

## OWRB Priority Initiatives

*In large part reflective of the OCWP "Priority Recommendations", and consistent with the agency's enduring mission to ensure a reliable water supply for all Oklahomans, the following initiatives represent Oklahoma's most pressing near- and long-term water issues.*

- Develop a more robust state funding program to address Oklahoma's escalating \$82 billion future drinking water and wastewater infrastructure need.
- Strengthen Oklahoma's water management and data collection programs to ensure the fair, reliable, and sustainable allocation of Oklahoma's water supplies and protection of water quality.
- Provide a mechanism for local water users and stakeholders to solve local water issues and conduct local planning through the establishment of non-regulatory regional planning groups charged with prioritizing and implementing initiatives consistent with the OCWP.
- Investigate the suitability and structure of an instream flow program in Oklahoma to ensure protection of water quality, ecological diversity, and economic development, including benefits associated with Oklahoma's third largest industry, tourism and recreation.
- Investigate appropriate and voluntary conservation measures and incentives, including encouraging the use of marginal quality water supplies, which would result in cost savings for water users and assist in achieving a statewide goal of maintaining water use at current levels through 2060.
- Continue to work proactively toward the resolution of pending claims and lawsuits regarding Oklahoma waters, including the water rights claims of Tribes and out-of-state interests.

For more information,  
visit the OWRB Website  
at [www.owrb.ok.gov](http://www.owrb.ok.gov).

## OCWP

Last October, the OWRB finalized and approved the 2012 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, the most ambitious water planning effort ever undertaken by the state.

Throughout 2011, OWRB staff and partners assembled the wealth of OCWP technical data and information collected in the course of four years into 13 Watershed Planning Region Reports. The reports include water supply/demand assessments, future supply challenges, and potential options to secure water for planning basins and regions through the next 50 years and beyond. Considerable attention was given to creating both sensible and functional planning documents, which will serve as indispensable technical resources for water providers, policy makers, and water users in making informed decisions concerning future local and regional water use and management.

Concerning policy issues, OWRB members dedicated four monthly meetings in 2011 to detailed review and discussion of OCWP water policy recommendations—the cornerstone policy product of the OCWP process. Culminating from extensive citizen involvement since initiation of the update in 2006, these initiatives were deliberated, debated, and prioritized for immediate or prompt implementation and/or legislative consideration. The final OCWP Executive Report—featuring both priority and supporting recommendations, as well as an extensive summary of technical work—was formally approved by OWRB members on October 17 prior to submittal to the Governor and State Legislature in February 2012.

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