



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

NIWR Board Representative:

Attendance:

Suggested Discussion:

- Introductions (5 minutes)
- Success Stories (10 minutes), Questions from New Directors
 - ND – set up two priority areas and have expanded network for national proposal submission. (PFAS, Remote Sensing, etc.) Water resources certificate program (2-year program). Registration will open soon.
 - IA – migrating from traditionally a water-quality focused institute to one that addresses quality and quantity. Also successful annual conference.
 - MO – several grants (\$5M from EPA and others from USGS). Center is expanding.
 - OK – Modified irrigation routine of soil and water assessment tool. Systematically evaluate opportunities for water conservation with irrigation systems. Research symposium is coming up soon.
 - AR – Changed the format of annual conference to work better with stakeholders from around the state. Direct student support with undergraduate stipends for summer research projects.
 - MT – working on larger grants related to water security and regional resilience (managed aquifer recharge, etc). soil moisture monitoring is also a key issue.
- Regional Activities (10 minutes)
 1. Opportunities to advance collaboration between NIWR institutes and USGS Water Science Centers in your region
 - Attend other states' water conferences (most in the region have an established conference/symposium).
 -
 2. Plans for use of increased 104b funds, possibility of joint RFPs
 -
 -
- 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?
 -

-
- 2. What topics do you recommend for the agenda when we gather for the annual NIWR meetings in DC in February 2025?
 - Soil moisture monitoring and mapping using drones. Using snow as a predictor?
 - Can there be a larger announcement about 104(g) awardees so that everyone knows where they went, what was most successful, etc.
- Other Topics (5 minutes)
 - Will AI be a big player in our water world? (There is a 104g project for this in IA).
 -

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).