <b>NE</b> – OSU Tulsa, Conference Center – B.S. Roberts Room, 700 N. Greenwood Ave., Tulsa, OK 74106   <a href="#">Middle Arkansas, Grand, Eufaula, and Lower Arkansas OCWP Planning Regions</a>                          |
| March 26,<br>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  | <b>SE</b> – Kiamichi Technology Center, Conference Room, 13739 SE. 202 <sup>nd</sup> Rd., Talihina, OK 74571   <a href="#">Blue-Boggy and Southeast OCWP Planning Regions</a>                                             |
| March 27,<br>1:00 – 4:00 p.m.  | <b>Central</b> – Robert R. Lester Training Center, Classroom A, 3600 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73111   <a href="#">Upper Arkansas and Central OCWP Planning Regions</a>                           |
| March 11,<br>10:00 a.m. - Noon | <b>Virtual</b> – <a href="#">click to join</a>                                                                                                                                                                            |

| Topic                                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                   | Approx. Time          |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Welcome                                   | ▪ Review meeting objectives and agenda                                                                                                                                                        | 15 minutes<br>1:00 pm |
| 2. OCWP Update                               | ▪ Provide general update on various OCWP activities                                                                                                                                           | 30 minutes<br>1:15 pm |
| 3. Preliminary Draft Recommendations, part 1 | ▪ Provide context on the preliminary draft recommendation topics like water infrastructure & workforce, water governance, regional solutions, reliable supplies, and water data & information | 55 minutes<br>1:45 pm |
| 4. Networking Break                          | ▪ Networking Break                                                                                                                                                                            | 15 minutes<br>2:40 pm |
| 5. Preliminary Draft Recommendations, part 2 | ▪ Continuation of discussion on preliminary draft recommendations                                                                                                                             | 55 minutes<br>2:55 pm |
| 6. Look Ahead                                | ▪ Wrap up and discussion of upcoming OCWP activities                                                                                                                                          | 10 minutes<br>3:50 pm |

## WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKFORCE

**Address the \$24 billion Water Infrastructure construction need and build a strong water industry workforce**

1. Fully leverage Oklahoma's existing water infrastructure loan and grant programs and identify new funding strategies to increase dollars available to meet current and future needs
  - a. Increase state appropriated dollars and identify cost-match opportunities to leverage existing low-interest loan and grant programs
  - b. Explore new funding instruments and partnership opportunities, including cost-share programs, dedicated funding from existing revenue streams (e.g. gross production tax), revenues from new streams (e.g. sports betting, impact, or local tourism tax).
2. Develop and launch public education campaign about water careers to address the critical shortage of water workers.
3. Expand state funding and collaboration to deliver small system technical, financial, and managerial service to develop system longevity and capital planning and incentivize it through priority ranking points for infrastructure grants.
4. Meet the critical shortage of professional groundwater well drillers and pump installers through expansion of professional training programs and partnerships with industry leaders and universities to provide cutting-edge methods and leverage of funding sources.

## WATER MANAGEMENT

**Facilitate a fair, streamlined legal framework and that promotes responsible use and development of Oklahoma's water supplies for the welfare of our citizens and prosperity of businesses and the economy.**

5. Provide stable funding necessary to fully administer the Oklahoma's water rights administration program to meet the needs of business and protect property rights. Statutory requirements include water availability determination, allocation, permit issuance and administration, user disputes resolution, compliance monitoring and enforcement, water user interference and illegal water use to protect private property.
6. Evaluate alternative water use accounting methodologies, use reporting, and information sharing to improve transparency, dissuade unpermitted use or overuse and possible interference between water users.
7. Provide statutory clarity in Oklahoma stream water law regarding interference with permitted / domestic use, well spacing, etc.

## REGIONAL WATER PLANNING

**Promote regional water planning to meet diverse water and growing demand across the state.**

8. Work with stakeholders and lawmakers to establish framework for regional water planning authority and responsibilities that includes funding for technical assistance to groups and administration of a program. This will allow recommendations to be developed and vetted by local interests and allows State to provide technical guidance and quantify funding or legislative needs with specific action items.
9. Investigate region specific long-term water supply needs.
10. Establish substantial competitive cost-share fund that incentivizes regional cooperation and smarter long-term planning.

## WATER SUPPLIES AND STORAGE

**Improve water supply dependability through effective management, efficiency, and maximizing and developing new water sources and storage.**

11. Incentivize developing new sources of water supply and storage (ex, reuse, ASR, brackish groundwater, lake yield analyses)
12. Incentivize water use efficiency (like water conservation, loss reduction, lower gallons per capita usage, etc.) across all water use sectors
13. In collaboration with local stakeholders in stream basins where water-dependent tourism and recreation are a significant economic driver, evaluate non-consumptive stream water needs and economic impact and identify investment, actions, and policy that could contribute to the preservation, maintenance, and promotion of the state's natural assets
14. Continue the Oklahoma Source Water Collaborative to improve information and outreach on the prevention of contamination to provide safe drinking water supply and reduce treatment costs.
15. Fund and further develop the new Oklahoma Water Reuse Action Plan.

## WATER DATA AND INFORMATION

**Invest in comprehensive water data collection, technical studies, and innovative tools to enable data-driven water planning and policy.**

16. Fully fund the OWRB's Water Assessment, Trends, Evaluation and Research program that administers Oklahoma's continuous water monitoring network and publishes vital data on water quality and quantity trends and conditions in streams, lakes, and groundwater. This information guides local and regional public water suppliers in drought, flood, and infrastructure needs planning, early warnings, and emergency operations.
17. Complete basin-specific studies to provide information to address specific issues and support specific economic sectors or growth areas within a certain region (e.g. potential water storage or innovative efficiency technology to support agriculture sector in arid areas; potential seasonal storage, conservation, or permitting to support water-dependent tourism and recreation economic sector; reservoir interferences by upstream water uses).
18. Enhance water data sharing, accessibility, and user-friendly information products. Work with customers to determine needs.

# MEETING PRESENTATION



## Round 5 | Presentation

# 2025 OCWP Regional Meetings

.....

|           |               |          |
|-----------|---------------|----------|
| Southwest | Lawton        | March 4  |
| Northwest | Woodward      | March 5  |
| Virtual   |               | March 11 |
| Northeast | Tulsa         | March 25 |
| Southeast | Talihina      | March 26 |
| Central   | Oklahoma City | March 27 |



OKLAHOMA  
Water Resources Board



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Website: [Oklahoma.gov/OWRB/Water-Planning](https://oklahoma.gov/OWRB/Water-Planning)  
Facebook: Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan



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01

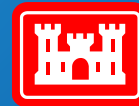
# Welcome!

1:00 pm

15 minutes



OKLAHOMA  
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2025 **OCWP**

# Agenda

1. Welcome
2. OCWP Update
3. Preliminary Draft Recommendations, part 1
4. Networking Break
5. Preliminary Draft Recommendations, part 2
6. Look Ahead

# Goals for the OCWP Regional Meetings

*Why and how we want you to participate!*



Identify local water issues and policy needs.

Round 1: Listening sessions

Round 2: Breakout on what we heard

Round 3: Present regional projections for supply/demand/water quality

Round 4: Discuss some policy ideas and feasibility of water management strategies

Round 5: Review draft recommendations and collect feedback on what is most important and/or missing



Identify and frame solutions to those issues and needs.



Chart a course toward reliable water management locally and statewide.

Possible future meetings: Rollout and demonstration of OCWP resources

# Welcome



Federal Legislators  
State Legislators  
Local Government Officials  
OWRB Board Members

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02

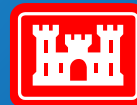
# OCWP Update

1:15 pm

30 minutes



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2025 **OCWP**



# Supply Issues and Solutions Vary Across the State

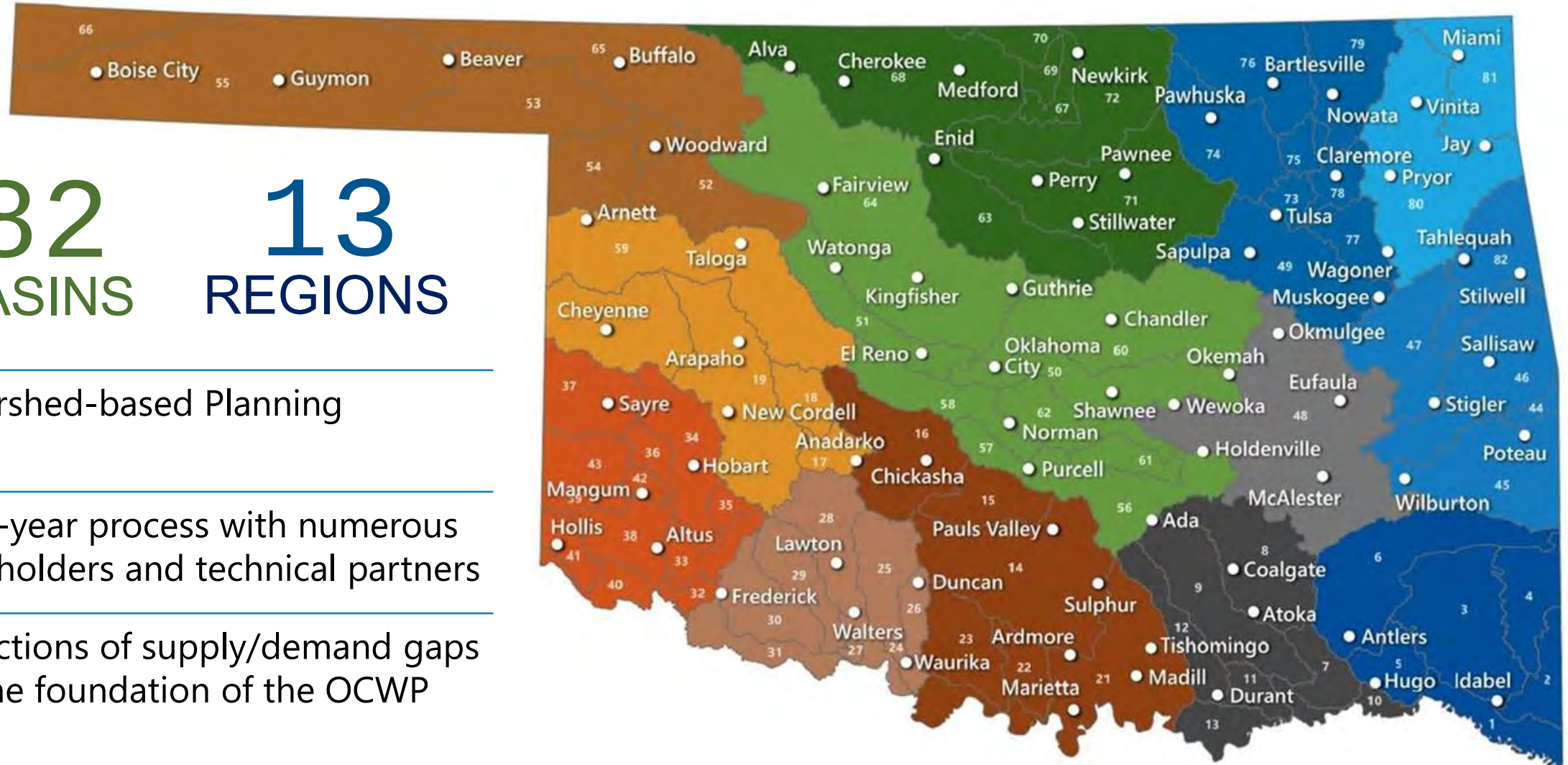
82  
BASINS

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

# Technical Studies Support All OCWP 2025 Focus Areas



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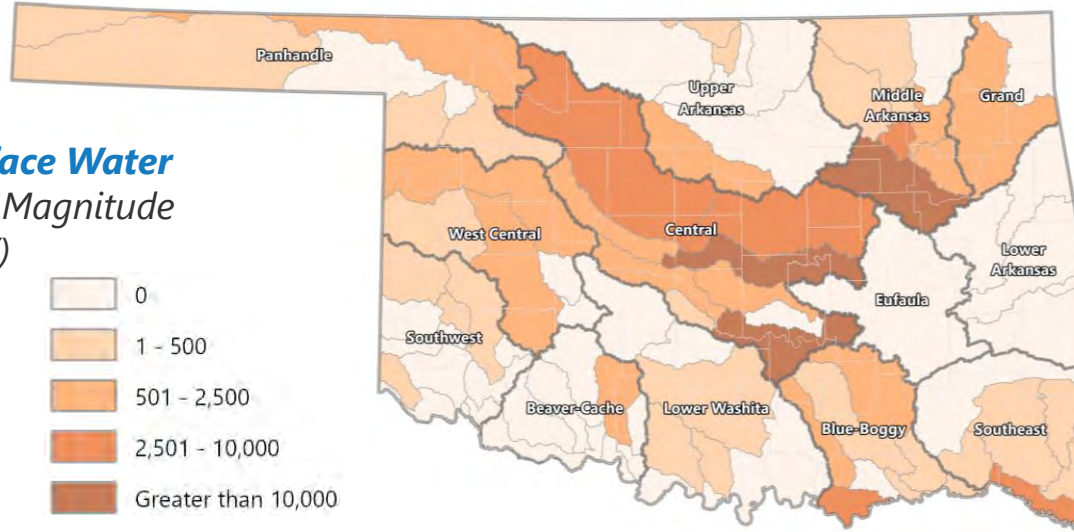
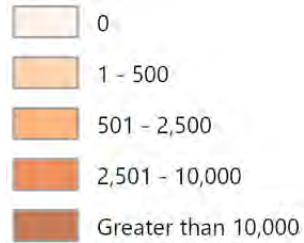
Provide **greater access** to OCWP deliverables



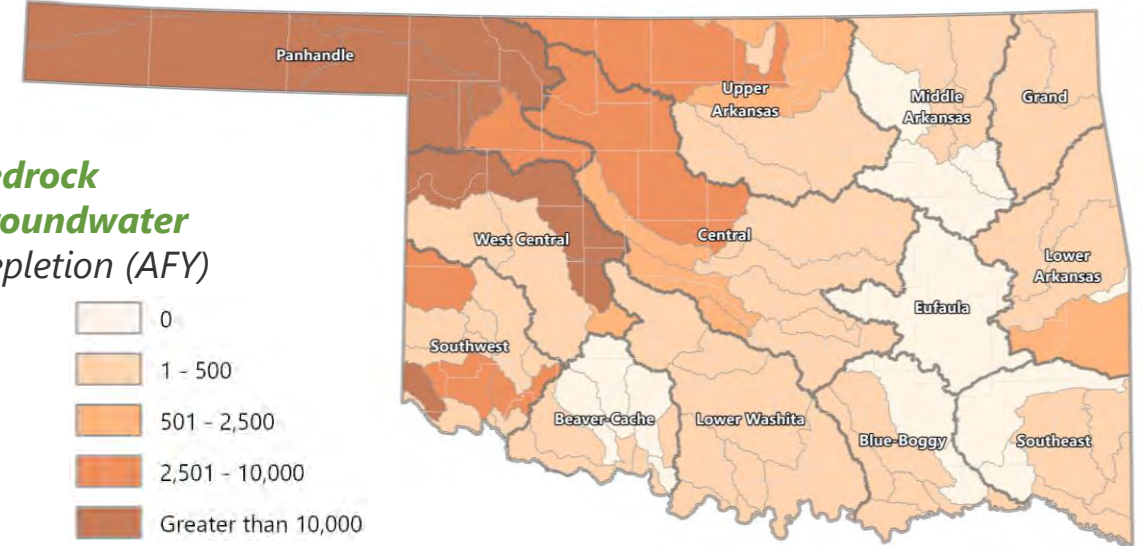
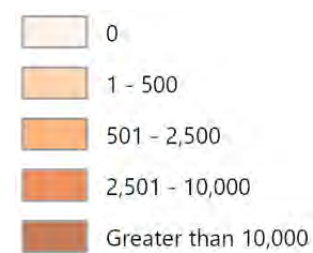
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In Round 3, we presented projected demand, physical supply, and water shortage information

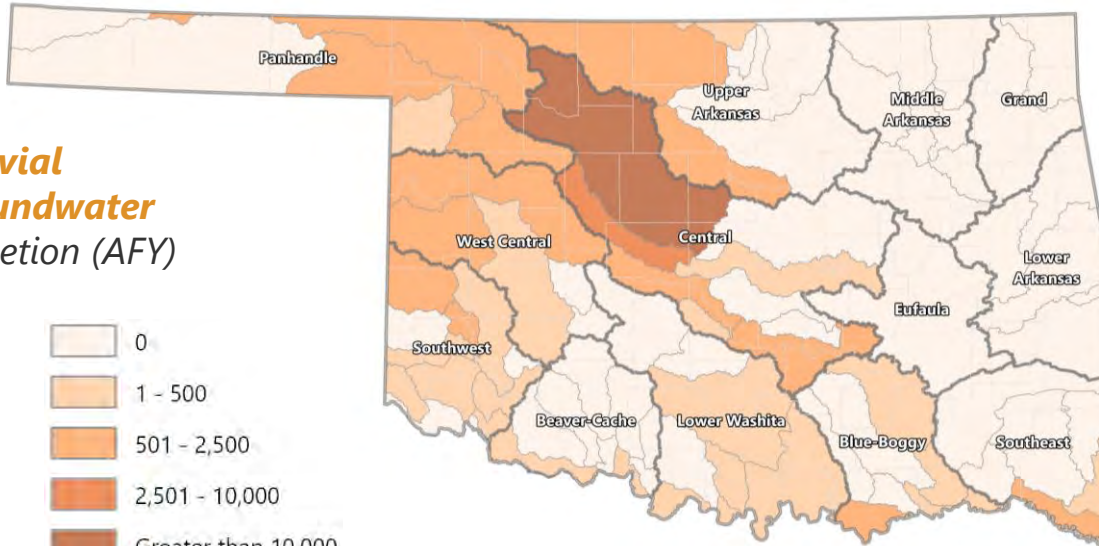
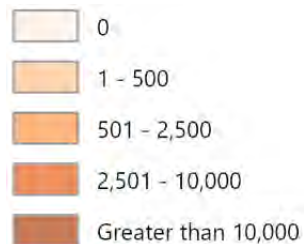
**Surface Water**  
Gap Magnitude  
(AFY)



**Bedrock**  
Groundwater  
Depletion (AFY)



**Alluvial**  
Groundwater  
Depletion (AFY)



Round 3 Regional  
Meeting Summary



# Technical Studies Support All OCWP 2025 Focus Areas



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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

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In Round 4, we presented ideas on how to meet water supply needs... now through 2075 using various water management strategies

*Round 4 Regional Meeting Summary*

Demand Management



Agriculture Options



Water Transfers



Increase Reliance on Surface Water



Increase Reliance on Groundwater



Stormwater Capture and Use



Reuse





# 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

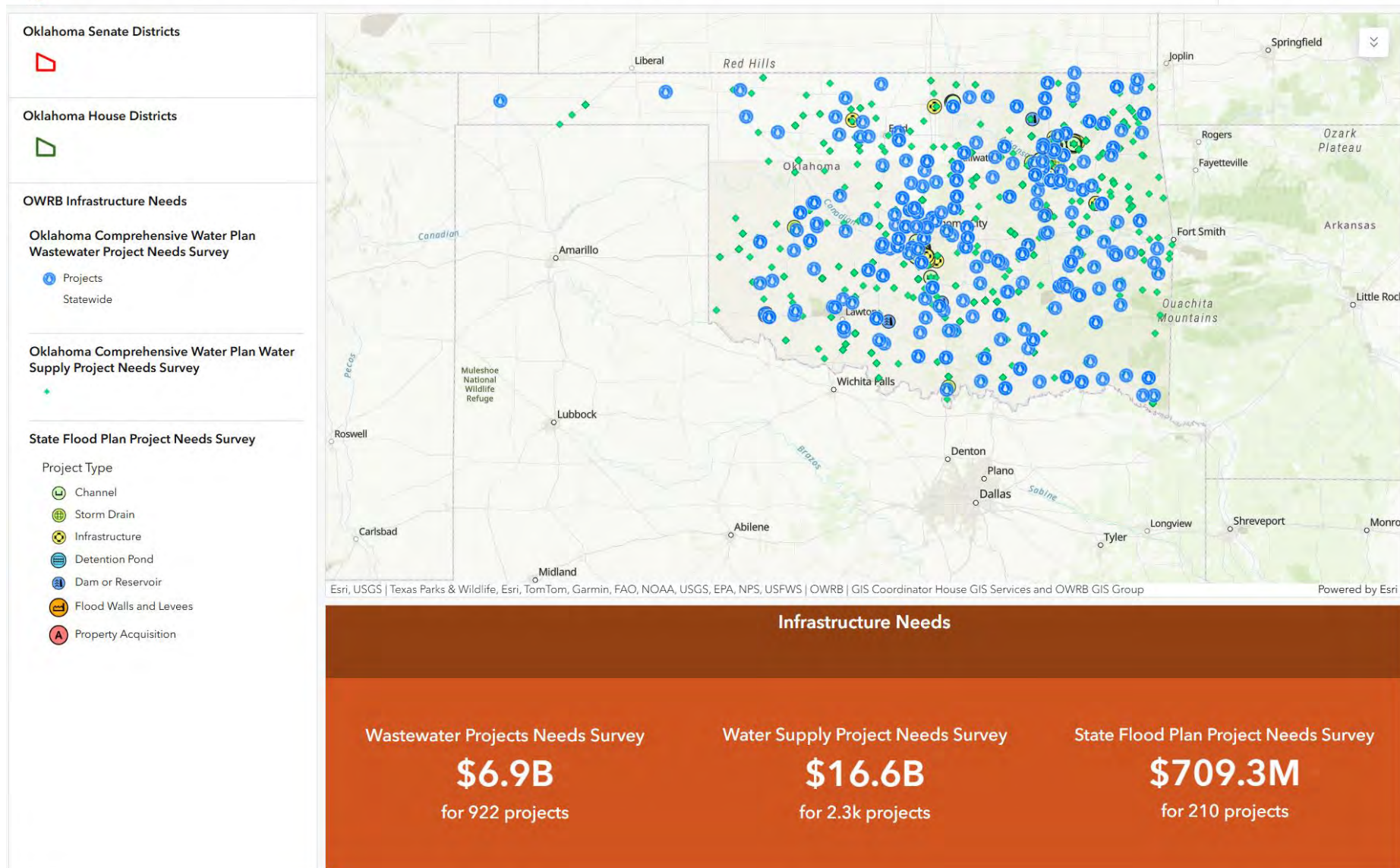


Provide **greater access** to OCWP deliverables

Over **\$24B** in needs have been identified so far!



OWRB Activities and Infrastructure Needs by Legislative District



You can still submit your **Local Projects and Programs** using link on OWRB's Water Planning page

*Infrastructure Needs Dashboard*



# 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

# Actions and Results: Legislation and Collaborative Studies

|                                                  |                                                         |                                                            |                                                                                                   |                                                                                |                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Water for 2060 Act and committee recommendations | Water infrastructure financing under State Question 764 | GPT funding for OCWP implementation                        | Support to complete groundwater studies, monitoring, phased implementation for MAY & well spacing | Water Bank Development Strategy                                                | Water Settlement Planning and Blue River ISF Economic Study |
| Upper Red and Upper Washita Studies              | Illinois River Phosphorus WQ Standards Rulemaking       | Soil Health Economic Value Study Master Irrigators Program | Produced Water Chemical Characterization                                                          | GRDA Grand River Water Study and Operations Analyses                           | HB3405 Use of Brackish or Marginal Groundwater              |
| SB1219 Aquifer Storage Framework                 | SB1043 Water Reuse Framework                            | SB1294 Gradual Implementation of Groundwater Limits        | HB2263 Irrigation District Act                                                                    | SB1875 Oil and Gas Produced Water Recycling Act                                | State Flood Plan                                            |
| HB3382 Administration Penalties                  | HB2197 Stream Water Rights                              | SB1914 Groundwater Irrigation Districts                    | Tom Steed & Lugert-Altus interference rules (OAC 785:20-13)                                       | Groundwater notice requirements if landowner and permit owner are not the same | Intent to drill                                             |

# 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







# 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

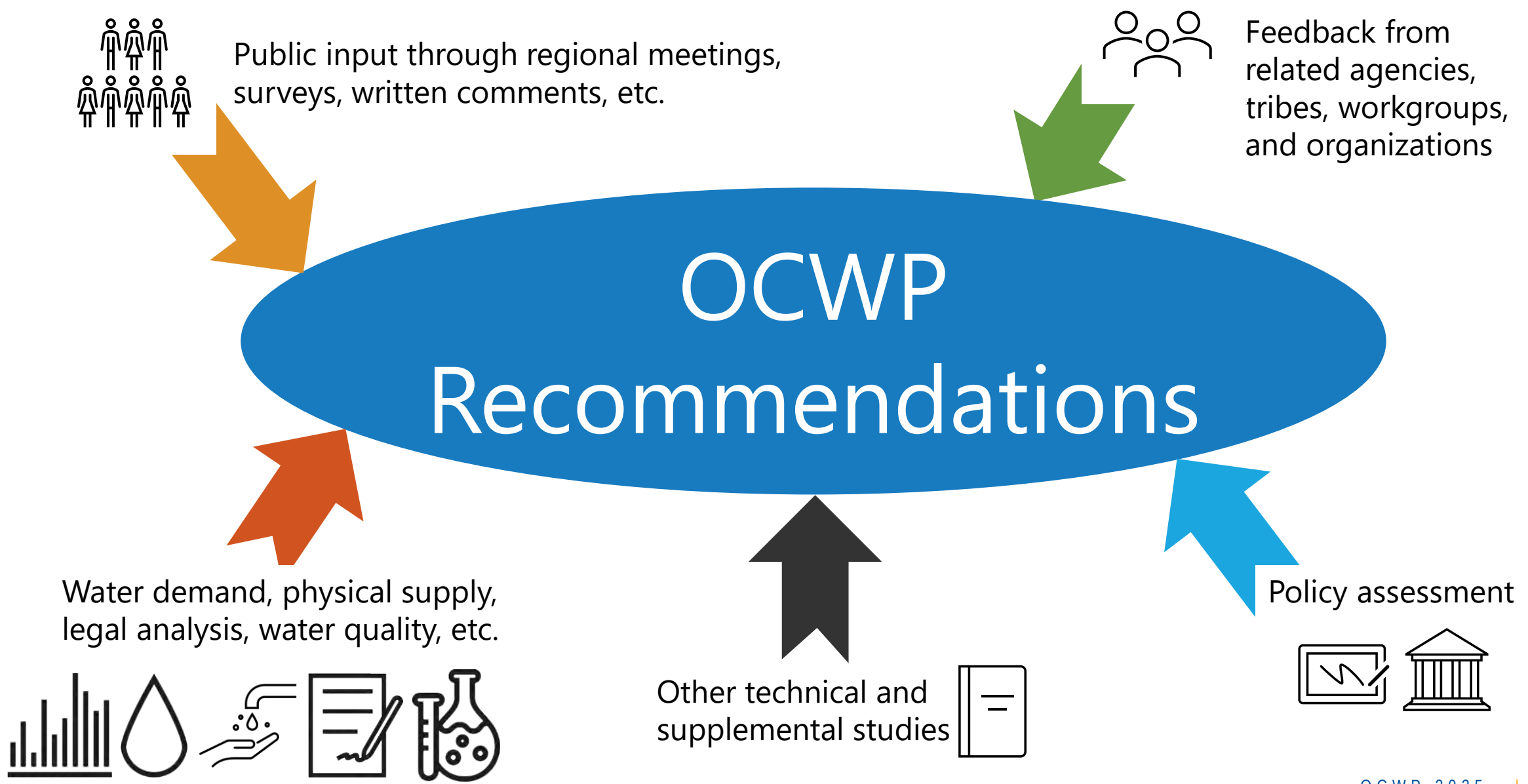


Provide **greater access** to OCWP deliverables

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Topics that were brought up in Round 1 and carried through the OCWP process





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03

# Preliminary Draft Recommendations

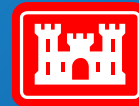
## Part 1

1:45 pm

55 minutes



OKLAHOMA  
Water Resources Board



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2025 OCWP

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## Preliminary Draft Recommendations

Water  
Infrastructure  
& Workforce

Water  
Management

Regional  
Water  
Planning

Water  
Supplies and  
Storage

Water Data &  
Information

**Ultimate Goal: Water Security!**



....

## Preliminary Draft Recommendations

Water  
Infrastructure  
& Workforce

Water  
Management

Regional  
Water  
Planning

Water  
Supplies and  
Storage

Water Data &  
Information

# Water Infrastructure & Workforce

## Address the \$24 billion Water Infrastructure construction need and build a strong water industry workforce

1. **Fully leverage** Oklahoma's **existing water infrastructure loan and grant programs** and **identify new funding** strategies to increase dollars available to meet current and future needs
  - a. Increase state appropriated dollars and identify cost-match opportunities to leverage existing low-interest loan and grant programs
  - b. Explore new funding instruments and partnership opportunities, including cost-share programs, dedicated funding from existing revenue streams (e.g. gross production tax), revenues from new streams (e.g. sports betting, impact, or local tourism tax).
2. Develop and launch **public education** campaign about water careers to address the critical shortage of water workers.
3. Expand state funding and collaboration to deliver small system **technical, financial, and managerial service** to develop system longevity and capital planning and incentivize it through priority ranking points for infrastructure grants.
4. Meet the critical shortage of professional groundwater well drillers and pump installers through **expansion of professional training programs and partnerships** with industry leaders and universities to provide cutting-edge methods and leverage of funding sources.

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## Preliminary Draft Recommendations

Water  
Infrastructure  
& Workforce

Water  
Management

Regional  
Water  
Planning

Water  
Supplies and  
Storage

Water Data &  
Information

# Water Management

**Facilitate a fair, streamlined legal framework and that promotes responsible use and development of Oklahoma's water supplies for the welfare of our citizens and prosperity of businesses and the economy.**

We are looking forward to increasing our technical, legal, and IT capacity in order to speed up permit processes and legal proceedings; increase field services and address water use complaints; address non-compliant water use; streamline use reporting; and improve data quality and accessibility.

5. Provide **stable funding** necessary to fully **administer** the Oklahoma's **water rights** administration program to meet the needs of business and protect property rights. Statutory requirements include water availability determination, allocation, permit issuance and administration, user disputes resolution, compliance monitoring and enforcement, water user interference and illegal water use to protect private property.
6. Evaluate **alternative water use accounting** methodologies, use reporting, and information sharing to improve transparency, dissuade unpermitted use or overuse and possible interference between water users.
7. Provide **statutory clarity** in Oklahoma stream water law regarding interference with permitted / domestic use, well spacing, etc.

....

# Preliminary Draft Recommendations

Water  
Infrastructure  
& Workforce

Water  
Management

Regional  
Water  
Planning

Water  
Supplies and  
Storage

Water Data &  
Information

# Regional Water Planning

**Promote regional water planning to meet diverse water and growing demand across the state.**

8. Work with stakeholders and lawmakers to **establish framework for regional water planning authority and responsibilities** that includes funding for technical assistance to groups and administration of a program. This will allow recommendations to be developed and vetted by local interests and allows State to provide technical guidance and quantify funding or legislative needs with specific action items.
9. Investigate **region specific long-term water** supply needs.
10. Establish substantial **competitive cost-share fund** that incentivizes regional cooperation and smarter long-term planning.



....

# Preliminary Draft Recommendations

Water  
Infrastructure  
& Workforce

Water  
Management

Regional  
Water  
Planning

Water  
Supplies and  
Storage

Water Data &  
Information

# Water Supplies and Storage

**Improve water supply dependability through effective management, efficiency, and maximizing and developing new water sources and storage.**

11. **Incentivize developing new sources** of water supply and storage (ex, reuse, ASR, brackish groundwater, lake yield analyses)
12. Incentivize **water use efficiency** (like water conservation, loss reduction, lower gallons per capita usage, etc.) across all water use sectors
13. In collaboration with local stakeholders in stream basins where water-dependent tourism and recreation are a significant economic driver, **evaluate non-consumptive stream water needs and economic impact and identify investment, actions, and policy** that could contribute to the preservation, maintenance, and promotion of the state's natural assets
14. Continue the **Oklahoma Source Water Collaborative** to improve information and outreach on the prevention of contamination to provide safe drinking water supply and reduce treatment costs.
15. Fund and further develop the new **Oklahoma Water Reuse Action Plan**.

....

# Preliminary Draft Recommendations

Water  
Infrastructure  
& Workforce

Water  
Management

Regional  
Water  
Planning

Water  
Supplies and  
Storage

Water Data &  
Information

# Water Data & Information

**Invest in comprehensive water data collection, technical studies, and innovative tools to enable data-driven water planning and policy.**

**16. Fully fund the OWRB's Water Assessment, Trends, Evaluation and Research program** that administers Oklahoma's continuous water monitoring network and publishes vital data on water quality and quantity trends and conditions in streams, lakes, and groundwater. This information guides local and regional public water suppliers in drought, flood, and infrastructure needs planning, early warnings, and emergency operations.

**17. Complete basin-specific studies** to provide information to address specific issues and support specific economic sectors or growth areas within a certain region (e.g. potential water storage or innovative efficiency technology to support agriculture sector in arid areas; potential seasonal storage, conservation, or permitting to support water-dependent tourism and recreation economic sector; reservoir interferences by upstream water uses).

**18. Enhance water data sharing**, accessibility, and user-friendly information products. Work with customers to determine needs.

....

Of the 18 statewide actions, which three are most important to you?

Water Infrastructure  
& Workforce,  
Actions 1-4

Water  
Management,  
Actions 5-7

Regional Water  
Planning,  
Actions 8-10

Water Supplies and  
Storage,  
Actions 11-15

Water Data &  
Information,  
Actions 16-18

.....  
04

# Networking Break

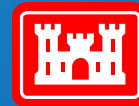
**Resume meeting at 2:55 pm**

2:40 pm

15 minutes



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05

# Preliminary Draft Recommendations

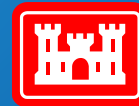
## Part 2

2:55 pm

55 minutes



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....

In addition, here are some take-aways that we heard that are particularly important in Southwest Oklahoma

1. Explore conjunctive management in terms of its possible impacts on water availability, use, and permitting
2. Reform federal crop insurance requirements that waste water
3. Invest in irrigation districts specifically as they can provide training, education, and allow local setting of goals and monitoring of groundwater levels to maximize life of the local aquifer

....

## Is there anything in the Southwest list that is missing?

1. Explore conjunctive management in terms of its possible impacts on water availability, use, and permitting
2. Reform federal crop insurance requirements that waste water
3. Invest in irrigation districts specifically as they can provide training, education, and allow local setting of goals and monitoring of groundwater levels to maximize life of the local aquifer

....

In addition, here are some take-aways that we heard that are particularly important in Northwest Oklahoma

1. Invest in a regional 20-30 year economic plan for the region that contemplates a transition to economic drivers that are less water intensive
2. Invest in regionally proven/promising technology as well as research and extension for regenerative ag and soil health methods of dryland crops, improving rangeland to support local feeder operations
3. Invest in local interconnections between communities
4. Invest in irrigation districts specifically as they can provide training, education, and allow local setting of goals and monitoring of groundwater levels to maximize life of the local aquifer
5. Reform federal crop insurance requirements that waste water

....

## Is there anything in the Northwest list that is missing?

1. Invest in a regional 20-30 year economic plan for the region that contemplates a transition to economic drivers that are less water intensive
2. Invest in regionally proven/promising technology as well as research and extension for regenerative ag and soil health methods of dryland crops, improving rangeland to support local feeder operations
3. Invest in local interconnections between communities
4. Invest in irrigation districts specifically as they can provide training, education, and allow local setting of goals and monitoring of groundwater levels to maximize life of the local aquifer
5. Reform federal crop insurance requirements that waste water

....

In addition, here are some take-aways that we heard that are particularly important in Northeast Oklahoma

1. Invest in water/wastewater system regionalization, in part at least to address treatment for complex and widespread constituents of concern, workforce challenges, and deteriorating infrastructure.
2. Work with stakeholders to identify near-term actions, necessary data and basin studies, and related information to identify a strategic approach that supports all water use and economic sectors.
3. Continue to support and invest in non-point source mitigation to protect source water quality, including prevention of increased drinking water treatment costs (*as part of Statewide Action 14*).



....

## Is there anything in the Northeast list that is missing?

1. Invest in water/wastewater system regionalization, in part at least to address treatment for complex and widespread constituents of concern, workforce challenges, and deteriorating infrastructure.
2. Work with stakeholders to identify near-term actions, necessary data and basin studies, and related information to identify a strategic approach that supports all water use and economic sectors.
3. Continue to support and invest in non-point source mitigation to protect source water quality, including prevention of increased drinking water treatment costs (*as part of Statewide Action 14*).

....

## In addition, here are some take-aways that we heard that are particularly important in Southeast Oklahoma

1. Work with stakeholders to Identify near-term actions, necessary data and basin studies, and related information to identify a strategic approach that supports all water use and economic sectors.
2. Complete additional demand/supply/shortage analysis that evaluates areas of rapid and potentially high growth for impacts on long-term water supplies.
3. Per 2012 OCWP water supply reliability recommendation, continue engagement regarding conjunctive management water allocation system to ensure in-basin needs.

....

## Is there anything in the Southeast list that is missing?

1. Work with stakeholders to Identify near-term actions, necessary data and basin studies, and related information to identify a strategic approach that supports all water use and economic sectors.
2. Complete additional demand/supply/shortage analysis that evaluates areas of rapid and potentially high growth for impacts on long-term water supplies.
3. Per 2012 OCWP water supply reliability recommendation, continue engagement regarding conjunctive management water allocation system to ensure in -basin needs.

....

In addition, here are some take-aways that we heard that are particularly important in Central Oklahoma

1. Invest in water/wastewater system regionalization, in part at least to address treatment for complex and widespread constituents of concern, workforce challenges, and deteriorating infrastructure.
2. In collaboration with other agencies, incentivize removal of invasive species, like Eastern Redcedar, that have negative impact on water supply.

....

## Is there anything in the Central list that is missing?

1. Invest in water/wastewater system regionalization, in part at least to address treatment for complex and widespread constituents (like PFAS), workforce challenges, and deteriorating infrastructure.
2. In collaboration with other agencies, incentivize removal of invasive species, like Eastern Red Cedar, that have negative impact on water supply.

....

Of the 18 statewide actions, which three are most important to you?

Water Infrastructure  
& Workforce,  
Actions 1-4

Water  
Management,  
Actions 5-7

Regional Water  
Planning,  
Actions 8-10

Water Supplies and  
Storage,  
Actions 11-15

Water Data &  
Information,  
Actions 16-18

....

# Of the new possible water funding programs, which three do you think are most implementable and effective?

- 1. Sports Betting** – In Colorado, 93% of the 10% tax on casino's proceeds from sports betting goes to Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to fund water projects. CWCB received \$23.8M in FY23/24.
- 2. Fees on water and/or water impacting activities** – Kansas collects \$0.03 per 1,000 gallons on retail, industrial, and livestock water use as well as a portion of fees assessed on pesticide, fertilizer, and sand. Typical revenue from fees is \$13M per year.
- 3. Tourism or hotel tax** – New Orleans imposes tax on hotels and short-term rentals with additional contributions from the City. In 2023, \$21.9M went to the Sewerage & Water Board.
- 4. Remove cap on gross production tax** (for water planning and studies across the entire state) – currently OWRB is capped (~\$2.9M per year) but could receive more money if cap was removed.
5. Specialty license plate or license plate fee
6. Tax on medical marijuana
7. Tax on bottled water (or all plastic bottles)
8. Reallocation of existing lottery fees
9. Boat registration fee
10. Fee on new developments
11. Recreation fee on activities that depend on water (examples, golf courses, water parks, boat access)
12. Fee on aggregate removal or quarries
13. Increase water permitting fee and allocate increase to water projects
14. Increase water use penalties and allocate increase to water projects
15. Tax or fee on water being transferred out of basin
16. Allocate a portion of State's rainy-day fund to water projects



.....  
06

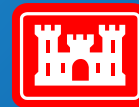
Look ahead

3:50 pm

10 minutes



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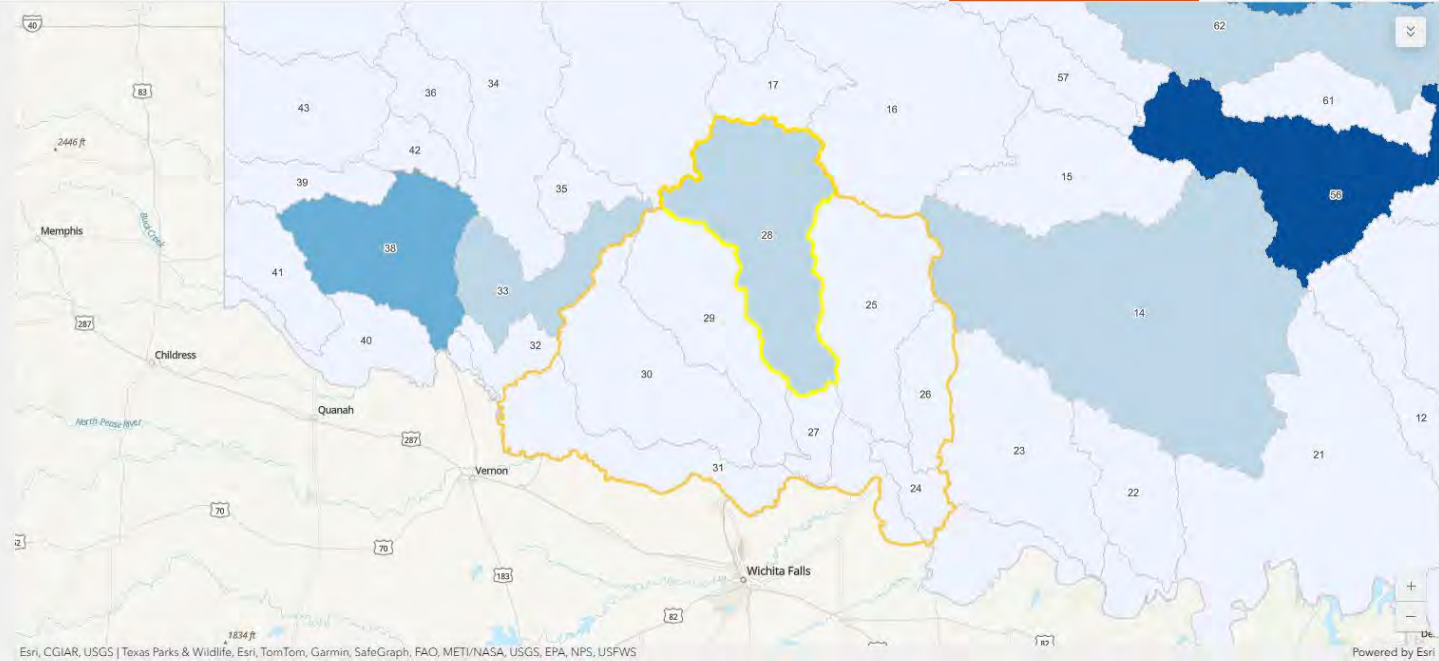
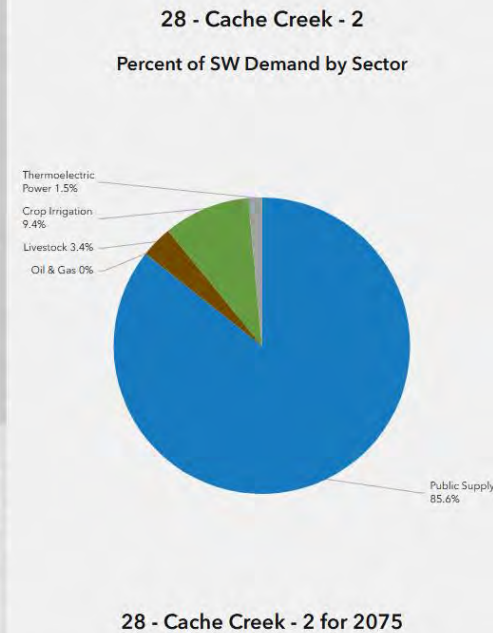
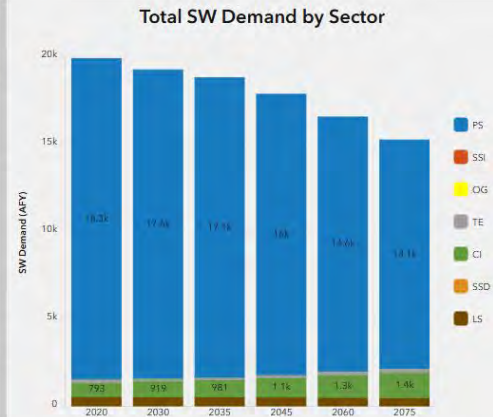
# Demand dashboard coming soon!

This tab of the dashboard outlines all surface water (SW) demands by sector on a statewide, planning region, and planning basin scale. Examples of surface water sources include lakes, rivers, streams, and reservoirs. This dashboard presents total withdrawals, the amount of water pumped or diverted from the source to meet the needs of the user. Return flows from all sectors are accounted for in the OCWP H<sub>2</sub>O Tool and are reflected in the gap/depletion values.

Statewide 2075 results automatically populate upon opening of the tab. Navigate to the "Select a Planning Region" drop down to view the results for any planning region across the State. Next, navigate to the "Select a Planning Basin" drop down to view the results of a basin in the selected region. Select the planning year (2020, 2030, 2035, 2045, 2060, 2075) that you would like to evaluate in the upper right corner of dashboard. Additionally, please note that any percent change calculated is a comparison of baseline demands (2020) to a selected planning year (2030, etc.).

This tab delineates demand results by water sector and source. Demand projections were developed independently for each sector with a water use factor and projected rate of use. **Only the portion of the demand projections that are allocated to surface water sources are presented in this tab.**

- Public Supply (PS)** - Water users receive supply from municipal or public water systems, community, or rural water district. Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODOC) Population Projections were used in conjunction with per capita water use data to develop demand projections. Water source information for this sector was collected by from OWRB water permits.
- Self-Supplied Domestic (SSD)** - Water use from households that are not connected to a public water system. This does not include well water used for crop irrigation. ODOC Population Projections were used in conjunction with per capita water use data to develop these demand projections. Based on typical rural residential water use patterns, it is more likely that residential water users have their own well than are diverting their water from a surface water source. All demand from this sector is satisfied from groundwater sources.
- Crop Irrigation (CI)** - Water use for agricultural crop production to supplement natural rainfall. The projected number of irrigated acres and water use per irrigated acre of crop were used for demand projections. These demands were divided between groundwater and surface water sources using USGS estimates for the proportion of irrigation-related demands supplied by groundwater and surface water sources for each county in Oklahoma.
- Thermoelectric Power (TE)** - Water use associated with power plants to cool equipment and condense steam to drive generators. Projected energy generation and water use per plant and/or kWh were used to project the withdrawals for this sector. Compared to all other sectors, consumptive demands are a small fraction of this sector's withdrawals. Projected consumptive demands can be found in the Draft Water Demand Forecast Report. Water source information for each power plant was used to allocate demands from each power facility to either groundwater or surface water demands.
- Self-Supplied Industrial (SSI)** - Water needed by large industrial users who do not receive water from a public water supplier. Demand projections for this sector are based upon employment projections and water use per facility. Water source information for this sector was collected from OWRB water permits.
- Livestock (LS)** - Water required for animal nutrition, cooling, sanitation, and waste removal. Demand projections were based upon projected livestock count and per animal water use. These demands were divided between groundwater and surface water sources using USGS estimates for the proportion of livestock-related demands supplied by groundwater and surface water sources for each county in Oklahoma.



**SW Total Demand by Sector (2075)**

| Oil & Gas (OG)       | Public Supply (PS)   | Self-Supplied Domestic (SSD) | Self-Supplied Industrial (SSI) | Livestock (LS)       | Crop Irrigation (CI) | Thermoelectric Power (TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 AFY                | 13,073 AFY           | 0 AFY                        | 0 AFY                          | 526 AFY              | 1,439 AFY            | 225 AFY                   |
| 28 - Cache Creek - 2 | 28 - Cache Creek - 2 | 28 - Cache Creek - 2         | 28 - Cache Creek - 2           | 28 - Cache Creek - 2 | 28 - Cache Creek - 2 | 28 - Cache Creek - 2      |

**Percent Change in SW Demand by Sector (2020 to 2075)**

| Oil & Gas (OG)       | Public Supply (PS)   | Self-Supplied Domestic (SSD) | Self-Supplied Industrial (SSI) | Livestock (LS)       | Crop Irrigation (CI) | Thermoelectric Power (TE) |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 0 %                  | -29 %                | No Value                     | No Value                       | -10 %                | 81 %                 | 9 %                       |
| 28 - Cache Creek - 2 | 28 - Cache Creek - 2 | 28 - Cache Creek - 2         | 28 - Cache Creek - 2           | 28 - Cache Creek - 2 | 28 - Cache Creek - 2 | 28 - Cache Creek - 2      |

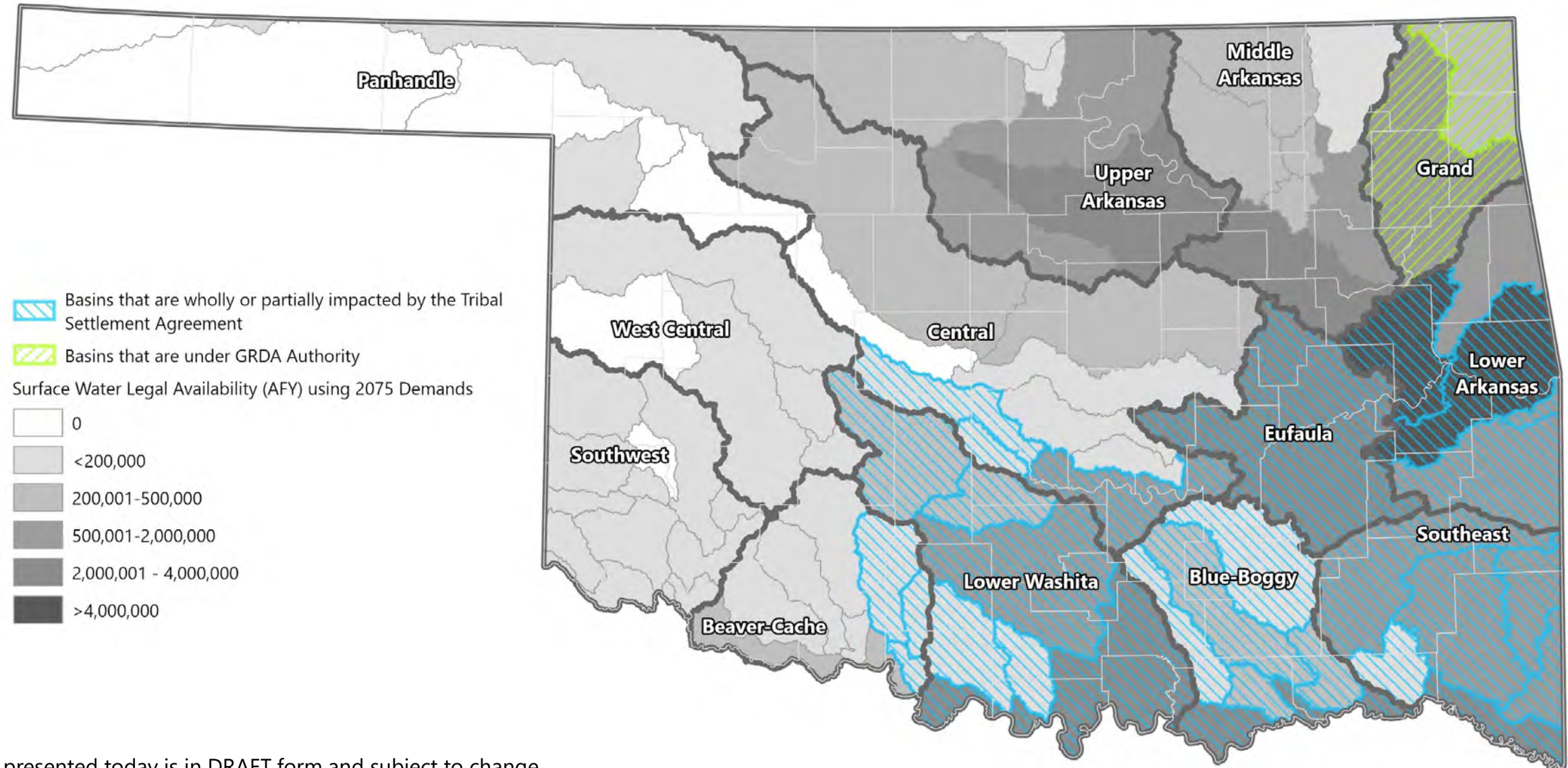
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## Other dashboards to be rolled out:

- Water supply (physical and legal)
- Water shortages
- Water management strategies
- Water quality
- Extrapolated water infrastructure needs
- Weather extremes analysis (demand and supply)



# Surface Water Available for Appropriation using 2075



All data presented today is in DRAFT form and subject to change.

# Questions? Comments? Get Involved!



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Website: [Oklahoma.gov/OWRB/Water-Planning](https://Oklahoma.gov/OWRB/Water-Planning)

Facebook: Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan



Provide comments on  
Round 5 Meeting

# PRIORITIZATION ACTIVITY RESULTS



# ROUND 5 REGIONAL MEETINGS PRIORITIZATION ACTIVITY RESULTS - DRAFT PRELIMINARY ACTIONS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Statewide | SW | NW               | NE | SE | Central | Virtual          | OMUP |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|------------------|----|----|---------|------------------|------|
| 1. Fully leverage Oklahoma's existing water infrastructure loan and grant programs and identify new funding strategies to increase dollars available to meet current and future needs<br>a. Increase state appropriated dollars and identify cost-match opportunities to leverage existing low-interest loan and grant programs<br>b. Explore new funding instruments and partnership opportunities, including cost-share programs, dedicated funding from existing revenue streams (e.g. gross production tax), revenues from new streams (e.g. sports betting, impact, or local tourism tax). | 52        | 5  | 1                | 2  | 8  | 16      | 3                | 17   |
| 2. Develop and launch public education campaign about water careers to address the critical shortage of water workers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 24        | 4  | 0                | 1  | 1  | 3       | 3                | 12   |
| 3. Expand state funding and collaboration to deliver small system technical, financial, and managerial service to develop system longevity and capital planning and incentivize it through priority ranking points for infrastructure grants.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 21        | 1  | 4                | 1  | 4  | 2       | 1                | 8    |
| 4. Meet the critical shortage of professional groundwater well drillers and pump installers through expansion of professional training programs and partnerships with industry leaders and universities to provide cutting-edge methods and leverage of funding sources.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 8         | 3  | 0                | 0  | 0  | 1       | 2                | 2    |
| 5. Provide stable funding necessary to fully administer the Oklahoma's water rights administration program to meet the needs of business and protect property rights. Statutory requirements include water availability determination, allocation, permit issuance and administration, user disputes resolution, compliance monitoring and enforcement, water user interference and illegal water use to protect private property.                                                                                                                                                              | 45        | 4  | 12               | 9  | 5  | 9       | 0                | 6    |
| 6. Evaluate alternative water use accounting methodologies, use reporting, and information sharing to improve transparency, dissuade unpermitted use or overuse and possible interference between water users.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 19        | 8  | 0                | 3  | 0  | 1       | 2                | 5    |
| 7. Provide statutory clarity in Oklahoma stream water law regarding interference with permitted / domestic use, well spacing, etc.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 8         | 6  | 1                | 0  | 0  | 0       | 0                | 1    |
| 8. Work with stakeholders and lawmakers to establish framework for regional water planning authority and responsibilities that includes funding for technical assistance to groups and administration of a program. This will allow recommendations to be developed and vetted by local interests and allows State to provide technical guidance and quantify funding or legislative needs with specific action items.                                                                                                                                                                          | 52        | 13 | 2                | 9  | 9  | 13      | 1                | 5    |
| 9. Investigate region specific long-term water supply needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 10        | 1  | 2                | 0  | 0  | 2       | 0                | 5    |
| 10. Establish substantial competitive cost-share fund that incentivizes regional cooperation and smarter long-term planning.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 8         | 2  | 1                | 1  | 0  | 0       | 1                | 3    |
| 11. Incentivize developing new sources of water supply and storage (ex, reuse, ASR, brackish groundwater, lake yield analyses).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 30        | 9  | 1                | 2  | 2  | 6       | 1                | 9    |
| 12. Incentivize water use efficiency (like water conservation, loss reduction, lower gallons per capita usage, etc.) across all water use sectors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 31        | 9  | 5                | 2  | 3  | 4       | 0                | 8    |
| 13. In collaboration with local stakeholders in stream basins where water-dependent tourism and recreation are a significant economic driver, evaluate non-consumptive stream water needs and economic impact and identify investment, actions, and policy that could contribute to the preservation, maintenance, and promotion of the state's natural assets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 31        | 3  | 0                | 8  | 13 | 5       | 1                | 1    |
| 14. Continue the Oklahoma Source Water Collaborative to improve information and outreach on the prevention of contamination to provide safe drinking water supply and reduce treatment costs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 5         | 3  | 0                | 0  | 0  | 0       | 1                | 1    |
| 15. Fund and further develop the new Oklahoma Water Reuse Action Plan.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 3         | 1  | 0                | 0  | 0  | 0       | 0                | 2    |
| 16. Fully fund the OWRB's Water Assessment, Trends, Evaluation and Research program that administers Oklahoma's continuous water monitoring network and publishes vital data on water quality and quantity trends and conditions in streams, lakes, and groundwater. This information guides local and regional public water suppliers in drought, flood, and infrastructure needs planning, early warnings, and emergency operations.                                                                                                                                                          | 20        | 5  | 2                | 1  | 0  | 5       | 3                | 4    |
| 17. Complete basin-specific studies to provide information to address specific issues and support specific economic sectors or growth areas within a certain region (e.g. potential water storage or innovative efficiency technology to support agriculture sector in arid areas; potential seasonal storage, conservation, or permitting to support water-dependent tourism and recreation economic sector; reservoir interferences by upstream water uses).                                                                                                                                  | 12        | 3  | 1                | 1  | 0  | 3       | 2                | 2    |
| 18. Enhance water data sharing, accessibility, and user-friendly information products. Work with customers to determine needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 11        | 1  | 0                | 3  | 0  | 2       | 3                | 2    |
| Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 2         | 0  | 1 <sup>(1)</sup> | 0  | 0  | 0       | 1 <sup>(2)</sup> | 0    |

(1) Eastern Red Cedar Eradication

(2) Regional Infrastructure Supplies



# ROUND 5 REGIONAL MEETINGS PRIORITIZATION ACTIVITY RESULTS - POTENTIAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Statewide | SW | NW | NE               | SE  | Central | Virtual | OMUP             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|----|------------------|-----|---------|---------|------------------|
| 1. Sports Betting – In Colorado, 93% of the 10% tax on casino's proceeds from sports betting goes to Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) to fund water projects. CWCB received \$23.8M in FY23/24.                                                             | 54        | 15 | 4  | 1                | 5   | 8       | 3       | 18               |
| 2. Fees on water and/or water impacting activities – Kansas collects \$0.03 per 1,000 gallons on retail, industrial, and livestock water use as well as a portion of fees assessed on pesticide, fertilizer, and sand. Typical revenue from fees is \$13M per year. | 34        | 2  | 4  | 4                | 7   | 7       | 2       | 8                |
| 3. Tourism or hotel tax – New Orleans imposes tax on hotels and short-term rentals with additional contributions from the City. In 2023, \$21.9M went to the Sewerage & Water Board.                                                                                | 22        | 8  | 1  | 2                | 2   | 3       | 0       | 6                |
| 4. Remove cap on gross production tax (for water planning and studies across the entire state) – currently OWRB is capped (~\$2.9M per year) but could receive more money if cap was removed.                                                                       | 34        | 6  | 5  | 4                | 5   | 5       | 1       | 8                |
| 5. Specialty license plate or license plate fee                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 8         | 0  | 0  | 0                | 0   | 4       | 1       | 3                |
| 6. Tax on medical marijuana                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 56        | 17 | 4  | 2                | 0   | 11      | 2       | 20               |
| 7. Tax on bottled water (or all plastic bottles)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 44        | 3  | 7  | 9                | 6   | 6       | 2       | 11               |
| 8. Reallocation of existing lottery fees                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 16        | 5  | 4  | 0                | 1   | 0       | 0       | 6                |
| 9. Boat registration fee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 8         | 2  | 0  | 1                | 0   | 3       | 0       | 2                |
| 10. Fee on new developments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 13        | 2  | 1  | 3                | 3   | 0       | 0       | 4                |
| 11. Recreation fee on activities that depend on water (examples, golf courses, water parks, boat access)                                                                                                                                                            | 30.5      | 8  | 2  | 6                | 1.5 | 5       | 1       | 7                |
| 12. Fee on aggregate removal or quarries                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 10.5      | 1  | 0  | 2                | 7.5 | 0       | 0       | 0                |
| 13. Increase water permitting fee and allocate increase to water projects                                                                                                                                                                                           | 6         | 2  | 1  | 1                | 1   | 1       | 0       | 0                |
| 14. Increase water use penalties and allocate increase to water projects                                                                                                                                                                                            | 17        | 1  | 3  | 2                | 5   | 3       | 1       | 2                |
| 15. Tax or fee on water being transferred out of basin                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 19        | 4  | 0  | 0                | 4   | 7       | 2       | 2                |
| 16. Allocate a portion of the State's rainy-day fund to water projects                                                                                                                                                                                              | 14        | 5  | 0  | 0                | 2   | 0       | 0       | 7                |
| Other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 3         | 0  | 0  | 2 <sup>(1)</sup> | 0   | 0       | 0       | 1 <sup>(2)</sup> |

(1) Navigation tonnage fees and not everything water has to be exploited for profit.

(2) Reallocate a portion of the fees collected from the turnpikes to water.