



**CUAHSI**  
allied for water science

CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes  
*May 1, 2024*

**Roll Call**

12 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  
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, Univ. of Kansas 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, 1-May-2024**

13:01 US Eastern      Call to Order

## **Minutes**

### **1. Approval of April 2024 BoD Minutes**

- a. Motion: Zarnetske**
- b. Second: Guswa**
- c. Discussion: (none)**
- d. Vote: Approved (unanimous)**

## **Executive Director Report (Read)**

1. Finance and compliance
  - a. Read has received formal confirmation from NSF that the 2019 audit resubmission has been accepted by the agency and we can move forward with 2020.
  - b. Sabino (Director of Finance) and Read (ED) met with the leads from our NSF Cure Notice resolution team and the meeting went well. The Cure Notice team is pleased with CUAHSI's compliance progress and understanding of the various factors that have delayed the audits.
  - c. CUAHSI signed an engagement letter with Marcum for 2020-2022 audits. Client acceptance - expected to take one week - has been delayed several weeks due to limited cooperation with the prior auditor (KVR). CUAHSI signed the engagement on 5-April and the client acceptance package was submitted 17-April. Guswa initiated a discussion of anticipated timing; Read reported that Marcum is aware of the pressure on the organization and is working, but it is not guaranteed that optimal timelines will be met given delays in progressing. The group discussed paths forward as a function of timing of various audits, awards, and CUAHSI operations.
  - d. Read shared a cost-cutting memo with the Board in mid-April, to be discussed later in the meeting.
  - e. CUAHSI is working on a financial package for 2024 Q1 spending and revenues to share with the audit committee in the next week
  - f. CUAHSI now has many more automated data workflows for compliance and spending, including some that were shared in the recent (4/18) memo to NSF
2. CUAHSI Staffing
  - a. CUAHSI remains understaffed in several critical areas, but reluctant to begin new management hiring effort until we see more audit progress.
  - b. The summer schedule of activities is daunting despite some reductions as detailed in the 4/14 memo. CUAHSI is capturing centralized spending approvals and mapping out commitments for our cash flow projections. Increased burden on accounting for summer events will create bandwidth challenges for the staff.
3. Misc. Updates
  - a. CUAHSI actively working on the annual report for the Core Cooperative Agreement (CCA), overdue June 1.

- b. CUAHSI received a no cost extension for the CCA; award period now goes to 5/31/25
- c. Several new CUAHSI member universities and nonprofits recently joined the organization. This is a source of unrestricted funds including the initiation fee and five-year membership payments.
- d. Recently updated duties for membership and sent out new messages. Mucciato to cover communications and Bogan to cover data responsibilities. Jefferson and Read have increased their role in communicating with reps.
- e. ED Read and Training Coordinator Masterman attended the Water Observing Technology Forum. Met with industry, CIROH partners, Summer Institute partners, and discussed new training program options with the USGS. Toured the new hydrologic instrumentation facility.

#### **Board Chair Report (Jefferson)**

1. Jefferson reported that ExCom discussed travel funding for the summer 2024 Board meeting. Decisions about what will be supported were communicated to the Board via email.
2. Jefferson requested volunteers to engage on leadership within the organization for Bylaws Revision, anticipated to kick off after the July 2024 Board meeting.

#### **CUAHSI Cost Cutting (Read)**

1. Read circulated a memo related to cost-cutting measures in April 2024, provided as a pre-read to the Board for discussion.
2. The group discussed how some of the cuts proposed will be visible to the community. The balance of cost savings and activities that the community values was the key trade-off analyzed by the Board. The Board was concerned about long-term reductions in core activities, specifically if reductions would be temporary or permanent.
3. Read plans to discuss this in the May 2024 newsletter, focusing on the 'remodeling' of CUAHSI programs. He also proposes to detail changes the community can expect in the coming weeks.
4. Read invited feedback from the Board on the decisions he is making.

#### **Fundraising (Ledford, Jefferson, Flores)**

1. Guswa reported that he has discussed fundraising with AGU's Hydrology Section leadership. The discussion including brainstorming of finding corporate sponsorship or formalizing a partnership with another organization to help support near-term cashflow challenges.
2. The group discussed community buy-in and support for CUAHSI as it pertains to attitudes for fundraising for the organization.

#### **Adjournment**

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

14:02 US Eastern      Adjourned