



**Region Breakout Session Notes
NIWR 2024 Fall Virtual Meeting
October 29, 2024, 3:20–4:00 pm ET**

NIWR Board Representative: Keith Cherkauer, Indiana

Attendance: Laura Esman (IN), Amy Weckle (IL), Joel Larson (MN), Pouyan Nejadhashemi (MI), John Lenhart (OH), Linda Weavers (OH), Melissa Boyce (WI), Christy Remucal (WI), Sarah Roth (MN), Anya Nomandean (MN), Elizabeth Wells (MN), Susan Krusemark (IL), Haleigh Fernandez (OH), Jeff Peterson (MN), Yu-Feng Lin (IL)

Suggested Discussion:

- Introductions (5 minutes)
- Success Stories (10 minutes), Questions from New Directors
 - MI Director – learning the ropes and the system
 - WI Director – in position for about a year
 - Yu-Feng encourages examining several other centers because priorities, capital hill visits, etc., are different among different institutes.
- Regional Activities (10 minutes)
 1. Opportunities to advance collaboration between NIWR institutes and USGS Water Science Centers in your region
 - GL region hosts a webinar to connect researchers and USGS collaborators as well as proposal preparation guidance. Opened it to the network.
 - Heads-up notification to researchers
 - Great Lakes Commission and other foundations are looking to fund AI data center on water usage.
 2. Plans for use of increased 104b funds, possibility of joint RFPs
 - Laura (IN) discussion on \$1,000 stipend in RFP for projects that promote water equity – previous GL region initiative. This has fallen off after COVID.
 - MN hasn't had funding in the past for research initiatives.
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- NIWR-wide Issues. Respond to the following discussion prompts (10 minutes):
 1. What can NIWR do to help communicate the impacts of increased WRRRA appropriations over the past several years?
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 2. What topics do you recommend for the agenda when we gather for the annual NIWR meetings in DC in February 2025?

- Coordination grant examples and processes
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- Other Topics (5 minutes)
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Note about reporting to the main session (4:00–4:30 pm): We will have a short period following the breakouts for regions to share key points from your discussions, including how best to use time at the annual meeting in DC. Regional board representatives (or their designees) will be asked to share one top suggestion for an annual meeting topic (3 minutes per region).