



**CUAHSI**  
allied for water science

CUAHSI Board Meeting Minutes  
*Sept. 11, 2024*

**Roll Call**

10 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 X  
Steven Loheide, Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison X  
Ashley Matheny, Univ. of Texas - Austin  
Ashok Mishra, Clemson Univ.  
Åsa Rennermalm, Rutgers Univ.

**Term expires 12/31/2025**

JP Gannon, Virginia Tech  
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)

**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, Lisa Mucciacito

Minutes prepared by Ward

**Wednesday, 11-Sept-2024**

14:00 US Eastern      Call to Order

**Executive Director Update (Read)**

1. Audit status. Read shared an update memo that he transmitted to NSF last week. CUAHSI capacity issues during the month of August have set the organization back by about a month or six weeks relative to our September audit filing timeline. He sent a separate message to a subset of the NSF team explaining the circumstances that led to this delay and they replied with a very supportive message. CUAHSI is currently addressing new audit support requests from the auditors for 2021-2022. Read anticipated receiving the 2020 audit from the external firm in September 2024, with 2021 and 2022 being filed in October 2024.
2. Staffing update. CUAHSI is happy to announce three new employees have joined or will be joining the workforce soon, and Read updated the Board on workload for current employees.
  - a. Summer Conley joined CUAHSI on 8/26 as a Program and Operations Assistant. Summer has a strong background in non-profit operations, including a degree in Public Policy and Administration with minors in Nonprofit Management and Political Science, and a previous role as an Operations Coordinator at The Center for Nonprofit Excellence. Summer brings experience in facilitating organizational operations, maintaining administrative systems and processes, and overseeing budgets and expense tracking. As a Program and Operations Assistant, Summer will support a range of programs, projects, and staff teams, including assisting with program and project management and finance tasks, and developing and streamlining administrative and operational processes
  - b. Sandesh Madilla is scheduled to start his position as a Software Engineer on 9/16. He recently finished his Master's degree in Computer Science from Florida International University, Miami. Before starting his degree work in the US he worked for several years as a software engineer developing and maintaining high performance applications. His experience designing and delivering high quality front-end applications, developing Python API's and supporting Cloud technologies make him a great addition to the organization. He will focus on supporting Hydroshare maintenance and feature developments but also support additional, more research driven activities.
  - c. At our next morning, we will share information about our new Director of Education and Strategic Partnerships, who will join CUAHSI 10/14
  - d. Devin Cowan (software engineer) has shifted to part time work to better support family needs as of September 1st
  - e. Lindsay Platt (data scientists) has shifted from part time to full time as of September 1st.
3. Portfolio update
  - a. Read met with a subset of AGU leadership to discuss the future of WaterSciCon and to go over final financial numbers. CUAHSI has an opportunity to advocate for a partnership with AGU in the next iteration of this meeting and MOU but will need to take action soon. A commitment from the Board and CUAHSI to recruit attendees will be needed. AGU may not see CUAHSI as an ideal partner in the near-term.
    - i. Flores committed to working with Read to navigate the future of the meeting program.
    - ii. The Board discussed foregoing the Biennial to commit to WaterSciCon in the future as a potential path forward.
  - b. NSF has announced the retirement of the Critical Zone Network [via a DCL](#). CUAHSI is the lead organization in the Network's Hub grant. PI / ED Read has led meetings with the Hub PI team and the Network's lead PI team to discuss strategy for the final year of the

- project and potential collaborations on future interdisciplinary earth science proposals. Retirement of the network will sunset CUAHSI's second largest annual grant, [2012893](#).
- c. CUAHSI is working on launching the new project efforts funded by our one year supplement on the existing core cooperative agreement. Read, Clark, and Sosa Gonzalez met with standing committees to give them a preview of the upcoming work and expected project management and governance changes.

### **Board Chair Update (Jefferson)**

1. Jefferson reported that her effort has been consumed with fiscal management and bylaws revisions for the organization, and had no additional business to report.

### **Minutes**

1. **Approval of Aug. 7, 2024 BoD Minutes, excepting a redaction of the salary for the Executive Director which is consistent with past practice.**
  - a. **Motion: Ledford**
  - b. **Second: Flores**
  - c. **Discussion: (none)**
  - d. **Vote:**
    - i. **Approved. (unanimous)**

### **Bylaws Revision Results (Jefferson)**

1. Jefferson reported strong turnout for the bylaws revision vote, and reported that the community overwhelmingly supported the revisions. The group was pleased with the voter turnout efforts and engagement of the community with organizational governance. Read's personalized messages and those from the Board were both viewed as successes.
2. The Board debriefed on strategies to update membership roles, collect membership dues, and communicate with the membership. Read reported the CUASHI team will use this information to update membership roles and representatives.

### **Nomination Committee (Ledford)**

1. Ledford outlined the timeline for Board member recruitment, and initiated a discussion of the expertise that would be strategic to recruit. She listed nonprofit management and fundraising as important skillsets to diversity the Board. Jefferson suggested an entrepreneur that might help identify fee-for-service opportunities in CUAHSI as potentially helpful.
2. Read is also working on establishing a Senior Advisory Committee.
3. The Board discussed the timing of adding at-large members to the Board, with a stated desire to 'spread out' the at-large members across the various cohorts of Board members.

### **CUAHSI Job Board (L. Mucciaccito)**

1. Mucciaccito presented a summary of the fee-for-posting models used by similar organizations and a proposal for how CUAHSI could begin implementing a paid job board for members.
2. The Board discussed the potential of monetizing the job board and if CUAHSI could be competitive within the space given pre-existing competition for job boards.

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

15:00 US Eastern      Adjourned