

Round 1

2025 OCWP Regional Meetings

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Southwest	Altus	August 15
Southeast	Ada	August 16
Northeast	Claremore	August 17
Northwest	Woodward	August 29
Central	Oklahoma City	August 30
Virtual	August 18 and August 31	



OKLAHOMA
Water Resources Board



US Army
Corps of Engineers



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01

Welcome

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OCWP Team Leaders



**Julie
Cunningham**

*Executive Director,
OWRB*



**Owen
Mills**

*Director of Planning,
OWRB*



**Yohanes
Sugeng**

*Engineering and Planning
Division Chief, OWRB*



**Amber
Wooten**

*Project Manager,
Carollo Engineers*



**Jessica
Fritsche**

*Senior Water
Resource Planner,
Carollo Engineers*



**John
Rehring**

*Senior Water
Resource Engineer,
Carollo Engineers*

Agenda

01 Welcome

02 Oklahoma Water Resources Board Overview

03 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Overview

04 Local Initiatives

05 2025 OCWP Preliminary Findings

06 Discussion: Water Management Needs and Concerns

07 Look-ahead / OCWP Roadmap

Goals for the OCWP Regional Meetings

Why and how we want you to participate!



Identify the most pressing local water issues and policy needs.



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



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

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Welcome



Acknowledge our local hosts



State Legislator remarks

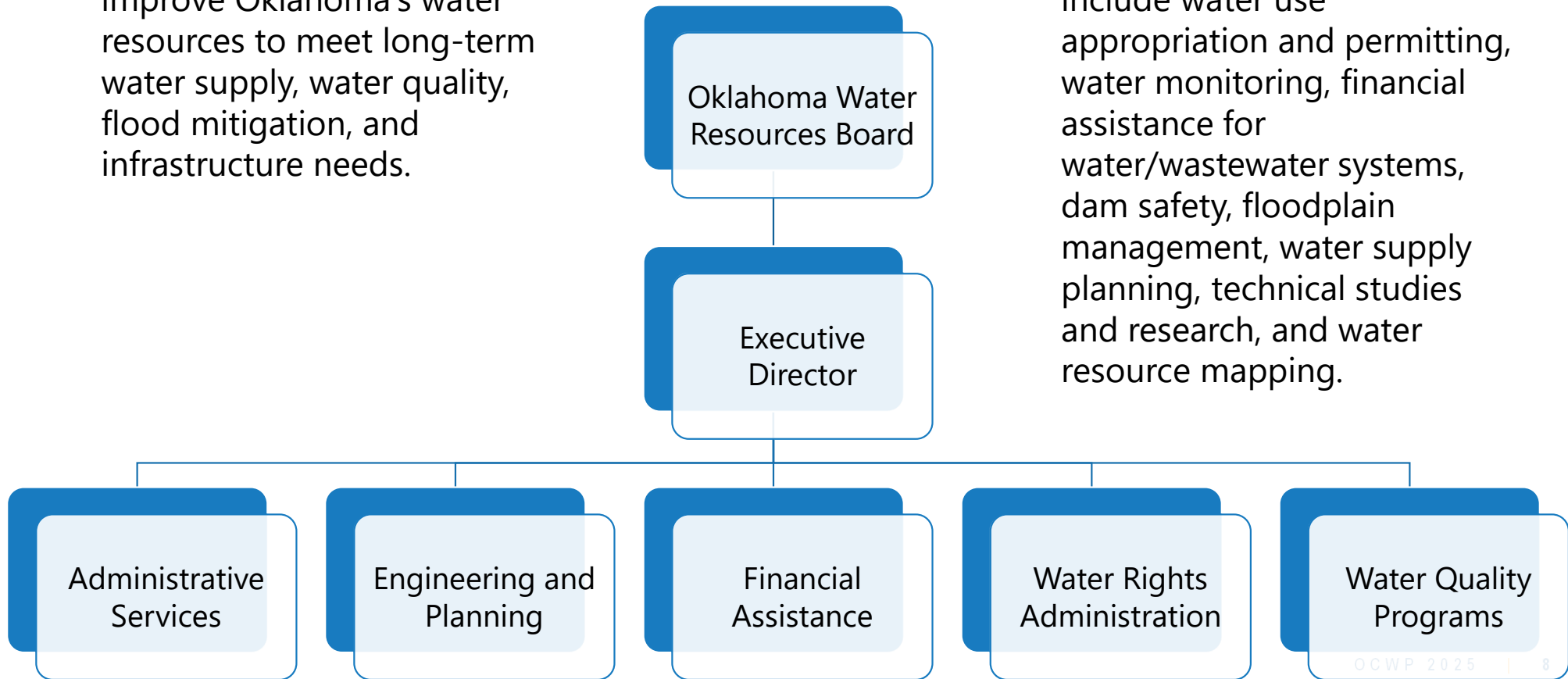
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02

OWRB Overview

OWRB Mission and Organization

➤ To manage, protect and improve Oklahoma's water resources to meet long-term water supply, water quality, flood mitigation, and infrastructure needs.

➤ Our primary responsibilities include water use appropriation and permitting, water monitoring, financial assistance for water/wastewater systems, dam safety, floodplain management, water supply planning, technical studies and research, and water resource mapping.



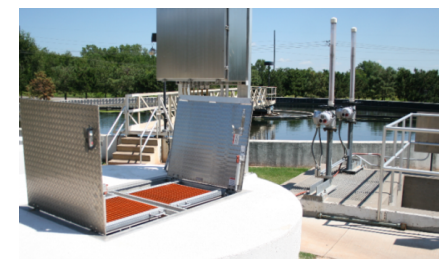
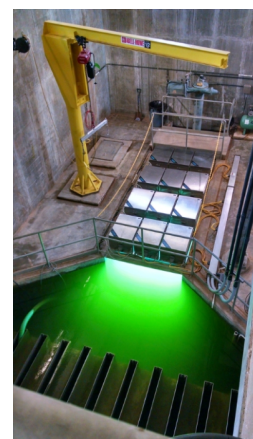
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Financial Assistance

- AAA rates for water, wastewater, & storm water infrastructure financing
- Communities and rural districts
- Funds:
 - Clean Water State Revolving Fund
 - Drinking Water SRF (w/ ODEQ)
 - State Revenue Bond Loan Program
- REAP and Emergency Grants
- > \$6.5 billion in low interest financing since inception

Funding Sources—

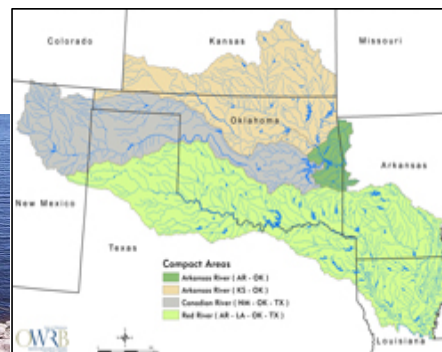
- Federal - EPA
- Debt Issuance
- Loan Repayments
- Interest on Bond Loan Program



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Water Resources Management

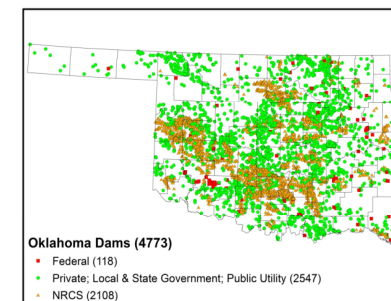
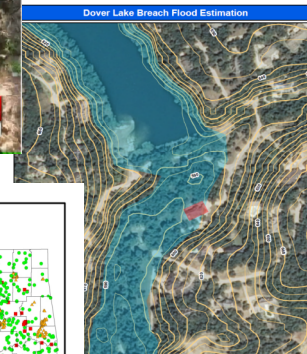
- Water Rights Permitting & Administration
- Water Resources Planning
- Technical Hydrologic Investigations- water availability
- Well Drillers & Pump Installers Licensing
- Interstate Stream Compacts



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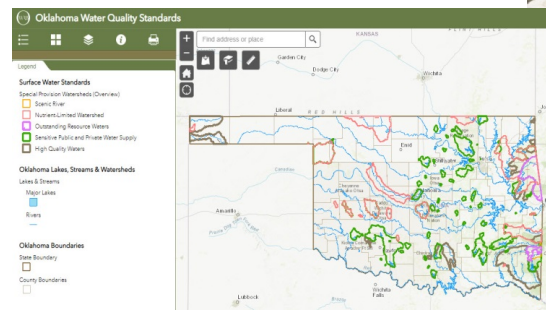
Hazard Mitigation

- **Floodplain Management** – State Floodplain Board and National Flood Insurance & Cooperating Technical Partners Programs Coordinating Agency
- **Dam Safety**
 - ▶ Permitting, Inspection, and Technical Assistance
 - ▶ Dam Breach Inundation Mapping & Analyses
 - ▶ Owner/Engineer Training and Outreach



Ground & Surface Water Quality

- Monitoring Networks
 - ▶ Streams
 - ▶ Lakes
 - ▶ Groundwater wells
 - ▶ Stream Gaging Program
 - ▶ Technical Studies
- Water Data Management & Dissemination



Water Rights (Permitting) - considerations

Permitted Groundwater

- Fresh water **under the surface** of the earth regardless of the geologic structure in which it is standing or moving outside the cut banks of any definite stream

Laws do not recognize interaction between SW and GW, except in sensitive sole source groundwater basins

- A "**sensitive sole source groundwater basin**" as "a major groundwater basin or subbasin all or a portion of which has been designated as a Sole Source Aquifer' by the United States Environmental Protection Agency ... and any portion of any contiguous aquifer located within five (5) miles of the known areal extent of the surface outcrop of the sensitive sole source groundwater basin."

Permitted Surface Water

- Water in a "**definite stream**" (a watercourse in a definite, natural channel, with defined beds and banks, originating from a definite source or sources of supply);
- May be intermittent or irregular flow
- Subject to appropriation

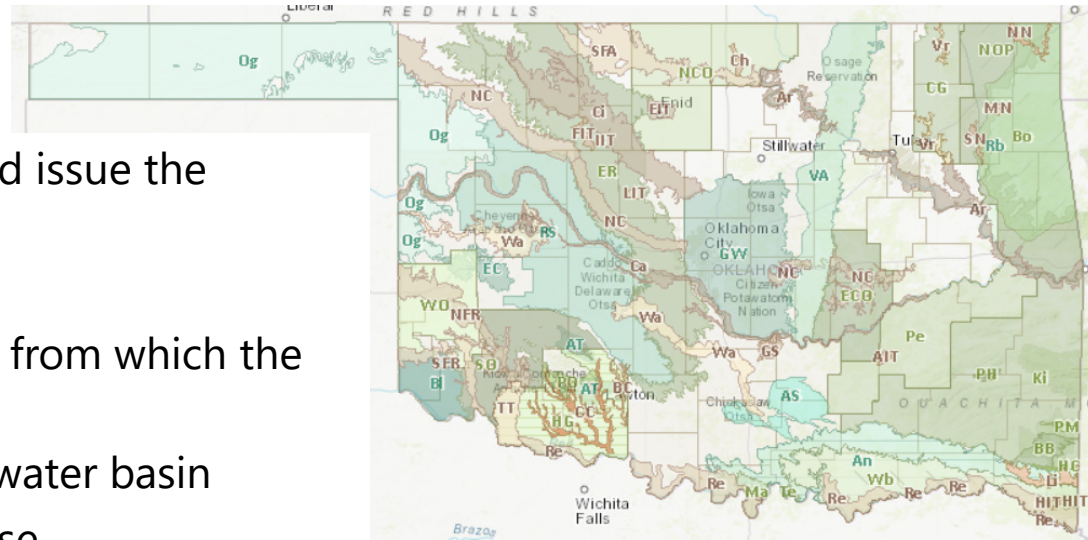
Domestic Use

- The use of water by a natural individual or by a family or household for **household purposes**, for farm and domestic animals up to the **normal grazing capacity of the land** whether or not the animals are actually owned by such natural individual or family, and for the irrigation of land not exceeding a total of three (3) acres in area for the growing of **gardens, orchards, and lawns**.

Groundwater Permitting

The Board **shall approve** the application and issue the appropriate permit if the following are met:

1. The applicant owns or leases the land from which the water will be withdrawn
2. The dedicated land overlies a groundwater basin
3. The water will be put to a beneficial use
4. Waste of the water will not occur



<https://owrb.maps.arcgis.com/>

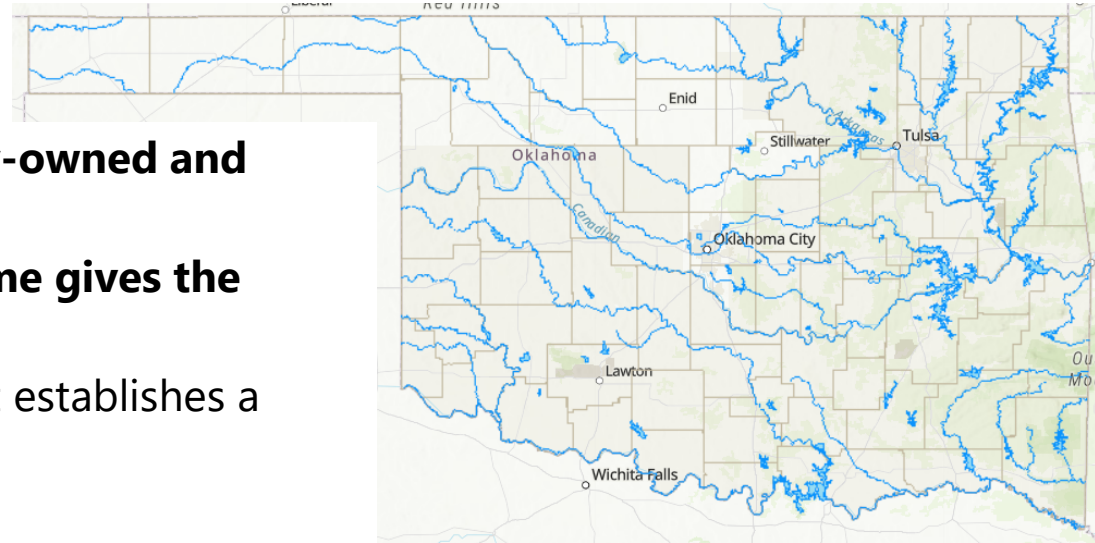
Beneficial Use

- The use of such quantity of stream or groundwater when reasonable intelligence and reasonable diligence are exercised in its application for a lawful purpose and as is economically necessary for that purpose. Beneficial uses include but are not limited to municipal, industrial, agricultural, irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, etc.

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Surface Water Basics

- Stream water is considered to be **publicly-owned and subject to appropriation** by the OWRB.
- Prior Appropriation State— **Priority in time gives the better right**
 - ▶ First person to apply for the water right establishes a right superior to later appropriators
- Subject to **use-it-or-lose-it provisions**.
- OWRB charged with determining **if unappropriated water is available** prior to permit issuance and addressing interference conflicts after issuance.
- Must justify **beneficial use** and submit calculation on methodology and supporting data for justification



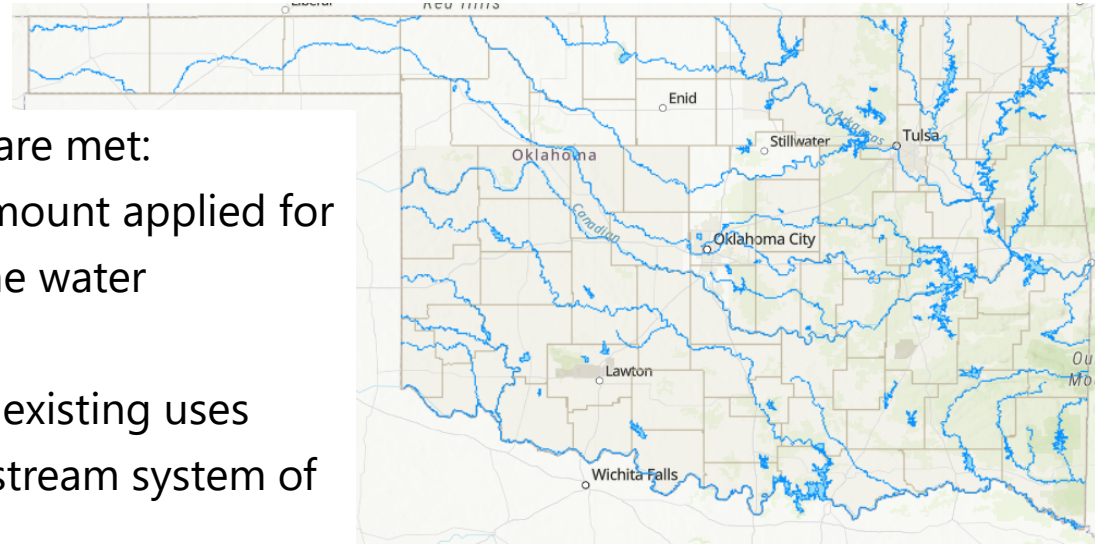
<https://owrb.maps.arcgis.com/>

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Surface Water Permitting

The Board shall issue permit if the following are met:

1. Unappropriated water is available in amount applied for
2. There is a present or future need for the water
3. The use is beneficial
4. Use will not interfere with domestic or existing uses
5. Use will not interfere with uses within stream system of origin



<https://owrb.maps.arcgis.com/>

- Avoid speculation before and after permit is issued
- Is water available at proposed diversion point in needed amount?
- Will proposed diversion interfere with downstream domestic uses and prior appropriations?

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03

OCWP Overview

“ Boldly define, address, and resolve Oklahoma's water challenges”

OCWP 2025 Vision

“ Together, we can chart a course for water that supports thriving communities, robust agriculture, economic and industrial success, and healthy waterways and ecosystems!”

**Owen Mills
OWRB Director of Planning
August 2023 OCWP Newsletter**

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Focus Areas for OCWP 2025

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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Approach for OCWP 2025

**Narrow OCWP
Focus to Key
Issues**

**Build from
Local Input**

**Integrate with
State Flood Plan**

**Organize
through a Phased
Workflow**

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OCWP 2025 Timeline

5 Phases of OCWP Development



1. Plan - Programmatic Work Plan and Engagement Plan

Continuous



2. Analyze - Water supply, demand, and quality data: surveys, modeling, forecasting



3. Develop - Recommendations, water management strategies, resilience assessment, local infrastructure needs, policy assessment

In Progress!



4. Rollout - Legislative recommendations, Reports, OCWP online resources, financial assistance recommendations, implementation plans, and more

2024-2025

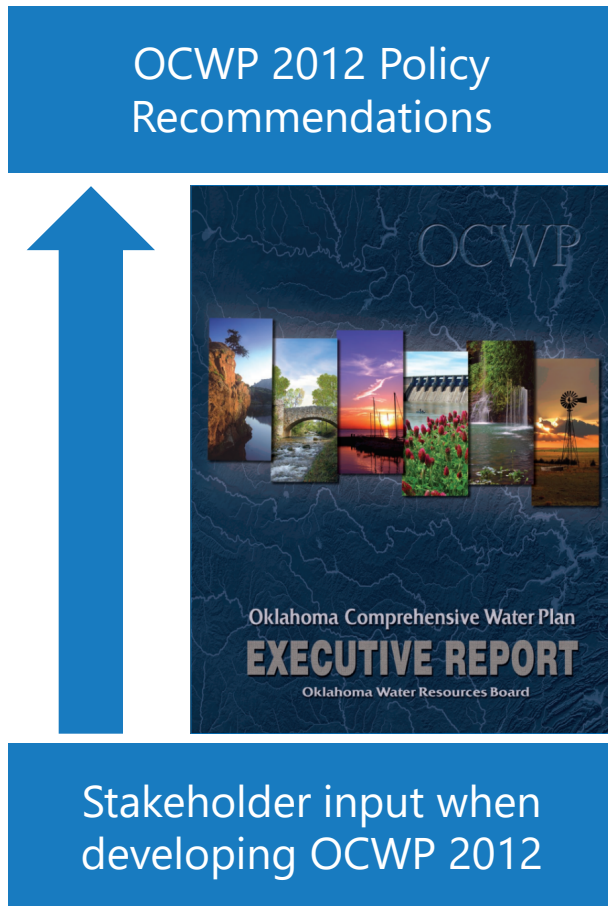


5. Engagement - Share interim results and solicit input: Review, Refine, Prioritize OCWP content

Continuous

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2012 OCWP Stakeholder Input Reflected in Recommendations



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2012 OCWP Priority Policy Recommendations

Water Project & Infrastructure Financing

Conservation, Efficiency, Reuse

Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring

Supply Reliability

Fish & Recreation Flows

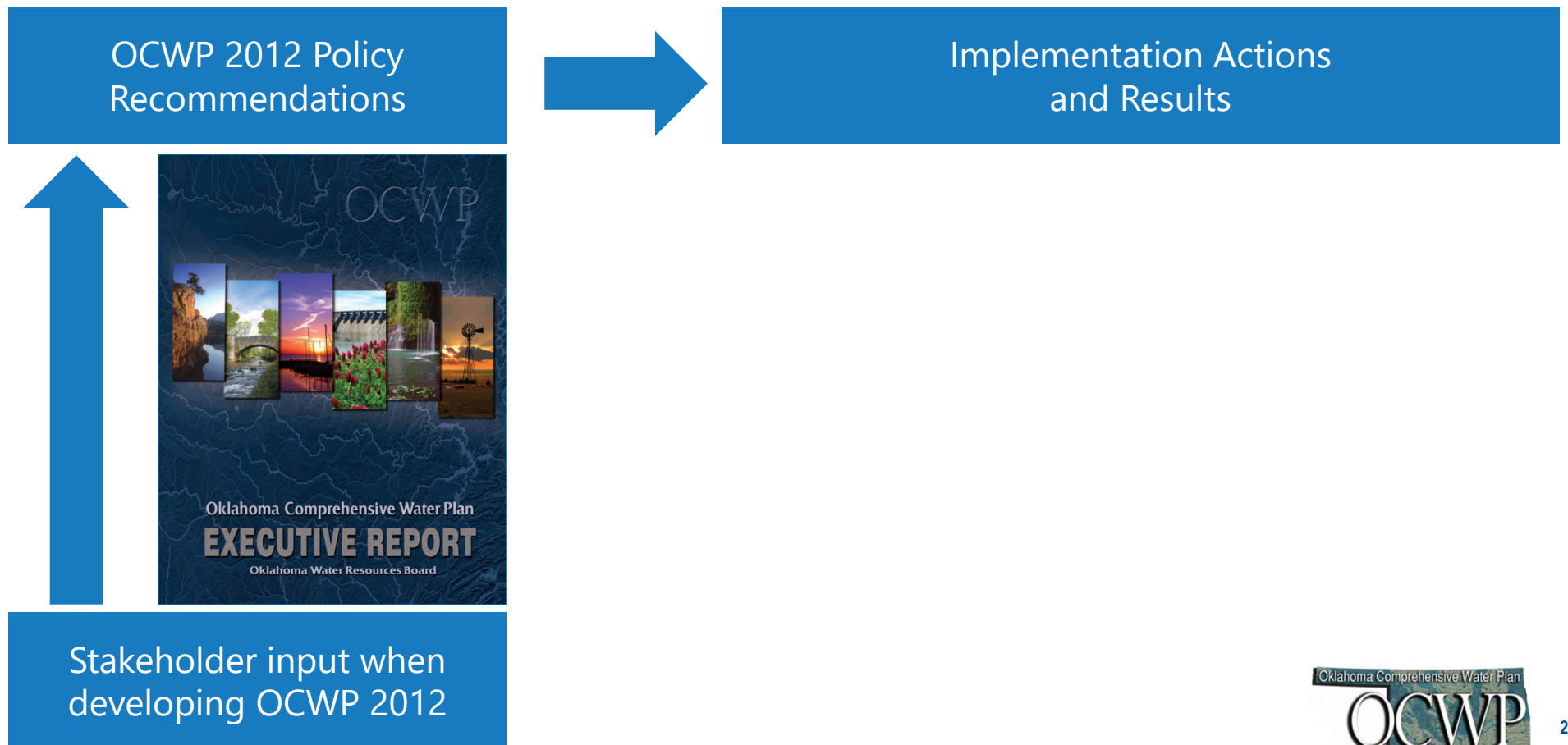
Excess/Surplus

State/Tribal Resolution

Regional Planning

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2012 OCWP Recommendations Drove Action



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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



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04

Local Initiatives

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Local Successes: Water for 2060 Awards



SOUTHWEST OKLAHOMA

- American Water Enterprises, Lawton
- Waurika Lake Master Conservancy District

**Do YOU have a
success story to share?**

- Submit for a Water for 2060 Award
- Present it at Regional Meeting 2 in December!

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Local Successes: Water for 2060 Awards



SOUTHEAST OKLAHOMA

- Charlette Hearn, Oklahoma Water Pioneer

**Do YOU have a
success story to share?**

- Submit for a Water for 2060 Award
- Present it at Regional Meeting 2 in December!

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Local Successes: Water for 2060 Awards



NORTHEAST OKLAHOMA

- Gary O'Neill, Retired State Conservationist for NRCS, Stillwater
- Creek County Rural Water District #2, Bellvue
- City of Bartlesville Indirect Potable Reuse System
- Victor Ranch, Afton

**Do YOU have a
success story to share?**

- Submit for a Water for 2060 Award
- Present it at Regional Meeting 2 in December!

....

Local Successes: Water for 2060 Awards

NORTHWEST OKLAHOMA

- Jerod McDaniel, Agriculture Producer
- Pat Long, Agriculture Producer
- Fred Fischer, Agriculture Producer
- Jimmy Emmons, Agriculture Producer
- Darren Buck, Agriculture Producer
- Koch Fertilizer, Enid



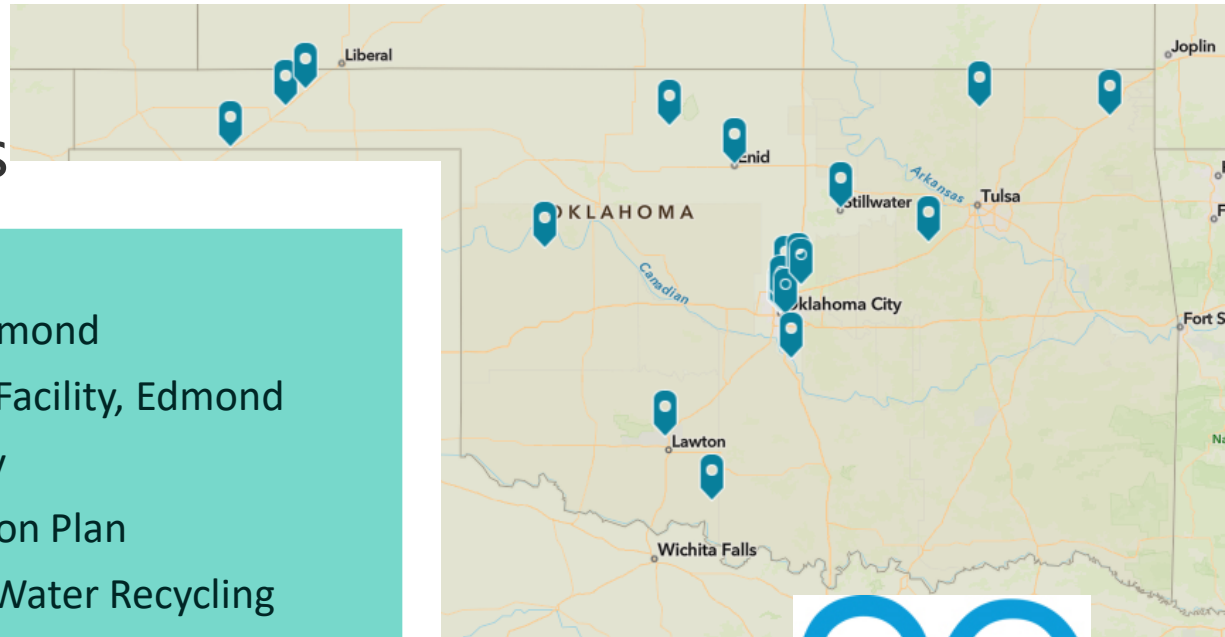
**Do YOU have a
success story to share?**

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Local Successes: Water for 2060 Awards

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

- Arcadia Lake Water Treatment Plant, Edmond
- Coffee Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility, Edmond
- City of Edmond Water Storage Efficiency
- City of Oklahoma City Water Conservation Plan
- Newfield Exploration Company, Barton Water Recycling Facility
- Continental Resources Recycling Facility
- OGE Energy Corp. Mustang Station Water Reuse
- Oklahoma Strategic Alliance, OKC
- Norman Water Reclamation Facility



**Do YOU have a
success story to share?**

- Submit for a Water for 2060 Award
- Present it at Regional Meeting 2 in December!

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05

2025 OCWP Preliminary Findings

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2025 OCWP Preliminary Results Through Engagement and Data Collection



Water Supply and Infrastructure Needs (WSIN)



Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS)



Public Survey



Workgroups

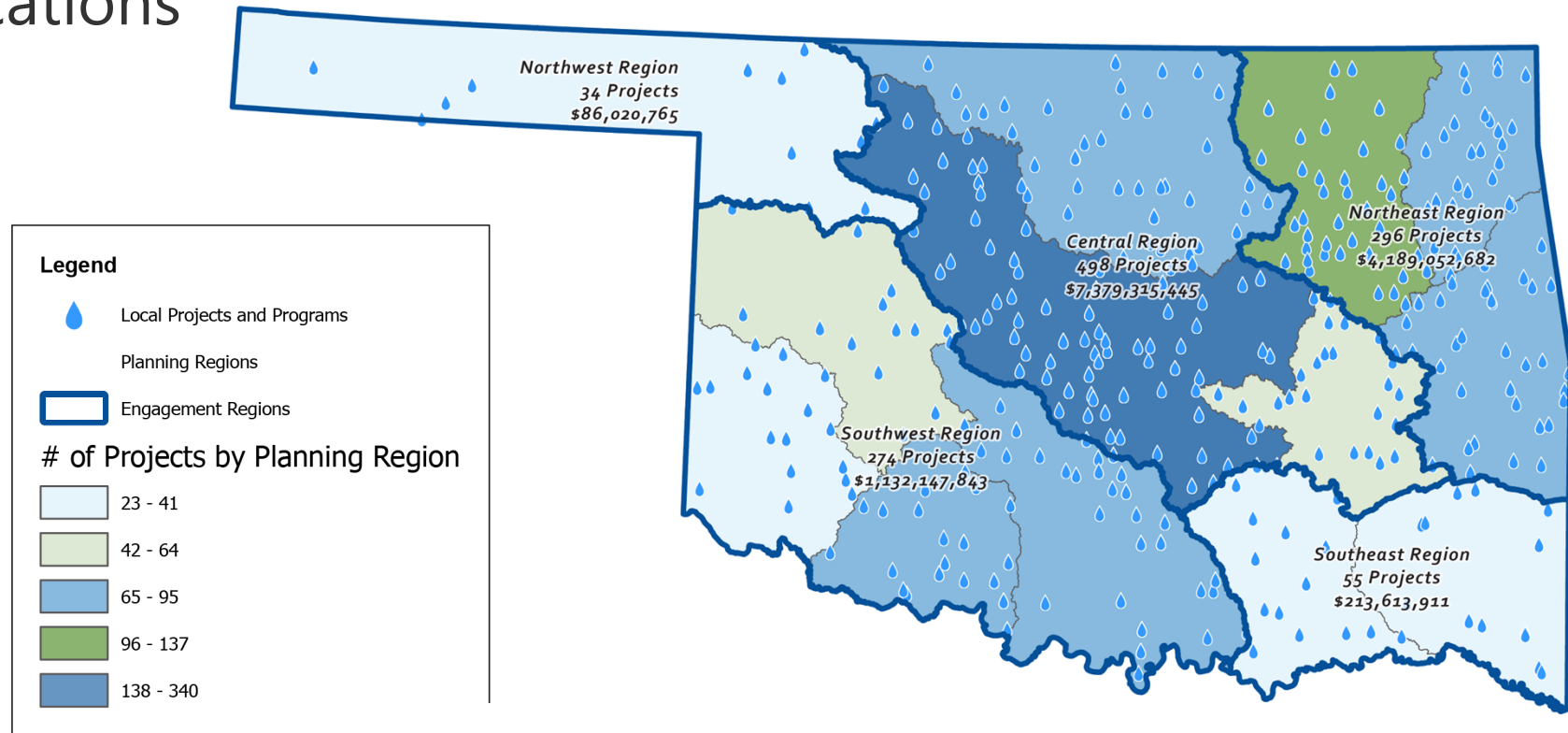


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Preliminary Results – Water Infrastructure Project Locations



**Estimated as of 7/31/23 – additional survey responses will be incorporated as they are received*



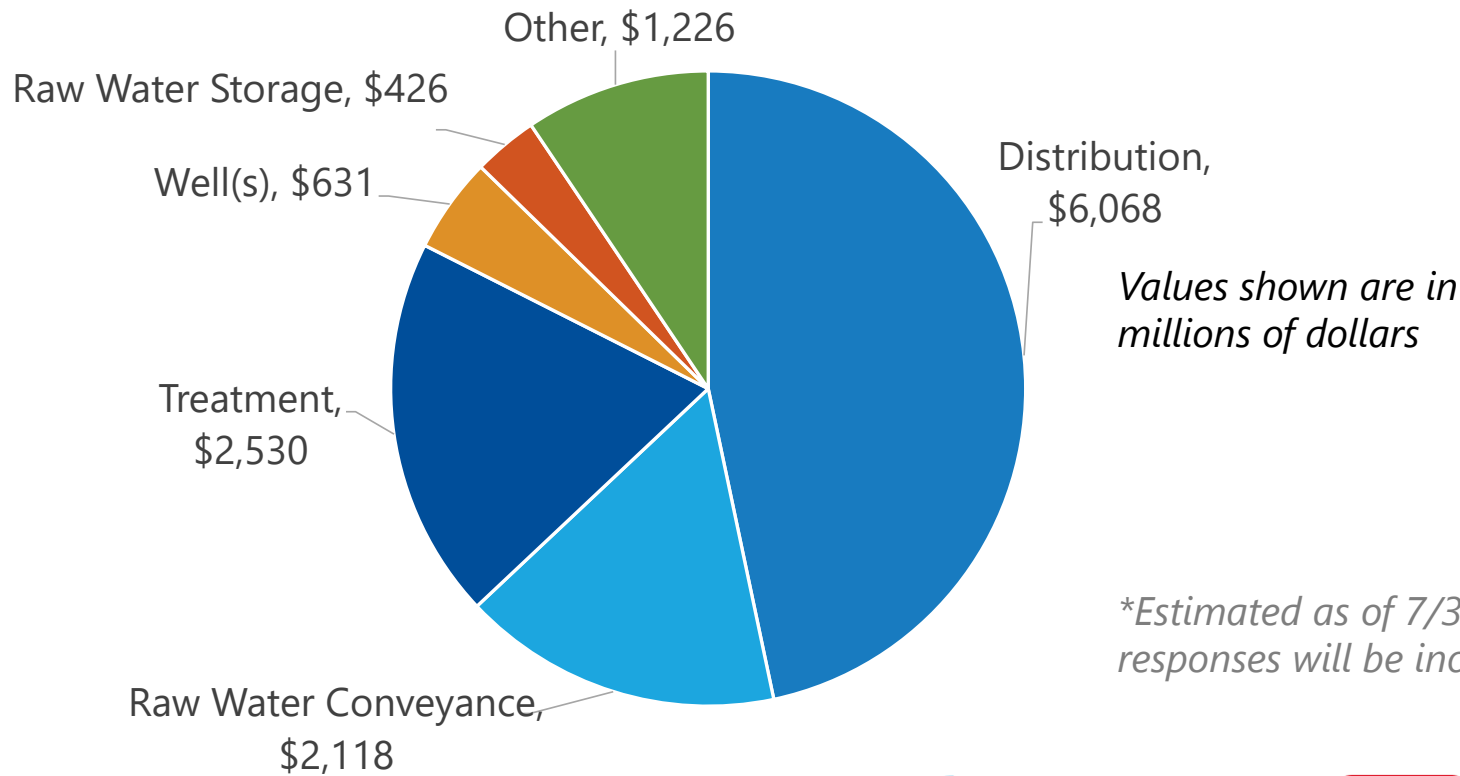
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Preliminary Results – Water Provider Infrastructure Funding Needs

Region	Count of Projects	Funding Needs (millions)
Northwest	34	\$86
Southwest	274	\$1,132
Central	498	\$7,379
Northeast	296	\$4,189
Southeast	55	\$214
Survey total	1,157*	\$13,000*

**Estimated as of 7/31/23 – additional survey responses will be incorporated as they are received*

Preliminary Results – Water Provider Infrastructure Funding Needs by Project Type



**Estimated as of 7/31/23 – additional survey responses will be incorporated as they are received*



Its Not Too Late to Submit Your Utility Needs!

OKLAHOMA Water Resources Board

Water Permitting Financing Wells & Licensing Floodplain Management Dam Safety

Oklahoma Water Resources Board > Water Planning

Water Planning

The OWRB is responsible for coordinating decadal updates of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) and subsequently managing recommended initiatives, studies, and projects. The OCWP provides invaluable information for water planning, including current water supply, 50-year projected demands, projected surface water gaps and groundwater depletions, assessments of infrastructure needs, and analyses of local issues as reported by water experts in every sector for each of Oklahoma's 13 planning regions.

OCWP NEWS & EVENTS >

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS SURVEY >

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY >

I'm Looking For

- [Water for 2060](#)
- [Interstate Stream](#)

Publications

- [Public Water Supply](#)
- [Public Wastewater Guide](#)
- [Loan and Grant Re Water and Wastew](#)

[1995 Water Plan](#)

[1980 Water Plan](#)

Related Links

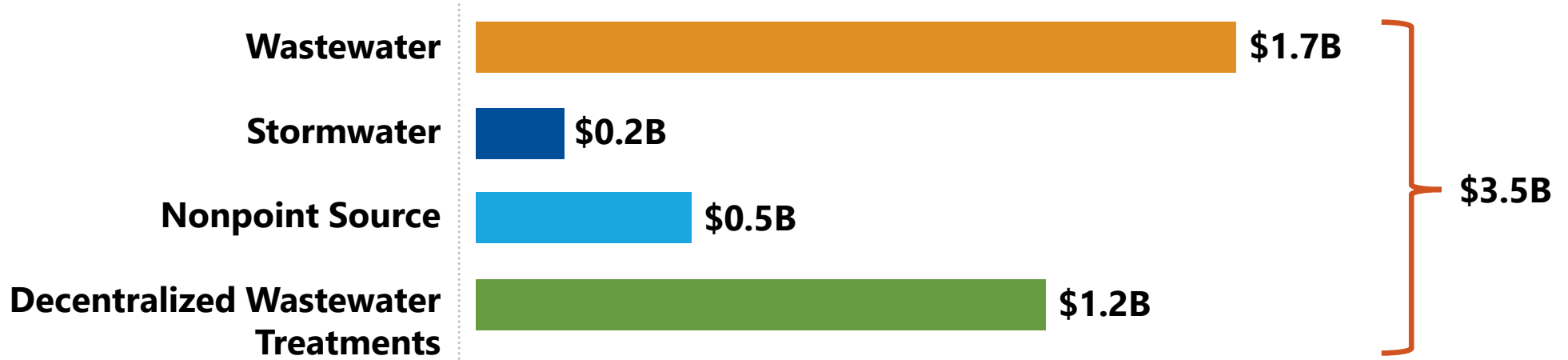
- [Master Irrigator Pi](#)
- [NRCS Regional Co](#)

<https://oklahoma.gov/owrb/water-planning.html>



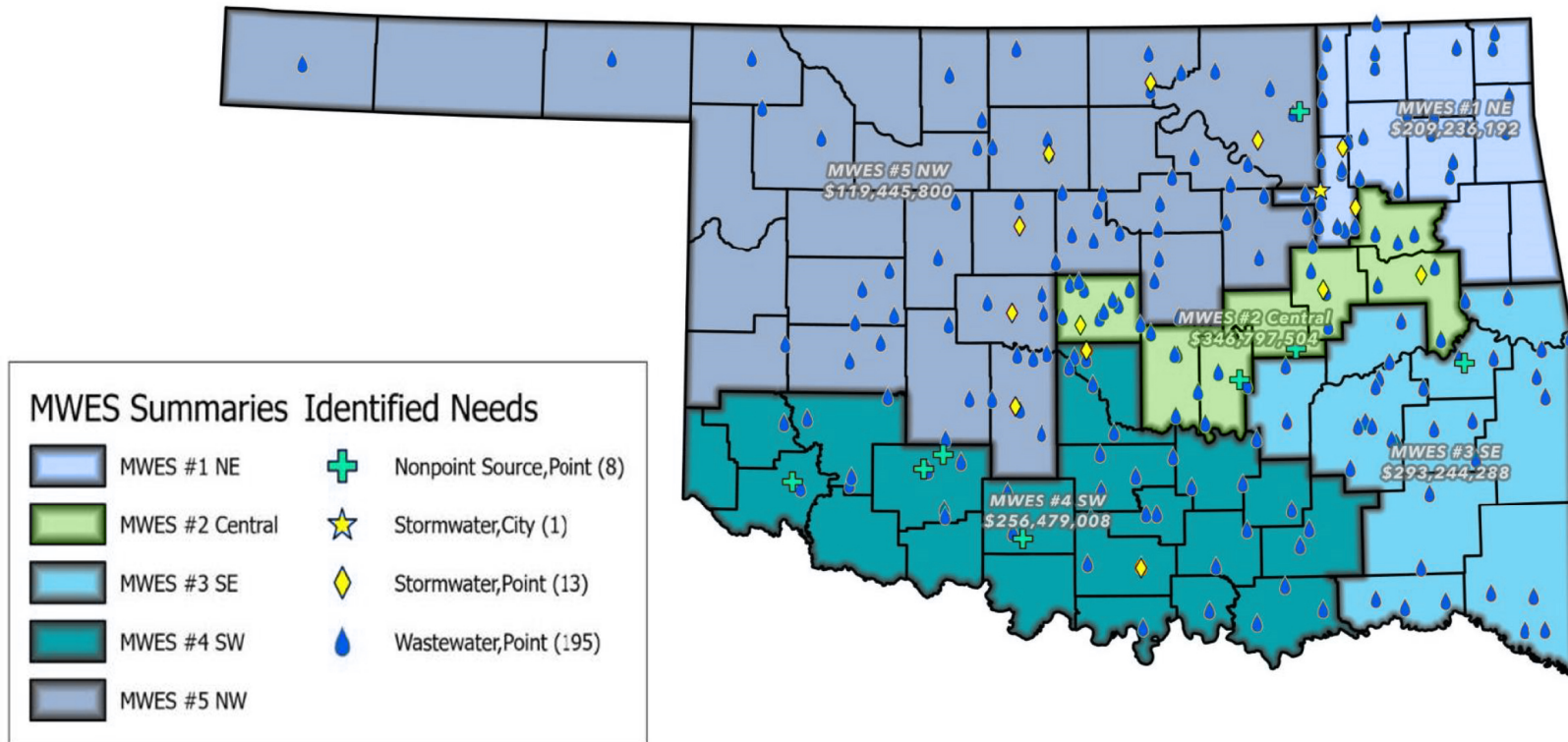


Unpublished Results – Clean Watersheds Funding Needs by Category



**Federally accepted dollars by category*

Unpublished Results – Clean Watersheds Funding Needs by Location



*MWES = Decentralized treatment with septic systems

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Public Perspective on Water *2025 OCWP Public Survey*



Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan Public Outreach Survey

The Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) fulfills a requirement for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to provide a general analysis of water supply across the state with guidelines for meeting Oklahoma's future water needs. OWRB is in the process of updating the OCWP, with an expected completion date of 2025.

A critical component of the OCWP is to engage the public to produce a plan that addresses the water-related challenges and needs that are most important to Oklahomans. We invite you to participate in this brief survey to help shape Oklahoma's water future.

- Any interested Oklahoman
- Opened in May 2023
- Still collecting responses

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Broad Questions Targeting Opinions, Preferences, Concerns, and Values

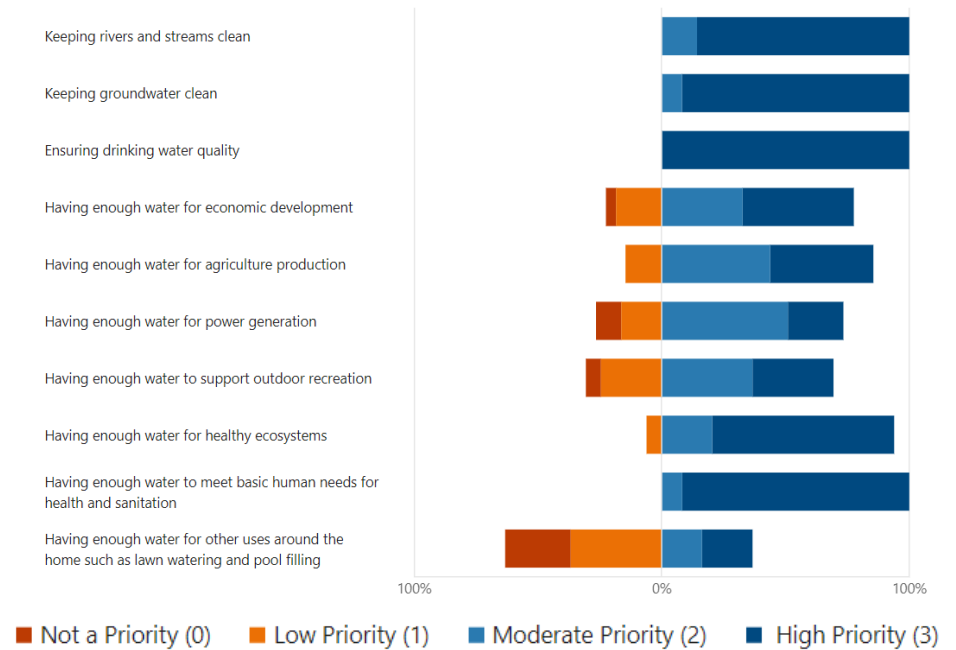


- Priorities for managing Oklahoma's water
- Concerns over water shortages and drinking water quality (now or in the future)
- Concerns over the quality of rivers, streams, lakes for recreation and ecosystem health
- Relative importance of planning activities – flood, drought, drinking water, ecosystems, climate change
- Support for a range of water supply strategies
- Where/how can OCWP provide most value

Public Survey In-Progress Results


Top Priorities

1. Drinking water quality
2. Water for basic human needs
3. Clean groundwater
4. Clean rivers and streams



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Link on OWRB's Website to Take the Survey

Oklahoma Comprehensive Water
Plan Public Outreach Survey



<https://forms.office.com/r/AncPfTAxvB>

Survey is open!

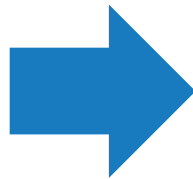
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Focused Input Set the Foundation

INITIAL INPUT



Water Users:
Priority Issues
and Concerns
(2021)



TOP ISSUES

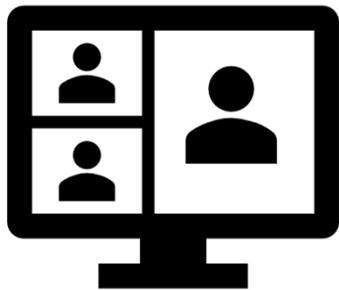
- Infrastructure Improvements & Funding / Financing
- Coordination with established water planning groups
- Permitting / Regulations / Policy
- Regionalization
- Weather extremes
- Environmental/ Instream Flows
- Staffing / Workforce Shortages
- Stormwater / Flooding
- Support from Agencies / Scientific Communities
- Support to Rural Communities
- Public Outreach & Education
- Sustainability
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality Issues
- Water Quantity Issues
- Water Reuse

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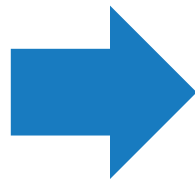
Workgroups are Tackling Priority Issues



INITIAL INPUT



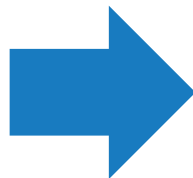
Water Users:
Priority Issues
and Concerns



FORMED OCWP WORKGROUPS FOR KEY ISSUES

- Source Water Collaborative
- Oklahoma Water Reuse Action Plan
- Workforce
- Irrigated Agriculture

ONGOING STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS



MORE TO COME

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06

Discussion: Water Management Needs and Concerns

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Discussion: Water Management Needs and Concerns

What are the key issues and needs in this part of Oklahoma?

What opportunities do we have here?

What solutions have worked well?

What additional studies are needed?

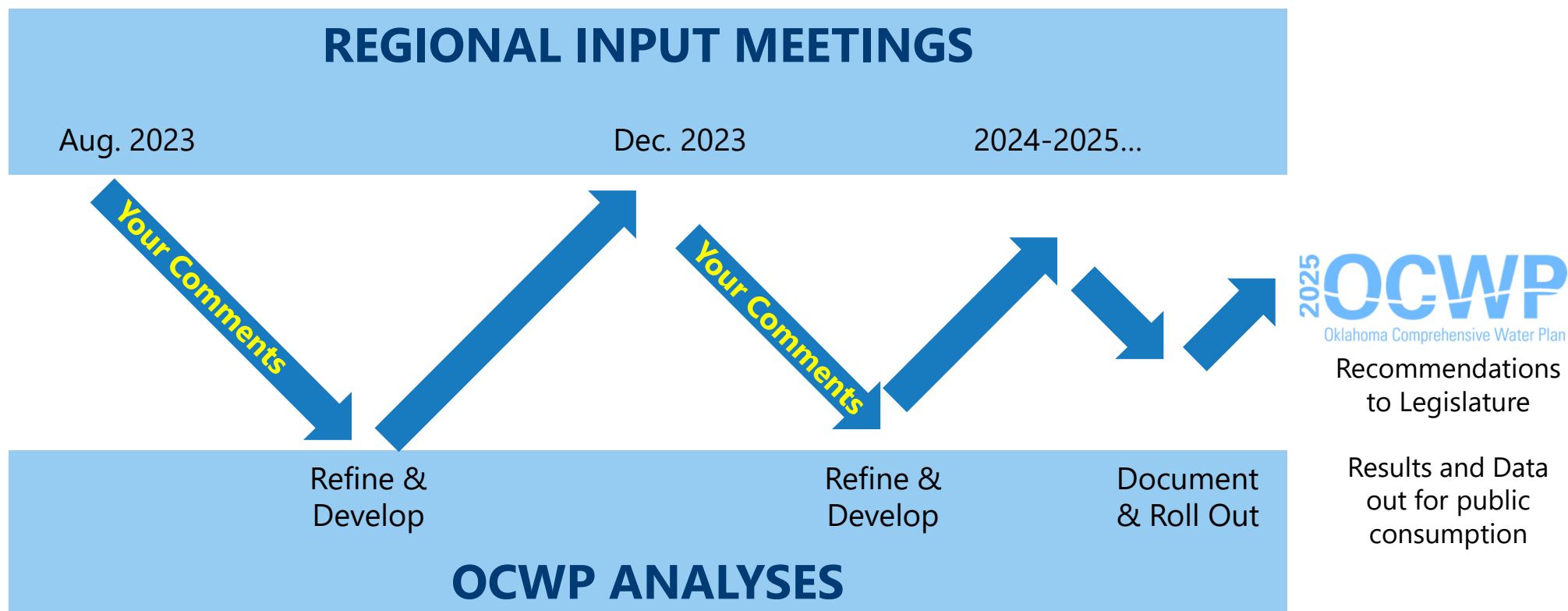
What information do you need to succeed?

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07

Look-ahead / OCWP Roadmap

Owen Mills, OWRB

Path Forward: Integrating your input



Questions? Comments? Get involved!

Reach out to me!

Take the Surveys!



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

Sign up for OCWP updates!

<https://oklahoma.gov/owrb/water-planning.html>

