

## **CPASA needs you: Statewide water plan Regional Meetings**

Thirty people per region have been selected to prioritize and consolidate issues and to help set the agenda for the third phase of the statewide water plan, the Planning Workshops to be held in 2009.

These people can use your help. Please attend as many of the regional meetings as you can, especially the **October 2 meeting to be held at Murray State College in Tishomingo**. For a complete schedule and map, go to [www.cpsa.net](http://www.cpsa.net) and click the link under News.

It's crucial that CPASA supporters speak up for wildlife needs, recreation needs, environmental considerations, rural water users and municipality users in south-central Oklahoma.

Each meeting is open to the public, so even if you're not an official regional participant, you will have a chance to comment at the end of the meeting.

To join the mailing list to stay informed, send email to [waterplan@okstate.edu](mailto:waterplan@okstate.edu), phone 405.744.9994 or go online <http://okwaterplan.info>.

## **Meridian update: Management plan being developed**

CPASA has had real success in limiting how much water Meridian has been able to draw from the aquifer, but Meridian's unregulated diversions from Mill Creek have had a terrible effect on stream flows and water quality. If finalized, a new management plan now under discussion would provide a way to protect stream flow.

Installation of remotely-sensed stream gages and prohibiting diversion that would interfere with a measured base flow would be in the agreement, as well as allowing the use of pit water, provided it is assessed against Meridian's existing permits, and using stored pond water to reduce creek diversions.

The CPASA team has been working with all the parties of this case to end Meridian's diversion of Mill Creek and to improve the conjunctive management of its North Troy site water use. We have evaluated input from the National Park Service, Chickasaw Nation, OWRB technical staff▶

## **CPASA delegation tours Edwards Aquifer**

Amy Ford, Dick Scalf and Wayne Kellogg of CPASA joined a delegation organized by OWRB that visited San Antonio in February. The trip's purpose was to learn more about the Edwards Aquifer of central Texas that provides 90% of the water supply for San Antonio, the 8th largest city in the U.S.

Because the Edwards is similar to the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer, our group wanted to learn how Oklahoma might apply Edwards' management principles to the Arbuckle-Simpson. We received an all-day briefing, followed by a field trip to key springs and recharge areas and structures.



Created by the Texas Legislature, the Edwards Aquifer Authority began operation in 1996 to manage the aquifer to optimize its use. With an annual budget of about \$15 million

funded through water user fees, it conducts an extensive monitoring and research program designed to enhance management policies and procedures.

**Aquifer study in final year** The instream flow study final report, "Instream Flow Assessment of Streams Draining the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer" was submitted in June to OWRB. Results will help evaluate acceptable streamflow reduction that could be implemented in accordance with SB288. The report is summarized in the quarterly report to be posted in the near future. Watch our website for the link.

**Please note: Your last membership year is printed on your mailing label. If it is blank or does not show 2008, we would appreciate your bringing your membership up to date. Thanks.**

◀and the Arbuckle Master Conservancy District in this effort. If successful, all parties hope that it will provide a foundation for creating OWRB rules to implement SB288 with respect to *all* users—including industry, municipalities, and agriculture.

## President's Message

CPASA has been busy this year fighting to keep the Arbuckle Simpson Aquifer in the forefront of our lives.

Highlights have been the Meridian decision appeal and subsequent negotiations, studying the Edwards Aquifer management and helping draft successful legislation regarding studies for aquifer recharge and use of marginal water for industrial needs.

We've been busy working on the ongoing issue of mining over the Aquifer. To recap, in 2005 Martin Marietta (dba Meridian Aggregates) made application with the OWRB for a groundwater permit to drill a well on their North Quarry site just north of Mill Creek. CPASA, along with several other individuals and agencies, protested this permit application. Over the course of the next few years, hearings were held, rulings issued, appeals filed, rulings issued, and more appeals filed. I do not have the space to cover all that has transpired but the bottom line is as follows:

- Martin Marietta applied for a groundwater permit requesting 1400 acre feet.
- The OWRB issued a permit allowing 274 acre feet and prohibited Martin Marietta from using the water that seeps into the mining pit without making application for a permit.
- Martin Marietta appealed the OWRB ruling and it was heard before Judge Walker.
- Judge Walker upheld the 274 acre feet limit but ruled that current law did not give the OWRB the authority to require a permit for use of the pit water.
- CPASA, as well as the others involved in the protest, have appealed Judge Walker's ruling and are currently working on the briefs.

Meanwhile, Martin Marietta has been pumping water out of Mill Creek using their stream water permit. The hard pumping of Mill Creek has caused the creek to fall and to run dry at times and has become the focal point of much of our efforts this year. (See related article on Page 1.)

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CPASA ANNUAL MEETING</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> week in October Please watch for September mailing indicating date, location &amp; agenda. Information will also be posted on <a href="http://www.cpasa.net">www.cpasa.net</a>.</p>
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Another important issue that has been ongoing is the update to the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan. Many of you attended one of the Local Input Meetings held around the state this past year and I am pleased to say that several CPASA members have been chosen to be on the Regional Input Meeting Committees. Your participation in this process is vital and I hope that each of you will make an effort to **attend the regional meeting in Tishomingo on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Murray State College**. You can keep up with the planning process on the Oklahoma Water Research Institute's web site at [www.okwaterplan.info](http://www.okwaterplan.info)

It was great to see so many members at the Basic Water Law Conference sponsored by the OWRB in late July.

Amy Ford, President

### Nominations Sought for 08-09 Board

We are now accepting nominations for the 2008-2009 Board of Directors of CPASA.

If you would like to nominate someone (you can nominate yourself), please provide the name, address, e-mail address and phone number, brief biography of the nominee and the reasons that you think that he/she would be an asset to the CPASA Board. Send your nomination to [billbrunk@tds.net](mailto:billbrunk@tds.net) or P.O. Box 280, Fittstown, OK 74842. Nominations must be received by 9/2/08 to be considered.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

**Volunteer.** Let us help you find a spot that suits your capability and interests. We need rural folks, city folks, young and old, everyone... and anyone who wants to preserve south-central Oklahoma's water for future generations

**Become informed.** Attend meetings. CPASA board meets monthly and membership meets annually in October. The Oklahoma Water Resources Board meets monthly and hosts Water Day at the Capitol in April and the Governor's Water Conference in November. Use our website frequently

**Donate to** <http://cpasa.net/join.html>. To further promote CPASA goals, make an online gift.

**Get involved.** Join or renew your membership at <http://cpasa.net/join.html> or use the form below & mail to

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