



CUAHSI
allied for water science

CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

December 20, 2023

Roll Call

13 members are present, 10 needed for quorum. “X” indicates present

Term expires 12/31/2023

Safeeq Khan, Univ. of California, Merced X

Sarah Ledford, Georgia State Univ. X

Margaret Zimmer, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz X

Anne Nolin, Univ. of Nevada-Reno

Term expires 12/31/2024

Alejandro Flores, Boise State University (Past Chair) X

G.H. Crystal Ng, Univ. of Minnesota X

Steven Loheide, Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison X

Ashley Matheny, Univ. of Texas - Austin X

Ashok Mishra, Clemson Univ.

Åsa Rennermalm, Rutgers Univ. X

Terms expires 12/31/2025

JP Gannon, Virginia Tech X

Drew Guswa, Smith College X

Hoori Ajami, Univ. of California - Riverside X

Anne Jefferson, Univ. of Vermont (Chair Elect) X

Jay Zarnetske, Michigan State Univ. (Chair) X

Officers: (terms expire January 31, 2024)

Troy Gilmore, University of Nebraska (Treasurer) X

Adam Ward, Oregon State University (Secretary) X

CUAHSI Staff Present: Jordan Read

Guests: (none)

Minutes prepared by Ward

Wednesday, 20-December-2023

13:00 EDT Call to Order

1. Executive Director updates (Read)

a. CUAHSI office updates:

- i. AGU Fall 2024 Meeting. Read reported CUAHSI operated two booths, gave several talks and posters, participated in a town hall panel, held one workshop, hosted 5 AGU pod meet-ups on various topics, and attended many side meetings. Eight staff attended, and Read enjoyed seeing first hand how this works and our current level of effort.
- ii. CUAHSI submitted a funding proposal for \$10.6M over four years to the NSF Geoinformatics solicitation on Dec 1. There were 29 deliverables, 10 major activities in the proposal, and 2 functions. He will share the final proposal with the Board ahead of the January 2024 meeting.
- iii. CUAHSI is moving through year-end closeout of our fiscal year, which is providing a very clear picture of expenses in 2023 and setting us up nicely for the 2023 audit and NICRA (indirect rate package). This is a major financial strain on the operations of the organization.
- iv. CUAHSI Staff will be participating in 2023 performance reviews and setting performance plans for 2024. A lot of adjustments will be needed in 2024 performance plans to place the right focus on our most critical issues.

b. Financial & Cure Notice updates:

- i. CUAHSI was able to get CIROH/NOAA to honor year-specific indirect cost rates for CUAHSI, a major relief that improves our situation with projected indirect deficit.
- ii. Read sent an update memo to NSF last week, including a summary of progress over the prior six weeks. Despite a large focus on the renewal proposal, our progress was significant. The clock is now ticking to have major issues resolved ahead of award decisions, which can be held until July at the latest.
- iii. CUAHSI's NICRA submission has 2019 IDC at 42% (11% higher than provisional) and fringe at 28% (4% lower than provisional). This increase in indirect cost rates is expected to exacerbate financial limitations in the near term.
- iv. CUAHSI has entered into an engagement with KVR to complete the SEFA audit for 2019, which should allow us to file the 2019 audit and move forward. Read hopes this will be completed in January 2024, but noted that the timeline is constrained by the auditor.

2. Treasurer

- a. Zarnetske summarized that one candidate has been nominated to serve as CUAHSI's treasurer, following a large effort to recruit potential officers. The candidate holds an MBA and has experience in financial management and auditing in higher education. Details were provided to the Board ahead of the

meeting. Zarnetske also clarified that the candidate is married to a current Board member (Zimmer), though the term of that Board member will expire before that of the treasurer would begin (i.e., no overlap in service between the Board member and candidate). The Board member left the meeting during the discussion of the candidate.

- b. The Board generally articulated that they were pleased with the candidate and qualifications.
 - c. Ledford provided a written summary of the process on behalf of the nominating and search committee. While Zimmer did participate in that effort, the Board did not interpret that the potential conflict of interest would adversely impact the organization nor provide an advantage to the candidate over other nominees, particularly given that self-nominations were solicited from the entire community.
 - d. The Board discussed formalizing a COI policy and guidance as part of evolving governance as the organization grows.
 - e. Jefferson and Zarnetske solicited confidential feedback if anyone holds strong opposition that they did not want to share publicly.
 - f. Guswa noted that transparency in the potential conflict was important, and introduced potential parallels to other officers, paid staff, Board members, and similar that had not been discussed. Defining for Board members and Consortium offices what is and is not a conflict of interest, and the associated actions required would be worthwhile.
 - g. The Board will elect a new treasurer at the January 2024 Board meeting. Given that there is no additional candidate, the Board will invite the candidate to attend the January meeting in anticipation of their election by the Board.
3. January 2024 Board Meeting
 - a. Jefferson reviewed dates, times, and logistics for the January 2024 Board meeting. She also reviewed the agenda and anticipated discussion items, election of officers, and assignment of duties.
 - b. Ajami suggested adding a discussion about CUAHSI visibility, transparency, and engagement with the community to the agenda.
 4. 2024 Board Assignments
 - a. Zarnetske circulated draft assignments for Board members, requesting that they review this ahead of
 5. Other business
 - a. Zarnetske opened the floor to any other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned for the day.

14:00 EDT Adjournment