



Oklahoma Water Resources Board Executive Director, Duane Smith To Speak to Save Our Water, Inc. About Statewide Water Plan Tuesday, February 6th

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(Eufaula) Oklahoma Water Resources Board Executive Director, Duane Smith will be the guest speaker at the Save Our Water meeting on **Tuesday, February 6th at 7 p.m. at the Eufaula Community Center**, 110 High Street, Eufaula. Mr. Smith will be speaking about the statewide comprehensive water study/plan that was launched at the Governor's Water Conference last November and the implications it has for people who have a vested interest in Lake Eufaula.

"This will be a very important meeting for all community people to attend," said Karen Weldin, SOW President. "Public hearings will begin in April for the comprehensive water study and we need to be educated and informed about how this process will work. Plans and decisions will be made about our water resources across the state as a result of this study. Our future economic and survival needs depend upon us taking an interest and active part in what happens now!"

Mr. Smith will describe the process of the water study, the timeline and how community people will have an opportunity for input. The theme of the water study is "Oklahoma's Water Plan—Charting a Course for Sustainable Growth." The two primary goals of the plan are to:

- 1) Provide safe and dependable water supply for all Oklahomans while maintaining the State's economy and protecting the environment; and
- 2) Provide the information necessary for water providers, policy makers and citizens to make informed decisions concerning the use and management of Oklahoma's water resources. The water study will take place over the next four and one-half years through a three phase process.

"The state of Oklahoma will be looking to Southeast Oklahoma for water—this is where the majority of the water is in the state, said SOW Board member Jim Zellner. "We must be educated, informed, and prepared to participate in this study and know how to plan and protect our communities and families for the future. We must also be educated, informed and prepared to discuss the needs of the entire state for the next 50 years. Come to the meeting eager to learn and get involved!"

At this meeting, SOW will also give an update of their progress since the last meeting. The meeting is open to the public and SOW is encouraging all interested persons to attend

Save Our Water, Inc. is a group of community leaders, business owners, lake area and Oklahoma residents and concerned citizens who have come together to work to preserve and protect Lake Eufaula and all Oklahoma's water resources.

For more information, go to www.saveourwaterlakeeufaula.com or call 918-452-3184.