



MWRRI Newsletter

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Winter 2017

From the Director's Desk ...

Our spring water resources conference is fast approaching! It is scheduled for April 11-12 at the Jackson Hilton. Three plenaries and fourteen technical panels are planned consisting of 54 oral presentations, as well as a poster session with 12 posters and presenters. Our opening plenary panel of administrative staff with the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality will discuss *Water Management to Ensure Water of Sufficient Quantity and Quality for a Sustainable Environment and Economy in Mississippi*. Mr. Kurt Readus, USDA State Conservationist, will share *NRCS' Efforts to Support Sustainable Water Resources in the Mississippi Delta* during our first lunch plenary. Brian Clark, USGS, will present about *USGS' Regional Modeling Initiatives* during our lunch plenary on the second day.



This year we will again feature a student oral presentation competition and student poster competition. Five students are submitting posters and will be available to discuss their projects and seven students have submitted abstracts and will be presenting orally during the technical sessions. Competition winners will be presented during Wednesday's lunch plenary.

I hope you are planning to attend the welcome reception scheduled for Tuesday evening from 5:00-6:30 which will include refreshments and hors d'oeuvres. This popular event provides opportunities for interaction among our various water resource communities – research, management, policy, and stakeholders. Also, I hope you will consider serving as a conference sponsor and/or exhibitor. A *Sponsor and Exhibitor Reply Form* is included in this newsletter.

Another conferencing opportunity that might be of interest to you is the upcoming SEC Water Conference hosted by MSU on March 27-28. MWRRI will facilitate a series of breakout sessions designed to further planning efforts for the establishment of a forum of southeastern WRRIs to address multi-state and regional water resources issues.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Bill

Bill Herndon

Registration Open for 2017 Water Resource Conference April 11-12, Jackson Hilton

From monitoring to modeling... from irrigation efficiency to alternative water supplies... from water treatment and management to water storage and reuse... from nutrient reduction to surface water-groundwater interaction... from the Delta, through the uplands, and to the coast... a wide range of oral and poster presentations are scheduled during our upcoming 2017 Water Resources Conference to be held at the Jackson Hilton on April 11-12. Researchers and students from colleges and universities as well as water resources planners, managers, and policy-makers from state and federal agencies, industry, and other backgrounds will discuss 68 research projects and management programs. Presentations are organized topically in 14 technical sessions, a poster session, and three plenaries.

Opening Plenary Session – Tuesday, April 11

Topic: **Water Management to Ensure Water of Sufficient Quantity and Quality for a Sustainable Environment and Economy in Mississippi**
Panelists: **Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality Administrative Staff**

Luncheon Plenary – Tuesday, April 11

Topic: **NRCS' Efforts to Support Sustainable Water Resources in the Mississippi Delta**
Speaker: **Kurt Readus**, USDA State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Luncheon Plenary – Wednesday, April 12

Topic: **USGS' Regional Modeling Efforts**
Speaker: **Brian Clark**, USGS

Technical Session Themes:

- Delta Sustainable Water Resources: Monitoring and Modeling
- Delta Sustainable Water Resources: Irrigation Efficiency and Alternative Water Supplies
- Water Treatment and Management
- Statewide Management of Water Resources: MDEQ Office of Land & Water Resources
- Agricultural Water Storage and Reuse
- Coastal Restoration Projects
- Modeling Applications
- Nutrient Reduction
- Surface Water-Groundwater Interaction
- Ecological Studies

- Innovative Studies and Applications I and II
- Climate and Agronomics
- Mississippi River Basin

Student Competitions: (1st - \$100, 2nd - \$75, 3rd - \$50 in each category)

- Oral Presentation
- Poster

Welcome Reception: (refreshments and hor d'oeuvres)
Tuesday, April 11 from 5:00 – 6:30, Salons B&C

Sponsors and Organizers:

Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute
U.S. Geological Survey Mississippi Water Science Center
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

Early registration through March 10 for the conference is \$225 for professionals and \$50 for full time students. After March 10, registration will be \$275 for professionals and \$100 for full time students. A block of rooms at the hotel have been reserved until March 20 for a conference rate of \$116/night. Registration and lodging information (and online access), agenda, abstracts, and other information is now available for review on MWRRI's website:

<http://www.wrri.msstate.edu/conference/index.asp> .

We are looking for conference sponsors as well as volunteers to judge the student poster competition. Sponsors and exhibitors should complete the forms and return them to Jessie Schmidt. We hope to see you in Jackson on April 11-12!

Register now at www.wrri.msstate.edu!

Notice of Advisory Board Meeting

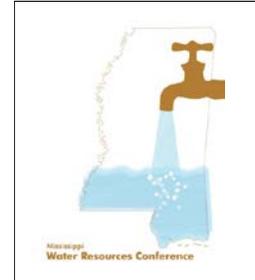
Immediately following the water resource conference, we will hold a meeting of MWRRI's Advisory Board from 1:45-3:00 p.m. in the Port Gibson Board Room (take the elevator to the Penthouse).

2016 Annual Mississippi Water Resources Conference

Hilton Jackson, Jackson, MS

April 11-12, 2017

Sponsor & Exhibitor Reply Form



Yes _____ I would like to sponsor a conference event

Name: _____

Title: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **Email:** _____

There are multiple opportunities to become a sponsor or co-sponsor. Please indicate your preference below. In order to be included in the program book, all payments must be received no later than Friday, March 10, 2017.

Tuesday, April 11

	<u>Full Sponsor</u>	<u>Co-sponsor</u>
Breakfast - \$750 (full sponsor) or \$375 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____
Morning break - \$700 (full sponsor) or \$350 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____
Luncheon - \$1,000 (full sponsor) or \$500 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____
Afternoon break - \$700 (full sponsor) or \$350 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____
Welcome Reception - \$1,000 (full sponsor) or \$500 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____

Wednesday, April 12

Breakfast - \$750 (full sponsor) or \$375 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____
Morning break - \$700 (full sponsor) or \$350 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____
Luncheon - \$1,000 (full sponsor) or \$500 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____
Poster Session - \$1,000 (full sponsor) or \$500 (co-sponsor)	_____	_____

Exhibitor table/space only - \$500 (please indicate preference below)

Yes _____ I would like an exhibitor table _____ or space (for standup exhibits) _____.

- Sponsorships of \$500 and above will receive one (1) complimentary registration. A second person from the same agency can register for \$150.
- All sponsors and exhibitors will be recognized on the 2017 MWRC poster (company logo), from the podium, at luncheons, and in the program book as well as online conference website.
- Sponsorship Questions: Please contact Jessie Schmidt, jessie.schmidt@msstate.edu

**Please email this form to Jessie Schmidt, jessie.schmidt@msstate.edu
Or mail to MWRRI, Box 9547, Mississippi State, MS 39762**

SEC Water Conference Planning

MSU To Host 1st SEC On-campus Academic Conference in March 2017

Planning support for the 2017 SEC Academic Conference, with the theme “The Future of Water: Regional Collaboration on Shared Climate, Coastlines, and Watersheds,” was a significant focus of MWRRI’s activities during 2016. The conference will be held at The Mill on March 27-28, 2017. “As president of both Mississippi State University and the Southeastern Conference, I’m extremely proud to see MSU take the lead in hosting the first SEC Academic Conference,” said MSU President Mark E. Keenum.

“This represents a significant opportunity for Mississippi State and the City of Starkville to showcase our campus facilities and our community for a large and distinguished group of our colleagues from the other 13 universities around the league. MSU is particularly well-suited to host an academic conference on the topic of The Future of Water – a topic that dovetails with our established university priority of improving global food security and battling world hunger,” Keenum added.

“We are looking forward to working with Mississippi State University on this first SEC Academic Conference,” said Greg Sankey, SEC Commissioner. “Under the leadership of President Keenum, Provost Judy Bonner, and Vice President for Research and Economic Development David Shaw, we know the faculty and administrators in Starkville will provide a challenging and thoughtful program on the critically important issue of water conservation.”

MSU officials making preparations for the March conference said increased climate variability and water demand are bringing water issues to the forefront. Drought, declines in aquifers used for irrigation, and sea-level rise are among core topics of interest. The conference is designed to stimulate communication and collaboration toward sustainable and resilient water resource management in the Southeast, with overarching themes to include shared inland waters and aquifers, coastlines, climate and regional policy.

The conference aims to identify the dominant economic, community and ecosystem challenges to sustainable water resources in the southeastern U.S.; identify policy and practice paths to maximize the health and vitality of the region through water stewardship; and engage the best and brightest scientists in the SEC with other national and international experts in water resources.

“This conference is going to be a very important opportunity to interact with interdisciplinary colleagues to discuss cutting-edge water resource science and opportunities for collaborative research,” said MSU Vice President for Research and Economic Development David Shaw.

Students from all SEC universities were encouraged to participate and compete in the Campus Water Matters Challenge under the guidance of faculty from their respective universities. Designed to engage students to innovate interdisciplinary water solutions, the challenge also encourages student-faculty collaboration. “We want to encourage student participation at the SEC Academic Conference and expose students to practical research,” Shaw said.

The SEC Academic Conference represents an expanded slate of programming currently supported by the Southeastern Conference. The on-campus event is designed to showcase conference research in areas of critical importance within the region and around the nation. SECU is the academic initiative of the SEC, and it serves as the primary mechanism through which the collaborative academic endeavors and achievements of SEC universities are supported and advanced.

MWRRI-Facilitated Breakout Workshops: Establishing a Southeast Regional Water Research Institute Forum to Address Multi-State and Regional Water Resources Priorities

Water Resources Research Institutes (WRRIs), established by the Federal Water Resources Research Act of 1984, operate in 54 states and territories of the United States. These Institutes are charged with arranging for research that addresses water problems or expands understanding of water and water-related phenomena, aiding the entry of new professionals into the water resources fields, helping to train future water scientists and engineers, and transmitting research results to water managers and the public. However, in this era of regional and multi-state water challenges only limited collaboration and coordination are occurring among the Institutes.

Recognizing this situation, significant interest has been generated among WRRIs to establish a regional forum to promote collaboration and coordination on regional and multi-state water resources priorities in the southeastern United States. Building upon and working within the existing structures and programs of individual WRRIs in the southeastern U.S., MWRRI is leading an effort to establish a regional forum to promote multi-state collaboration and coordination on regional and multi-state water resources priorities. It is envisioned that the forum will initially identify 4-5 overarching needs on which to focus its shared interest. It is anticipated that such a shared focus will be more likely to result in real progress toward understanding and addressing the regional water resources priorities.

Desired outcomes of a southeast regional WRI forum could include the following:

1. Collaboratively identify and address multi-state and/or regional water resources research and management priorities in the southeastern U.S.;

2. Establish and coordinate regional communities of practice;
3. Significantly increase collaboration and coordination among WRRIs in the southeast on research proposals and projects;
4. Create and manage a collaborative regional RFP through increased funding to WRRIs;
5. Share and provide access to innovative programs housed in individual WRRIs;
6. Develop and formalize relationships with appropriate regional offices of EPA, USGS, NOAA, USACE, USDA (NRCS, NIFA), and other water resource-related agencies as well as regional forums such as SERA-43, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, et al;
7. Develop a relationship with the National Water Center (housed at the University of Alabama); and
8. Facilitate recurring conference calls/webinars and an annual meeting to share information and discuss collaboration and leveraging opportunities.

As a component of the SEC conference MWRRI will facilitate a series of four 1-hour breakout workshops that will focus on establishing a southeast regional WRI forum to address multi-state and regional water resources priorities. Four panels are being organized to address the following foundational issues relevant to this effort:

Session 1: What should be the objectives/desired outcomes and scope of the forum? What regional partnering opportunities should be explored? What benefits might accrue to individual WRRIs and the region?

Session 2: What do you see as existing/emerging regional and multi-state water resources research and management issues that impact the southeastern U.S.? Which research and management issues for which regional/multi-state collaboration are needed should receive the highest focus?

Session 3: Presentations on recognized projects/programs implemented by southeastern WRRIs that could be transferred to other states or across the region

Session 4: What organizational issues need to be considered for planning and implementation of this regional forum concept? What resource opportunities for WRRIs can be created through this concept? What do you see as next steps (activities and milestones)?

It is envisioned that the breakout sessions will lead to implementation of the regional concept in 2017.

About the Mississippi Water Resources Research Institute (MWRRI)

The institute exists as both a federal and a state research unit. Established in 1964, the MWRRI is one of 54 institutes (one in each state, The District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) that form a national network to solve water problems of state, regional, or national significance. In 1983, the Mississippi legislature formally designated the MWRRI as a state research institute. Federal funds designated for the institute are used to consult with state water officials to develop coordinated research, technology transfer and training programs that apply academic expertise to water and related land-use problems. These various activities are funded through an annual grant from the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Mississippi state appropriations provide additional funds for cost share. The institute also assists state agencies in the development of a state water management plan, maintaining a technology transfer program, and serves as a liaison between Mississippi and federal funding agencies.

If you or someone that you know would like to receive this publication please email jessie.schmidt@msstate.edu to be added to the MWRRI listserv.

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