



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

**NIWR Board Representative: Karen Schlatter**

**Attendance:** Karen Schlatter, Sharon Megdal, Greg Kerr, Carri Richards, Danielle Kalisek, Giovanni Piccinni, Jamie McEvoy, Jessica Thrasher, Jessie Hampton, Jodee Pring, Lucas Gregory, Matt Bromley, Robert Sabie

**Suggested Discussion:**

- Introductions (5 minutes)
- Success Stories (10 minutes), Questions from New Directors
  - Question: Are there examples of successful cross state collaborations for our region? Ogalalla CAP, TAP (transboundary assessment program)
  - Is it more appealing to see regional work going on for USGS and/or legislators?
  - Limiting to carve the 104g into specific areas, not relevant to all states.
  - TX new Director, Giovanni: NIWR meeting and the NIWR/UCOWR/AWRA conference has helped him get up to speed quickly. Appreciates these opportunities to connect.
  - Sharon: AZ was one of the 4 104b proposals that did not have any issues. Why? Large part of it is that they have great support on the pre-award side through budget submissions and development. Could be helpful if your pre-award support people could join the NIWR coordination call when they go over details of the proposal submission.
- Regional Activities (10 minutes)
  1. Opportunities to advance collaboration between NIWR institutes and USGS Water Science Centers in your region
  2. Plans for use of increased 104b funds, possibility of joint RFPs
    - Water Fellows Program at the Colorado Water Center: <https://watercenter.colostate.edu/studentfellows/>
    - New Mexico interested – possibility for session on this during annual meeting to learn from other states (Arkansas, others) on their Water Fellows programs

- 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?
    - Many institutes are struggling to get 104b proposals. Declining trend since covid.
    - Would be good to have a session to discuss how different institutes are managing research side of 104b. Have certain capacity for student programs
    - Not enough funding to support research projects – researchers not interested in submitting proposals
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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).