



Meet Kevin Wagner

Kevin Wagner, PhD

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Kevin Wagner serves as the Director of the Oklahoma Water Resources Center at Oklahoma State University and Director of the Oklahoma NSF EPSCoR Program. As Director of the Water Center, he provides leadership and administration of the Center's water research and outreach, and grant programs; leads Center efforts to increase engagement with the water resources community across Oklahoma and the U.S.; and facilitates development of interdisciplinary teams to address high priority water resources issues. As Director of the EPSCoR Program, he provides leadership and administration of a large multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary research team aimed at building research capacity in Oklahoma and finding *Socially Sustainable Solutions for Water, Carbon, and Infrastructure Resilience in Oklahoma*.

His research focuses on enhancing (1) stakeholder engagement through better integration of scientific information with human systems for application to water resources policy and management; (2) watershed assessment, planning, management, and sustainability; (3) understanding of water use and adoption of conservation practices; and (4) private lands stewardship through assessing and improving conservation practice effectiveness and identifying/overcoming barriers to adoption.

He has served as PI or co-PI on over 80 water research and outreach projects totaling over \$55M in funding and authored or co-authored over 40 journal publications and 65 technical publications on watershed planning, watershed restoration, water use and efficiency, bacteria fate and transport, and best management practice effectiveness. Wagner also serves as Professor in Plant and Soil Sciences at Oklahoma State University and an adjunct professor in the Soil and Crop Sciences Department at Texas A&M University. He has previously served on the boards and as the president of UCOWR and NIWR and served as the Technical Program Chair for the 2016 and 2017 UCOWR/NIWR Conferences. Dr. Wagner received his B.S. in Biology at Howard Payne University in 1992, his M.S. in Environmental Science at Oklahoma State University in 1995, and his Ph.D. in Agronomy at Texas A&M University in 2011.

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

It would be an honor to serve again on the UCOWR board. I've greatly enjoyed working with UCOWR during my time as a board member, developing our strategic plan, planning the 2016 and 2017 annual conference, and leading the organization as president. My vision for the future of UCOWR would include (1) expanding membership and participation in UCOWR, (2) strengthening partnerships with NIWR and AWRA through the 2024 annual conference, (3) growing student involvement, and (4) enhancing opportunities for collaborative research. Numerous State Water Resources Research Institutes and their delegates still do not currently actively participate in UCOWR. In addition to the State Water Resources Research Institutes, most states have other water institutes that are not currently members. I would continue working to identify these and seek their participation. To expand membership, we need to continue working to enhance and better demonstrate the value of participating for not only member institutions, but their delegates, faculty, and students. Expanded membership and participation contributes significantly to the financial security of the organization. More importantly, it enhances opportunities for collaborative multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional research required to address the complex water challenges we are faced with. Expanded opportunities to collaborate through the organization and its outreach mechanisms and annual conference will facilitate new partnerships, scientific discovery, and solutions for tomorrow. Finally, there is substantial need and opportunity to increase early career researcher and student involvement through not only the annual conference, but through providing other professional development and mentoring opportunities. UCOWR can be a leader in supporting early career faculty, student, and future workforce development. I would focus my energies to these purposes should I have the honor of serving again.