



WATER ECONOMICS PROGRAM

While biophysical science and policy initiatives have been well developed, the socio-economic aspects of water in all uses—including the environment—lags far behind. The Harte Research Institute is set apart from other marine research institutions by its use of the HRI Model, a unique interdisciplinary way of working that integrates natural science with economic, policy and sociological expertise. Further enhancing these capabilities, this program is being developed in partnership with the Meadows Center and this partnership has a proven record of results. From helping to drive the Texas Living Waters effort to Sente Bill 3, to the recent Environmental Flow Initiative, these organizations have worked well together securing the future for Texas by considering all the values of water.



GOAL: Develop a holistic water economics program that considers social and economic aspects of water in all its uses, including the environment.

STRATEGY

Enhance the design and implementation of effective water policy through sustained engagement with experts, economic education of agency and other staff, and research and development of new tools and techniques. To these ends we will develop curriculum, implement an engagement strategy, develop a business model and conduct R&D for water markets and publish as appropriate.

LEADERSHIP

David W. Yoskowitz, Ph.D. is the Executive Director at the Harte Research Institute and Endowed Chair for Socio-Economics. He has worked on Texas water issues for 22 years focusing on markets and allocation mechanisms.

Quinn McColly, Ph.D. has experience trading in commodity markets and is developing option pricing mechanisms for environmental water in Texas using artificial intelligence/machine learning tools and

PARTNERS

The Meadows Center and Harte Research Institute will operate in tandem with funding from the Mitchell Foundation and the staff will play an important role in helping shape the direction of the program. Additionally, we will partner with the Texas Water Foundation to develop socio-economic curriculum that will support their Water Fluency and Water Leaders programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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TACTICS & OUTCOMES

TACTICS

- Form a nimble advisory group to identify opportunities to share science and policy work.
- Develop a curriculum for intensive economics courses targeted to water professionals.
- Design and implement a communications and engagement strategy.
- Develop an agile strategic plan and sustainable business model for the program.
- Conduct R&D on tools for effective and efficient water markets and publish results.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

A key component of Year 1 activities of the Water Economics Program will be the development of a communications strategy and a presence on social media to disseminate important information and build a community around One Water socio-economics for Texas. The Mitchell Foundation will play an important role in helping build this strategy which will include face-to-face engagement with key stakeholders and agencies.

OUTCOMES

The intellectual and engagement capacity around the socio-economics of water in Texas is expanded. Training of professional staff at agencies, industry, and NGOs through curriculum development with the Meadows Center and Texas Water Foundation and delivery of at least one course in the first year of the program.

Policy makers and resource managers will have actionable information on the socio-economics of water in order to make more effective decisions. Produce and share water economic research through traditional publications, social media, and policy briefings. In the first year of the program the team will meet with relevant State agency personnel to share the goals of the program and current research.

The Program is sustainable and a recognized resource for socio-economic expertise for holistic water management. In the first year we will develop a business model grow the program.



CUSTOM WATER MODEL

The model can be further refined and focused by incorporating information specific to a given basin or otherwise defined geography. Note the model valuations are inline with the VISPO payment schedule of the time.