

**Arkansas Water Plan Update Kickoff Meeting  
Little Rock, AR  
November 27, 2012**

**Brief Summary for Planning Purposes  
December 7, 2012**

Please note that the summary provided here is a general overview and is not intended to be a comprehensive summary of the meeting. This document is intended to inform the Planning Team about themes of discussion and meeting format to better serve the remaining kickoff meetings. A full summary reflecting the discussion of all four locations, participant information, meeting survey results and future meeting and outreach recommendations will follow the completion of all four meetings.

**Participants**

There were nearly 100 participants that signed in at the meeting including a reporter from the Democrat Gazette. As expected with a meeting in Little Rock, there were many more state agencies attending at this meeting. There was overall a good diversity of water interests represented.

<b>Municipal/ Utilities (11%)</b>	<b>Industry/ Energy (5%)</b>	<b>Gov't/University (39%)</b>	<b>Agriculture (9%)</b>	<b>Non Profits (16%)</b>	<b>Consultant A&amp;E and Legal (12%)</b>	<b>Citizens/ Students (8%)</b>
CAW (2)	US Foods	ANRC (14)	Ag Council	TNC	Legal (4)	No affiliation (7)
Conway Corps (3)	SWN (4)	AR Geographic Information Office	Rice Federation	Save Greens Ferry Lake (3)	Consultant (6)	
ARWA		USDA/NRCS (3)	Bunge	Sierra Club (3)	Bancorp South	
Hot Springs		USGS (2)	White River Irrigation Dist.	Create Little Rock		
Magnolia		AGFC (4)	Farm Bureau (2)	Grand Maumelle Sailing Club		
Elm Springs		AR Dept. of Parks and Tourism	Brantley Farming	Conway Green Team (2)		
AR Municipal League		AR Ag Dept. (2)	AR Farm Credit	AR Canoe Club (3)		
		AR Forestry Comm.		The Ozark Society		
		UofA (2)				
		ADH (4)				
		ADEQ				
		USACE				

Several ANRC Commissioners, Mayor of Elm Springs and a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives attended the kickoff meeting in Little Rock.

### **Major Discussion Themes**

The atmosphere of the meeting was characterized as cordial and fairly quiet. There were very few questions about the update process but a number of questions and comments about water use, data and continued involvement. Here are a few of the major themes from that evening.

There were a number of questions about whether and how thermoelectric, natural gas and fracking would be addressed in the AWP. Around the topic of fracking, it was asked how the Oil and Gas Commission would be part of the process. There is a sense of confusion from a few about the missions of the multiple agencies and their respective roles in the AWP update and implementation.

Topics of water transfers, riparian rights and climate change were noted as needing to be addressed in the plan. It was noted on a survey the need for additional reservoirs and stated in the meeting the continued consideration of USACE reservoir reallocations.

There were several questions and comments regarding use of the latest data particularly related to groundwater and water quality. It was asked if the latest 303(d) list stream improvements will be taken into consideration and how will emerging contaminants of concern being addressed.

Lastly, there were several requesting that the technical work group process also be open to the public. It was also asked about what is the selection process for participating on the work groups.

### **Meeting Format and Venue**

The Arkansas Department of Health auditorium was at capacity. Overall, of the 9 survey respondents, several noted needing a larger venue. Overall, the presenter was given good to excellent ratings.

Of the nine respondents, one-third found the meeting Extremely Useful and the other two-thirds Somewhat Useful. The respondents had a similar split (Extremely or Somewhat Useful) on how much the meeting improved their understanding of the Water Plan.

Of the five responding to the “**Best portion of the meeting**”, one noted “all” and a couple appreciated the background and the remaining two highlighting the question and answer portion of the program most value. Below are a few comments and suggestions offered by participants.

- Make the presentation slides available.
- Offer other opportunities for public comment in addition to public meetings.
- Needs to be more education for the general public on Arkansas water resources

### **Action Items**

There are a few items that the Planning Team needs to consider and take action on.

- How to offer public access to the Technical Work Group meetings
- Provide the presentation online
- Factsheet identifying agency roles in water resources management