

Minutes

SERA 46 Annual meeting
Monday, March 6, 2023
11:00am - 1:00pm Central Time
Via Zoom

Attending:

Dan Downing (MO)(Chair as of 10/1/22)
Ken Genskow (WI)(co-chair/secretary as of 10/1/22)
John Lawrence (co-Advisor, outgoing)
Nathan Slaton (co-Advisor)
Shelly Nickols-Richardson (IL, co-advisor)
Eric Norland (USDA co-Advisor)
Naveen Adusumilli (LA)
Noel Aloysius (MO)
Beth Baker (MS)
Timothy Baye (WI)
Joe Bonnell (WI)
Mike Daniels (AR)
Jane Frankenberger (IN)
Amanda Gumbert (KY)
Matt Helmers (IA)
Jenny Seifert (WI)
Forbes Walker (TN)
Katie Flahive (USEPA, first 3 agenda items)
Whitney King (USEPA)
Jake Greif (USEPA)
Elisabeth Lang (USEPA)

Meeting began at 11:02am Central Time

Agenda items/Discussion:

1. Dan Downing (chair) led a welcome, review of meeting purpose, and round of self-introductions of all participants.
2. Dan provided an overview of the agenda and introduced Katie Flahive (USEPA) for next agenda items.
3. Recap of December Hypoxia Task Force meeting (Katie Flahive).

Katie provided an overview of the Hypoxia Task Force meeting held in-person December 14, 2022, in Washington DC.

A morning session for HTF members was led by HTF co-chairs, followed by an update to the committee on the state of climate science. The climate discussion explored implications of findings regarding more frequent and severe participation events, including understanding influence on nutrient loads. Ensuing HTF discussion included questions about climate co-benefits of nutrient reduction strategies and what universities are doing along those lines. The meeting also overviewed the Gulf Hypoxia Program and related funding opportunities connected. The public portion of the meeting took place that afternoon. The HTF coordinating committee met the following day. Meeting materials for the public meeting are available here: <https://water-meetings.tetrattech.com/StaticPublic/materialstf.htm>.

Beth Baker attended the December meetings on behalf of SERA-46, highlighting many opportunities and connections for the group and noting general appreciation and support from the coordinating committee. Beth shared detailed notes available in the SERA-46 Google Drive folder for this 3/6/23 meeting. That folder also includes the draft climate assessment report shared with HTF members in their AM session, under filename: "FromDec2022HTFmeeting_Draft 2023 Report to Congress Climate Section Dec 2022.pdf".

4. Initial/outlined Scope of Work response for MARB LGU funding (Dan) [circulated with agenda; review and general feedback in prep for RFA]

Katie and EPA colleagues provided additional general information about the LGU funding through the new EAP Gulf Hypoxia Program (GHP) through the BIL MARB authorization. In short, details are anticipated sometime April-June timeframe; amount is up to \$600k to be funded over 3 years, with potential for performance period up to 5 years. The expectation is to show and reinforce clear connections to the goals of HTF and GHP. SERA-46 will have a fixed window to respond once the agreement details are released.

5. Update on SERA 46 membership, annual reporting process, and review of 2021-22 activities (Ken)

Membership: We have experienced some turnover in participation and also in official membership to SERA-46 (posted in NIMSS as "Appendix E). We discussed a desire to recruit additional members and participants to SERA-46 so that all 12 HTF states are represented.

This issue was also reviewed during our meeting on December 1. From agenda item 6 on those meeting minutes:

"... SERA-46 has 2 official members from each participating university, one with an extension focus and one with a research focus. To become official a member, the representative must be approved by their university, then added in NIMSS.

"There was general discussion around the significance of 'official' representation to multistate groups. Nathan and John shared that each state is slightly different. The official

representatives are the 'voting' members, and generally LGUs support the costs of 'official' members attending an annual meeting. Unofficial members are 'guests' at the meetings.

"The direct link to SERA-46 in NIMSS:

<https://www.nimss.org/projects/view/mrp/outline/18666>

"Instructions for registering as an official member (courtesy of Jane F):

<https://ag.purdue.edu/department/arge/docs/creating-a-new-appendix-e-in-nimss.pdf>.

"[Note: from 2020, that the KA, SOI, FOS, and the SY, PY, and TY percentages are optional for this project because ERA type projects do not go to NIFA for approval, so that data is only in the NIMSS database, not REEport. Indicating research SY or Extension would be useful so we have a record in NIMSS of how integrated the SERA is.]"

Annual Reporting: As discussed in previous meeting (12/1/22), the current SERA-46 project is for 10/1/2019 through 9/30/2024. As an approved project, we are expected to contribute annual reports, generally within 30-90 days of an annual meeting. The pandemic and shift to Zoom disrupted our reporting routines, and we now have approved reports through Spring of 2022. The next report is to cover April 2022-March2023. Ken Genskow will circulate a reporting template soon to collect information for this next report. We will repeat this timing for early 2024, at which time we will also need to submit a proposal for continuing the next 5-year timeframe, beyond September 2024.

6. Other SERA 46 Operational Logistics: Finding SERA 46 information in Google Drive; website updates, etc (Ken)

Ken and Jenny Seifert maintain the SERA-46 email list. That is up-to-date as of March. Jake G and Whitney K at EPA request to be included. Others active in SERA-46 are also welcome to join the list.

The SERA-46 Google Shared Drive includes current and past SERA-46 materials, including everything formerly in the former shared 'folder.' The Drive is accessible to all members at this link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/OADA7hY0b3osUk9PVA>

Contact Ken or Jenny if your access is restricted.

7. Round-robin updates and opportunities for coordination & collaboration. [everyone; brief individual updates]

Meeting attendees suggested ideas for future activities and emerging opportunities, including the following:

- General interest in coordinating with USDA climate hubs and activities. Project advisors strongly endorsed this direction. One connection is through the NIFA-funded "Climate Ready Midwest" project led by OSU Aaron Wilson:

<https://northcentralclimate.org/climate-ready-midwest/>

- Mike Daniels requested that SERA-46 explore opportunities to document or report on GHG impacts associated with on-farm conservation practices, perhaps through fact sheets or other group-sponsored publications. Forbes noted that SERA-17 has published a series of fact sheets addressing phosphorus losses, which could serve as a model.
- Additional ideas suggested for SERA-46 publications included research syntheses in the form of fact sheets, peer-reviewed summaries, and applied extension publications.
- Jane shared plans to summarize drainage research.
- Suggestions also reinforced value and importance of reviewing our Shared Priorities document, potentially through a larger workshop.

8. Timeframe for future quarterly meetings and annual report (All)

The next quarterly meeting will occur after EPA releases additional information for the GHP LGU funding. We will also postpone discussions of potential changes to SERA-46 structure until then.

Other dates this year:

August 6-9, 2023 – Soil and Water Conservation Society annual meeting in Des Moines, IA
Fall 2023 (?) – potential HTF meeting in Arkansas.

9. Other items?

No other items were noted.

Meeting adjourned at 12:51pm CT.