



2022 Annual Meeting

2022 Annual Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 17

9:00 a.m. **WERA Kick-off**

Welcome to 8,001 feet: Survival Guide for High Altitude, YMCA Logistics
Henry Reges, National CoCoRaHS Coordinator, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Introductions, goals and objectives for the meeting

Jon Meyer, WERA 1012 Co-Chair, Utah State University, Logan, UT

Opening Words from The Agricultural Experiment Station

Gene Kelly, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

9:20 a.m. **SESSION 1 – WERA Partners**

National Weather Service, COOP Update

Amy Fritz, National COOP Program Manager, National Weather Service, Silver Spring, MD

9:45 a.m. CoCoRaHS Data in NCEI Climate Analyses

Bryant Korzeniewski, National Centers for Environmental Information, Asheville, NC

10:10 a.m. **Break **Group Photo****

10:25 a.m. Regional Climate Center Usage of Volunteer Network Data

Bill Sorenson, NOAA High Plains Regional Climate Center, Lincoln, NE

10:55 a.m. National Weather Service, The Cellular Cooperative Observation Program
Brian Walawender, National Weather Service, Chief of Systems and Facilities Division, Central Region Headquarters, Kansas City, MO

11:25 a.m. How Citizen Science and Crowdsourced Data Aid in Drought Early Warning
Joel Lisonbee, Regional Drought Information Coordinator, NOAA/NIDIS, Boulder, CO

11:50 a.m. PRISM Climate Group Update
Chris Daly, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

12:15 p.m. **Lunch** (Walnut Dining Room)

1:15 p.m. **SESSION 2 – CoCoRaHS Support and Operations**
CoCoRaHS Budget Report
Henry Reges, National CoCoRaHS Coordinator, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

1:30 p.m. CoCoRaHS Data Quality Control Update
Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS Project Manager, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
Dani Talmadge, CoCoRaHS QC, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO;

2:15 p.m. Website Updates
Julian Turner, CoCoRaHS Web Development, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

3:00 p.m. **Break**

3:30 p.m. CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring in Forests
Peter Goble, WERA 1012 Co-Chair, Climatologist, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

3:45 p.m. Ice Accretion Measurement – Update
Noah Newman, CoCoRaHS Education Coordinator, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

4:00 p.m. Unfinished Discussions from the Day

4:45 p.m. Adjourn for the day.

5:30 p.m. Dinner (Walnut Dining Room)

6:30 p.m. Rocky Mountain National Park Adventure (drive)

Wednesday, May 18

9:00 a.m. **SESSION 3 – CoCoRaHS Outside CONUS**
CoCoRaHS in Alaska
Doug Wesley, National Weather Service Alaska Regional Headquarters, Anchorage, AK

9:25 a.m. The US Virgin Islands Drought Research Project and Its Impact Territory-wide
Christina Chanes, University of the Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

9:50 a.m. CoCoRaHS Canada Update
Douglas Leonard, Prediction Services Operations – Atlantic and Ice, Meteorological Service of Canada, Ottawa, ON Canada

10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:30 a.m. **SESSION 4 – Volunteer Recruiting, Retention, Engagement**
Why Minnesota is Cuckoo for CoCoRaHS: Sharing a successful strategy for recruiting and retaining CoCoRaHS observers
Michelle Margraf, National Weather Service Twin Cities, Observing Program Leader, Chanhassen, MN

11:00 a.m. CoCoRaHS Recruiting and Retention Update
Matt Spies, Connecticut State Coordinator, Brookfield, CT

11:45 a.m. Open Discussion: How can we adapt successful observer retention strategies?

12:15 p.m. **Lunch** (Walnut Dining Room)

1:30 p.m. Weather Observation Jeopardy!
Hosted by Russ Schumacher, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

2:00 p.m. **SESSION 5 – The Rain Gauge**
NERain Changes for 2022
James Williams, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Lincoln, NE

2:25 p.m. Building an Automated CoCoRaHS Gauge
Tye Parzybok, Climalytic Instruments, Fort Collins, CO

2:50 p.m. Discussion: The Power of Informal Rain Gauge Donations
Hosted by Nolan Doesken, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

3:20 p.m. **Break**

3:35 p.m. Election of Officers for 2023

3:45 p.m. Unfinished Discussions from the Day
4:30 p.m. Adjourn
5:30 p.m. Dinner (Walnut Dining Room)
6:30 p.m. Evening activity to be announced

Thursday, May 19

8:30 a.m. **SESSION 6 - The Next Step - Issues that Need Continuing Attention, Setting Priorities, and Action Items**
It's important to maintain the momentum from this meeting and continuity for the next year. During this session we will identify the issues that came up during the meeting that need further follow-up, set priorities, and assemble a to-do list of action items that can be addressed by the committee and potentially be completed in the coming year.

9:45 a.m. **Break** (room check out)

10:15 a.m. Open discussion, meeting summary, action items to be followed-up on, wrap-up

12:00 noon **WERA Meeting adjourns** – see you next year! - **Lunch** (Walnut Dining Room)

What does WERA stand for?

III. WESTERN MULTISTATE PROJECTS

A. Research Projects (W)

Multistate Research Projects involve cooperative, jointly planned research employing multidisciplinary approaches in which SAESs, working with the ARS, or other college or university, cooperate to solve problems that concern more than one state and, usually, more than one region. Cooperative Extension and academic faculty are encouraged to participate if and where appropriate to meeting joint objectives.

B. Coordinating Committees (WCC)

Coordinating Committees provide a mechanism for addressing critical regional issues where multistate coordination or information exchange is appropriate within a function (i.e. research, education or extension); have expected outcomes; convey knowledge; and are peer reviewed. The work of Western Coordinating Committees can be classified into the following categories:

- Multistate research, education or extension programs with clearly established, outcome oriented, goals where research results are already available. Knowledge is conveyed utilizing methodology which results in increased understanding and effective resolution of identified needs.

- Multistate research, education or extension coordination resulting in increased communication between faculty, avoidance of unnecessary duplication and gained efficiencies in the use of resources and shared ideas.

C. Education/Extension and Research Activity (WERA)

These activities serve to integrate two or more functions (i.e., education, extension and research) on a particular topic where multistate coordination or information exchange is appropriate; have expected outcomes; convey knowledge; and are peer reviewed. The work of Western Education/Extension and Research Activity Committees can be described as follows:

- *Fully integrated research, education and extension program coordination with clearly defined, impact-oriented objectives, where results are effectively embodied in educational efforts to assist those in need.*