



CUAHSI

universities allied for water research

CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2020

Roll Call

13 members are present, 10 needed for quorum. “X” indicates present

Term expires 12/31/2020

Al Valocchi, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign X

Amir AghaKouchak, University of California-Irvine

Jesus Gomez-Velez, Vanderbilt University X

R. Edward Beighley, Northeastern University X

Term expires 12/31/2021

Gordon Grant, Oregon State University X

Steve Loheide, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Chair) X

Jeanne VanBriesen, Carnegie Mellon University (Past Chair) X

Gretchen Miller, Texas A&M University X

Alejandro Flores, Boise State University X

Greg Characklis, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill X

Term expires 12/31/2022

Aditi Bhaskar, Colorado State University X

Anne Jefferson, Kent State University X

Anne Nolin, University of Nevada-Reno X

Ashok Mishra, Clemson University

Jay Zarnetske, Michigan State University X

Officers: (terms expire 12/31/2020)

Audrey Sawyer, Ohio State University (Treasurer)

Adam Ward, Indiana University (Secretary) X

CUAHSI Staff Present: Jerad Bales

Guests: (none)

Minutes prepared by Ward

1. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Bales reported that the Water Data Services implementation and outreach plan was submitted to the NSF. He has not received any feedback on this other than acknowledgement that it was received.
 - b. Bales reported that he has proposed a project for the MBA program at Babson College. The project is centered on identification of CUAHSI's niche and designing a marketing plan.
 - c. Bales reported NSF has signaled funding for a RAPID Project led by Ward, which includes Bales as a co-PI.
 - d. Bales reported work on an Urban Flood - Open Knowledge Network proposal. This is a follow-on to a one-year project that was supported, and is being led out of the Univ. of Cincinnati.
 - e. CUAHSI COVID Response.
 - i. Bales reported CUAHSI staff continue to work remotely. He regularly communicates with individuals and hosts a bi-weekly full staff meeting.
 - ii. Grant asked about progress toward the anticipated work of CUAHSI this year given the switch to remotely working. Bales reported that the largest impact is changes in or cancelling of workshops, training courses, and other in-person events. This includes refunding fees, lost opportunity for building community and user bases. He also anticipates reduced overall spending because of programs that will not be funded (e.g., travel grants).
2. Board Chair report.
 - a. Loheide reported that Doug James, NSF's first program director for Hydrologic Science, passed away due to COVID.
 - b. Loheide reported that Zarnetske is chairing the ad-hoc committee on membership for primarily undergraduate institutions. He has recruited several committee members and the committee will begin its work after the conclusion of the Spring 2020 term.
 - c. Loheide reported the instrumentation discovery travel grant deadline has been extended, and there is additional guidance posted related to restrictions and back-up plans in response to COVID-19.
 - d. Loheide reported a virtual panel discussion was held to help the community transition to distance education.
 - e. Loheide reported VanBriesen, as past chair of the Board, is working on the performance review of the executive director.
3. CUAHSI 2020 Biennial
 - a. Miller reported that she, Gomez-Velez, Loheide, Bales, and additional CUAHSI staff have met several times to discuss plans for the summer 2020 Biennial meeting. The group identified three potential plans:
 - i. Proceed as planned. The group was concerned that participation and travel would be limited even if travel restrictions were lifted by this time.
 - ii. Virtual conference. Host a fully virtual conference spread over a 2-3 day period, including a virtual poster session and live lectures from keynote

speakers and invited speakers. There were concerns about participation and attendance in this format.

- iii. Postpone until 2021. Miller noted this would address an awkward timing ‘gap’ with the AGU Hydrology Section meeting coming online in the future. There is a challenge with meeting space, as only the week of 4-July-2021 is currently available.
 - b. The recommendation of the group who met to discuss this was that postponement until summer 2021, with a meeting potentially hosted July 7-9, 2021 (Wednesday through Friday), where the 4th of July is the preceding Sunday.
 - c. Flores, Beghley, and Nolin concurred with this recommendation, noting fatigue with virtual meetings and uncertainty with travel plans would limit participation.
 - d. The group discussed the potential of identifying an alternative site for the 2021 meeting. Bales reported that he looked for places in the Western US after the previous Biennial. He indicated that options would be limited with the present lead time given that desirable venues book well in advance. Bales suggested that locking-in the NCTC facility for July 2021 would be a logical action to ensure that this space was available.
 - e. Loheide initiated a discussion about how to proceed with invited speakers, including if the same sessions and panels would be planned, and if an offer could be made to facilitate those speakers being highlighted in some other way. Suggestions included inviting speakers to host a webinar, and providing a letter documenting that the talk was invited but ultimately not delivered as a tangible part of a tenure package.
 - f. **Motion: Postpose the Biennial conference until summer 2021.**
 - i. **Motion: Miller**
 - ii. **Second: Gomez-Velez**
 - iii. **Discussion: (none)**
 - iv. **Vote: Approved (unanimous)**
 - g. Bales summarized several action items and suggested a follow-up call this week.
4. July 2020 Board meeting.
 - a. Loheide indicated that the summer face-to-face Board meeting could take several forms: (1) still occurring as planned if travel were allowable at that point in the summer; (2) using the 8-June, 13-July, and 10-Aug Board meetings as 3-hr meetings each to spread the meeting time over the summer; (3) hosting a virtual retreat of 1.5-days; (4) a series of 3 x 2-3 hr meetings during the week that the biennial was scheduled; (5) holding a face-to-face meeting later in the year.
 - b. Loheide requested the group consider these options. He asked that M-T-W of the Biennial meeting remain blocked (27-29 July) for the meeting.
 5. Joint Hydrologic Sciences meeting.
 1. Loheide shared guidance from AGU on Joint Meetings, including appointment of a chair, co-chair, and student representative from each partner organization to serve on the meeting planning committee.
 2. Bales noted that he is working hard for CUAHSI to be an equal partner with AGU on this meeting, which would support staff effort associated with this.

3. Bales suggested that he serve as the Chair from CUAHSI, with a chair selected from the Board.
 4. Loheide and others noted the planning of this effort will be a substantial effort, and having strong engagement from CUAHSI and the Board is critical to CUAHSI's role in and visibility at the committee.
 5. VanBriesen offered to co-chair as well, to represent CUAHSI's interests as she has minimal engagement with AGU as an organization.
 6. Bales proposed that he would act as the CUAHSI Chair for the effort with Grant and VanBriesen as co-chairs for the effort. He anticipated engaging may Board and committee members in the effort as it progressed.
6. Adjournment
 - a. Loheide opened the floor to any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

13:00 EDT Adjourned