

Southern Region Water Resource Planning Committee Meeting

22 February 2010, Hilton Head, SC

Minutes

- I&II. Welcome, New Chairmanships and Awards
- a. Chair passed from Craig Runyan to Sam Dennis
 - b. Eve Brantley nominated for Vice-Chair, seconded. Agreed Eve Brantley new Vice-Chair.
 - c. Mark McFarland recognized Jim Hairston, Mike Smolen, and George Smith (not present) and presented them with Southern Region appreciation awards.
 - d. Mark McFarland also presented Diane Boellstorff with a service award as Project Manager for the Southern Region.
 - e. Sam Dennis also thanked the above for their dedication to the 1890's.
- III. Update on Region 6 EPA training workshops, Leann Demouche. Introduced training programs posted on southern region website.
- IV. Report from Region 4 EPA-LGU Liaison, Frank Henning. Talked about new EPA stormwater rules and will work to get guidance for states. Mining Restoration and Center for Watershed Excellence are good opportunities to work with EPA. Mark Risse will soon be compiling ideas for next year's plan of work.
- V. Website redesign, Lisa Kordos. Mark McFarland introduced new member, Lisa Kordos as Project Manager for the Southern Region. Plans for new website discussed and call for input. Discussed plans for holding a Centra training session on the new national reporting system later this spring.
- VI. Team Reports
- a. Animal Waste Management – Shawn Hawkins, updated on 8 pod casts.
 - b. Nutrient Management Team – P indices, relationships between land management and P index. Relationship between biofuels and nutrient management. New fertilizer development, recommendations.
 - c. Irrigation and Water Management Team –Tom Obreza, web availability of database of information and can get message to agents as “one stop shopping.”
 - d. Craig Runyan – 5 team members have cameras and software in hand, agrometerology component of special projects, nothing to report.
 - e. Drinking Water and Human Health – no report.

- f. Water Policy and Economics – Mike Smolen – Discussed the Water Policy and Economics Conference ~~in~~ held October 13 – 14, 2009 in Gainesville, FL. Thanked Damian Adams, Tatiana Borisova and Mark Risse. 30 people attended the 1 ½ day conference. Discussed Damian Adams' project, Water Attitudes and Behavior survey of water utility managers essentially complete. Next they will begin the survey of water consumers. The water attitudes survey has been expanded, southeast is only area not complete yet, GA, MS, SC, AL still not completed.
- g. Mark Risse special project status. Wed. morning will give workshop session on policy development. How science has been used in interstate water issues.
- h. Watershed Assessment Team – Dharmendra Saraswat -Organizing the GIS/GPS workshop, completed web survey, specialists and agents to plan for future activities. Two workshops at conference. Updating southern region mapping section of website.
- i. Watershed Education & Restoration Team – Eve Brantley – Watershed Academy - Principles of Water Monitoring, Planning and Restoration will work with Teferi Tsegaye in AL on future workshops. Learning center developed by Frank Henning. Excellent resource, link on region website. Had a couple of webinars and did assessment of what was learned. SE Stream Restoration Conference later this year. Continue to hold watershed restoration workshops. WaterSmart has been extended to many states. Publications for U of GA on this now available.
- j. Sam Dennis, proposal for 1890 capacity building grant, training 1890 professionals on watershed assessment. Will hear about his grant this summer.
- k. Mike Daniels thanked Eve and Mark for their watershed academy.

VII. Project Continuation and planning for next year's special projects RFA – Mark McFarland and Lisa Kordos

- a. Mark McFarland discussed Continuation Application. We can use original submission for work plans and budgets. We will take care of adjustments by amendments later. Due March 31, 2010.
- b. Lisa Kordos discussed information necessary for the Continuation Application. New Co-PIs will need to submit a CV and publication list. These people will be contacted directly. A new Continuing and Pending Support (CPS) form will be needed from everyone; last year's and a blank form will be sent to all later this week. Project outcomes and outputs for 2009, as well as any new publications are needed for the CRIS report. The CRIS report also will serve as the progress report for the Continuation Application.
- c. Lisa Kordos also announced plans to hold the next Special Projects RFA this spring, with the RFA being released in early March and a deadline for mid-May. This will hopefully expedite the processing of the grant funds by NIFA. The proposals will be compiled and forwarded for review and ranking by wqcs. Lisa will compile the rankings and they will be used in a Centra/teleconference probably in late May or early June to determine the grant recipients. We are hoping to get the package submitted to NIFA by the end of June 2010.

VIII. Update from Cass Gardener and CSL on NIFA. Larger and fewer grants in the new program. It will be a good opportunity to work with many collaborators. There will be a new emphasis on the National Integrated and Organic Programs. Major areas of focus will be the 5 priority items. The 406 water program was zeroed out in the new federal budget. The CSL working to get it added as a line item. Mark McFarland discussed that there may be opportunities for institutional water quality coordinators to address what costs are for loss of the 406 program. Deanna Osmond asked if the CSL has a fall back strategy. They would love to get the 406 program reinstated, but as a fall back they will urge NIFA to consider the water program as a 6th priority. If we have to fit into the priority areas, we're diluted, we want to carry over whole program.

IX. Plan date and location for a face-to-face meeting. Greg Jennings discussed next year's conference. Next conference will be in Washington, DC, Jan 31-Feb 1. It will have a different emphasis next year. It will be about outreach to decision makers, congressional aides, etc. It will also be on a smaller scale than this year, with a focus on highlighting star projects with posters, not 200 speakers as usual. In 2012, the National Conference will be held in Portland, OR in the spring. Sam Dennis discussed date and location of the next Southern Region meeting. Mark McFarland stressed that the Institutional Coordinators and Program Team Leaders need to be included. Mark Risse proposed that teams use it to host their own workshop or meet during that time. Mark McFarland proposed the Southern Region meet face-to-face during the year. - Lisa Kordos and Sam Dennis will put out possible dates via Meeting Wizard. Mike Smolen proposed including a tour of a regional issue on one day of the meeting.

X. Breakout opportunity for Team meetings/planning.

Attendees

Southern Regional Water Program Meeting

National Water Conference, Hilton Head, SC

February 22, 2010

Mark McFarland	Lisa Kordos	Diane Boellstorff
Jennifer Peterson	Nikki Dictson	Matt Berg
Jimmy Bonner	Damian Adams	Leeann DeMouche
Bill Blackston	Stephen Greer	Christy Perrin
Mudiayi Ngandu	Dave Engle	Thomas Obreza
Amy Shober	Deanna Osmond	Brad Lee
Doug Hamilton	Cass Gardner	Maifan Silitonga
Dharmendra Saraswat	Vaughn Berkheiser	Joe Ivy
Bob Polomski	Diana Rashash	Raymond Faucette
Jimmy Bonner	Edmond Merem	Seth Nagy
Lenny Rogers	Leonard Githinji	Margaret Gitau
Sudhanshu Panda	Gary Hawkins	Mike Burchell
Eve Brantley	Wendi Hartup	Mitch Woodward
Ben Powell	Mike Daniels	Mark Risse
Brian Kiepper	Jason Vogel	Mike Smolen
Teferi Tsegaye	Bruce Lesikar	Frank Henning
Dan Hitchcock	Ashley Osborne	Lena Beth Carmichael
Shawn Hawkins	Melony Wilson	Amanda Gumbert
Mark Rice	G Reddy	Doug Hamilton
Greg Jennings	Sam Dennis	Craig Runyan
Brian LeBlanc	Brad Wilcox	Jim Hairston
Katherine Suda	Louis Rivers	