



WAAESD

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors

WEDA

Western Extension Directors Association

Michael Gaffney

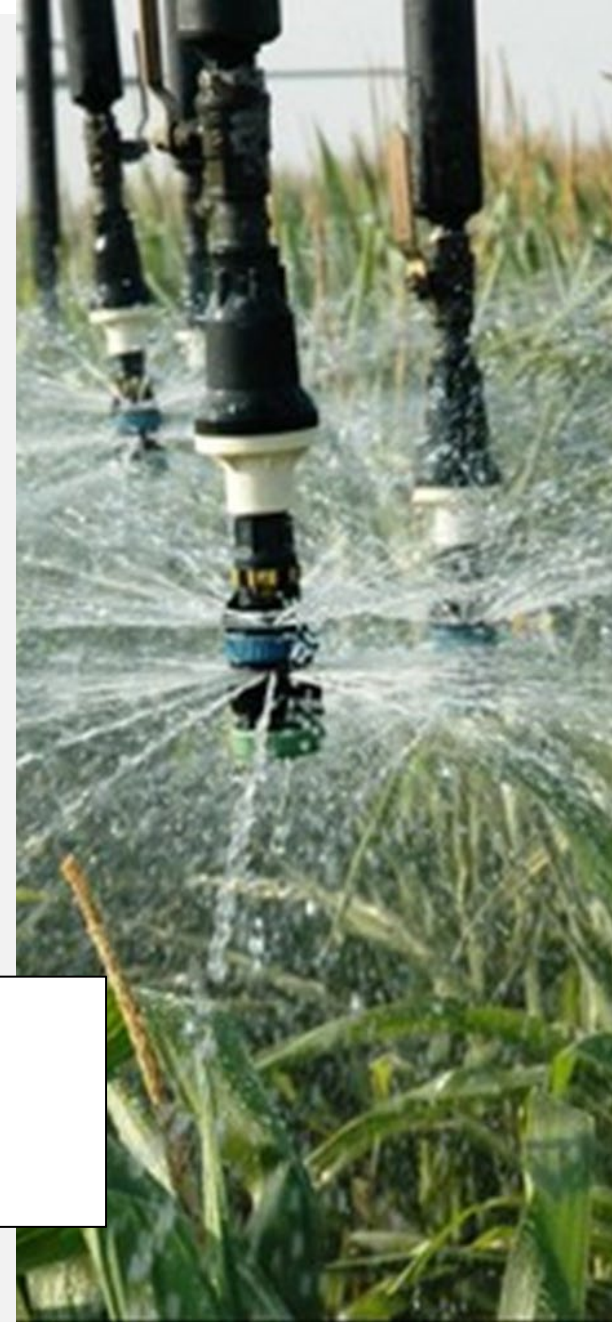
PROGRESS REPORT AUDACIOUS PROPOSAL

*Status and
Request for Support*



PART 1 ACTIVITIES

What We Did



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

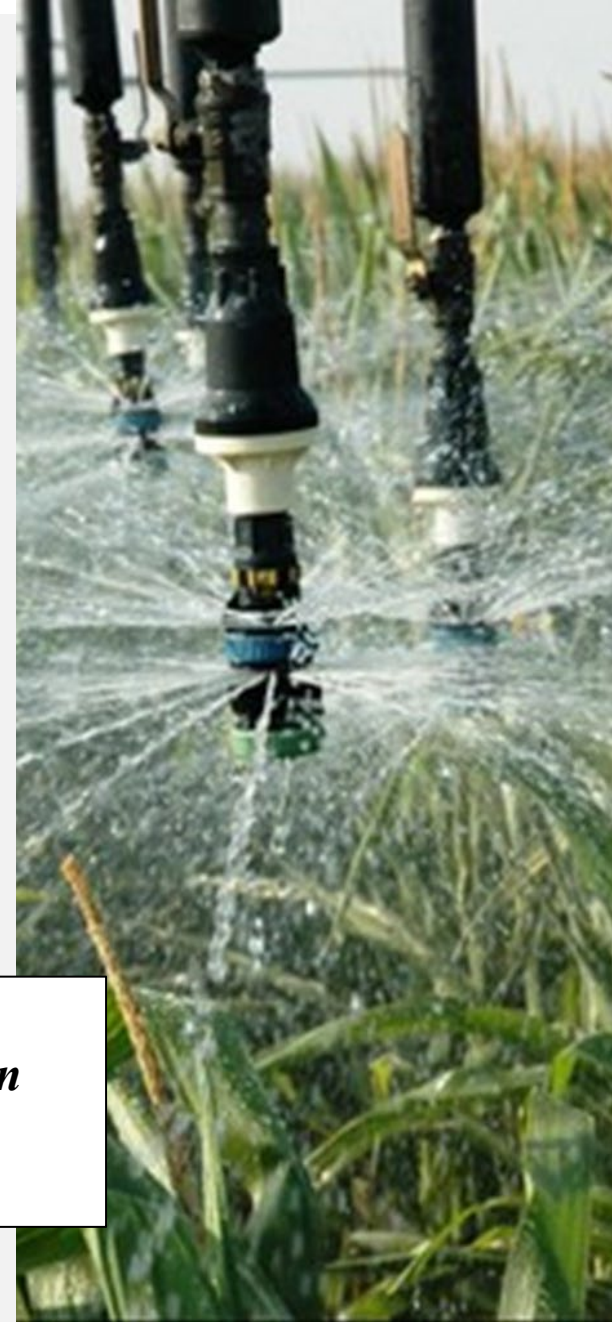
200+ ideas brainstormed on
stakeholder needs

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.

PART 2 INITIAL STEPS

*Capitalized on an
Opportunity*



Leadership Team Involvement

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

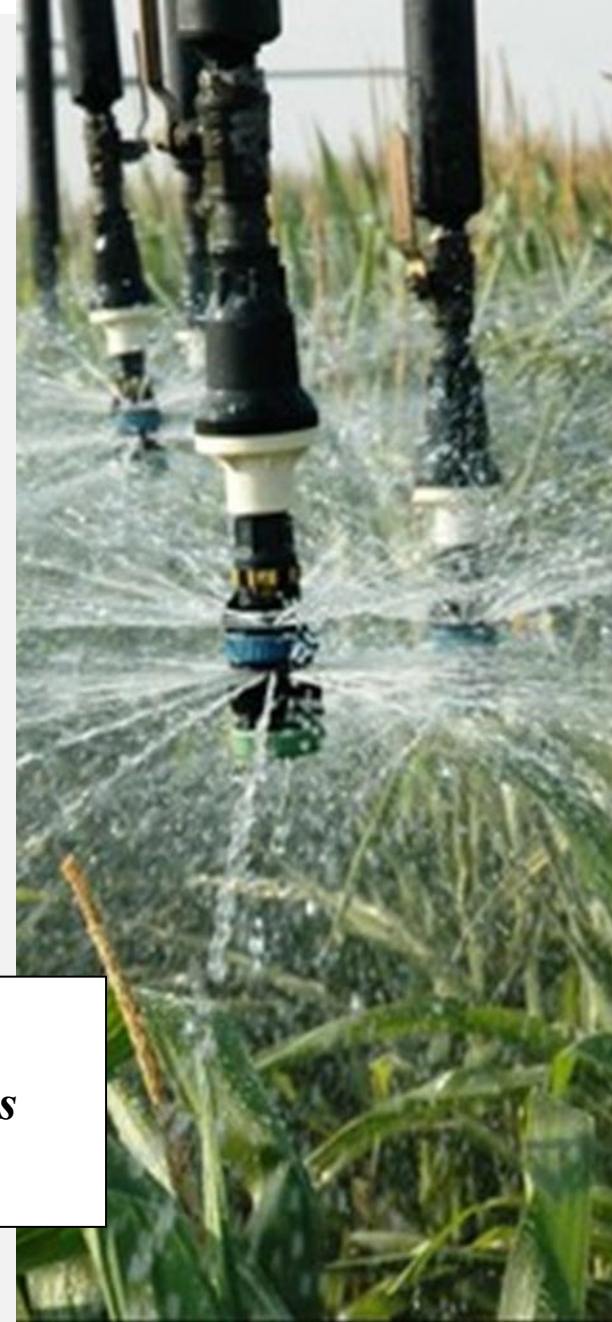
LOI to NIFA Integrated Sustainable Agriculture Systems grant to support the Western Water Network

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.

PART 3 LESSONS LEARNED

Our Conclusions



SYNTHESIS This Spring

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 LESSON LEARNED

Great People

Doing Great Work

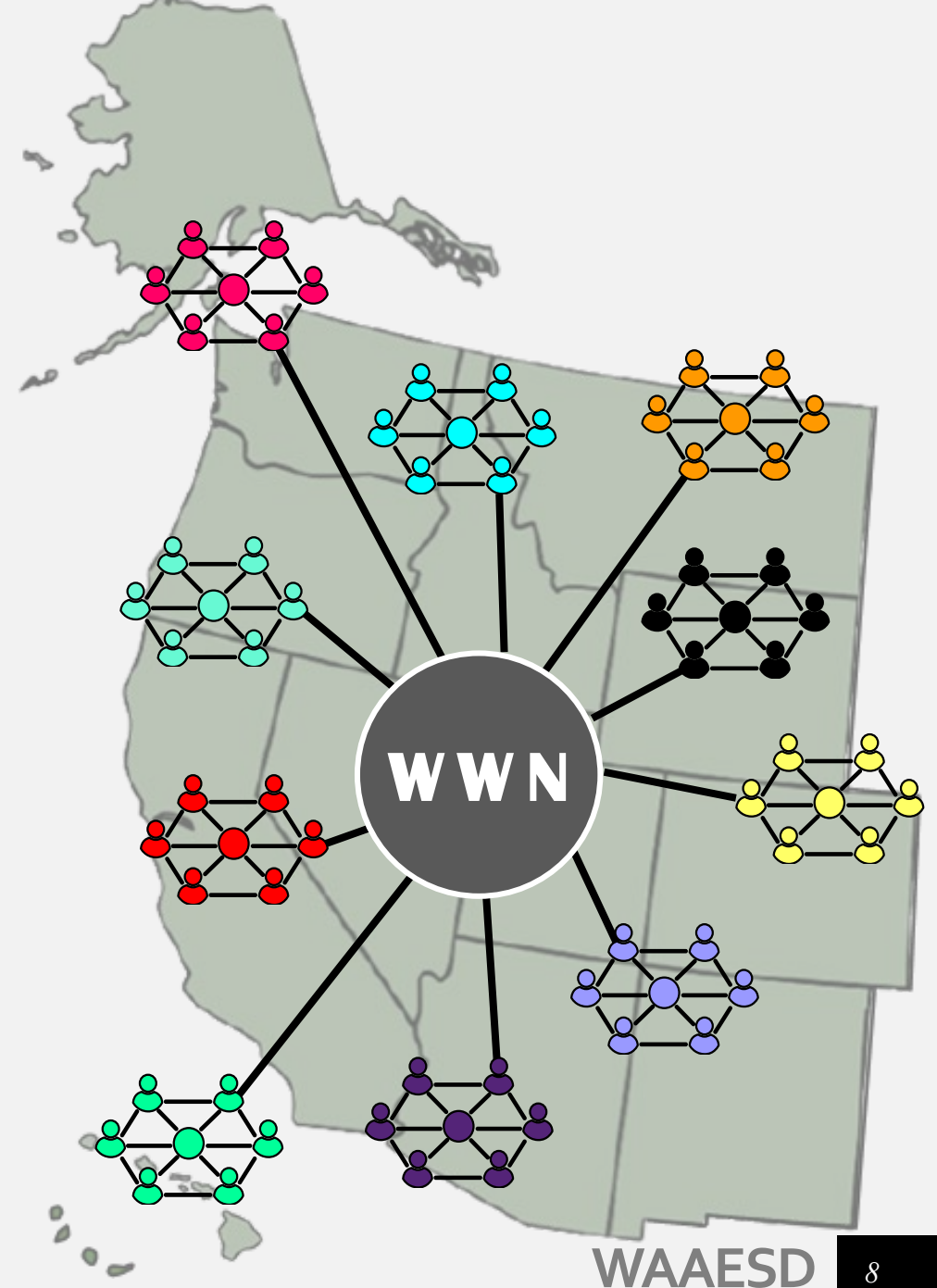
Instinct to Cooperate

Existing Networks

BUT-- Problems at a New Scale

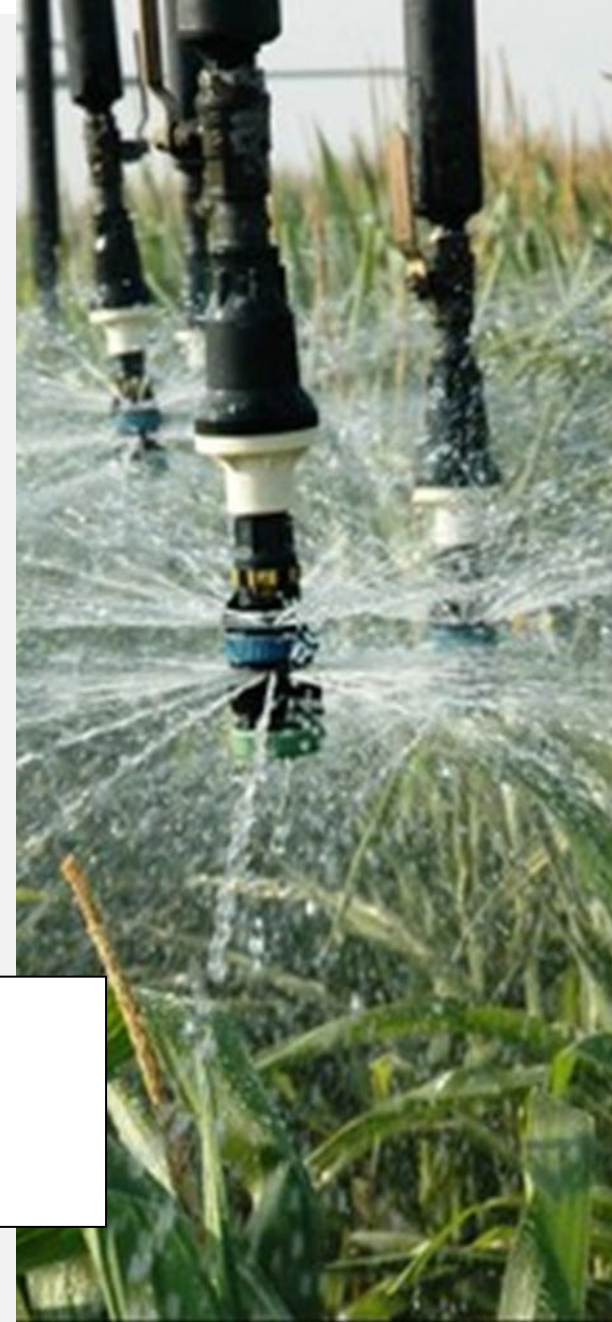
- ✓ Geographic
- ✓ Ecological
- ✓ Complexity
- ✓ Urgency
- ✓ Community

How to Connect these Great Networks?



PART 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Next Steps



RECOMMENDATION

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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DIRECTORS APPROVED

- ✓ **Supporting the joint creation of a Rapid Response 500-series project between WAAESD and WEDA to jointly establish the Western Water Network.**
- ✓ **Encouraging participation in the Western Water Network.**
- ✓ **Prioritizing water efforts for the year.**



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THANK YOU

