



Newsletter April 2014

## *Recommendations Discussed at Regional March Meetings; April 29th Meeting Set*

In March, the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission's (ANRC) Water Plan Update Team was again travelling across the state, conducting Issues and Recommendations (I&R) Workgroup meetings. The sessions were held in each of the five Water Planning Regions: Southwest – Texarkana; East – Stuttgart; North – Fayetteville; West-central – Russellville; and South-central – El Dorado.

Approximately 240 Workgroup members, the general public, and Water Plan Team members attended the March meetings. In January, about 175 came to the first statewide meeting at Lonoke, and approximately 300 attended I&R meetings in February. In other words, during these 11 meetings, more than 700 attendees actively participated in Water Plan Update meetings. Hundreds more have attended other meetings during the past 2 years of Water Plan work and have contributed priceless information and insight.

Workgroup meetings in March were designed to solicit recommendations to address priority issues that were identified at meetings in January and February. After a short introductory session that involved the entire group, attendees were then divided into their sectors and asked to develop recommendations regarding their sector's issues for their specific regions. Some of the recommendations were also applicable to statewide issues.

When the sectors completed their work, a representative from each one gave a report to the entire group, either giving all the recommendations or highlighting some of them. Water Plan Update consultants have compiled and assimilated the recommendations from all the meetings and they will be posted on the Water Plan Update website, [www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov](http://www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov).

April 29<sup>th</sup> is the next Statewide Water Plan Update Issues and Recommendations Workgroup meeting. It will be the final meeting of that group prior to the development of a Draft Water Plan Update Executive Summary. For more information, call ANRC at (501) 682-1611, or visit the website.

### *April 29<sup>th</sup> Statewide I&R Meeting*

**Where:** Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, 2 Riverfront Drive, North Little Rock.

**When:** April 29, 1 p.m. to 4:30.

**Who should attend?** Water Plan Update Issues and Recommendations Workgroup members from throughout the state are encouraged to attend, and the general public is also welcome.

**Purpose of meeting:** Prioritize the recommendations that were generated during the regional March meetings. Those recommendations were developed to resolve statewide and regional priority water issues.

**Reservations:** Please let us know if you plan on attending so we can ensure there will be adequate space for each of the sector break-out subgroups. Please call Terry Horton at (501) 225-7779 or (501) 831-1135 or email at [tw@fn-assoc.com](mailto:tw@fn-assoc.com).

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**Comments are welcome!**

Email comments or questions to: [arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com](mailto:arkansaswater@cdmsmith.com)

Website: [www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov](http://www.arwaterplan.arkansas.gov)

Telephone: Edward Swaim, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, (501) 682-3979

Mail: Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Attention: Water Plan

101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 350, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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## 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](mailto: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.