

SERA 43
Southern Region Integrated Water Resources Coordinating Committee
DRAFT Minutes
25 July 2019, College Station, TX

SERA 43 met July 25, 2019 during the Southern Region Water Conference in College Station, TX.

Attendees: Ripendra Awal (Prairie View A&M Univ.), Beth Baker and Jason Barrett (Mississippi State Univ. Extension), Allen Berthold (Texas Water Resource Institute (TWRI)), Diane Boellstorff (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (AgriLife Extension)), Eve Brantley (Auburn University), Matt Brown (AgriLife Extension), Mike Daniels (Univ. of Arkansas Division of Ag Extension), Stacia Davis (LSU AgCenter), Michael Dukes (University of Florida), Drew Gholson (Mississippi State University), Lucas Gregory (TWRI), Amanda Gumbert (Univ. of Kentucky), Gary Hawkins (Univ. of Georgia), Changyoon Jeong (LSU AgCenter), Davie Kadyampakeni (Univ. of Florida), Miguel Mora (Texas A&M Univ. (TAMU)), Saqib Mukhtar (Univ. of Florida), Deanna Osmond (North Carolina State Univ.), Uttam Saha (Univ. of Georgia), Cal Sawyer (Clemson Univ.), Michael Schramm (TWRI), Steve Searcy (TAMU), Kevin Wagner (Oklahoma State Univ.), Mike Wagner (Two Brooks Farms) and Lauren Willis (Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority).

The group met to discuss SERA43 status and to consider submitting a renewal proposal to the Southern Region Directors. Faculty from several southern states voted 18 to 0 in favor of continuing the SERA43 workgroup. Following the meeting, a subcommittee will convene to prepare a draft continuation proposal to include objectives, procedures and activities that appropriately match the subject matter expertise of SERA 43 participants. The revised POW (October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2024) will be submitted on the NIMSS website before the August 1, 2019 deadline.

SERA 43 participants also discussed the following ways to improve the current structure of the committee to strengthen collaborations and partnerships to enhance reporting of effective outcomes and impacts.

1. Find opportunities to collaborate with other SERAs and review different SERA models to improve SERA 43 performance. For example, SERA 6 was described by some as a particularly successful coordination committee among many SERAs.
2. Strive to collaborate and partner with other agencies including the Water Resources Institutes.
3. Conduct quarterly Zoom meetings and annual face-to-face meetings. Enter progress reports and meeting minutes to the SERA 43 page on NIMSS website in a timely fashion.
4. Maintain and update the SERA 43 website to serve as a clearinghouse for water resources information and tools. Clemson University will provide leadership for the website and listserv efforts.

5. Create a steering committee that includes external advisors as well as the SERA 43 executive committee (past, current and incoming Chairs) and two to three additional members of SERA 43 to facilitate meetings, reporting of tasks and collaborations among faculty and partners.

Other topics discussed included means for increasing participation and support, and efforts to seek additional funding to enhance networking and strategic regional project planning. Changing the workgroup name was discussed and Deanna Osmond suggested “Water Resiliency for the South.” Other names are being accepted and considered, and discussion will continue.

Other sources of funding were discussed such as Southern SARE (Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education) Professional Development Program (PDP) grants (typical largest award is around \$80,000), which may partially support the costs of a 2021 regional water resource training event. Pre-proposals for the SSARE PDP grants are due Aug. 30, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am. Dr. Gary L. Hawkins (University of Georgia) is Chair and Dr. Mary Love Tagert (Mississippi State) is Vice-Chair through July 31, 2019. Nominations for vice-chair elect for July 2019 - June 2020 are currently being accepted. Dr. Diane Boellstorff (Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service) is Past Chair. Elections will occur at each annual meeting with new officers installed at the conclusion.