



# CUAHSI

universities allied for water research

## CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

*June 8, 2020*

### **Roll Call**

12 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 X

Jesus Gomez-Velez, Vanderbilt University X

R. Edward Beighley, Northeastern University X

### **Term expires 12/31/2021**

Gordon Grant, Oregon State University

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

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 X

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. Status of Deputy Director search. Bales reported that the posting will remain active for about two more weeks, and more than 20 applications have been received. Bales is screening applications with Flores and Bhaskar. Bales reported that he would not intend to make any offer until the candidate has had an opportunity to meet with CUAHSI staff.
  - b. Status of Critical Zone Hub proposal. Bales reported that the NSF has indicated that CUAHSI will be recommended for the CZ National Hub award. Bales is working with the program manager on the impact of COVID-19 on proposed activities.
2. Chair Report
  - a. Loheide reported that the July Board meeting would occur virtually from 12:00-3:00pm Eastern, July 27-29th. The Board should expect to meet each day, and also have asynchronous activities during the meeting.
  - b. Loheide proposed that one focus would be building a culture of data sharing. To that end, D. Tarbotten will give a HydroShare update and Loheide will request that each Board member upload a data set or educational materials during the July Board meeting. This will support the goals of expanding the data services userbase. Board members should plan to establish a HydroShare account and prepare a data set or educational materials for sharing prior to the meeting.
3. Review and Approval of Year 2 Budget
  - a. Bales circulated the Year 2 budget and description to the Board for their review prior to the meeting for their review. He made a brief presentation of the budget, summarizing key activities and proposed activities. Bales noted two planned hires including a deputy director and a data services expert.
  - b. Loheide reported that the Executive Committee discussed areas that would be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, which largely included reduced costs and effort associated with travel and organizing face-to-face training events.
  - c. Zarnetske asked about which areas are underspent and where any unspent funds would be prioritized. Bales responded that costs associated with training are most likely to be underspent. He also noted that he has proposed increasing funds for fellowship programs in the Year 2 budget over previous years.
  - d. Nolin and others articulated a desire to use fellowships to support CUAHSI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity goals.
  - e. **Motion: Approve the Year 2 budget as presented by Bales.**
    - i. **Motion: Miller**
    - ii. **Second: Nolin**
    - iii. **Discussion:**
      1. **Nolin asked what other organizations are doing to pivot training from in-person to virtual formats. Loheide noted that many training activities are community-driven, and encouraged the community to generate ideas for creative remote training opportunities. Loheide also reflected on the**

**CyberSeminars and Virtual University programs as possible models.**

**iv. Vote: Approved (unanimous)**

4. CUAHSI DEI statement in support of POC and recent protests
  - a. Loheide initiated a discussion affirming CUAHSI's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusivity, which was raised by Bhaskar via email to the Board.
  - b. The group discussed what would be appropriate in a statement from CUAHSI, noting that the DEI plan and its implementation have been an important focus over the past years. There was concern this should not be self-serving to the organization but should be a tangible action that CUAHSI could take to benefit others.
  - c. The group discussed the [Call for a Robust Anti-Racism Plan for The Geosciences](#) that has been recently circulated. Jefferson noted that one of the suggested items here is that statements from organizations and societies should be released. She suggested acknowledging that CUAHSI has been working in this space and intends to continue our efforts.
  - d. The group discussed the value in CUAHSI creating a space for discussion and awareness. For example, seeking additional awareness of and comments on the recent DEI plan would be one way to achieve this.
  - e. Loheide summarized that a message of inclusivity and support to members of our current community is important to the Board. He also noted that it is important to ensure this is not self-serving, but generates input that can guide ongoing DEI plan implementation at CUAHSI.
  - f. Nolin expressed that it is important to articulate something real and tangible as a commitment.
  - g. Jefferson, Loheide, and others discussed if the timing complicates CUAHSI's response or if the organization is able to be responsive in a meaningful way in the shortest term.
5. Adjournment
  - c. Loheide opened the floor to any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

13:00 EDT    Adjourned