



## 2024 Annual Meeting FINAL AGENDA

### Monday, June 10

9:00 a.m.     **WERA Kick-off**

Welcome to 5,151 feet . . . WERA Logistics

*Henry Reges, National CoCoRaHS Coordinator, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO*

Introductions, goals, and objectives for the meeting

*Matt Sittel, WERA 1012 Co-Chair, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS*

Opening Words from The Agricultural Experiment Station

*Gene Kelly, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO*

9:30 a.m.     **SESSION 1 – WERA Partners**

National Weather Service, COOP Update

*Scott McGuire, National COOP Program, NOAA/NWS, Silver Spring, MD*

9:50 a.m.     PRISM Climate Group Update

*Chris Daly, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR*

10:10 a.m.     State Climatologist Involvement/Coordination/Promotion of Rain Gauge networks

*Beth Hall, CoCoRaHS Indiana, West Lafayette, IN*

10:30 a.m.     **Break \*\*Group Photo\*\***

- 10:50 a.m. Coordinator updates – from the field  
*Matt Sittel, Kansas State Coordinator, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS*  
*Dave Robinson, NJ State Co-Coordinator, Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ*
- 11:10 a.m. Significant Wx Reports  
*Chad Gimmestad, NOAA/NWS, Boulder, CO*
- 11:30 a.m. NCEI and CoCoRaHS  
*Imke Durre, NOAA/NCEI, Asheville, NC*
- 11:50 a.m. NIDIS - NIDIS and Citizen Science  
*Joel Lisonbee, NOAA/NIDIS, Boulder, CO*
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch Provided** (CIRA Commons upstairs)
- 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 Dashboard (DEx) Overview  
*Noah Newman, CoCoRaHS Education Coordinator, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO*
- 2:10 p.m. CoCoRaHS App update & other things from IT  
*Julian Turner, CoCoRaHS Web Development, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO*
- 3:05 p.m. **Break**
- 3:30 p.m. Website - Open Discussion
- 4:00 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*  
*Tony Bergantino, Univ of Wyoming, Laramie, WY*
- 4:30 p.m. Unfinished Discussions from the Day
- 5:30 p.m. Adjourn for the day.
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner on your own in Fort Collins

## Tuesday, June 11

- 9:00 a.m.      **SESSION 3 – International Updates plus Drought**  
CoCoRaHS Canada Update  
*Mansi Patel, CoCoRaHS Canada National Coordinator, Chatham, ON*  
*Doug Leonard ECCC, Dartmouth, NS*  
  
CoCoRaHS Puerto Rico Update  
*Xiomara Cruz, Rosalina Vasquez, NWS, San Juan, Puerto Rico*
- 9:40 a.m.      NDMC . . . A very dry talk  
*Brian Fuchs, NDMC, Lincoln, NE*
- 10:00 a.m.      **Break**
- 10:30 a.m.      **SESSION 4 – Annual Volunteer Recruiting, Retention, Engagement Update, Plus, Hail, Snow and Forensics**  
  
CoCoRaHS Recruiting and Retention Update  
*Matt Spies, Connecticut State Coordinator, Brookfield, CT*
- 11:00 a.m.      Hail Yes . . . or No? Where do we go from here? Discussion  
*Dani Talmadge, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO*
- 11:30 a.m.      Snow operations/training?? Something to graupel about?  
*Steve Hilberg, CoCoRaHS Project Manager, Colorado State University., Fort Collins, CO*
- 11:50 a.m.      Maximizing Insights: The Power of Leveraging Multiple Data Networks for a Comprehensive Forensic Analysis  
*Kelly Cebulko, STM Weather, Cropseyville, NY*
- 12:20 p.m.      **Lunch Provided** (CIRA Commons upstairs)
- 1:30 p.m.      Weather Observation Jeopardy!  
*Hosted by Russ Schumacher, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO*
- 2:00 p.m.      **SESSION 5 – Networks, Madness and Rain Gauges**  
NE Rain Updates  
*James Williams, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, Lincoln, NE*
- 2:25 p.m.      March Madness/Precip Absurdity/Minnesota Dynasty . . .  
*Matt Sittel, WERA 1012 Co-Chair, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS*
- 2:50 p.m.      Rain Gauge Discussion - Lucy Plahmer, WeatherYourWay, Hartford, WI

- 3:15 p.m. Towards a distributed soil moisture network in Alabama: Opportunities for low-cost, easy deployable sensors leveraging citizen science networks  
*Lee Ellenburg, Univ. of Alabama – Huntsville, Huntsville, AL*
- 3:30 p.m. **Break**
- 3:45 p.m. Project IDEAL (Inclusive Diverse Equitable Accessible Large-Scale)  
*Noah Newman, CoCoRaHS, Fort Collins, CO*
- 4:00 p.m. **SESSION 5 – The Next Step - Issues that Need Continuing Attention, Setting Priorities, and Action Items**
- Election of Chairs for 2026
- 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.
- 4:10 p.m. Unfinished Discussions from the Day
- 5:00 p.m. Adjourn . . . see you in 2025!
- 6:30 p.m. Evening – Join the AASC icebreaker at Chipper's Lanes at 217 W Horsetooth Rd.

## What does WERA stand for?

### III. WESTERN MULTI STATE PROJECTS

#### . 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. [Western] 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.