



Arkansas WATERplan

Essential For Life

Newsletter February 2014

January I&R Meeting attracts 175: February meetings Scheduled Statewide

The Arkansas Water Plan Update's first Statewide Issues & Recommendations (I&R) Workgroup meeting was held in Lonoke on January 14 and more than 175 Arkansans attended. These farmers, conservationists, elected officials, industry leaders, scientists, water system experts, and other representatives from various water sectors took time from their busy schedules to provide priceless input. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) sincerely appreciates the efforts of all those serving on the Issues & Recommendations Workgroup.

During the January meeting, attendees identified "issues" that should be addressed by the Water Plan Update. During five additional February Regional Workgroup meetings, scheduled in each of the Water Plan Regions, the "issues" work will become more focused. Each of the 11 Workgroup sectors in every Region will prioritize the issues from the 1990 Water Plan and new ones that were brought up at the January meeting. Then, during the meeting, the 11 Workgroup sector spokespersons from that Region will do a final prioritization of all the issues.

Members of the public are invited to attend all of the meetings, and there will be public meetings each evening on the same dates and at the same facilities as the Workgroup meetings. An additional morning session will be held in Jonesboro from 10 a.m. to 11:30 to discuss groundwater issues and modeling reports, particularly information regarding areas east of Crowley's Ridge.

There will also be Regional meetings for Workgroup members in March to develop recommendations on what can and should be done when the water "availability" is

less than the "demand" for it. In addition, there will be another statewide meeting on April 29 in Central Arkansas. For information regarding the upcoming meetings, call ANRC at (501) 682-3979 or check the Water Plan website at www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov.

February I&R and Public Meetings

East Region – Jonesboro – February 18: Fairbridge Inn and Suites (used to be the Holiday Inn), 3006 South Caraway Rd. 10 a.m. - 11:30, optional session on groundwater modeling. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30, Issues & Recommendations Workgroup Meeting. 6 p.m. – 7:30, Public Meeting.

North Region – Mountain View – February 19: Extension Building at Fairgrounds, 210 Warren St. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30, Issues & Recommendations Workgroup Meeting. 6 p.m. – 7:30, Public Meeting.

West-central Region – Russellville – February 20: Lake Point Conference Center, 171 Lake Point Lane. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30, Issues & Recommendations Workgroup Meeting. 6 p.m. – 7:30, Public Meeting.

South-central Region – Hot Springs – February 24: National Park Community College, 101 College Dr. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30, Issues & Recommendations Workgroup Meeting. 6 p.m. – 7:30, Public Meeting.

Southwest Region – Texarkana – February 25: Four States Fairgrounds, Agri Learning Center, 3700 East 50th St. 1:00 p.m. – 4:30, Issues & Recommendations Workgroup Meeting. 6 p.m. – 7:30, Public Meeting.

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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.