



Arkansas WATERplan

Essential For Life

Newsletter January 2014

Workgroup's First Meeting is Jan. 14

The Arkansas Water Plan Update will be completed by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) in November, and public involvement is more important now than at any other time during the three-year project. More than three dozen public meetings throughout the state have been conducted so far during the process, but leaders in the Water Plan effort felt there was a need to give Arkansans more opportunities to take an active role in the development of the “issues and recommendations” portion of the project.

More than 140 Arkansans have volunteered to serve on the Issues and Recommendations Workgroup, whose purpose is to identify and prioritize water issues and recommendations for resolving these topics within the geographical planning areas in Arkansas. The planning regions are: north; east; west-central; south-central; and southwest. The 11 sectors include: public water/wastewater providers; industrial water users; agricultural irrigation; livestock/poultry/aquaculture; thermoelectric; fish and wildlife; recreation; navigation; county governments; municipal governments; and conservation districts.

There will be an I&R Workgroup meeting January 14 at the Arkansas Rural Water Association Headquarters, 240 Dee Dee Lane in Lonoke, to explain the process for identifying and prioritizing water issues and recommendations in each planning region and describe the ground rules for the process. For those who have not been previously involved with the Arkansas Water Planning efforts, there will be an informational meeting that morning, with the I&R Workgroup starting at 1 p.m.

This first meeting will initiate the process and all five regional planning teams and all sector representatives will review, comment, and add issues to a preliminary set of water issues identified from the 1990 Water Plan, and those that have emerged over the 23 intervening years. Additional issues identified at the meeting will be integrated into the preliminary list and this combined issues list will be provided to each member following the meeting.

There will also be regional meetings for Workgroup members during February and March, followed by another statewide meeting in the spring. Members of the public who are not on the Workgroup are welcomed to attend any of the meetings. For information regarding the January 14 meeting, call ANRC at (501) 682-3979 and check the Water Plan website at www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov.

Specific reports that might be of interest include:

Vision and Goals of the Arkansas Water Plan

http://www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov/publications/arkansas_water_plan_update_draft_vision_mission_and_goal_s.pdf

Water Demand Report

http://www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov/reports/awp_water_demand_forecast_report_10-17-13.pdf

Water Availability Report

http://www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov/water%20supply%20availability/water_availability_report_draft_11-27-13.pdf

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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.