



CUAHSI
allied for water science

CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024

Roll Call

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

Term expires 12/31/2024

Alejandro Flores, Boise State University X
G.H. Crystal Ng, Univ. of Minnesota
Steven Loheide, Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison X
Ashley Matheny, Univ. of Texas - Austin X
Ashok Mishra, Clemson Univ. X
Åsa Rennermalm, Rutgers Univ.

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) X
Jay Zarnetske, Michigan State Univ. (Past Chair) X

Term expires 12/31/2026

Safeeq Khan, Univ. of California, Merced X
Sarah Ledford, Georgia State Univ. (Chair Elect) X
Amy Burgin, Kansas State Univ. X
Darren Ficklin, Indiana Univ. X

Officers: (terms expire January 31, 2027)

Adam Ward, Oregon State University (Secretary) X
Steve Architzel, UC Santa Cruz (Treasurer) X

CUAHSI Staff Present: Jordan Read

Minutes prepared by Ward

Wednesday, 7-February-2024

13:02 US Eastern Call to Order

Approval of minutes

Approve January 2024 Board minutes.

Motion: Jefferson

Second: Ledford

Discussion: (none)

Vote: Approved (unanimous)

Executive Director Report (Read)

1. Read reported that he continues in-person meetings with CUAHSI managers (Deanna, Emily, Martin, Tony). Key areas of discussion included:
 - a. Adjustment of functional teams within the organization to clarify staff reporting lines and areas of expertise.
 - b. Read and the team worked through a summary of business operations and expenses to align skillsets, responsibilities, and project effort for the current team and project. This will adjust moving forward as project begin and sunset.
 - c. Read will meet with new data scientists this week, focused on internal data management and operations (e.g., membership database, tracking engagement, demographics of participants).
 - d. CUAHSI staff are submitting multiple proposals to CIROH. Read noted that reporting requirements and structure are being optimized to reduce administrative overhead without compromising CUAHSI's role in the project. Key efforts include early career network resources, participating in HydroLearn Phase II, and expansion of community resilience into Puerto Rico.
2. Read summarized upcoming deadlines including:
 - a. CVU Faculty Call - Feb. 16
 - b. HydroLearn faculty fellows: due Feb. 18
 - c. WaterSciCon24 reopened call for sessions (Feb. 5-9) and abstracts (Feb. 19 – March 6)
 - d. CZNet REU: May 29 – August 7
 - e. HydroLearn CIROH Workshop: in-person: May 29 – June 1
 - f. Virtual June 4- 13
 - g. Summer Institute: June 10 – July 26
 - h. WaterSciCon: June 24 – 27
 - i. CZNet All-Hands Meeting: week of August 5 – 9

Board Chair Report (Jefferson)

1. Jefferson summarized her ongoing efforts around fundraising, membership, WatSciCon planning, and priorities for the organization.

Membership & Dues (Jefferson, Read)

1. Jefferson reported that Utah Valley University, a PUI member, has submitted a complete application for membership.
 - a. **Approval of Utah Valley University as a PUI member.**
 - i. **Motion: Ledford**
 - ii. **Second: Zarnetske**
 - iii. **Discussion: (none)**
 - iv. **Vote: Approved (unanimous)**
2. Read summarized the pre-read he circulated to the Board, including proposed modest increases to annual dues and changes to how lapsed memberships are addressed.
 - a. Key changes include (a) increasing annual dues for PhD-granting institutions to \$350/yr, (b) increasing PUI annual dues to \$100/yr, (c) creation of a re-initiation fee for institutions whose memberships lapse due to non-payment, and (d) requirement of nonprofit and affiliate members to pay dues at \$100/yr. These efforts generate a sustained revenue, offset costs for collection on lapsed dues, and ensure active engagement of members.
 - b. Read presented dues for comparable organizations, noting even these proposed dues are less than the average for peer organizations.
 - c. The group discussed the costs and benefits of adjusting dues. The Board considered international affiliate members and whether dues could be waived for members from low-to-middle income countries. Similar ideas were discussed for recruitment of new PUI members. The group was supportive, but also noted that relatively low dues are a mechanism to help incentivise active engagement of members. For international affiliates, the bylaws already enable waiving of dues for
 - d. The group discussed the inclusion of a modest discount for pre-payment of dues.
 - e. Read and CUAHSI Staff are working to streamline the process for dues collection and payment.
 - f. The group discussed the need for transparency with the community, noting increasing costs since dues were last adjusted in 2011. The motivation to provide unrestricted funds to support organizational activities is also important to enable continuity of services.
 - g. Flores and Loheide reminded the group that dues within a membership class must be equal, but could be waived. For example,
3. **Motion: Adjust annual membership dues to \$350/yr for graduate degree-granting institutions, \$100/yr for PUIs, and a re-initiation fee equal to one year of dues for members whose dues payment has lapsed, effective beginning in 2025.**
 - a. **Motion: Ledford**
 - b. **Second: Guswa**
 - c. **Discussion: (none)**
 - d. **Vote: Approved (unanimous)**
4. **Motion: Initiate annual dues of \$100/yr for non-profit affiliate members, effective beginning in 2024.**
 - a. **Motion: Guswa**

- b. Second: Flores*
- c. Discussion: Khan suggested modifying 'nonprofit' to 'non-academic'. Jefferson noted this is how they are articulated in the bylaws and would require changing the bylaws to make this change. Jefferson suggested it be tabled for thy bylaws modernization.*
- d. Vote: Approved (unanimous)*

Fundraising (Ledford)

1. Ledford presented a brief summary of the fundraising task force, including discussion of a fundraising strategy, timeline, and goal.
 - a. Kicking off the effort on world water day was identified as a goal for the organization.
 - b. Ledford emphasized the goal of having 100% Board participation.
 - c. Messaging of dues increases and the opportunity to pre-pay at current rates will ideally help generate a modest, unrestricted balance for the organization.
 - d. A matching campaign was proposed, to motivate community members.
2. Ledford proposed fundraising targets of \$50k on World Water Day (including a match) and \$100k by August 2024. The group discussed various targets, and scheduled a follow-up for a subcommittee to meet in the coming weeks.

Adjournment

Jefferson opened the floor to other business. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

14:05 US Eastern Adjourned