



# Meet Lucas Gregory

**Lucas F. Gregory, PhD**

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Lucas Gregory serves as an Assistant Director at the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI) at Texas A&M University. In this role, he provides leadership for the institute's daily operations, visioning, and works to coordinate water research, extension and education efforts statewide. Specifically, he leads efforts in watershed assessment, planning, and management; water quality data collection and assessment; and is working to increase research relative to the connections between water quality and human health. He is also in charge of the Institute's quality assurance program. His research interests include (1) bacteria fate and transport in soil and water; (2) watershed assessment, planning and management; (3) best management practice efficacy evaluation; (4) improving the understanding of human health implications of emerging environmental water quality issues; (5) irrigation conservation; and (6) stakeholder engagement. He has served as PI or Co-PI on over 40 research projects and has authored or co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed and technical publications on watershed planning, bacteria fate and transport, bacteria source tracking, best management practice effectiveness, water quality assessments, and water budgets. He has also mentored over 25 graduate and undergraduate students at TWRI, has served on two graduate student committees. He received his B.S. in Agricultural Systems Management (2003), M.S. and Ph.D. in Water Management and Hydrological Sciences (2006 and 2016 respectively) from Texas A&M University. Lucas is also a member of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, has served on the UCOWR technical program and awards committees, is the Texas A&M lead delegate to UCOWR, serves as President of the United Methodist Men chapter at his local church and coaches his son in baseball and daughter in cross-country.

***"How do you plan on advancing UCOWR's mission of leading in education, research and public service in water resources?"***

The past year has been more than a challenge for society as a whole. Life and business as usual has yet to fully return and will never return to what was normal a year ago. The year highlighted the importance of information sharing and water security. Although the 2020 annual conference was cancelled, UCOWR adjusted operations and began monthly virtual roundtable discussions on timely water issues. This approach highlights a strength of UCOWR which is its ability to bring individuals and institutions engaged in water related research, extension, and education together to discuss and debate current and emerging water issues.

If given the opportunity to serve on the board of directors, I will work to make these virtual roundtables a permanent fixture of UCOWR's engagement efforts. Not only are these virtual discussions a great way to keep current membership engaged and sharing research ideas between annual conferences, but it also presents expanded student engagement opportunities and a platform to engage potential new members and member institutions. Virtual roundtables provide a no-cost option to engage prospective members and allow the value of UCOWR and the connections to collaborators that membership would provide to be showcased.

If selected as a board member, I would also work to provide an optional service opportunity associated with UCOWR's annual meeting that occurs during the normal field trip time. Such an event will actively engage and encourage UCOWR's membership to participate in water related service annually, build relationships with local organizations, and give back to the annual conference's host community.