

## **Guiding Principles State Water Plans**

# Briefing Paper

### **Florida**

The Florida Water Plan is based on two fundamental principles:

- Water resources must be managed to meet the water needs of people while maintaining, protecting, and improving the state's natural systems; and,
- Effective management of water resources requires collaboration and cooperation among all affected parties.

(Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Florida Water Plan, 1995)

### **Kansas**

The Kansas Water Plan is developed through an annual planning process under the following guiding principles.

- **Coordination:** No single organization, acting alone within the scope of its powers, can carry out programs to manage, conserve or develop the waters of the state. It is essential that organizations at all levels, local, state, federal and frequently other states, act in a coordinated fashion to achieve desirable objectives in water resource management.
- **Comprehensive:** Comprehensive planning provides guidance for management, conservation and development issues for the nine policy categories [see Elements White Paper]. Each of these categories is also addressed, where appropriate, in the 12 Basin Sections.
- **Continuous:** Once plans are formulated, programs are implemented, operated for a period of time and ultimately the program outcomes are evaluated. Information from operating experience and evaluations of the condition of the state's water resources are used to modify and improve the plan. Consequently, planning, by its nature, must be a continuous process, constantly adapting to new conditions and information.

(Kansas Water Office. Kansas Water Plan Summary, 2000)

### **Nevada**

The Nevada Water Plan has 11 guiding principles reflecting state law, state policy or important water planning considerations:

1. All water within the state, whether above or below ground, belongs to the public and its use is subject to a system of water rights administered by the State Engineer, and by state and federal court decrees and regulations.
2. Public education and public input is vital to statewide water resources planning.

3. The State Water Plan should integrate water supply, water quality, water use, and environmental issues, and should be used to guide decisions, which affect water resources in the state.
4. The State Water Play by design should be “growth neutral.” It should neither encourage nor restrict growth, and present no positions regarding the typed, location or rate of growth.
5. Water right owners are entitled to buy, sell or trade their water rights to others under free market conditions. However, changes in the point of diversion, or place or manner of use must be approved prior to the change in accordance with the state water law, and state and federal court decrees and regulations.
6. The water resource needs of future generations of Nevadans should be protected by balancing economic goals with social, aesthetic, cultural and ecological values.
7. All water resource projects should be technically, environmentally and economically sound, consistent with state law.
8. The State Water Plan should help integrate and coordinate the water planning and management activities of local, state and federal agencies.
9. The relationship between groundwater and surface water must be recognized in the State Water Plan.
10. Water conservation is an important component in the planning and management of the State’s Water Resources.
11. Watershed planning efforts should be encouraged and should include representatives of all agencies, municipalities, political subdivisions, water users and any others with an interest in the planning and management of a watershed.

(Nevada Division of Water Planning. Nevada State Water Plan, 1999)

## **Ohio**

The intent of the Ohio Water Resources Strategic Plan is to provide a rational, consistent, coherent guide for protecting and optimizing Ohio’s water resources. To do this, the Strategy must be based on precepts that form a moral, ethical, and philosophical framework for its goals, objectives, and actions steps. The following beliefs, then, are the guiding Principles for the Ohio Water Resources Strategic Plan:

- Preservation and management of Ohio’s water resources is fundamental to human existence and the ecosystem, and must be balanced between human needs and environmental protection.
- Access to safe, potable water supplies at reasonable cost is a right of all Ohio citizens, now and in the future.
- The interests of all stakeholders, including government/public and private organizations/individuals, in water-related issues deserve fair and objective consideration and must be recognized and respected so that benefits are maximized and detrimental effects of plans and decisions are minimized.

- Watersheds and smaller natural drainage units within them form the geographic and hydrologic basis for successful water planning, protection and management programs at the state, regional, watershed and local levels.
  - Working partnerships among stakeholders must be recognized as essential to the cooperation, collaboration and shared responsibilities needed to successfully manage Ohio's water resources.
  - Preventive measures to maintain high quality waters and stem further damage to degraded waters must receive top priority in management plans and programs, followed by restoration/remediation of degraded waters to the extent feasible.
  - A comprehensive, accessible intergovernmental water information system combined with good science must underlie research, standards, and decision-making in all water resources programs.
  - The cost of the development and implementation of water-related plans, programs, and projects must be shared as equitable as possible among the beneficiaries.
- (Ohio Water Resources Council. Ohio Water Resources Strategic Plan, 1998)

## **Oklahoma**

[W]ater planning, like the resource itself, is a discipline that must provide for continuous change and periodic revision if it is to accurately reflect dynamic social, political, economic and environmental issues.

(Oklahoma Water Resources Board. Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, 1995)

## **Utah**

The following guiding principles were used to develop Utah's Water Resources: Planning for the Future document:

- All waters, whether surface or subsurface, are held in trust by the state as public property and their use is subject to rights administered by the State Engineer.
- Water rights owners are entitled to transfer their rights under free market conditions.
- The state of Utah's role is to set policy, provide assistance and protect statewide water resource interests.
- The primary responsibility for making decisions regarding water resources resides with local leaders.

- Educating the public on water resources issues and seeking their input in the decision-making process is vital to effective planning, management and development.
- Long-term water planning will help ensure sufficient water supplies when and where needed for Utah's growing population.
- Local, state and federal water resources planning and management activities should be coordinated to effect cooperation and minimize duplication.
- The maintenance of water quality within the state's water quality standards will help sustain all present and future uses of Utah's water resources.
- Water conservation and efficient management of existing water supplies is needed to help satisfy future water demands in the most economical and timely fashion.
- Water development, based on sound engineering, economic and environmental principles, will help meet future water needs.
- Recreation, aesthetic and environmental uses of water should be considered in water planning, management and development activities.

(Utah Division of Water Resources. Utah's Water Resources: Planning for the Future (Draft), 2000)