



CUAHSI

universities allied for water research

CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2021

Roll Call

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

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

Term expires 12/31/2023

Jesus Gomez-Velez, Vanderbilt University X

Safeeq Khan, Univ. of California, Merced X

Sarah Ledford, Georgia State University X

Margaret Zimmer, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz X

Officers: (terms expire January 31, 2023)

Troy Gilmore, University of Nebraska (Treasurer) X

Adam Ward, Indiana University (Secretary) X

CUAHSI Staff Present: Jerad Bales, Deanna McCay

Minutes prepared by Ward

2021-02-15

12:00 EST Call to Order

1. Executive Director update:
 - a. Bales reported that CUAHSI's lease expires in Dec. 2021 because the office space is being repurposed. He is beginning the process of identifying possible spaces. Nolin asked about the process to identify new office space. Bales reported he intends to engage a real estate broker, consistent with the past search for space that R. Hooper led in 2016.
 - b. Bales reported CUAHSI is hosting an LTAW event on or about 22-March-2021 that will highlight the 2020 winners and events. Bales reported an emerging partnership with the Global Institute for Water Security on LTAW and science communication.
 - c. Bales reminded the Board on several cyberseminar series and events this semester. One upcoming event is the Critical Zone Research Network, focused on representation in the CZ science community, including hosting their series of 'critical conversations'.
 - d. Bales reported that a global native lands overlay has been added to the data services portal.
 - e. Bales reported that he has initiated a technical review of data services by an independent party is required by the cooperative agreement, and he is initiating this process.
 - f. Bales is working on a website refresh and articulation of CUAHSI's value proposition.
 - g. The Homeland Security post-doc began part-time this month, and will likely work remotely for the foreseeable future.
 - h. Bales reminded the Board that 2021 is the 20th anniversary of CUAHSI. He requested ideas from the Board with ideas of how to commemorate or celebrate this milestone.
 - i. Grant asked about the CZ Hub project. Bales reported the project is advancing and hub activities have been, in his view, positively reviewed by the PI team and program officers.
2. Board Chair update
 - a. Miller reported that she is planning for the initiatives the Board will focus on this year, specifically including plans to address (a) a statement on COVID impacts, and (b) outreach to PUIs.
3. DEI Charge:
 - a. Miller introduced a draft charge to the DEI Standing Committee that was circulated prior to the meeting, noting that is it consistent with the charges to other standing committees: *The charge to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Standing Committee is to make a contribution each year toward advancing DEI in the CUAHSI Community. Contributions will be determined by the Standing Committee, with broad guidance from the Board of Directors. The Standing*

Committee will develop an annual workplan, subject to Board approval, and will provide an annual report of accomplishments to the Board.

- b. Bales and McCay reported that one initial task for the committee will be to finalize a charter for the committee to help define their procedures and the opportunity to define their scope.
 - c. Loheide endorsed the charge, noting that it allows for flexibility for the committee.
 - d. **Motion to approve the charge as written above.**
 - i. **Motion: Loheide**
 - ii. **Second: Ledford**
 - iii. **Discussion:**
 - 1. **Ledford also endorsed the opportunity for the committee to help collaboratively define their scope with input from the Board.**
 - iv. **Vote: Approved (unanimous)**
 - e. Miller initiated a discussion of the committee. Ledford and Khan will service as the Board liaisons for the committee.
 - f. Grant suggested the URGeoscience program. Flores suggested possible committee members based engagement with the AGU H3S group's JEDI activity. Miller also identified committee members on the exploratory committee as likely standing committee members. Ledford suggested an open solicitation to the community should also be considered.
4. Biennial update
- a. Bales reported that the venue that had been identified will allow CUAHSI to postpone the meeting without penalty due to COVID if needed. He has been working with the venue on possible dates in the event the Biennial were postponed. At present no decision on postponement has been made.
 - b. Grant clarified that there is not a final date/time for a decision to be made. Bales noted that this is generally true, but the facility already has limited availability in 2023 and those likely will be booked soon.
 - c. Gomez-Velez suggested CUAHSI proceed with an online-only format, noting concerns already addressed by invited speakers and others about the ability to travel.
 - d. Ledford indicated opportunities to invite a broad community who might not otherwise be able to attend and participate. Loheide suggested that if the meeting is to be clear and successful, planning needs to begin to host this successfully online. He also suggested using the 'out' we have been provided is a smart use of staff time. Flores also endorsed this plan in terms of not wasting time and effort.
 - e. Zarnetske and Flores suggested a full postponement should be on the table given the widespread virtual meeting fatigue.
 - f. Gomez-Velez will assemble the committee to discuss paths forward and report back to the Board.
 - g. **Motion to pursue postponement of the 2021 biennial to 2023 for an in-person event.**
 - i. **Motion: Jefferson**

- ii. Second: Zarnetske**
- iii. Discussion: (none)**
- iv. Vote: Approved (unanimous)**

5. Bylaws voting

- a. Bales summarized the document he circulated prior to the meeting.
 - i. Ward suggests that consistent with past practices, an interpretation would be:
 - 1. 60% means 'of the members' not 'of the votes' - this is what we do for quorum for annual meetings, for example
 - 2. Then, we weight votes to actually tally the approval - this is what we do for Board elections
 - ii. VanBriesen concurred with Ward's interpretation, noting this was discussed at the time the Bylaws were previously revised.
 - iii. Bales noted that by this method of counting, we currently have 45 unique members of the 71 needed.
 - iv. Miller suggested proceeding with a plan to contact individuals and will arrange a spreadsheet listing members' representatives to call. Board committed to contacting about five each.
 - v. Miller stated that we will revisit these issues for discussion in the coming board meetings.
6. Member dues - tabled discussion to next meeting
7. Other Business - none

13:05 EST Adjourned