Workshop Summary

Pittsburgh Collaboratory for WATER
Research, Education, Outreach

Pitt and Water Resources: Building University-wide Capacity to Meet Water Sustainability Challenges



WORKSHOP RESULTS FROM GREEN SPEAKEASY ON FEBRUARY 25TH, 2020

Workshop Summary

On February 25th, 2020, the Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation and the University of Pittsburgh Office of Sustainability co-hosted a Green Speakeasy event at the University Club from 4:00-5:30. The event titled "Pitt and Water Resources: Building University-wide Capacity to Meet Water Sustainability Challenges" brought together staff, faculty, researchers, graduate and undergraduate students for a workshop moderated by the leadership team of the Pittsburgh Collaboratory for Water Research, Education, and Outreach. In total, 41 RSVPed for the event. Emily Elliott, Collaboratory Director, highlighted regional water challenges and identified how the Water Collaboratory's multi-tiered community engagement, education, and research efforts are addressing these challenges.

Workshop activities were aimed at identifying how to expand the University's capacity to emerge as a leader in addressing regional, national and global water challenges. Participants were instructed to gather in groups of four to discuss two questions. Groups were given five minutes to brainstorm and discuss ideas and five additional minutes to prioritize their ideas. Here, we briefly summarize workshop outcomes in the following tables. We also share scanned worksheets from participants.

Question 1: What skill sets or gaps in water expertise are missing at the University of Pittsburgh? In particular, are there specific disciplines or approaches that can span existing strengths at the university.

Identified Expertise Gaps	Times Mentioned in Worksheets
Water Law	2
Engineered Infrastructure	1
Water Policy	1
Water Quality & Public Health	1
Constructed Wetlands	1
Biotechnology, Synthetic Biology	1
Humanities	1
Environmental Justice, Advocacy	1
Climate policy, Forecasting (not paleo)	1

University Capacity	Times Mentioned	Recommended Cross-Cutting Approach
Develop cross-cutting curriculum	2	Water sustainability, human & environmental health
Develop cross-cutting grants	2	
Enhance campus	2	Add more green spaces, pervious pavement
Communicate with state/county representatives	1	
Interact more with industry	1	
Greater community connection	1	Riverlife, watershed orgs, land trusts
Include staff in programming	1	

Workshop Summary

<u>Question 2:</u> What are the most effective mechanisms to facilitate collaboration and communication on water issues at the University? These can range from informal discussion groups to substantial seed grants to enable new initiatives. Please draw widely from your experience and be creative.

Recommended Communication Mechanism	Times mentioned	Examples
Create new funding streams for collaborative research	7	1% for water from Pitt infrastructure project budgets, seed grants for inter-disciplinary research
Create communication platform (include dorms, groups, UG/G, faculty, etc.)	3	Listserv that reaches all departments, Resident Assistants, social groups
Develop cross cutting curriculum	3	Water certificate, cross-cutting graduate curriculum
Engage campus, celebrate wins	3	Cross-campus water project, hackathon, external speakers to campus
Create graduate "water" cohort	1	GSRs funded across schools and departments, facilitate research projects between G/UG students
Incentivize collaboration	1	Faculty incentives for team-based research

Acknowledgements

We thank the Office of the Provost, Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation, and the Office of Sustainability for their support of this event. We thank all participants for sharing their time and insights with the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory.

Question 1 Responses

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Please rank responses for each question in order of importance

Question 1:
What skill sets or gaps in water expertise are missing at the University of Pittsburgh? In particular, are there specific disciplines or approaches you see that can span existing strengths at the university.

(1) · Ugrad or grad: water sustainability class.
· S/w mgt.

(2) · NO one @ GSPH → water quality.
- human & env. health class

(3) · GSPH → env. epi is available.

ES GSPH engr

(4) · Climate & Water → not backcasting; more policy & forecasting

(5) · Water Infrastructure.

Univ GI
- BMP around campus - green infrastructure → included in master plan?!
@ Facilities Mgt @ Pitt
- PWSA - spends $ on GI; UPitt not spending $ on GI Land issues.

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(x) • Include certain staff groups when it comes to the built environment.

(2) • ~~XXXXXX~~ Communication / relationships between the departments ⇒ cross-disciplinary courses / research
↳ money / grants.
↳ education on community resources on how to manage / understand WQ.

(1) • lack of green spaces on campus / adding pervious pavements.

James Davis, John Jursca

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Question 1:

What skill sets or gaps in water expertise are missing at the University of Pittsburgh? In particular, are there specific disciplines or approaches you see that can span existing strengths at the university.

1 • Lack of coordination between relevant departments
• Interaction w/ local industry folks
• Communication between state / county reps → policy
- action plans.

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Question 1:

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1 - Inventory of water/whitepapers? →

3 - How is water regulated? what is considered legal

2 - Integration w/ departments and the administration

Sustainable eng. → Austin Tepsky – Water + Land Conservation

Ellie Cadden – Env. Studies student office of Sustainability

Greg Osgood – Civil/Eng – Construction Mang.

Memphis ↑ Geology

Pitt and Water Resources: Building University-wide Capacity to Meet Water Sustainability Challenges

Clara Weibel – SOOS, Water in Eurasia Program

Please rank responses for each question in order of importance

Question 1:

What skill sets or gaps in water expertise are missing at the University of Pittsburgh? In particular, are there specific disciplines or approaches you see that can span existing strengths at the university.

- Water humanities –
- * Outreach ** humans + land trusts, ~~watershed groups~~
- #2 * Community Connection – Live life, land trusts, ** watershed orgs
- Environmental Law
- #1 * Environmental Justice – Fair shake
- Advocacy
- ~~Outreach~~ More water classes in other departments
- More frequent water classes
- * Encouraging cross-disciplinary water education

~~offer~~ certificate?

** Allegheny Land Trust, WPC, Sawmill Run watershed Group, others

* County Conservation District

* water in Eurasia program

February 25, 2020

Pittsburgh Collaboratory for WATER Research, Education, Outreach

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Question 1:

What skill sets or gaps in water expertise are missing at the University of Pittsburgh? In particular, are there specific disciplines or approaches you see that can span existing strengths at the university.

★★★★★★★ — disconnect bt(w)n poly sci / international & local folks & water/geo scienc

★ — "all siloed, really"

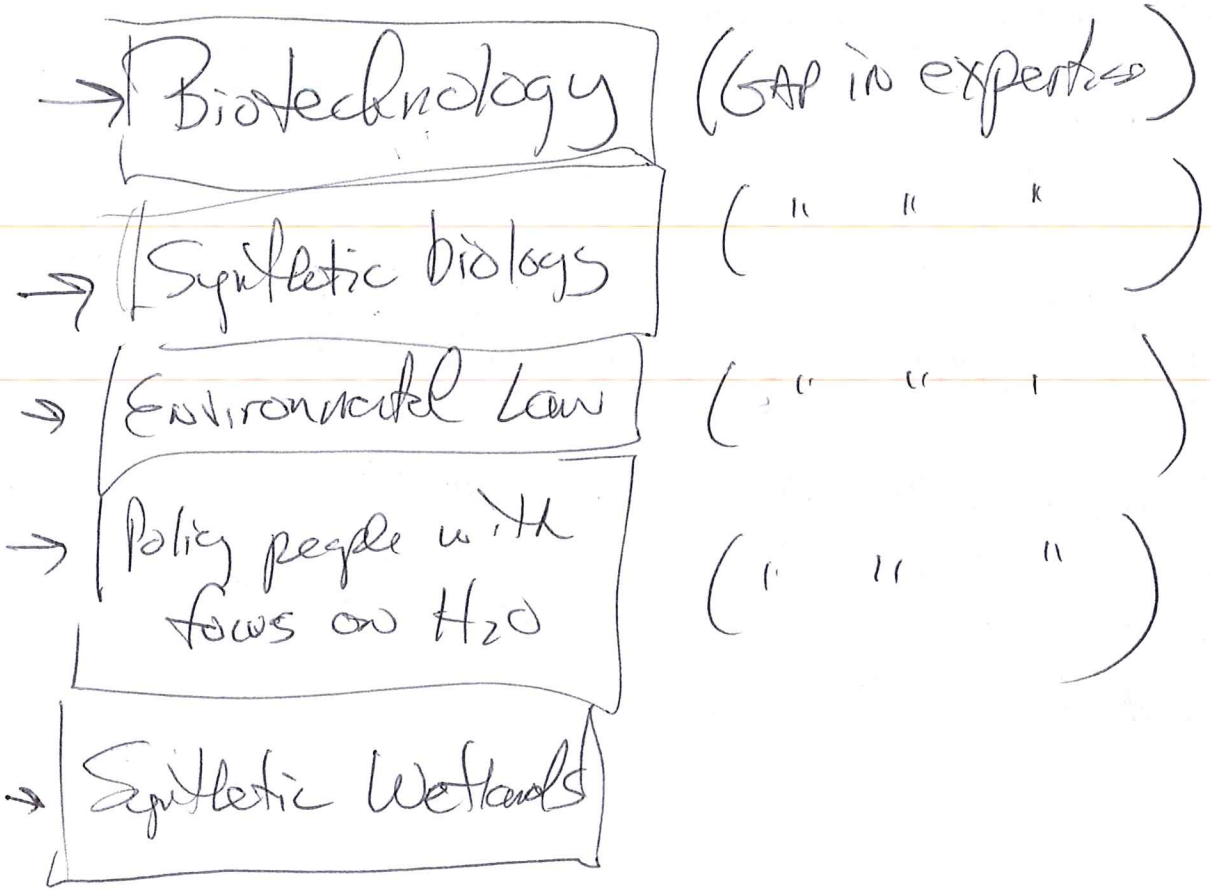
★ — including academic & groups/clubs & fraternal orgs including undergrad/grad

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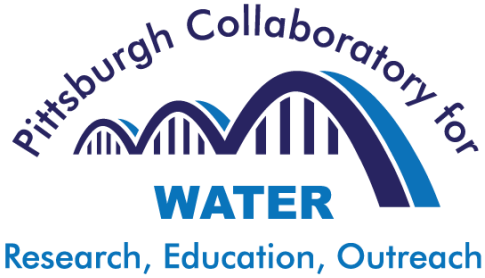
Please rank responses for each question in order of importance

Question 1:

What skill sets or gaps in water expertise are missing at the University of Pittsburgh? In particular, are there specific disciplines or approaches you see that can span existing strengths at the university.



Question 2 Responses



Pitt and Water Resources: Building University-wide Capacity to Meet Water Sustainability Challenges

Please rank responses for each question in order of importance

Question 2:

What are the most effective mechanisms to facilitate collaboration and communication on water issues at the University? These can range from informal discussion groups to substantial seed grants to enable new initiatives. Please draw widely from your experience and be creative.

- ~~H_2O~~ H_2O sustainability Class required for r
  - ↳ club collaborations (student).
- Campus Events surrounding H_2O ⇒ e.g. R.A bulletin boards.
  - ↳ Community engagement events
    - ↳ Representation @ City planning Meetings.
  - ↳ Hackathon type event in order to raise awareness surrounding H_2O Q issues.
- Grants + Money for all groups (2)
  - ↳ cross collaborative
  - ↳ incentive.

(1)

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- Awareness of issues surrounding water, facilitate research projects between graduate / undergraduate students.

↳ Faculty members conducting research, social groups, and get involved with general public opinion who are affected.

↳ Apply for grants,

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- Green Speakeasy.
- Round table discussions.
- Internships b/t Assistanships GRs
- Jointly funded GSRs b/t schools e.g., GSPIA & GSPH.
- Cohort of Phd students across the university; focus on H_2O issues.
- Endowment to fund the cohort.
- Water focus certificate across university.

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(4) - Inversely affected on age (younger individuals can communicate more effectively) - rely on them + social media networks skill

(1) - Require grants that force diverse team (organizations/groups)
- know who is doing what (hold each other accountable) - split up responsibilities

(2) - list serve (Pitt email) to reach all depts, remove roadblocks/moderated ways

(3) - these speakeasy events → advertise more

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- Water certificate – involves taking class on water in multiple departments
- Seed grant – University student finds an existing organization and together write a grant and complete a project
- 1% for water ~~for water (of the University's~~ by of any University infrastructure project's budget – ~~Competative~~, University + discipline-wide competition (well advertised) to showcase water to improve understanding, accessibility + awareness

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- representative from ~~PWSA~~ ALCOSAN hold an event describing their effects on local water
  - who is in charge / monitoring our water?
  - discuss about water quality issues (not just LTCP) MS4, TMDL etc
  open

UNPACK REGS!

- Incentivation for faculty to want to collaborate more on this issue
  - more cross-disciplinary course ~~development~~ development

- A pitt-wide project stemming from the collaboratory

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→ Incentives for team-based research @ the School level

→ Programs that cut across schools like graduate programs, certificates

→ Communicate opportunities better

→ Celebrate the wins / achievements make a big fuss

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WATER

Research, Education, Outreach

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