



The Mitchell L. Mathis Program for Environmental Water Economics

Program Overview

While biophysical science and policy initiatives have been well developed, the socio-economic aspects of water in all uses—including the environment—lag far behind. The Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies is set apart from other marine research institutions by its use of 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 for Water and the Environment. This team has a proven record of results. From helping to drive the Texas Living Waters effort, to Senate 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.



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 staff and other professionals, and research and development of new tools. To these ends we will develop curriculum, implement an engagement strategy, develop a business model and conduct research and development for water markets and publish as appropriate.

Leadership

David W. Yoskowitz, Ph.D. is the Senior 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.

Partners

The Harte Research Institute and The Meadows Center will operate in tandem with initial funding from the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation. 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 visit our website at

watereconomics.org



Tactics & Outcomes

Tactics

- 💧 Create a nimble advisory group to identify opportunities to help share our science and policy work.
- 💧 Implement a curriculum for intensive water economics courses targeted to water professionals.
- 💧 Design and implement a communications and engagement strategy that effectively connects the socio-economic science of water to policy and management needs.
- 💧 Develop and implement an agile strategic plan and sustainable business model for the program.
- 💧 Conduct research and development on tools for effective and efficient water markets and publish results.

Communication Strategy

A key component of the activities of the Mathis 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. Our core partners 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 needs around the socio-economics of water in Texas is expanding. Training professional staff at agencies, industry, and NGOs through curriculum development with The Meadows Center and Texas Water Foundation is a high priority of the program.

Policy makers and resource managers will have actionable information on the socio-economics of water in order to make more complete and effective decisions. The team will produce and share water economics research through traditional publications, social media, and policy briefings. In the first stage 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 of socio-economic expertise for holistic water management. A business model is in development to grow the program and increase its impact.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Yoskowitz, Ph.D. | David.Yoskowitz@tamucc.edu

Quinn McColly, Ph.D. | Quinn.McColly@tamucc.edu

☎ (361)825-2020



TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
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