

**A Statistical Summary of Stakeholder Responses
to the report Water Management Issues in Alabama**

**submitted to
Governor Robert Bentley**

**by
Alabama Water Agencies Working Group**

Responses to the Water Management Issues in Alabama (WMIA) report were received from 70 stakeholders through December 2012, out of 248 requests, and represented a broad range of interests in water resources and(or) water policy in the state. The comment period for the WIMA report remains open until December 2013. Over one-third (37.1 %) of responses were from the environmental and business-industry communities, 28.6 % from government agency and academic institutions, 20.0 % from citizens and lake home owner-boat owner (HOBO) groups, and 14.3 % from the public water utility, water utility association, and watershed-recreation sectors.

Frequency table of stakeholder groups responding to the Water Management Issues in Alabama (WMIA) report.

Stakeholder Group	Number	%
Citizen	9	12.9
Water Utility	4	5.7
Federal Agency	8	11.4
State Agency	6	8.6
Academic	6	8.6
NGO/Business-Industry	12	17.1
NGO/Environmental	14	20.0
NGO/Water Utility Associations	4	5.7
NGO/Watershed-Recreation	2	2.9
NGO/Lake HOBO	5	7.1

The percentages listed below reflect only that a comment was made on a particular issue or topic and does not reflect support or opposition for a topic or issue. Some stakeholders addressed most or all of the water management issues in the WMIA report, others addressed only some of the issues, while a small percentage of stakeholders only commented on a limited number of issues or on a narrow issue outside the WMIA report. The issue of water resources management was referenced the most by stakeholders while interstate coordination was referenced the least.

- 51.4% - Water resources management
- 41.4% - Surface and groundwater assessments
- 41.4% - Water data collection
- 40.0% - Conservation and water reuse
- 40.0% - Instream flows

- 37.1% - Economic development
- 32.9% - Key stakeholders education and outreach
- 30.0% - Interbasin transfers
- 30.0% - Public education and outreach
- 28.6% - Riparian law/legal regime
- 18.6% - Drought planning
- 17.1% - Enhanced COU/permitting
- 14.3% - Interstate coordination

Additional water-related themes were mentioned by stakeholders and are listed below:

- 51.4% of stakeholders had general water management concerns not easily classified into the designated issues. These concerns generally were with maintaining water for citizens, protecting the environment, making sure any new policies were fair and equitable.
- 50.0% directly stated in their comments that they support efforts to develop a statewide water management plan and(or) begin the process of developing a plan. Many other responders hinted at this support without directly stating so in their comments.
- 30.0% specifically indicated water quality concerns throughout their comments while 17.1% responded directly that it is important that water quality and water quantity be considered conjunctively in any new policy development.
- 20.0% of stakeholders directly expressed the need for additional funding to support water resources assessments, water data collection, and implementation of a water management plan.
- 18.6 percent responded that water-based recreation was an important issue for the state to consider in future water planning.
- 10.0% indicated that the economic viability of financial investments was extremely important and should not be impacted by future water planning activities.
- 10.0% stated that holistic watershed-based water management was important to future planning activities.
- 5.7% of stakeholders referenced the need to consider land management as part of water quantity management.
- 5.7% mentioned that a safe dams program should be implemented.
- 5.7% had concerns about the statutory overlap among the states water agencies.
- 4.3% stated concerns about limiting federal intervention in state water policy and management issues.

For more information concerning the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group, a copy of the WMIA report, or copies of any or all of the stakeholder comments received, please visit www.adeca.alabama.gov/AWAWG.