

SERA43: Water Quality and Water Quantity Group Meeting (July 27, 2015)

1. Attendees: Deanna Osmond (NCSU), Charles Mitchell (Auburn Univ), Saleh Taghvalian (OSU), Mark Risse (Univ. GA), Erin Ling (VA Tech), Gary Hawkins (Univ. GA), Diane Boellstorff (Texas A&M), Kevin Wagner (Texas water Resources Inst.), Mark McFarland (Texas A&M), Jeff White (NCSU), Syam Dodla (LSU), Naveen Adusumilli (LSU), Mary Love Tagert (MS State)
2. Potential Topics of mutual work
 - a. Water Quality (Mark McFarland, Charles Mitchell, Naveen Adusumilli, Deanna Osmond, Mary Love Tagert, Jeff White): Attendees identified three areas of mutual work and/or potential training
 - i. Training for southern region on water quality standards (webinar by Florida?)
 - ii. Greenseeker work
 - iii. Soil health/quality work
 - b. Well work (Diane Boellstorff, Gary Hawkins, Erin Ling, Mark Risse): Attendees conducting and interested in conducting well water quality testing and well/aquifer protection educational programs discussed re-energizing the Southern Region Well Owner Network to share successful approaches and materials being delivered in several southern states. Surveys distributed in 10 southern region states from 2006 to 2014 showed that when given a choice of 16 water resource topics, 27% to 50% of Extension's rural audience selected "Private Well Protection" as their primary water interest, depending on whether they were involved in farming/ranching.
 - c. Water quantity (Naveen Adusumilli, Syam Dodla, Saleh Taghvalian Kevin Wagner): This group would like to begin working together to. They spent a great deal of time discussing the need to work together on irrigation scheduling, both researching and developing new technology as well as the extension component to enhance usage of those tools available. They also talked about the feasibility of developing a regional irrigation scheduling tool and to assist this development, they discussed the need to work together on developing crop coefficients (Kc) for the new more drought tolerant cultivars available today. Bottom line, lots of room for collaboration and establishing regular communication would facilitate this. The discussions on water quantity issues led to the need for outreach that involved developing a video series (videos that are about 2minutes long discussing the water efficiency tools- soil moisture sensors, irrigation scheduling tools, and NRCS cost-assistance for adoption of some of these tools). Saleh mentioned that OSU has already done some of that. There was also a discussion about producing a slightly lengthier webinars on the same content.