

Stakeholder Participation

In Legitimated Statewide Water Planning

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Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute

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Planning Principles

- ◎ A “good” plan is:
 - > a plan that works on paper...
 - > ...which is a function of good science

- ◎ The “right” plan is:
 - > a plan that is supported by the public...
 - > ...which is a function of good process

Planning Principles (cont'd)

- ◉ A good plan requires:
 - Accurate and timely research and analysis
 - By competent technical and policy experts
- ◉ The right plan requires:
 - Public support, which is enhanced through a process that is FIT
 - To ensure all views are considered

FIT Process

- ◉ **Fair** = unbiased, balanced, respectful, deliberative
- ◉ **Inclusive** = representative, accessible, empowered
- ◉ **Transparent** = open, publicized, recorded, distributed

Grassroots Involvement

- Interest-based, not organization-based, which makes finding common ground easier
- Conflicts may be old and intractable, but probably not “veridical”
- Political legitimacy of “the people” is powerful
- Does not interfere with lobbying and other political linkages already in place

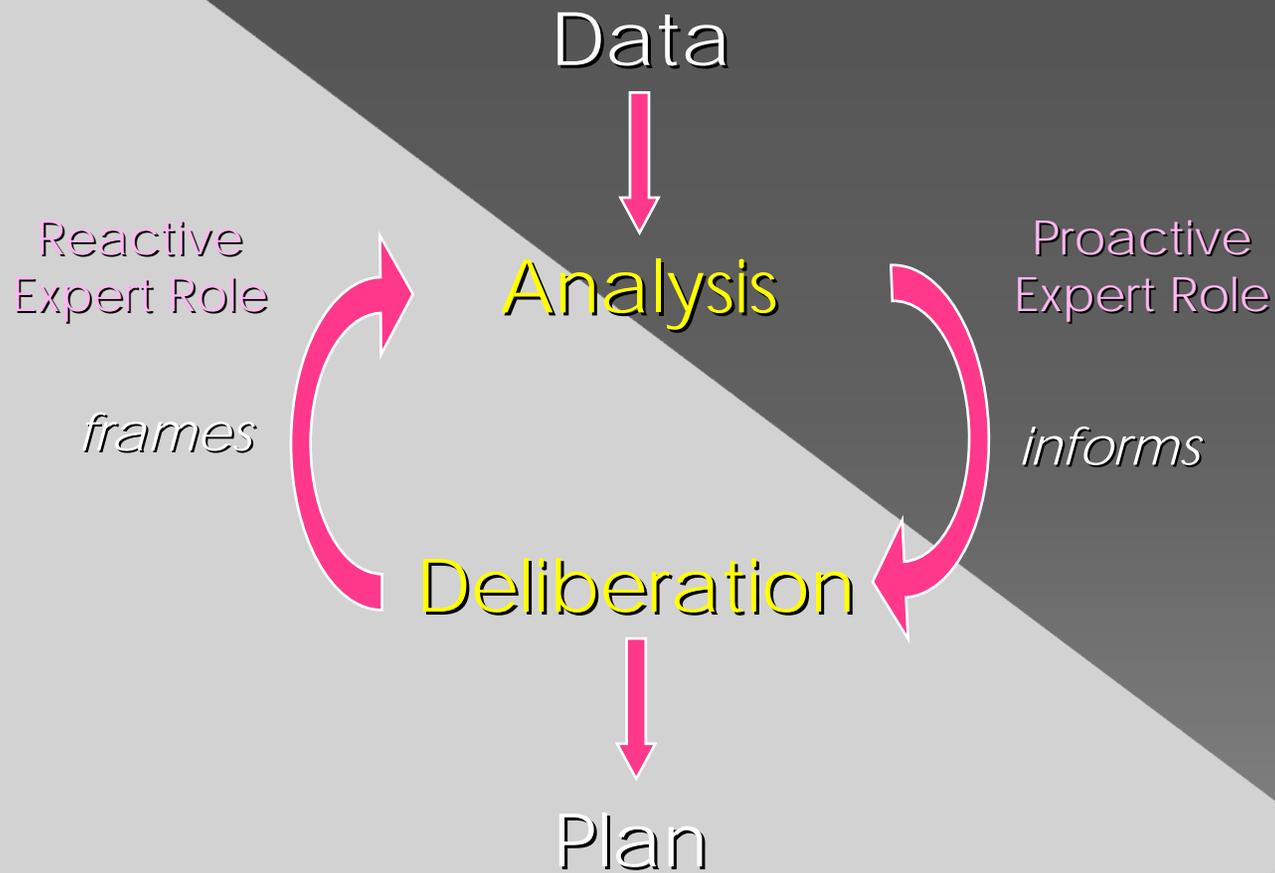
FIT Benefits

- Assure a complete issue agenda
- Obtain valuable suggestions
- Better understand areas of conflict
- Increase support for the plan
- Build social and political trust
- Build political efficacy

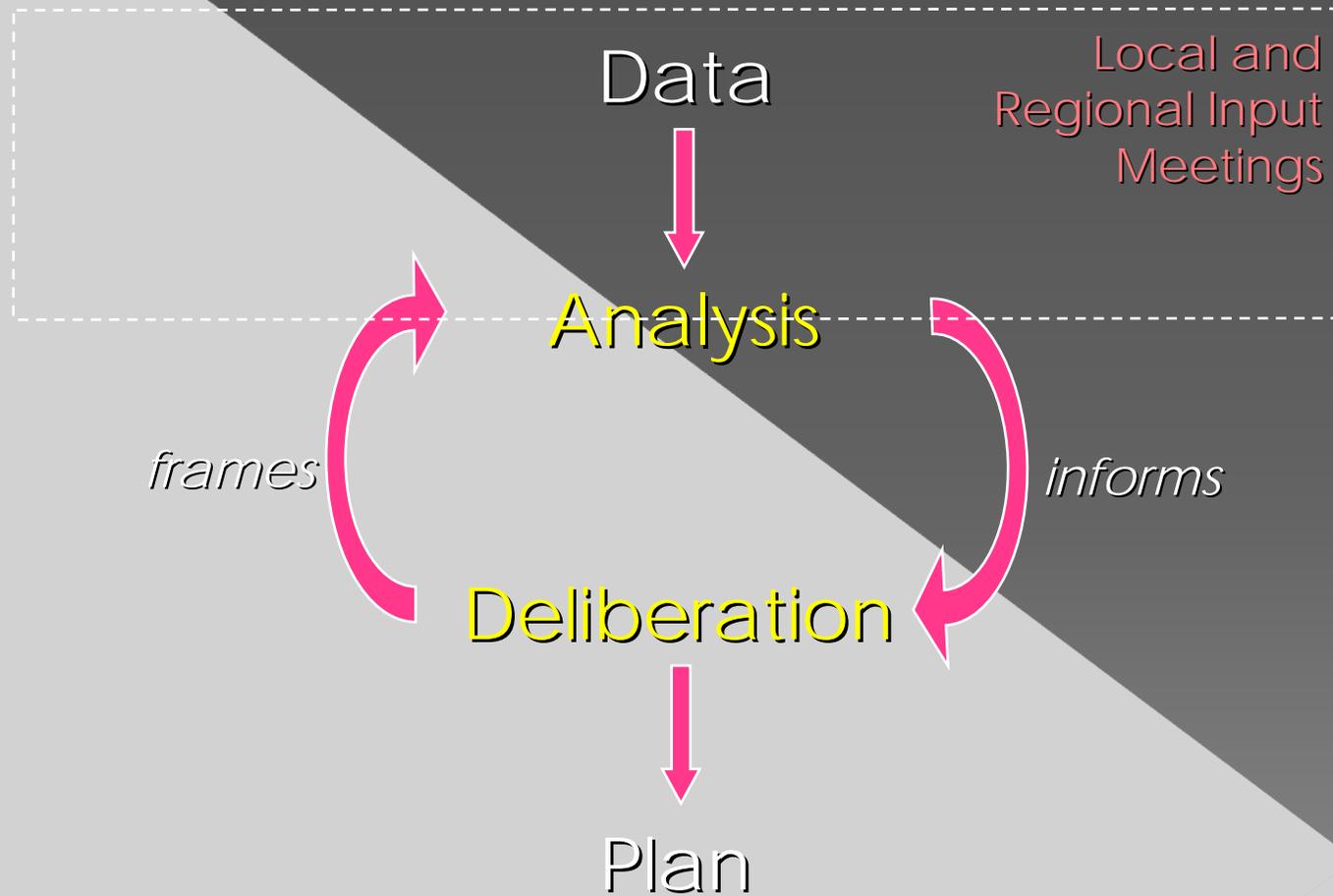
Coupling Good and Right

- ◉ **Challenge:** How to couple competent scientific analysis with legitimated public deliberation about water resource management strategies?
- ◉ **Solution:** Coupling should be recursive
 - › Analysis used to inform deliberation
 - › Deliberation used to frame analysis

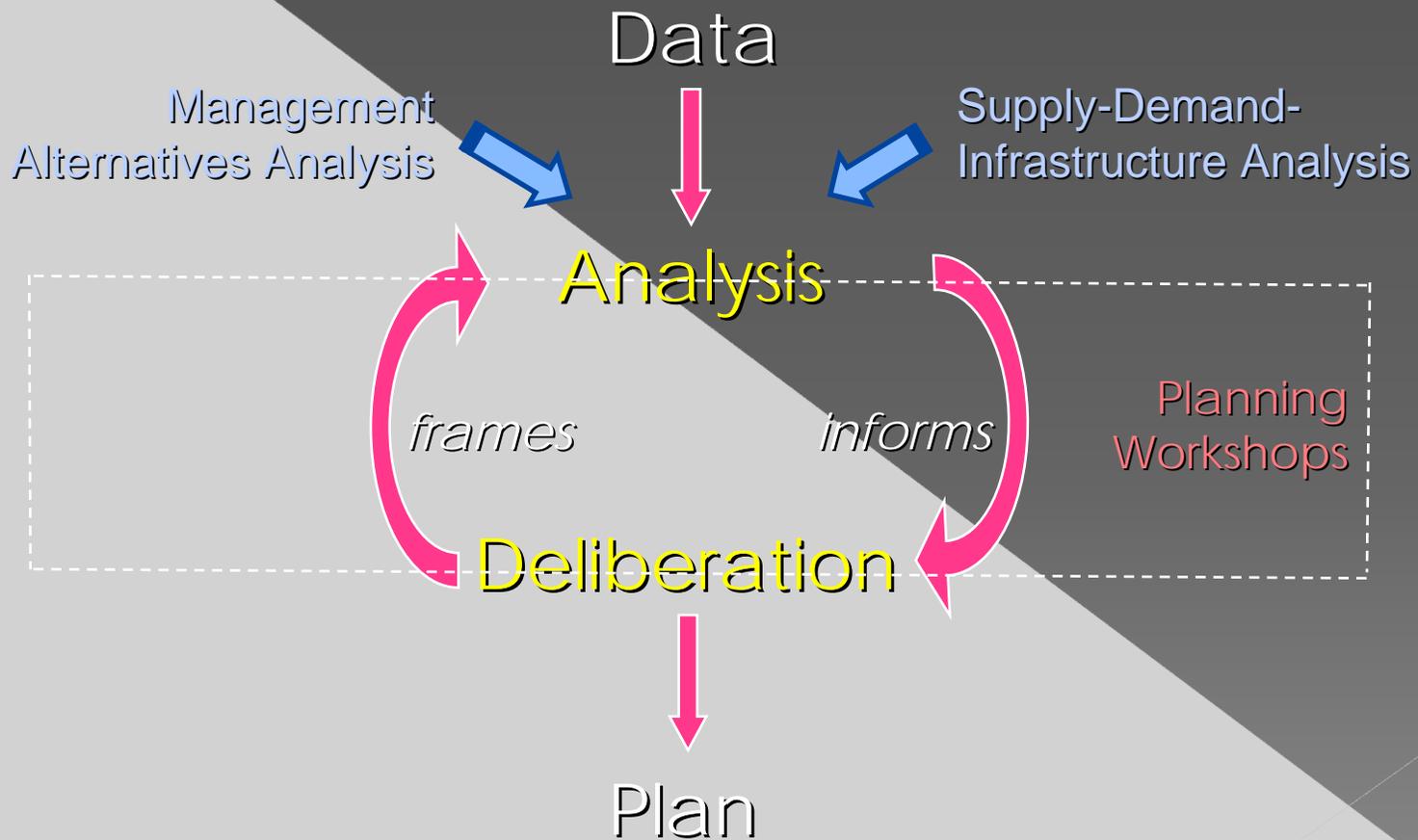
Analysis & Deliberation Framework



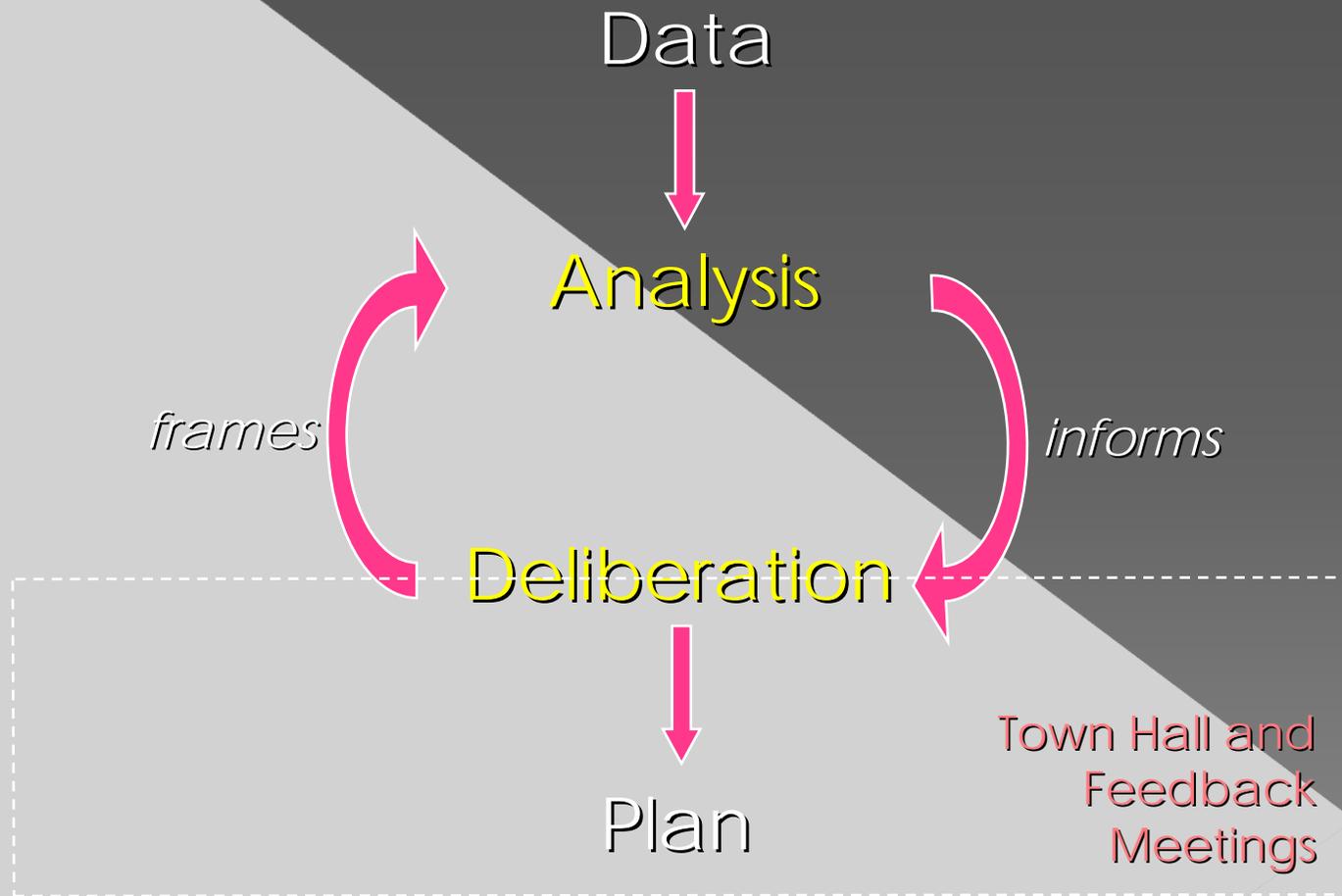
Stage 1: Agenda Setting



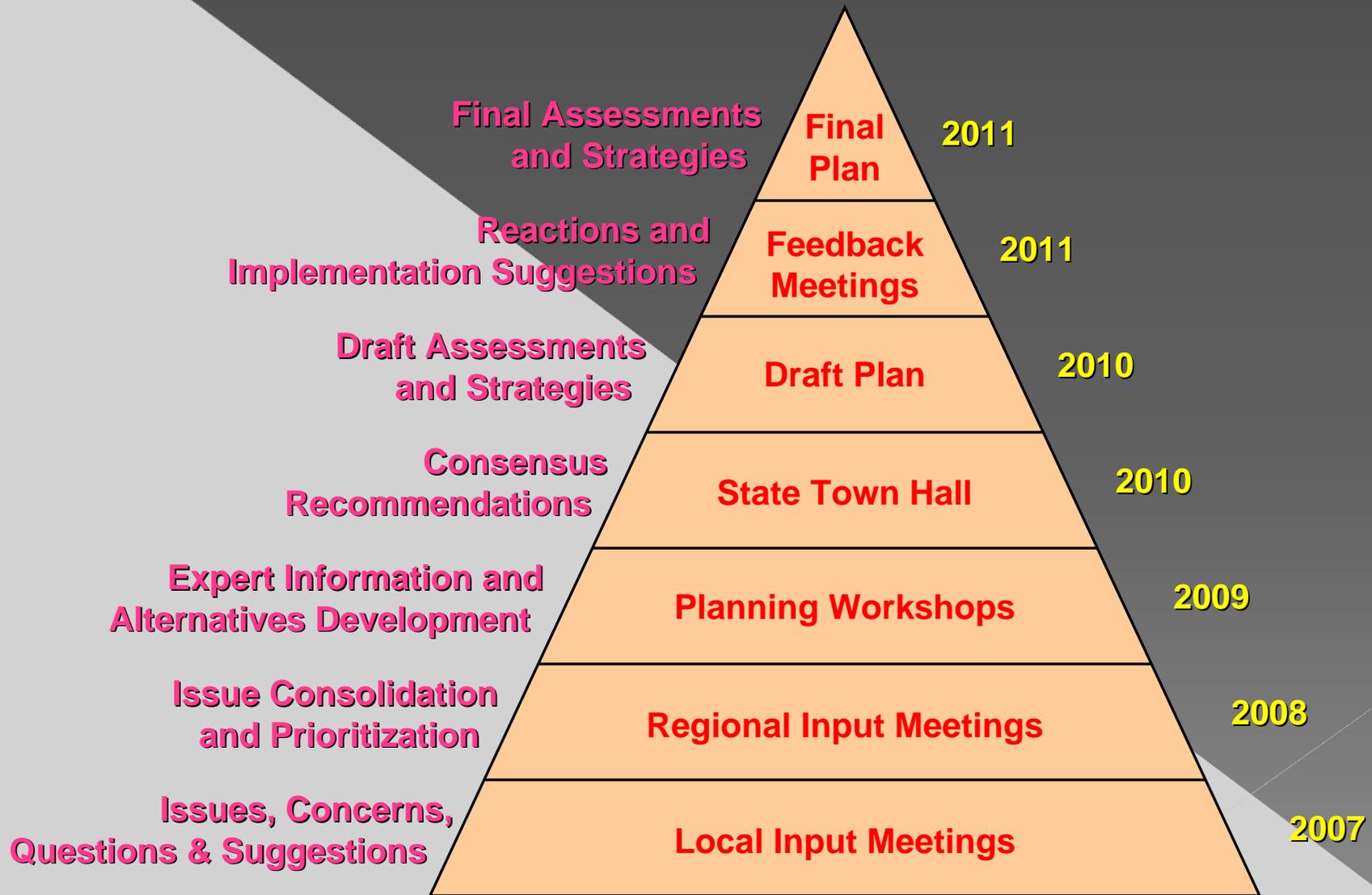
Stage 2: Brainstorming and Collaborative Learning



Stage 3: Recommendations



Participation Pyramid

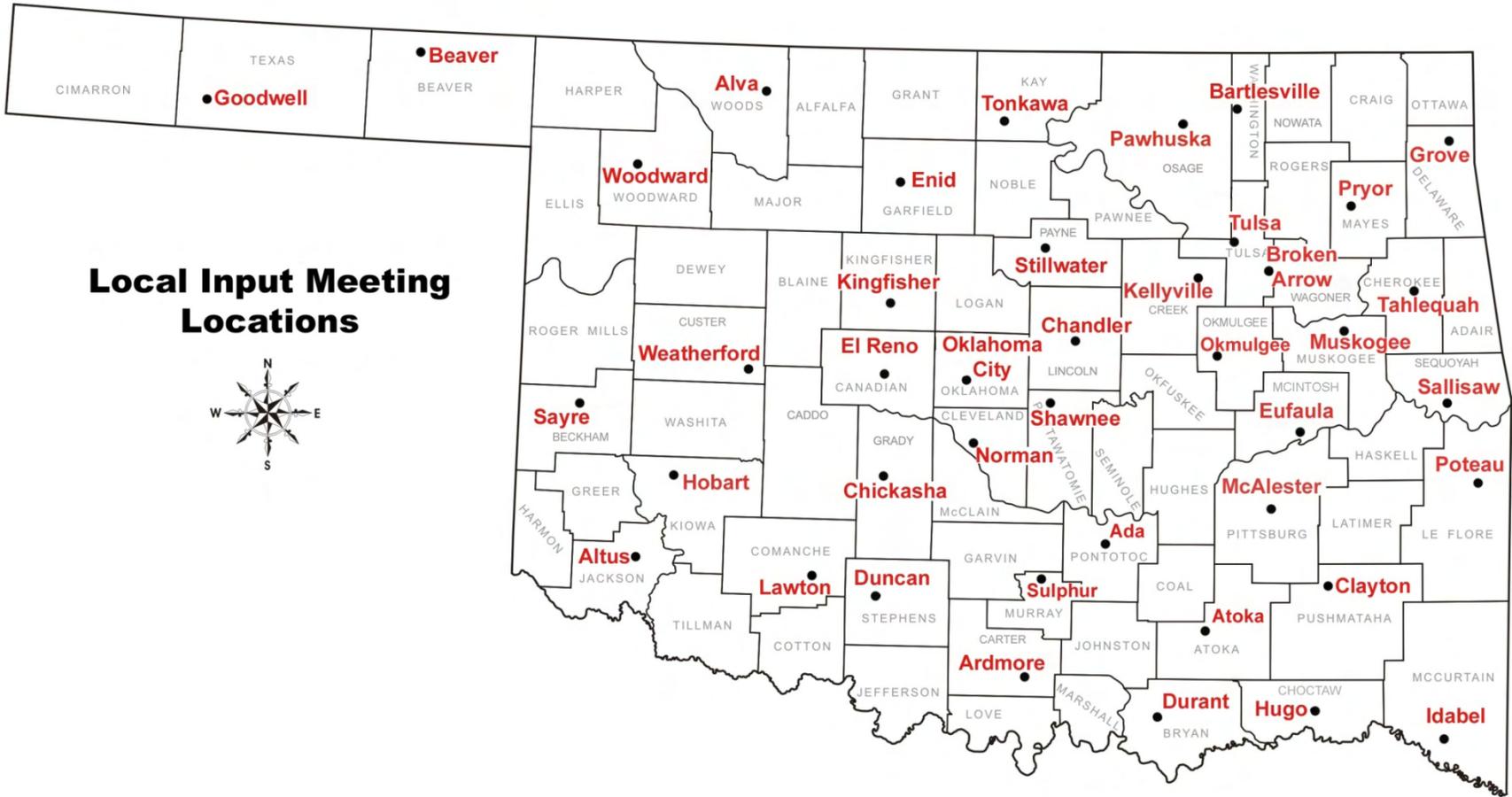




Local Input Meetings



Local Input Meeting Locations



LIM Format

- ◉ Widely advertised; open to all; 2-3 hours on Tuesday or Thursday evenings
- ◉ Presentation of state and local water supply and water use information by OWRB
- ◉ Public invited to submit (ICQS):
 - > Issues they want considered
 - > Concerns they have about these issues
 - > Questions they want to ask
 - > Suggestions for how issues should be handled
- ◉ Comments recorded in real time & displayed



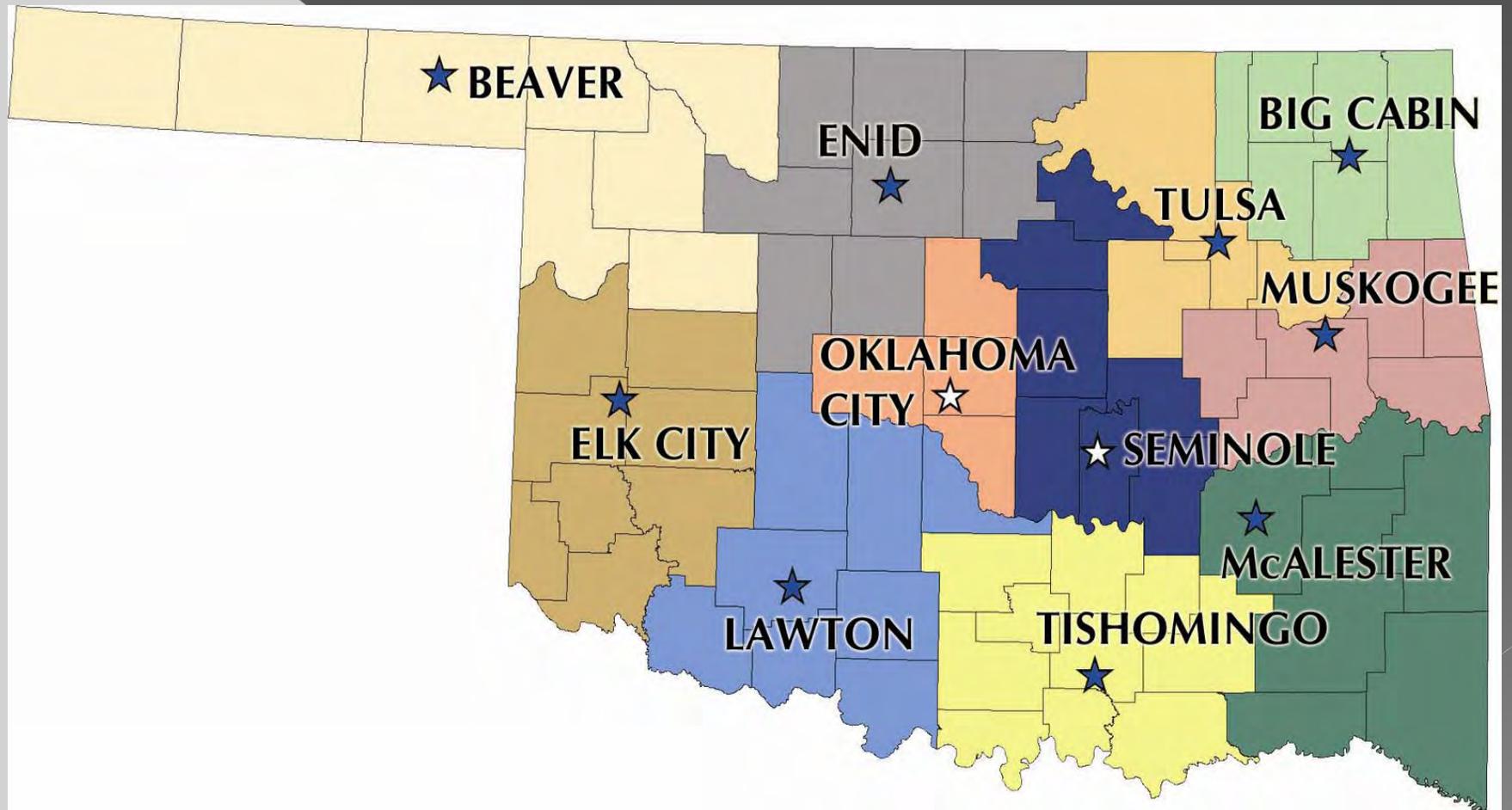
LIM Statistics

- ◉ 42 meetings conducted (Apr-Nov 2007)
- ◉ 2276 persons attended (54/meeting)
 - > 44 State legislators
 - > ~ 160 State agency officials
 - > ~ 140 Local officials
(commissioners, mayors, managers, planners, engineers, utility reps)
- ◉ 2541 comments received (60/meeting)
 - > 2350 comments received at meetings (oral and written)
 - > 191 comments received after the meetings (website, email, postal mail, telephone, fax)

The slide features a dark grey background with a diagonal split. The upper-left portion is a lighter grey, and the lower-right portion is a vibrant magenta. The text "Regional Input Meetings" is centered in a pink, rounded font.

Regional Input Meetings

RIM Locations



Meeting Purposes

- ▶ Ensure issue completeness
- ▶ Learn more about water resources and their management
- ▶ Learn more about the views of others
- ▶ Deliberate about issue importance
- ▶ Attempt agreement on prioritization of issues for discussion in workshops
 - High priority = essential to consider
 - Low priority = consider if time permits

Participant Selection Criteria

- ~35 citizens invited to each RIM
- Criteria (KUCOS)
 - Knowledgeable of water issues in region
 - Unique view on how water should be managed
 - Committed to entire process
 - Open-minded and willing to consider other views
 - Stakeholder

Participant Selection Process

- ◉ Nominations by the public (~650)
- ◉ Applications sent to nominees (480 returned)
- ◉ Applicants screened for interest coverage to identify gaps and duplicates
- ◉ Additional nominees recruited to fill gaps
- ◉ List of 380 discussants and 100 alternates published on website



Pre-Meeting Materials

- ▶ Statewide report of LIM issues and comments
 - ▶ 2541 LIM comments grouped into 54 issues and then into 8 issue groups
- ▶ Request for additional issues
- ▶ Definition and explanation of priorities and prioritization process
- ▶ Prioritization score sheet

Meeting Format

- ▶ Afternoon meeting (2 hours)
 - Four inner rings of 8-9 participants each and outer rings of observers
 - Inner ring participated in facilitated discussion
 - Reconvened in plenary
- ▶ Evening meeting (1.5 hours +)
 - Open to all, including observers
 - Facilitated, LIM-like proceeding
- ▶ Notes recorded in real time & displayed

Prioritization Protocol

- Discussants rated each issue as high or low for inclusion on the planning agenda (TIA)
 - Is the issue timely for planning?
 - Is the issue important for planning?
 - Is the issue appropriate for planning?
- Four groups deliberated on ~14 issues each
- Then, groups met in plenary to comment on group ratings and rationales
- Finally, observers joined in to offer their comments





Planning Workshop Themes

Theme Definition Criteria (SBICE)

- ◉ Screened through TIA
- ◉ Balanced workload
- ◉ Internally coherent
- ◉ Conflict minimizing
- ◉ Externally distinct

Morning: Water Availability

1. Sustainable Water Supply

- › Appropriate response to changes in population projections, economic conditions, water uses, and climate

2. Water Conservation

- › Improved water use efficiency and reduced water waste

3. Water Supply Integrity

- › Enhanced safety and reliability of water supplies

4. Surface-Ground Water Relationship

- › Coordinated management of surface and ground water

5. Land Use Practices

- › Protection and enhancement of water quality and quantity through land stewardship

Afternoon: Water Management

6. Water Sales and Transfers

- › Transfer of water in state and sale of water to other states

7. Inter-Governmental Water Resource Management

- › Cooperation between OK and other states, tribal governments, local governments, & federal government

8. Inter-Agency Water Resource Management

- › Effective cooperation among State water agencies

9. Stakeholder Involvement & Conflict Management

- › Effective involvement of citizens and NGOs in water plan

10. Consideration of Local and Regional Issues

- › Appropriate role of the State in local and regional planning while respecting regional and local differences

Workshop Protocol

- Three 4-hr workshops held 10 weeks apart starting this June & ending in November
- 24 participants assigned to each theme based on their interests and preferences
- Participants read briefing document that summarizes info related to that theme
- Participants come to meeting with their suggested management alternatives
- Group debates merits of each alternative

Workshop Protocol (cont'd)

- ◉ Experts answer questions in real time
- ◉ Best alternatives are passed through and analysis requests are articulated
- ◉ Results presented at second meeting
- ◉ Alternatives refined and new analyses requested
- ◉ Results presented at third meeting
- ◉ Alternatives finalized

Town Hall

- ◉ Spring 2010 in Norman, OK
- ◉ 150 invited participants divided into six groups of 25 over two days
- ◉ Each participant reads background document that discusses alternatives passed on from the workshops in advance
- ◉ Each group deliberates the alternatives & selects they want forwarded to OWRB
- ◉ Plenary on third day to vote on final recs

Feedback Meetings

- After OWRB prepares a draft OCWP, 11 regional feedback meetings will be held in early 2011
- Format is similar to the RIMs
- Public will be asked for their reactions to the draft plan and their suggestions for implementation
- Results passed on to OWRB for final plan preparation due in July 2011

Water Research Institute

Communication Portal for the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

OCWP

For more information, visit:
<http://okwaterplan.info>

or E-mail:
waterplan@okstate.edu

Dr. Will Focht, Director

Mike Langston, Asst. Dir.

Jeri Fleming, Comm. Mgr.

Alison Stone, Admin. Spec.

Participation Website

● Features

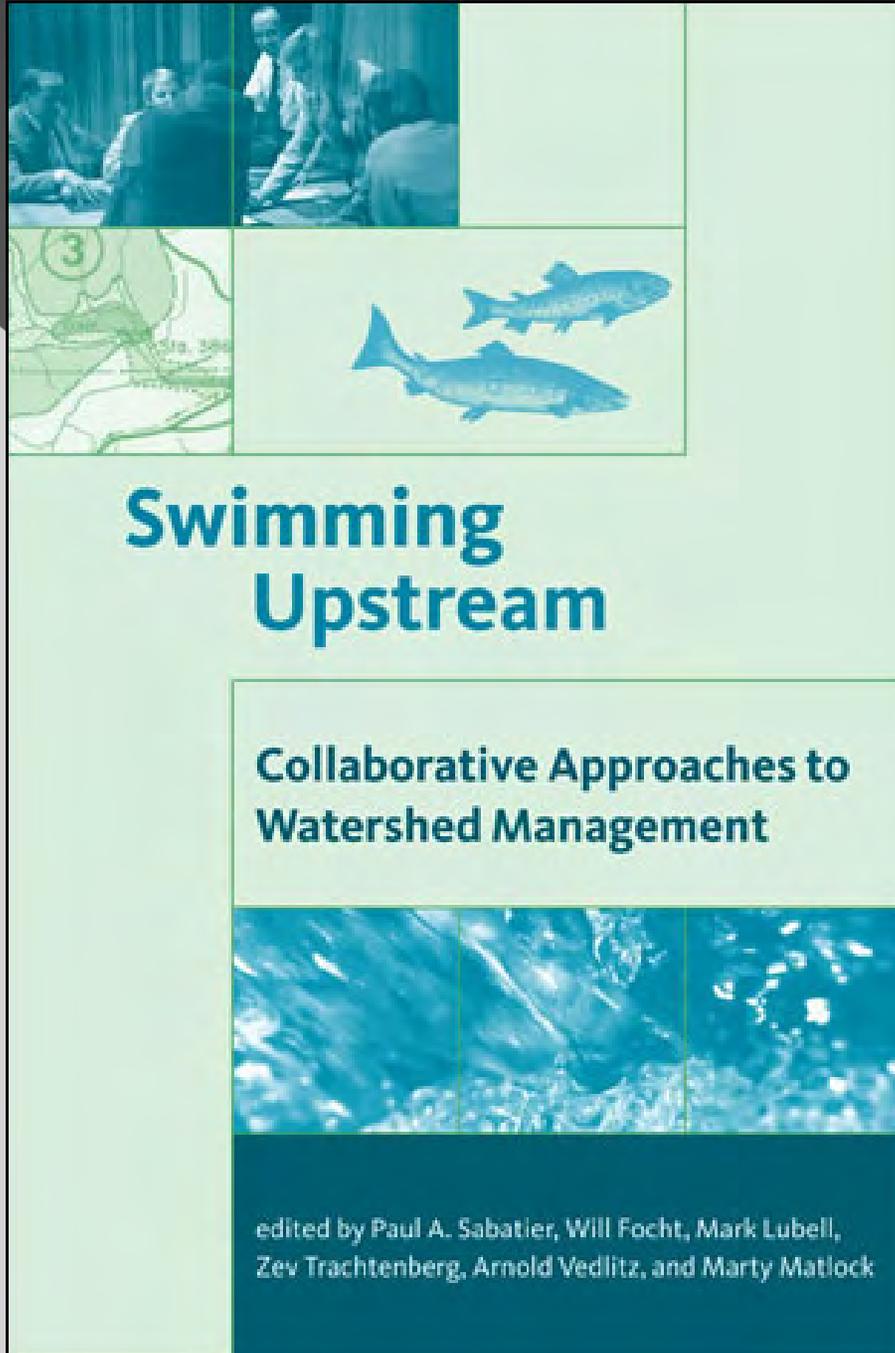
- › Check meeting dates, locations, agendas
- › View and download meeting reports
- › Submit and search comments
- › Submit water plan suggestions
- › Join e-mail list

● Statistics

- › More than 20,000 hits (35/day)
- › Average visit = 6 minutes, 3 pages
- › 830 subscribers to email list

Results, so far...

- Great reaction from public
- Workshops will be tougher than LIMs/RIMs
- Agenda seems to be well-defined
- Some "user" groups are grumbling
 - > We will meet with them to address their concerns
 - > We also plan to meet with legislators
- Tribes have been reluctant to participate formally but we are working with them



Swimming Upstream

**Collaborative Approaches to
Watershed Management**

edited by Paul A. Sabatier, Will Focht, Mark Lubell,
Zev Trachtenberg, Arnold Vedlitz, and Marty Matlock