



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

NIWR Board Representative: Michael Dietz

Attendance: Michelle Shattuck (NH Assoc. Director), David Hart (ME Director), Nicoloy Welter (RI Grad Student), Gretchen Nareff (VT Financial Asst), Olga Tsvetkova (MA Senior Research Mgr.)

Suggested Discussion:

- Introductions (5 minutes)
- Success Stories (10 minutes), Questions from New Directors
 - David- relationship building is critical. It can be time consuming, but can pay big dividends in the long run, especially for interdisciplinary work. This relates to policy, legislation, etc. Also, have your center get good at a lot of things by surrounding yourself with people who are good at the things than where you may not have expertise.
 - Mike- do a “listening tour” at the beginning. Talk to previous grant recipients and other stakeholders to hear about what they would like to see your institute do or be. You don’t necessarily need to do everything that everyone else says, but it is a good opportunity to met people and generate new ideas that you may not have thought about. This relates to the relationship-building that David mentioned.
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- Regional Activities (10 minutes)
 1. Opportunities to advance collaboration between NIWR institutes and USGS Water Science Centers in your region
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 2. Plans for use of increased 104b funds, possibility of joint RFPs
 - Fewer, larger grants, but challenges still remain for the tight timelines with crackdown on NCEs
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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 WRRR 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?

- How to manage your advisory board, how often to meet, representation
- Managing the state RFP
- For new directors, how to develop relationships
- 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).