

Water for 2060 Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes – 1:00 P.M., April 21, 2015

OWRB Board Room, 3800 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

ATTENDEES:

Advisory Council Members and Representation:

Bob Drake, Agriculture (Davis)
Russ Doughty for Charlette Hearne,
Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy
(Broken Bow)
Trent Smith, Small Business (Choctaw)
Kevin Smith, Ward Petroleum (Enid)
J. D. Strong, Chair, Oklahoma Water Resources
Board (Oklahoma City)

Joe Taron, Pottawatomie County Development
Authority (Shawnee)
Jerry Wiebe, Oklahoma Panhandle Agriculture
& Irrigation (OPAI) (Hooker)
Nathan Kuhnert, Devon Energy (Oklahoma City)
Roger Griffin, Weyerhaeuser (Broken Bow)
Dan Galloway, City of Stillwater

OWRB and USACE Staff and Consultants:

Cole Perryman, OWRB
Jennifer Wasinger, OWRB
Owen Mills, OWRB
Julie Cunningham, OWRB
Darla Whitley, OWRB
Scott Roberson, OWRB
Derek Smithee, OWRB
Sara Gibson, OWRB

Kasie Strambaugh, OWRB
Robert Singletary, OWRB
Rudy Herrmann, Board Member, OWRB
Terri Sparks, Sparks Write
John Rehring, Carollo Engineers
Anna Childers, CH2M Hill
Bryan Mitchell, CH2M Hill
Bryan Taylor, USACE

Other Attendees:

Brandon Bowman, ODEQ
Preston Hartman, OU

Morgan Hopkins, OSU Extension
Mike Mathis, Continental Resources

Introductions and Goals for Today

Mr. J.D. Strong, OWRB Executive Director and Advisory Council Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and asking audience/observers to introduce themselves. He noted that the primary goal of today's meeting was to go over the draft recommendations report and discuss anything else that might be needed to advance the goals of the Water for 2060 Act. Mr. John Rehring, meeting facilitator, reiterated that we needed to get feedback on the draft recommendations so the report could be submitted to the Governor and Legislature. He noted that OWRB and the consultant team developed draft text for each of the recommendations discussed at the November 18 Council meeting. He went over the process of setting up subgroups and holding teleconferences to receive feedback. Advisory Council members were assigned to one of three subgroups (Public Water Supply, Crop Irrigation and Industry/Other) to review the draft text. Feedback from the subgroups both during the teleconferences and offline input was incorporated into the report and re-sent to all members for review prior to this meeting.

Report Overview and Overarching Comments

Mr. Rehring noted that it was the consensus of each of the subgroups that recommendations would be prioritized within groups/user categories, but not between categories. He suggested that the full Council proceed by first looking at overall comments of each subgroup, then look at individual recommendations. Comments and discussion regarding the recommendations in the draft report included:

- Public awareness and education is not category specific and needs to apply to all categories
- Move PWS-5, Develop Public Education and Outreach Materials, to general category encompassing all water use sectors
- Consider vibrant conservation campaign similar to tourism and recreation, but effectiveness may depend on area of state; unique characteristics
- Consider partnering water conservation with opportunities to conserve oil and energy (energy/water nexus)—resource efficiency
- Identify voluntary/cooperative mechanisms for local cost-sharing in costs of implementing the Water for 2060 recommendations; look at ability of beneficiaries to help pay
- Concern over adding regulation or constraints that might inadvertently cause problems; do not want to save water in one area/sector at a cost to other areas/sectors
- Can use Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program for public education loans
- Common theme between the sectors' recommendations is web-based information-sharing portals. Modify recommendation for public outreach (formerly PWS-5) to also include development of a statewide information-sharing portal, with separate "branches" for specific water use sector information. Details of information to be posted to portals are discussed under individual water use sector recommendations.

Feedback on Energy and Industry Recommendations

- Need to find way to drive people toward portal(s)
- Guidance through various regulatory requirements for marginal quality water (MQW, e.g., reuse) would be helpful for users and agencies alike
- Need to plan for continual updates on portal information
- Move portal to its own general recommendation and cross-reference within category—specific recommendations
- Recommendations EI-1/EI-2: use case studies to demonstrate "success stories"
- Recognition programs should acknowledge dollar savings associated with them
- Recommendation EI-3: Add guidance on navigating the regulatory process

Feedback on Crop Irrigation Recommendations

- Express 2060 goals as a percent reduction goal relative to OCWP baseline demand projection (offset fresh water use); add to front of report
- Tie recognition to a "challenge"?
- Link Water for 2060 goals to projected demand growth in a sector, so that those sectors with the most growth would be expected to show a proportionately larger reduction? May not be productive

Feedback on Public Water Supply Recommendations

- Add guidance on navigating MQW regulatory/permitting process to PWS-1

- Revise title to Recommendation PWS-2 to consider all PWS systems for meeting the defined goal; score all systems, not just the highly-efficient ones
- All recommendations/all sectors need to have periodic evaluation of effectiveness
- Recommendation PWS-3: encourage regular calibration of meters for water produced and sold
- PWS-4: also explore opportunities for private investment in water loss with return on investment (via public/private partnerships)
- PWS-4: show water savings that might be expected to be associated with a \$1M investment by the Legislature
- PWS-5 (now moved to general recommendations): consider increasing funding from \$200,000-300,000 per year to as much as \$1 million; compare to other programs' expenditures (eg OKC's conservation program); provide a range of costs
- PWS-6: add reference to Drinking Water SRF principal forgiveness program

Next Steps and Group Resources

- Add brief executive summary to front of report
- Where does aquifer recharge fit in? Is it linked to marginal quality water?
- Confirm no additional Advisory Council meeting will be required after revised draft report is distributed. Advisory Council will be asked to perform a final review of the revised draft report, reflecting modifications made in response to input received at today's workshop.
- OWRB and its consultants will prepare letter transmitting recommendations report to Governor and Legislature