

CSU Water Resources and Policy Initiative  
Annual Conference held at CSU – Sacramento  
March 3, 2010

## **Water Policy Networking Session – Summary**

**ACTION ITEM:** SUSAN LONGVILLE *by April 9* to talk with David Zodolske about establishing the POC, listserve, and joint DWR-WRPI initiative (see next item)

**ACTION ITEM:** RICH JURICICH *by April 1* to circulate link to California Water Plan Update 2009's Chapter 6 (Integrated Data and Analysis) when final version is available

**ACTION ITEM:** RICH JURICICH *by April 1* to circulate DRAFT Update 2013 analytical roadmap

**ACTION ITEM:** ALL INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS *by April 15* to review Chapter 6 and the draft analytical roadmap

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### **1. Introductions: Concerns and Desires**

To introduce themselves participants shared a bit about their background and expertise, and posted one note about a concern and one about a desire. The concerns reflected the reasons why participants joined this session – basically, what concerns does one have about California water policy? The desires reflected what the participants wanted to get out of the session. Participants and the facilitator clustered the post-it notes in real-time, and several preliminary themes emerged:

#### Concerns

- A. Communication between policy, scientific, and technical audiences
- B. Public education and citizen engagement
- C. Holistic policy development
- D. Reforming and revising policy
- E. Alignment of policy scales – state, regional, and local
- F. Assessment of local cost-benefits and economic impacts

In addition to these themes, individual participants also expressed interest in water conservation, water transfers, water supply reliability, groundwater, and water and land use; urban and regional planning; access to high-quality data; global climate change; Delta solutions; and population growth as a taboo topic.

## Desires

- A. Integration of (1) information across scales, (2) regional water management, (3) water and resource management, (4) water and land use, (5) analytical tools, methods, and data for IWM, (6) research and policy, and (7) water policy in different arenas
- B. Collaboration and partnerships (1) within CSU on curriculum, (2) with parallel institutions on research efforts, (3) using shared vision planning as a technique, (4) for experiential learning and student projects, and (5) for funding and proposals
- C. Networking, including (1) identifying common interests, partners and CSU resources, and (2) developing communication tools,
- D. Policy discussions, including (1) appropriate forums, and (2) mechanisms for engaging policy

In addition to these preliminary themes, individual participants also expressed a desire to develop economic modeling to inform decision-making, develop water footprint research and groundwater data, see DWR host a conference on water supply and population growth, and see more careful use of terms like “sustainability.”

## **2. Common Interests**

Participants discussed the results of the introductory exercise, and identified what they felt were the common interests.

- 1. The integration of information and policy
- 2. The need to develop new data analysis tools for issues like climate change, the water-energy nexus, etc.
  - a. This is connected to cost-benefit and life cycle analyses
  - b. The gathering of data and crafting of policy should inform one another
  - c. Data often is not valued or funded; this mindset needs changing
  - d. A strategic roadmap for dialogue and investment in data, analysis, and associated tools is needed:
    - i. The California Water Plan has a Statewide Water Analysis Network that provides a link between academia and policy – all participants are encouraged to sign up! see <http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/SWAN>
    - ii. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) could set up a task order for technical work to support the California Water Plan Update 2013, which is currently in the planning stages
      - 1. Update 2013 is currently developing an analytical workplan
      - 2. Such a contract should be university-wide, rather than linked to a specific campus; a master contract simplifies bureaucracy
        - a. Examples of single campus contracts include Caltrans and CSU San Luis Obispo, DWR and CSU Sacramento
- 3. Regions and the state inform and support one another – the state can provide policy direction as well as technical and financial assistance, but this must be respectful of, responsive to, and in dialogue with regional needs and priorities

4. Education of students, faculty, administration, and the public – this is a key way to demonstrate the value of these efforts

### **3. Benefits and Drawbacks of Partnering**

Participants identified several benefits to partnering, as well as drawbacks, which will help to inform project proposals.

#### Benefits

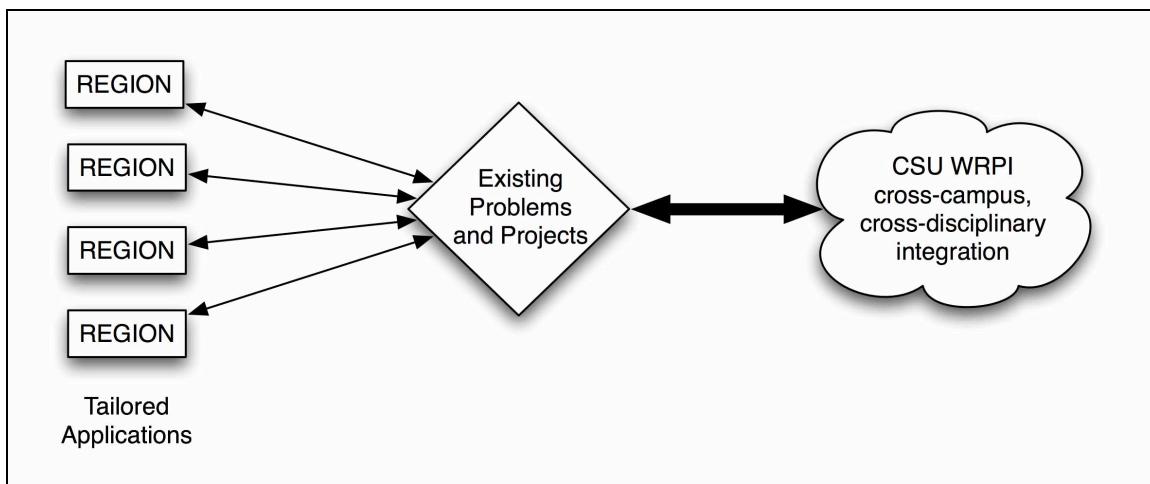
- Leveraging shared funding, resources and assets, including
  - infrastructure and facilities within a region
  - reduced transportation times between campuses within a region
- Bringing multidisciplinary techniques and perspectives to bear on issues
- Having more parts of the system in the room at the same time – leverages other people's experiences, and promotes mutual learning and shared responsibility for the problems
- Fosters deployable, applicable results
- Streamlines through the use of master contracts
- Can help resolve conflicts and move beyond impasses
- Promotes creative, innovative, out-of-the-box solutions
- Amplifies impact of results – a larger, unified common voice supports the work and lends its expertise and credibility

#### Drawbacks

- Can spread resources too thinly
- Require every member to pull their own weight – not as easy as it sounds
- Require a responsible and accountable leader – not as easy as it sounds
- Must be project-driven, rather than addressing a need that does not exist
- Failed partnerships can threaten reputations
- Involve additional administrative overhead and bureaucracy, hence require careful coordination
  - This is particularly true of efforts involving multiple campuses that have their own cost structures, and those involving awards to sub-partners
- Participants expressed strongly and unanimously: WRPI requires sustained executive leadership, and this need must be squarely addressed for it to succeed

### **4. Commitments and Communication**

Based on the common interests that emerged earlier, participants made commitments to ideas that they would work on, and suggestions for continued communication. Participants reiterated and agreed that efforts must (1) be project-driven rather than searching for a purpose simply to do something, and (2) must emerge through a dialogue between the state and regions, rather than being a top-down effort or solely focus on the regions without regard to California. The following graphic illustrates these key points.



- Enhance and support water and water policy education at one's own university
- Develop stronger inter-CSU communication around water policy, more specifically:
  - Establish a listserve for this Water Policy group
  - Identify a Point of Contact (POC) for this Water Policy group in coordination with WRPI
    - **ACTION ITEM:** SUSAN LONGVILLE *by April 9* to talk with David Zodolske about establishing the POC, listserve, and joint DWR-WRPI initiative (see next item)
- Develop a joint DWR-WRPI umbrella contract that links research with policy
  - The work should be guided by a joint DWR-WRPI Steering Committee
  - One component of this could involve a SWAN-WRPI partnership
    - **ACTION ITEM:** RICH JURICICH *by April 1* to circulate link to California Water Plan Update 2009's Chapter 6 (Integrated Data and Analysis) when final version is available
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  - Another could include CSU providing trainings for new (and old) public officials, using a Water 101 primer and the California Water Plan as foundational materials
  - Another could include expanding the DWR Water Planning Information Exchange Portal, which is a “federated system” that improves access to information and supports the development of tools for data, analysis, and scenarios
  - Other components could include:
    - Developing models/cases of integrated regional water management that illustrate successful work around data, cost-benefit analysis, and collaborative planning
    - Develop a drought center that leverages specific CSU campuses
  - The work should be relevant to students and the public – this is a key ancillary benefit
    - This should be highlighted in contracts and proposals

- There should be a student engagement portion – the California Water Plan could provide a platform for students to get involved with stakeholder, policy, and technical issues
  - In CSU San Bernardino has had great success writing “watershed interns” into their grant applications to promote experiential learning and public service
- Education and outreach could also involve teachers, citizens, and scientists