

**Arkansas Water Plan Update Kickoff Meeting
El Dorado, AR
November 29, 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 60 participants that signed in at the meeting not including the CDM Smith Planning Team. Total attendance was counted to be 73. There were a number of agencies and districts in attendance. There was one organization, Quachita River Valley Association (QRVA), representing navigation. There were no non-profits in attendance. There was also a reporter with the El Dorado News – Times. Below are the statistics of attendees excluding QRVA, reporter and those elected officials noted below the table.

Municipal/ Utilities (20%)	Industry (8%)	Gov't/ University (44%)	Agriculture (14%)	Consultant A&E and Legal (2%)	Citizens/Students (12%)
Magnolia (2)	Arbemarle Corp (2)	SAU (6)	Farmer	Burns & McDonnell	No affiliation (2)
Columbia Co. RDA (2)	Entegra	UofA	Landowner		SAU Students (4)
SWAWD (2)	Lion Oil	USDA/NRCS (2)	Molpus Timber Management		
Hope Water and Light		USGS (4)	Union Co. Conservation Dist. (4)		
Union Co. Water Conservation Board (2)		AGFC (3)			
SWAPDD		ANRC (4)			
		AR Econ Development Commission			
		Columbia Co. Ext.			

There was a number of staff representing the offices of Arkansas House of Representative, Baine, Congressmen Cotton and Ross and Senator Boozman.

Major Discussion Themes

The atmosphere of the meeting was characterized as “courteous” and an open outlook from the audience on what the updated plan may bring. The Union County Water Conservation Board convened a Stakeholders Roundtable discussion coordinated by Sherrel Johnson prior to the kickoff meeting and contributed positively to the kickoff meeting.

There were a few questions regarding the geographic approach to the plan. For instance, would Ecoregions or watersheds be the geographic delineation? A related question was whether regional plans were written in conjunction with the current statewide plan?

Overall, most of the questions from the participants were about what water resource issues/topics the update to the plan would address and include. Here are some of the topic areas.

- Are fish and wildlife needs being considered?
- Will wellhead protection be considered?
- Will aquifer protection be a top priority?
- Will out of state transfer be addressed?
- Will conservation measures/methods be considered in the planning process?
- Will transportation needs (navigation) on our waterways be considered?
- Will the effects of climate change be considered?

A couple very specific questions were posed to the Team.

- Will the potential loss of funds to operate the lock system on the Quachita River be considered as a threat to water supply availability from the river?
- What if the Brown Dense oil field really becomes successful, how will that affect the Water Plan?

Meeting Format and Venue

Those that responded to the survey question regarding the facilities found the El Dorado Conference Center to be a good location. Overall, there were 11 survey respondents.

Of the eleven survey respondents, the group was split, half finding the meeting and understanding of the AWP Extremely Useful and the other Somewhat Useful. Respondents overall found the presenter to be good to excellent.

Of the six responding to the “**Best portion of the meeting**”, one found the question and answer (Q&A) portion to be most useful whereas five found the overview to be where they found most value

It was overall a good meeting, turnout and participation that conclude a full day for those convening prior to the meeting. Nearly three quarters of the audience were municipalities, water districts, county conservation and planning districts and state and federal agencies.

Action Items

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

- Finalize the AWP update maps
- Factsheet on fracking