

Project Narrative

Project Name: *A Water Management Education Program*

Project Type: *Continuation*

Geographic Area: *Statewide*

Principal Investigator: *Ronald Kaiser*

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Funding Requested: **\$5,000**

Project Need

Population growth and economic forces are changing the Texas water landscape. This has profound implications for agriculture, urban and environmental water uses and users. Great opportunity exists for Texas A&M University, and its associated agencies, to continue developing and building relationships with the major water interests in Texas by expanding its water education efforts.

Proposal & Outcomes

This proposal seeks to continue building on the water education program funded last year by

1. *continuing development of a water education seminar series.*

As a result of funding last year a major seminar series for groundwater conservation district board members was developed. Three different seminars will be given for groundwater conservation board members and staff in the near future. Additional seminars are planned for surface water users.

2. *continue working on the interdisciplinary masters and Ph.D. degree in water resources management.*

Substantial progress was made in developing a curriculum and institutional structure for the degree program. A draft proposal will be circulated for review and comment to Colleges, Departments and TAMU agencies in October. This degree would be designed to prepare students for careers in water resources management and could be patterned after similar interdisciplinary degrees at A&M.

Specific Issues Addressed

These programs directly relate to agricultural and urban interests in the topical areas of water quantity and quality, conservation, reuse, conservation economics, water planning, institutional incentives, and water financing, marketing and policy analysis.

Collaboration

Water Education Seminar Series. This program has drawn on faculty from a number of different departments in COALS and from a number of state agencies including: TNRCC, TWDB, TPWD, and TDA.

Co-sponsors of the Groundwater Seminar and Education Series include: Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission and Texas Association of Groundwater Districts.

Interdisciplinary Degree. Faculty in Agricultural Engineering, Agricultural Economics, Forest Sciences, Horticultural Science, Rangeland Ecology, Recreation Park and Tourism Sciences, Soil and Crop Sciences and Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in COALS and faculty in the Colleges of Engineering and Geosciences have participated in curriculum development.

