**Managing and Utilizing Precipitation Observations from Volunteer Networks**

16th Annual Meeting of the WERA 1012 Technical Committee

May 16-18, 2023

Hybrid In-Person/Virtual Meeting

Meeting Chairs:

Tony Bergantino: Director – Wyoming State Climate Office (University of Wyoming)

Rachel Kulik: Nebraska State CoCoRaHS Coordinator (NWS North Platte)

**Executive Summary**

The 16th annual WERA 1012 meeting was held at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, Colorado. Like last year, the 2023 meeting was held in a hybrid format with most participants being in-person but allowing for virtual attendance of those unable to travel. It is expected that this meeting format will continue into the future as it allows for the widest range of attendance. Sound issues still remain for the online attendees but, by and large, the format has been successful.

Meeting topics followed a similar line to previous years with updates given on respective aspects of CoCoRaHS, data usage, and updates and future plans for the CoCoRaHS website.

Day One commenced with a welcome, meeting objectives, and introductions and then the National COOP Program Manager, Amy Fritz, gave an update on the status of the COOP Network and the challenges with materials and parts.

This was followed by an update on the Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) system along with a look into the demographics of reporters and some of the reasons people submit reports and what motivates them to do so.

The morning session was rounded out with a quick look at a tool for determining areas to target for recruiting by looking at locations devoid of stations suitable for use in the PRISM grids.

The afternoon session focused on CoCoRaHS Headquarters operations and began with an overview of the budget and fundraising efforts. Next was a very interesting and nostalgic look back by Henry Reges at the last 25 years of CoCoRaHS from its origins to the present.

Julian Turner gave an update on the website and plans for its growth and development. As always, this topic generated more topics of conversation than there was time for and discussions continued into the break and most of the time following the break was devoted to additional dialog on potential features and wishlist items. Session two culminated in an update on the CoCoRaHS ticketing system for quality control.

On Day Two a presentation by Alicia Wasula, President of STM Weather, detailed the practice of Forensic Meteorology and the use of information found in the comments of reports. CoCoRaHS comments have provided a wealth of information that has been used in this practice.

Juliet Hull from Environment Canada then gave and update on CoCoRaHS north of the border.

The next session was devoted to observer recruiting and retention. Matt Spies, the Connecticut State Coordinator gave an indepth view of observer signups and reporting followed by Tony Bergantino who presented another aspect of retention efforts and tools states can use to track signups and active reporters. These talks prompted a lively discussion on recruitment techniques and observer motivation.

Following lunch, the tradition of a game of Weather Observation Jeopardy was continued with Russ Schumacher hosting contestants Matt Sittel, Kelly Smith, and Ketzel Levens. Matt Sittel won.

Session Five began with James Williams from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources describing updates to NE Rain and a program of podcasts to advertise aspects of the program.

Tye Parzybok of Climalytic Instruments, LLC, talked about the history of the new TROPO Precipitation Gauge. The gauge has been certified by CoCoRaHS as acceptable for use in the network and is billed as the Premium CoCoRaHS gauge. While the cost is higher than the original Stratus gauge, it has additional features including enhanced capacity and markings.

Noah Newman wrapped up the session by giving an update on ice accretion measurements and forms and the future of this subset of reporting.

The day’s activities ended after the election of officers for 2024. It was decided that James Williams and Matthew Sittel would carry us into 2024 as the next pair of co-chairs.