



What's next for the Water Plan Update?

These are exciting times for all those who are working on the Arkansas Water Plan Update. With less than a year remaining until the final report is completed, a great deal of effort is being put forth to insure that every major sector of water use in the state and every region of Arkansas is represented on the five Water Resources Planning Region Issues and Recommendations Technical Workgroups.

Recently, the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) asked organizations, agencies, and individuals to nominate citizens to serve on the Technical Workgroup. The agency is very pleased with the tremendous response it received, both in the number of nominees and their wealth of knowledge.

Over 130 nominations were received, so the ANRC decided to appoint all nominees as Workgroup members, with a "spokesperson" from each water use sector in each region designated.

All meetings will be open to the public, and will include opportunities to voice concerns. Frequently check the website at www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov to find out where and when meetings are scheduled. We want to hear from **ALL** Arkansans interested in water issues and are committed to continuing an open dialog.

The Regional Workgroups will identify and prioritize water issues and develop recommendations of concern to their areas. They will bring those concerns together as the

Statewide Issues and Recommendations Technical Workgroup to formulate a list of statewide issues and recommendations.

The different sectors, or groups, represented in each region include the following: public water or wastewater service provider; industrial water user; crop irrigation; livestock; thermoelectric power; fish and wildlife; recreation; navigation; county government; conservation districts; and municipal government.

Workgroups will assemble for the first time in January. For the next couple of months, there will be meetings and discussions that lead to a draft "Issues and Recommendations Report," which will be completed in early spring.

This report will lead to the development of the draft Arkansas Water Plan Update, which will be completed during the summer. Shortly thereafter, there will be public meetings throughout the state regarding the draft.

In November, the Arkansas Water Plan Update will be submitted to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for consideration. Issues and recommendations accepted by the ANRC will be approved for formal adoption as rules of the Commission. The public will have ample opportunities to comment during rulemaking.

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Comments are welcome!
Email comments or questions to: arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com
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ANRC encourages you to reproduce and distribute this newsletter.



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.
- 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.