NC1190 Annual Meeting

06.11.2023 - 5:30-7:30pm - York Room, Holiday Inn By The Bay - Portland, ME

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# Agenda

## 5:30 - 5:45 Welcome and intros (no updates)

## 5:45 - 5:50 Recap last year’s meeting notes

## 5:50 - 6:00 Check-in: what our current proposal’s key questions are

## 6:00 - 6:05 Elect 1 new officer (Stephen and J. expressed willingness)

## 6:05 - 6:15 Discuss 2024 meeting

* Most respondents want to have the annual meeting **adjacent to a conference** (n=7 out of 12)
* Most respondents want to have a **virtual check-in** no matter where the annual meeting is held (n=8 out of 12).

## 5-minute BREAK

## 6:20 - 6:35 Large group discussion Topic 1: Coordinated data collection activity

* **Coordinated data collection activity** (topic TBD): J., Mae, and Doug willing to lead; 4 respondents moderately interested

## 6:35 - 7:10 Small group breakouts

* **Cross-state comparison of how agencies coordinate (or don't) water quality and quantity (and use of local knowledge in decision-making):** Stephen willing to lead; 10 respondents moderately interested
* **Collaborative environmental governance; stakeholder and community engagement; co-production/deliberation:** Stephen, Mae, Doug willing to lead; 8 respondents moderately interested

## 7:10 - 7:20 Small group report out

## 7:20 - 7:30 Next steps

# Notes

**Attendees:** J. Arbuckle, Tierney Bocsi, Mark Burback, Sarah Church, Mae Davenport, Wes Eaton, Stephen Gasteyer, Ken Genskow, Tonya Haigh, Adena Rissman, Brennan Radulski, Pranay Ranjan, Doug Jackson-Smith, Kurt Stephenson, Jessica Ulrich-Schad, Chloe Wardopper, Landon Yoder, Adam Zwickle

### Introductions

The first order of business was to go around the circle to introduce ourselves, including stating our favorite tree.

Chloe explained the proposal’s RQs; went over notes from the last two meetings → January’s meeting was the input for the projects we work on today.There was no discussion.

We read our research questions together.

Chloe described what the multi-state Hatch is. J. and Ken gave more information about how the multi-state hatch works. Doug mentioned that the most useful thing about the multi-state hatch is when we actually do collaborate across states and that there may be new programs to connect to other types of institutions. RQs are broad enough that we all are interested and can contribute. Pranay mentioned that this group brings a sense of community.

### Reporting

In terms of the annual report, we can be broad in our interpretation in what products fit within the scope of the proposal.

### Election of new officer

Officer conversation: secretary, vice-chair, chair. Vice-chair organizes the meeting.

**Landon Yoder nominated himself for Vice Chair and was elected. Congrats Landon!**

### Conversation: How/where to hold 2024 annual meeting

* If key goal is to diversify, having the meeting in conjunction with a conference might be better
* Organizing in-person meeting is a lot of time and work
* Rural Sociology 2024: usually early August and will be in Madison, WI in 2024
* SWCS 2024: ?
* We could consider holding our annual meeting with another meeting that would push us into a more diverse meeting space – FALCON was given as an example
* UCOWR was given as an example: Sep 30, 2024 St. Louis; 2025 Minneapolis. Most thought a September meeting was too late.

#### **Decision:** How/where to hold 2024 annual meeting

* When IASNR is in U.S./Canada we do the meeting adjacent to IASNR
* When IASNR is convened internationally, we will convene an in-person organized by the vice-chair
* 2024: Early June in-person in Chicago (probably, unless Sarah decides it should be near SWCS once we know where it is; or possibly at the AMK Ranch in Teton NP).

### Topics discussion

* What topics are appropriate (or will work) for cross-state comparisons?

#### TOPIC 1 NOTES: PFAS/other water contaminants (EPA, Superfund, State agencies, history)

* + - Stephanie Malen research

#### TOPIC 2 NOTES: How do different agencies/states formally engage stakeholders?

* + - Are terms of engagement political? Are they embedded or do they change with leadership?
		- Document/policy analysis
		- Wes and Mark have a start with Nebraska and Pennsylvania – codification of public participation and survey questions around Ostrom’s principles (how do governing bodies…). Water.
		- Water only? Water and public health? Water and what? Groundwater management (what happens in not water rights states)?
		- Groundwater: Mae (and J.) have done research with farmers on drought risk perceptions and irrigation/irrigators (?). Could add key informant interviews with regulators – how do agencies deal with this. Intersection of groundwater use/contamination/supply.
			* How do different states handle water use when existing laws are insufficient?
		- Drainage: (Stephen, Pranay, Landon) – project…key informant interviews in top drainage states, how do they think/manage this (ag census…how much planted land is drained and how they have increased over time). Developed a common interview guide for agencies and NGOs across the top drainage states (managing for drainage).
		- Land use change - economics/technology and shifts to ag production as related to water quality. Coordination (or lack of) between state agencies.
		- How do we work within a system of wanting to do conservation but conspiracy theory anti-gov communities?
		- Public meetings regarding conservation type proposals/policy change and how to problem solve in an era of contention/social division.
		- Water management and tribal rights

#### TOPIC 3 NOTES: Collaborative environmental governance

* + - How agencies and communities come together to make decisions (about water) – processes of understanding and using local knowledge (as part of knowledge production and decision-making). Expand away from agricultural context.
		- Trying to assess what co-production of research is and what outcomes really are. What do we really mean when we talk about knowledge co-production? Does on-farm research resonate differently with the people implementing changes to land (salience and perceived validity of research). What is the goal of the research/project? (empowerment, water quality change, etc.)
		- Dioxin water contamination – 3 towns in MI; trust framework with engagement related to community health. Cross-state: building trust framework. Listen first to what communities interests/needs are. Could fit with nitrates in the drinking water too. How do you talk about changes when the communities think they are doing fine. Shift the conversation to empower the participants. **TITLE: Overcoming ambivalence through co-production of knowledge.** Who is the audience and partners in the co-production process?
		- Common theme of projects: How do people change their perceptions? How do people make sense of data? How to measure salience and trust? Systems thinking?
		- Risk perception of climate change impacts (drought, civic engagement, drinking water). Who influences you most r.e. your own water (information: government, community). Gov information sources: impact on knowledge but no impact on efficacy to change. Community sources: negative impact on risk perceptions and strong connection to efficacy. You need both + perceived threat!
		- Drinking water (private well owners test, communities don’t talk about it).
		- Groundwater modeling
		- Uncertainty of the models. How do you deal with uncertainty without undermining trust (and be explicit about uncertainty). If you do x then y will happen…we may not be right everywhere. How does change (triple loop learning) scale up?

#### OTHER TOPICS LIST:

* + Who is the most relevant audience to communicate science for actionable outcomes, depending on the goals? For instance, groundwater modeling is most often used by state agency people, not so much by individual irrigated farmers.
	+ State agencies as a sideboard (boundaries of analysis)?
	+ Figure out 1st year steps
	+ Co-production as related to outcomes

# Action Items

1. **Doug will convene a meeting to discuss the following project:** Overcoming (embracing?) ambivalence through co-production of knowledge.
2. **Mark will convene a meeting to discuss the following project:** How do different agencies/states formally engage stakeholders? (around a specific issue?)
3. **Stephen will convene a meeting to discuss the following project:** Comparison of state management of groundwater
4. **J.** will figure out where SWCS is in 2024. **DONE: Myrtle Beach, SC July 19-24, 2024**
5. **Jessica** will figure out what date Rural Sociology will be held in 2024. **DONE:** **Madison, WI July 24-28, 2024**
6. **Kristin (with feedback from Chloe and Sarah)** is compiling/submitting the annual report with the information that has been entered in the annual report form (thank you Kristin!)