

Water Resources Research Center



College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Stakeholder Engagement in Water Planning

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Definitions

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com>

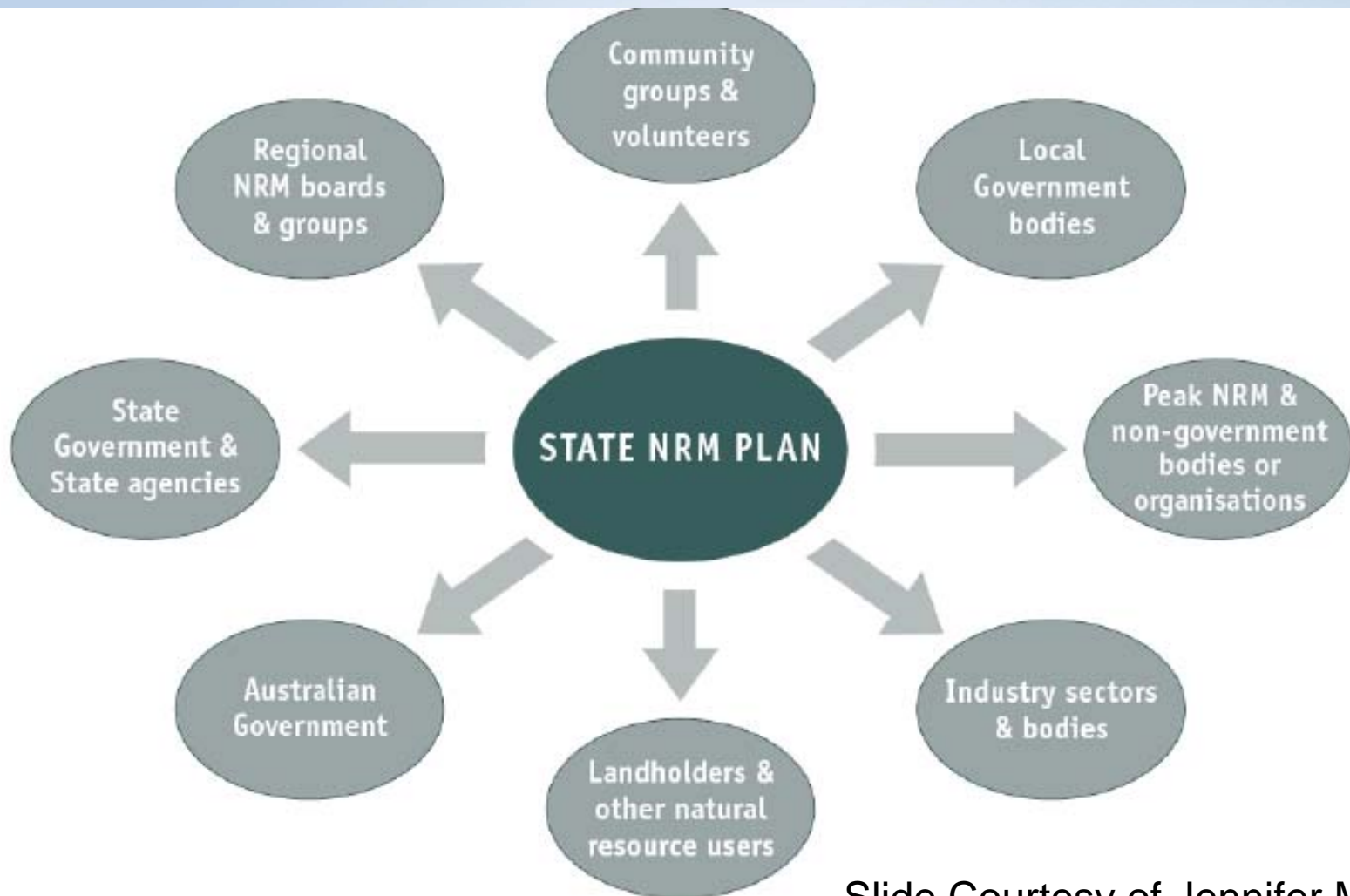
- **Stakeholder**

- *Noun*: a person or group not owning shares in an enterprise but having an interest in its operations, such as the employees, customers, or local community
- *Adjective*: relating to policies intended to allow people to participate in decisions made by enterprises in which they have a stake

- **Engagement** (7th definition on list) - the act of sharing in the activities of a group

- involvement, participation

Water Planning Should Engage a Broad Set of Stakeholders



Source: pg 9, SA State Natural Resources Management Plan 2006

Slide Courtesy of Jennifer McKay
University of South Australia

Challenges to Engaging the Full Range of Stakeholders in Water Planning

- Complexity of the issues
- Commitment
 - Who has the responsibility?
 - Is the responsibility embraced?
- Customized approach may be required, depending on the stakeholder type and the issues. One size does not fit all!
 - Surveys, focus groups, workshops, etc.
- Communication mechanisms and frequency
- Cost
 - Effective engagement is expensive in terms of time and dollars. Who pays?

Should we engage more in water planning at the state level?

November-December 2008

Arizona Water Resource

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Public Policy Review

by Sharon Megdal

Much Done, Much More to Do to Develop Needed State Water Plan



I have been thinking quite a bit about water planning. Water managers and leaders throughout the state have been discussing the many challenges associated with meeting the water demands of our state's growing population. We've experienced several years of drought conditions, and climate change models predict the Southwest will become drier and hotter. Even in the best of circumstances, we know there is a need to identify additional water supplies to meet expected growth in water demand

Many water providers acknowledge this need. The 2004 Operational Plan of the Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District recognizes the need. The Central Arizona Water Conservation District has initiated its ADD Water Process, which focuses on how new water supplies would be shared — and paid for — by those within the Central Arizona Project service area. The actual sources of additional water are yet to be determined. The Upper San Pedro Partnership has been working on identifying options for additional water supplies. Yavapai County is a hotbed of activity regarding growth and water supplies. Also to be considered in any water supply inventory are the remaining unsettled Indian Nation water rights claims.

But, on a statewide basis, do we have readily available and reliable estimates of how much water is needed where and in what time frame? Do we understand how restrictions on water supplies in one area of Arizona may affect water demand in another? How effective will demand side management be in reducing the need for expensive infrastructure, including treatment facilities? What cushion will Arizona Water Banking Authority

management goals, along with projections and other useful information, but they have not included plans for achieving these goals.

We are on the cusp of preparing the Fourth Management Plans for the AMAs. The ADWR is preparing assessments for each of the AMAs, but these assessments have not yet been released. Given the two year lag between official promulgation of the Management Plan regulations and their effective dates, it is clear that the Fourth Management Plans will not be effective before some time in 2011 at the earliest. What should be done if it appears unlikely that one or more of the safe-yield AMAs would not meet this statutory management goal by 2025?

Beyond the AMAs, future growth is expected to be robust, the current downturn notwithstanding. The Statewide Water Advisory Group has been considering the water needs of different parts of the state. While SWAG recommendations have resulted in state legislation regarding adequate water supplies outside the AMAs, the SWAG's charge is not to do water planning.

ADWR has been very busy compiling the *Arizona Water Atlas*, which is a far-ranging source of information by planning areas of the state; information included in the *Atlas* is available on line at www.azwater.gov. The web site states that currently available water-related information for the State of Arizona has been "collected and synthesized" in order to provide a comprehensive overview of regional water supply and demand conditions, identify water resource issues facing Arizona communities, identify missing information and how information access could be improved, and initiate a renewed and more systematic effort by the department to assist Arizona water planning projects and develop solutions. The *Atlas*, however, is not a state water plan.

“Your [ADWR’s] Water Atlas is certainly a good start, but I agree with you that Arizona needs to take it a step farther... and now is the time.”

Out of state observer,
March 2009

Questions about Planning to Ponder

- If we don't take advantage of the Water Atlas' up-to-date assembly of data, will we be missing an opportunity to understand better the implications of where we are heading?
- Can we use development of the Fourth Management Plans to launch a statewide effort?
- Do we have the capacity to develop a state water plan, given the shortage of financial resources and the great demands on staff resources at ADWR?
- Do we have the political will to consider the many difficult questions associated with future water supplies and how to pay for them?
- Can we afford not to develop a state water plan?
- Do the complexities necessitate taking a big-picture look?
- If the collective will to develop a plan materialized, could we establish a process for developing the plan that is inclusive and transparent?

Please share your thoughts!

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Or jot them down and leave with evaluation forms at the end of the conference.

Thanks in advance!!