



Newsletter July 2013

More than 500 Attend Meetings

The second round of Arkansas Water Plan update public meetings has now been completed. During May and June, representatives from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) traveled throughout the state to lead 25 meetings and presentations and respond to questions and comments from audiences. Visit www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov to view the presentation and get additional information.

Approximately 550 Arkansans attended the meetings, which were designed to give the public an understanding of Arkansas's existing water demand and the predictions of what that demand will be 40 years from now.

The draft current and future water use estimates for our major water uses are estimated to increase statewide by 13% by the year 2050. Water demands include withdrawals from ground and surface sources for: agriculture (crops and livestock); public water systems (cities and water districts); private household wells; industrial and commercial water for businesses; and water for Arkansas's thermoelectric power plants. Currently 27% of the water demands in the state are met using surface water; the other 73% comes from groundwater. Agriculture and crop irrigation are the largest water users.

Later this fall, the third round of public meetings will be held to talk about the currently available water supply and how much we estimate will be available four decades from now. Keep checking the website for additional details.

www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov

What Does the Plan Do for You?

One of the recurring questions during the meetings was quite simple, but very important: "Why does Arkansas need an Arkansas Water Plan Update?"

A successful future for ourselves and later generations depends on abundant, clean, affordable water. We must prepare to meet our future needs. A saying that has been around for a long time is still true: "The failure to plan is a plan for failure."

Our state's legislature recognized several years ago the need to keep the Water Plan up to date. Now, using the best science available, combined with the priceless input of Arkansans who have real-life experiences managing water for their farms, industries, and communities, we are updating the 1990 Plan to help provide a strategy to help us ensure we can meet our state's future demands.

Facts about Arkansas's water....

Current water demand in Arkansas is about 10% of the total precipitation that falls here annually.

The average Arkansan uses 157 gallons of water daily.

Those who own or lease land adjacent to a waterway have a property right to reasonably use that water on their land.

Groundwater furnishes 73% of the state's total consumption of water, and 95% of the groundwater comes from the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer.



Comments are welcome!

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