



WAAESD

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

WEDA

Western Extension Directors Association

Michael Gaffney
Bret Hess

WESTERN WATER NETWORK

Background and Status

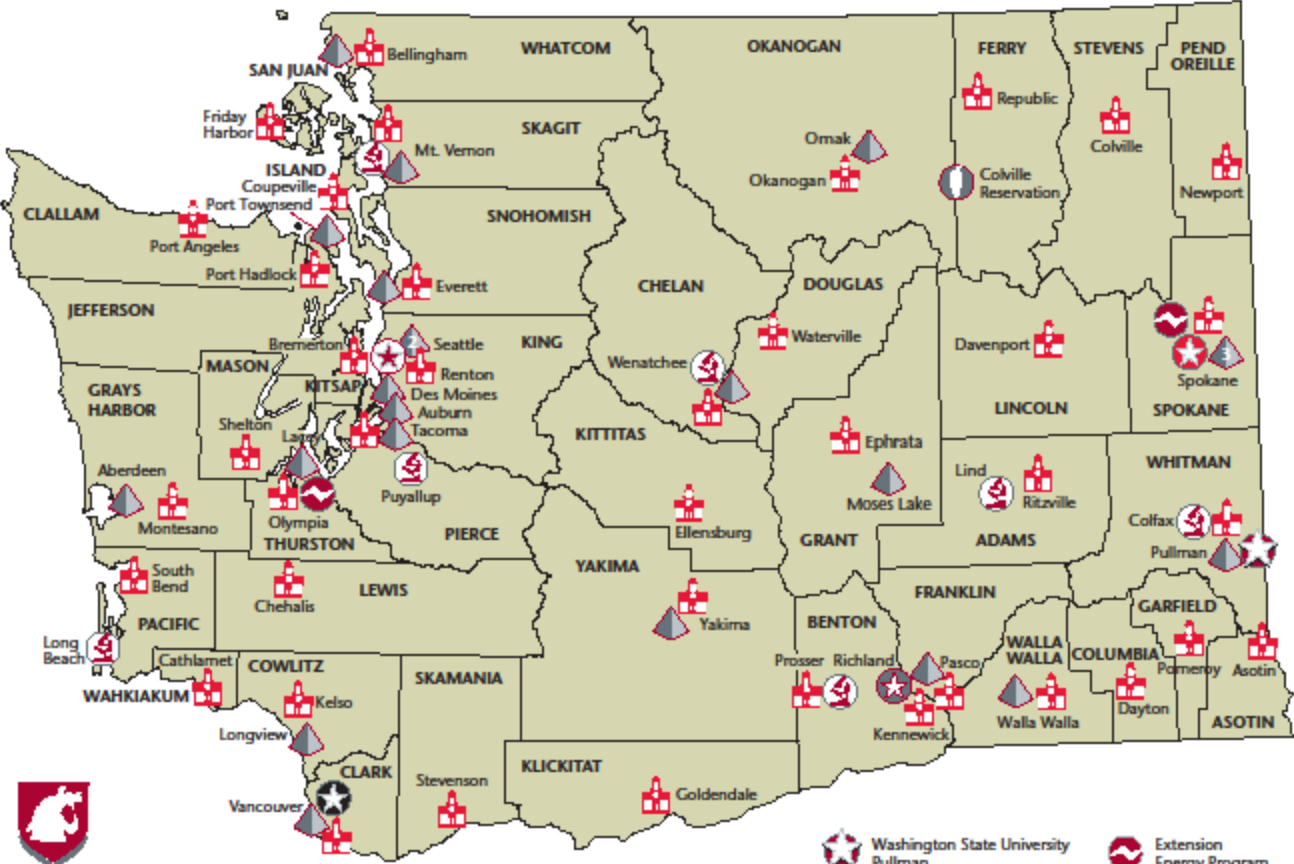


MIKE GAFFNEY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WSU EXTENSION

- 39 + 1 Hosted Offices
- 4 Research & Extension Centers
- 5 Other offices
- @165 Faculty
- 3 Program Units
- Linkages to Departments
& Colleges



Washington State University



-  Extension County Office
-  Washington State University Spokane
-  Washington State University Pullman
-  Washington State University West
-  Washington State University Tri-Cities
-  Washington State University Vancouver
-  Extension Energy Program
-  Extension Tribal Office
-  Small Business Development Centers/Partnerships

WSU EXTENSION

- Agriculture and Natural Resources
 - Production Ag, Small Farms, Forestry, Specialty Crops, Master Gardeners
- Community & Economic Development
 - 3 Centers, Financial Literacy/P2P, Small Businesses, Policy Research, Public Safety, Workforce Development, Community Resilience
- Youth and Families
 - Healthy Living, Youth Programming, 4-H, EFNEP, SNAP-Ed, Med School Links
- Research and Extension Centers
- Other Centers (CSANR, AWN, CAFRU...)
- Department-based Research Faculty
- Tribal Engagement

WESTERN WATER NETWORK BACKGROUND



MINI-SUMMIT

August 2020

“...to share information about desired WAAESD work on water security in the Western US...”

54 Participants

**Overview of the *Science Blueprint*,
Deputy Under Secretary, USDA**

**200+ ideas brainstormed on
stakeholder needs**

At the Mini-Summit:

- **Attendees self-selected into breakouts organized around themes from the USDA Blueprint (Sustainable Intensification, Environment and Climate Adaptation, and Science Policy Leadership)**
- **Two leaders from each breakout agreed to serve on the leadership team.**
- **We also recruited Lyla Houghlum to purposefully include WEDA as a partner.**

INITIAL STEPS

*Capitalized USDA Grant
Opportunity*



Leadership Team Formation & Planning

Sam Fernald, Ginger Paige, Robert Heinse, Travis Warziniack, Qin Zhang, Kristi Hansen, Mike Gaffney

LOI to NIFA Integrated Sustainable Agriculture Systems grant to support the Western Water Network

Key Stakeholder Groups Identified:

- Members of multistate committees hosted by WAAESD.
- Leaders and experts at branch stations conducting research on water.
- Directors of Water Resource Research Institutes in the West.
- Leaders of Climate Hubs located in the West.
- Select members of the 1994 LGUs.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

*Engaged Constituents
Outreach*



SYNTHESIS Spring 2021

Four emails “Exciting project coming your way - INVITATION – we need your opinions”

What are the significant, region-wide issues you see coming our way over the next 30 years that will affect freshwater security in the West?

Categorization of Results:

- **Research, Extension or Education Need**
- **Water quantity, quality, equity**
- **Global, regional, local**
- **Groundwater, surface water, coupled**
- **Agricultural, municipal, industrial, ecological use**
- **Data, understanding, synthesis, implementation, communication**
- **Stakeholder involvement**
- **Planning and coordination**

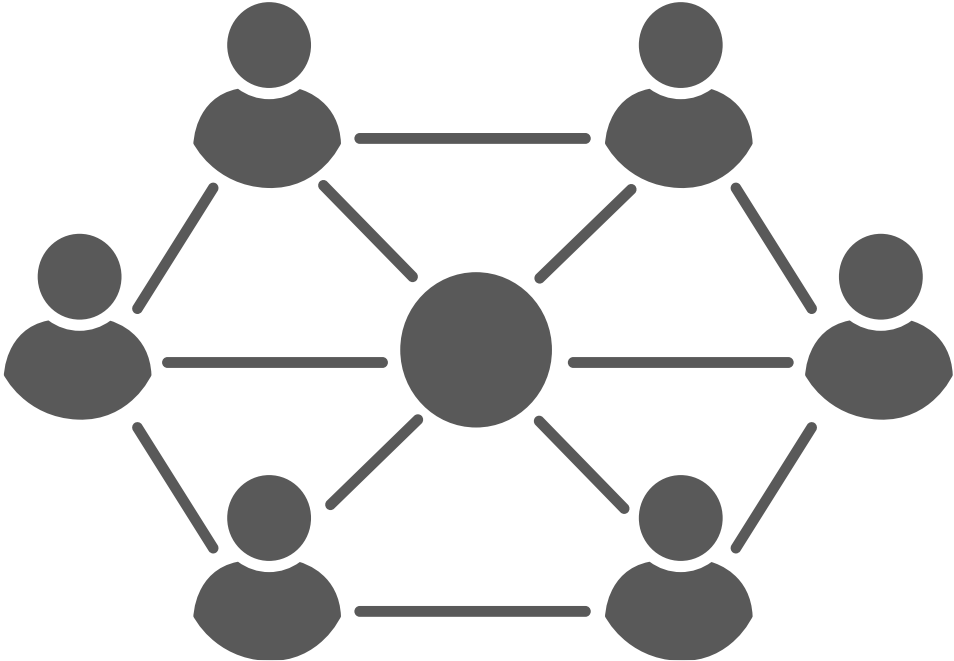
KEY FORMATIVE OBSERVATIONS

Great People

Doing Great Work

Instinct to Cooperate

Existing Networks



KEY FACTORS

Great People

Doing Great Work

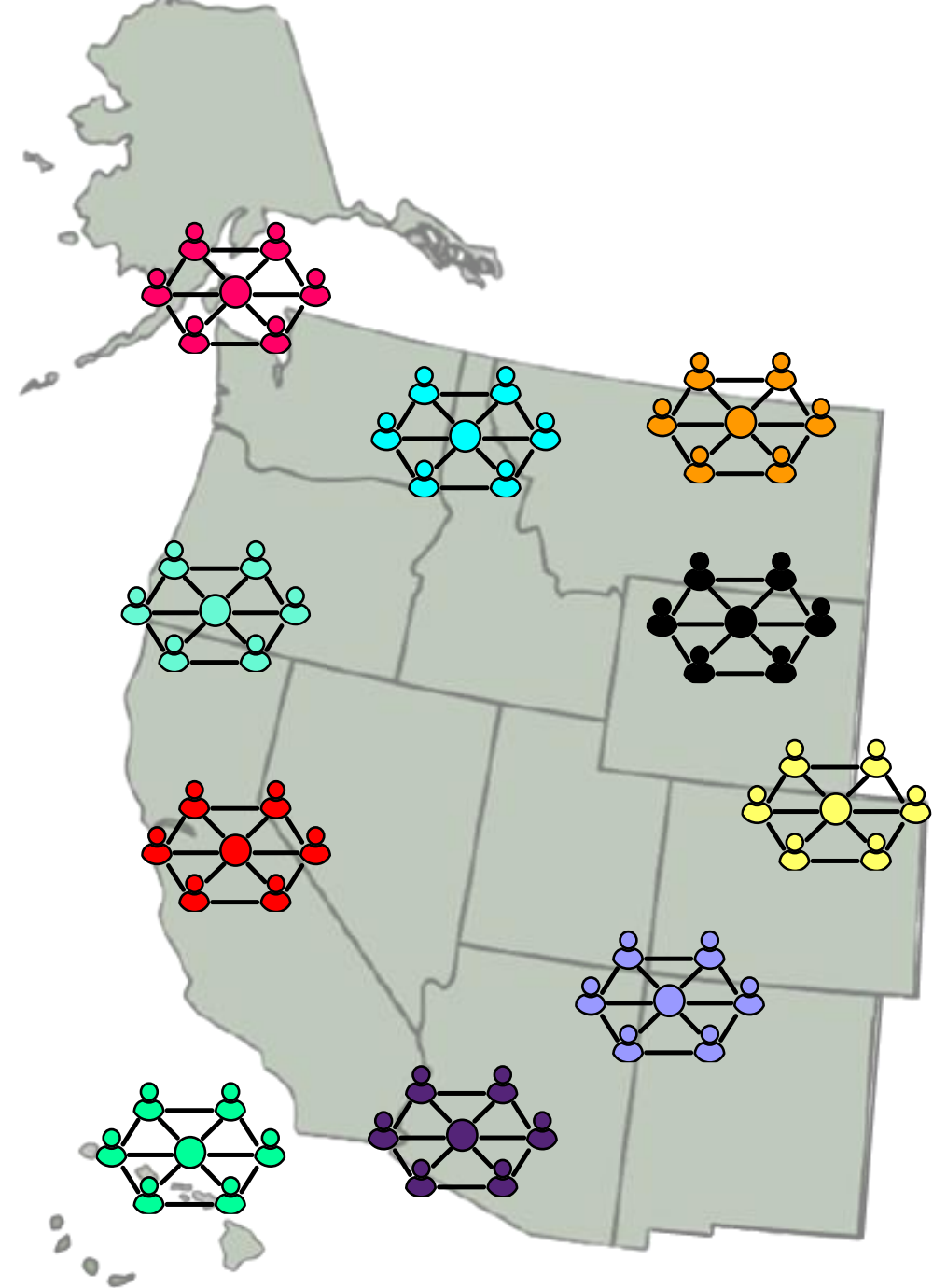
Instinct to Cooperate

Existing Networks

BUT-- Problems at a New Scale

- ✓ Geographic
- ✓ Ecological
- ✓ Complexity
- ✓ Urgency
- ✓ Community

How to Connect these Great Networks?



KEY FACTORS

Great People

Doing Great Work

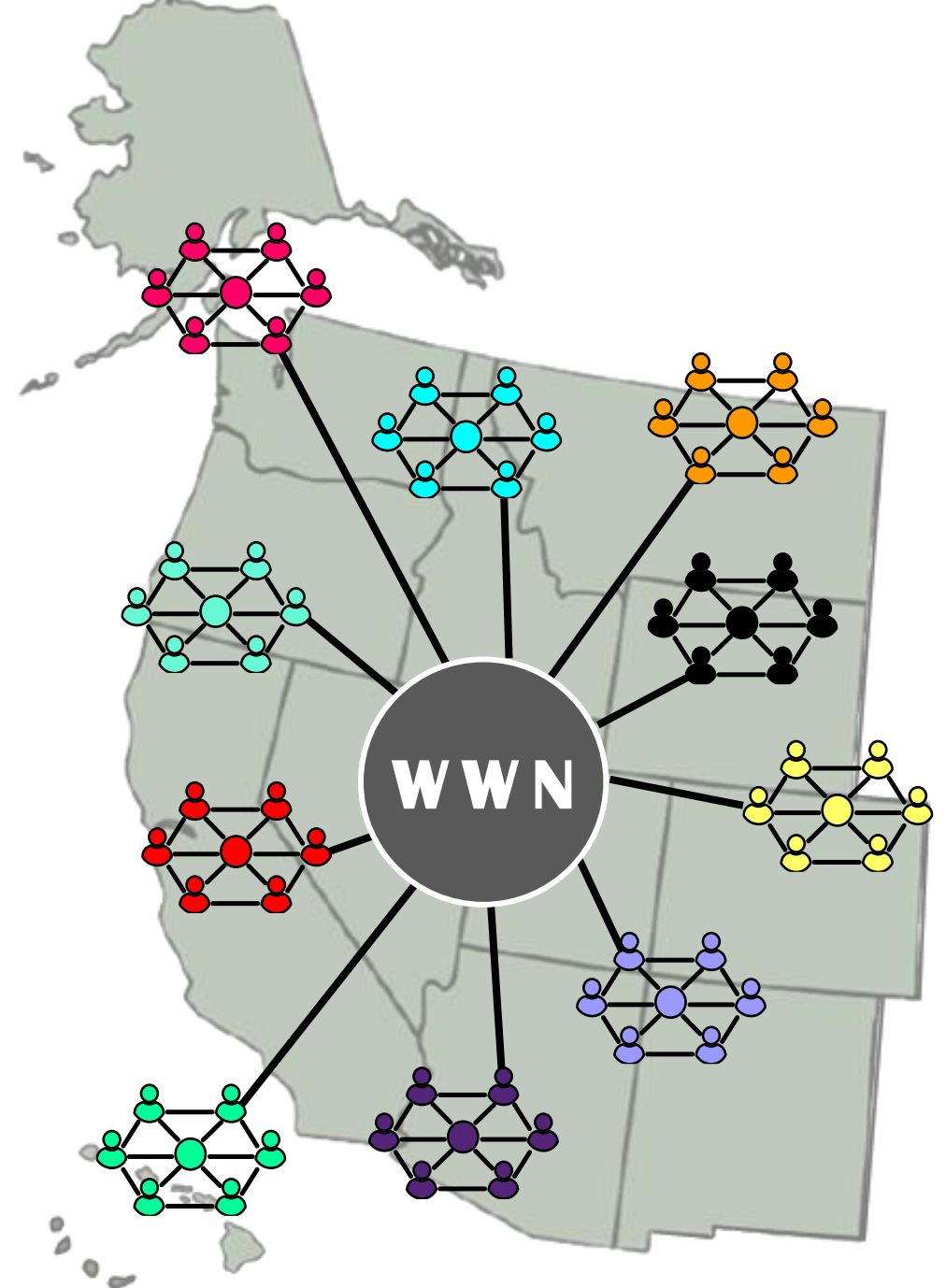
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SUPPORT FROM ASSOCIATIONS

Next Steps



SUPPORT FROM WAAEST & WEDA

Address New Problems at Scale

- ✓ **Geographic**
- ✓ **Ecological**
- ✓ **Complexity**
- ✓ **Urgency**
- ✓ **Community**

By:

- ✓ **Creating a Western Water Network with the mission to connect existing networks at scale**
- ✓ **Moving to fund and organize the Network**
- ✓ **Hosting a 'kick-off' meeting of the W W N**



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ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS

- ✓ **Supported the joint creation of a USDA Rapid Response 500-series entity between WAAESD and WEDA to jointly create the Western Water Network.**
- ✓ **Encourage participation in the Western Water Network.**
- ✓ **Prioritize water efforts for the year.**



USDA NIFA APPLICATION

Approved (May):

W508

**“Western Water Network for Agriculture and Water Smart Communities:
Responding to Climate Change and Other Stressors to Water Resources”**





TWO-YEAR TIMELINE

Leadership & Structure
Literature & Peer Review
Inventory
Participant Engagement
Regional Conference





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THANK YOU

