Comprehensive Update of the Arkansas Water Plan
Helping Arkansas Achieve a Safe and Reliable Water Resource Future

Water - the Choices, Water Law and Policy Center
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Why is the Arkansas Water Plan Important to our Future?

- While Arkansas has significant water resources -- they are not infinite
- Water is vital to the social and economic well being of our communities, and our overall quality of life
- A dependable and viable water supply requires
  - Good water supply sources (quantity and quality)
  - The ability to provide this water to our homes and businesses
- The Arkansas Water Plan will provide us with the science and information to make informed decisions on the best way to manage water to meet the needs of our citizens and the environment
Legislative Definition of the Water Plan


- A comprehensive program for the orderly development and management of the state's water and related land resources

- The state policy for the development of water and related land resources in this state

- To be used by all state agencies, commissions, and political subdivisions in all matters pertaining to the discharge of their respective duties and responsibilities as they may affect the comprehensive plan
Water Planning History in Arkansas

1939

1975
The 1990 Arkansas Water Plan

- **Executive Summary**
  - Describes the overarching statewide water resources issues of the day
  - Provides recommendations for responding to the problems from a statewide perspective

- **Basin Reports**
  - Extensive inventory and characterization of land and water resources
  - Identified valuable data sources
  - Presented trends in water demands, availability, and quality
  - Identified existing and potential problems
  - Offers basin-specific solutions and recommendations
Why do we Need to Update the Arkansas Water Plan?

- We depend on water in sufficient quantity & quality for our very existence
- The wise use and protection of this resource is critical for current and future generations
- The existing AWP is over 20 years old
- How we use and value water has changed over this timeframe
- New data and information collection and analysis is needed to define water supply, water needs, and identify potential solutions to meet those needs
- Increasing demands on water resources requires new technical, policy, and financial tools to address identified water resource issues and needs
Building Support

- ANRC and others interested in water issues recognized the need to update the Plan
- Speaker Robert Moore convened a legislative study team, appointing Rep. John Edwards to lead the effort to find financing and to guide the development of the update
- Legislative support came together, and the General Assembly appropriated $4 million for the update
- AGFC is contributing $1 million of the money
- The AWP has a defined delivery date for ANRC rule making of November 2014
Building on and Improving Existing Programs and Information

- Comprehensive Update to the Arkansas Water Plan
- Public and Stakeholder Input
- Existing and New Data and Forecasted Needs
- Existing Policies and Programs
- Existing State Water Plan, State, Local, and Federal Statutes/Laws
Common Characteristics of Water Planning

• Almost every state undertakes comprehensive planning
  • To quantify/identify current and future needs
  • To quantify supply
  • To evaluate supply and demand management strategies
  • To seek solutions to meet multiple needs
  • Many state plans provide a portfolio of water supply and management actions. In some cases, at the basin planning level, specific projects and activities are identified
The Major Technical and Planning Elements of the Water Plan Update

Regional and Institutional Setting

Demand Forecast by Sector

Supply Availability

Identify Gaps between Available Resource and Demands

Management Practices/Projects to Address Shortfalls between Demand and Supply

Water Needs will be forecasted to the Year 2050
Approaches to Technical Work

- Water demand forecasting
  - By planning region
  - By sector of use
  - Surface and groundwater

- Water supply availability
  - Minimum required flows
  - Groundwater availability

- Gap Analysis
  - Supply vs. demand
  - Surface vs. groundwater
Stakeholder Process

- **Statewide Stakeholder Groups** can include interests from each region with outreach, local communication, and input meetings scheduled at key planning intervals to obtain stakeholder and public input.

Four Rounds of Meetings will be held over the next couple years – the first round starts next week - Nov. 13 Fayetteville, Nov. 15 Jonesboro, Nov. 27 Little Rock, and Nov. 29 El Dorado.
Update Schedule

2012

- Water Education Program
- Policy Review & Public Involvement
- Scoping

2013

- Technical Phase
  - Resource Assessments
  - Forecasting

2014

- Planning Phase
  - Regional Management
  - Strategy Formulation
  - Draft Plan & Public Review

Final Plan Rulemaking
Nov 2014
How to Follow the Arkansas Water Planning Process and Get More Information

- Visit the Water Plan Website at: ARWaterPlan.Arkansas.gov
- Send an e-mail to:
  - ArkansasWater@CDMSmith.com
- Provide us your address and we will send periodic updates
- Visit the ANRC website to follow Commission activities: anrc.arkansas.gov/
Key Contacts

- Website: ARWaterPlan.Arkansas.gov
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- Mail: Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
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Thank You