

**Arkansas Water Plan Update Kickoff Meeting
Fayetteville, AR
November 13, 2012**

**Brief Summary for Planning Purposes
November 14, 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 66 participants that signed in at the meeting not including the Planning Team. There was a good cross-section of stakeholders represented at the meeting.

Local Gov't/Utility (15%)	Gov't/University (17%)	Agriculture (15%)	Non Profits (32%)	Citizens (20%)
Beaver Water Dist. (2)	UofA (4)	Farm Bureau (7)	Association of Beaver Lake Environment	Citizens (10)
City of Bentonville	Coop Ext. (2)	Farmers (3)	Beaver Lake Watershed Alliance (2)	Master Naturalists (3)
Ft. Smith Utilities	USGS (4)		Lake Fayetteville Watershed Partnership	
Rogers Water Utility	Franklin Co. Conservation Dist.		Community Resource Group	
NW AR Council			TNC	
Cherokee Nation			Sierra Club	
Madison County Judge			Audubon	
Elm Springs City Council Members			Ozark Water Watch	
			The Ozark Society	
			AR Canoe Club (5)	
			IL River Watershed Partnership (3)	
			Clean Water Assoc of Carroll County	
			Kings River Watershed Partnership	
			Fayetteville Natural Heritage Association	
			League of Women Voters	

These groups reflect about 99% of those attending. There were a couple of consultants attending as well as.

Neither industry (i.e., Tyson) nor the oil and gas sectors were represented at the meeting.

Major Discussion Themes

There was a lot of discussion around interstate transfers and existing compacts. There are fringe communities in Missouri and Oklahoma already being served by the Beaver Water District and there has been little concern to date given the small populations served. However, it was noted that there are more significant request of water from Missouri from Beaver Lake. The 2008 Bi-State Water Agreement between Missouri and Arkansas was noted by a participant. The ANRC noted that if there were to be changes in the agreed upon amounts for instance with Oklahoma that would be addressed within the legal framework of the Compact.

There was also concern expressed about the Federal Government taking control of the State's water resources and making allocation decisions. The ANRC noted the importance of updating the Arkansas Water Plan to demonstrate the thoughtful and prudent use of the State's water resources.

There was also shared concern about greater regulation and oversight of residential self supplied water wells. A suggestion was made that in the past there was momentum to move from residential wells to public water supply. A participant also asked on the survey if rural water wells would be targeted for monitoring/metering of daily usage.

A few other points noted included would the plan address fracking, would the process result in new statutes, water quality modeling and groundwater recharge.

Meeting Format and Venue

Venue sufficiently met the need. It was a full house. Start time was at 6:30 and almost all were signed in, had materials and were seated by 6:40. Overall, most responding to the survey liked the venue or didn't respond indicating it worked fine for them. The three classrooms together was a rather long room for those reading the screen from the back of the room. A need for better audio was noted by a couple.

For those water providers and local governments who have already been participating they found it Somewhat Useful as you might expect for a general overview. For those seeing it for the first time, most found it Extremely Useful with a few who were looking for a specific answer/solution to an issue noting Somewhat Useful.

Those responding to the "**Best portion of the meeting**" were split. Half found the overview and future direction most useful. The other half noted the Discussion/Q&A/Public Participation/Open Forum and sharing of local issues was the best part of the program.

Other items included:

- Suggested to introduce ANRC staff so participants know who to visit with afterward
- A few of the slides were light and hard to read.
- Shorten the background/overview for more discussion time
- Several suggested having questions/discussion held until after the presentation portion
- Appreciated ANRC addressing misconceptions at the meeting as they were brought up

It was overall a great meeting, turnout and participation. Many stayed after 8:00 p.m. to discuss further with the Planning Team.