



Newsletter September 2013

## *Arkansas's Water Plan Progressing on Schedule*

The Arkansas Water Plan Update process has moved past the half-way point towards completion. The effort, which got fully underway in the early part of 2012, will be completed in November 2014. However, there is still much work to be done, and there are ample opportunities for you to become an active participant in the Update process. Several ways to get involved are listed on the back of this newsletter.

One of the best ways to get involved in the process is to attend one of the free public meetings that will be conducted by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission at several locations in October. These are listed to the right. More than 20 public meetings have already been held since the work on the Update began, and representatives of ANRC have spoken to organizations all over Arkansas. Over 100 Arkansans from a variety of sectors have participated extensively by volunteering to serve on various committees addressing specific aspects of the Update.

The water "demand" portion of the Update has been completed. It included the major users in the state: agriculture; public supplies; private well water; industrial and commercial water for businesses; and water for Arkansas power plants. Water uses are estimated to increase statewide by 13% by 2050. At this time, 27% of Arkansas's water demands are met using surface water, and 73% comes from groundwater. Agriculture is the biggest water user.

Work on water "availability" is nearing completion. This includes surface water and groundwater. The next step will be to determine solutions to meet the differences between water "demand" and "availability." This is called the "gap analysis," and many consider it to be the most crucial part of the Water Plan Update.

### *Upcoming Public Meetings:*

The Water Plan Update public meetings are free and attendees will be given opportunities to ask questions and make comments. This is the third round of public meetings. For additional information, visit the website at [www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov](http://www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov) or contact the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission at (501) 682-1611. Information regarding locations, dates and times is listed below:

**Heber Springs: Oct. 1, 3:00 pm;** Community Center, 201 Bobbie Jean Lane.

**Batesville: Oct. 7, 3:00 pm;** Citizens Bank Meeting Room, 285 East College St.

**Mt. Ida: Oct. 8, 3:00 pm;** Civic Center, 145 Wittington St.

**Fayetteville: Oct. 8, 3:00 pm;** University of Arkansas, Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Center, 1335 West Knapp St.

**Harrison: Oct. 9, 3:00 pm;** North Arkansas College, Durand Center, Durand B, 303 North Main St.

**Texarkana: Oct. 10, 1:30 pm;** Southwest Community Punishment Center, 506 Walnut St.

**Monticello: Oct. 11, 3:00 pm;** UAM, Gibson University Center, Caucus Room



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***ANRC encourages you to reproduce and distribute this newsletter.***

***Comments are welcome!***

Email comments or questions to: [arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com](mailto:arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com)

Website: [www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov](http://www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov)



## How to Stay Involved in the Arkansas Water Plan Update

- Stay aware of the progress by using our e-mail newsletters <https://app.e2ma.net/app2/audience/signup/1722771/1716395/?v=a>, and frequently checking the website <http://arwaterplan.arkansas.gov/>.
- Review the data sources and calculations used to determine demands and supplies. They are included in the workgroup meeting materials on the website. Comment on any that can be improved.
- Look for areas of interest to you that are not specifically or adequately addressed in meetings and reports. Meeting minutes and agendas will be very helpful here, (minutes of meetings and agendas are located on the website) even without attending each meeting. If there are items that should get more attention, send comments to [arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com](mailto:arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com).
- Go or send representatives to applicable workgroup, subgroup, and public information meetings (Schedule of meetings is located on the website).

Keep your constituency, local government officials, and legislators informed about the Plan and your interest in it.

- Especially get involved and be heard during the fall 2013 to fall 2014 period when we compare demand and supply to identify gaps, and then work on solutions that may range from specific projects, better monitoring and science, more money for infrastructure, to suggested changes in laws and rules.