



*2009 CSREES National Water Conference; St. Louis, MO*

## **University of Nebraska Comprehensive Water Web Site**

Sharon Skipton \*, Lorrie Benson, Kyle Hoagland, Roger Terry, Ronald Yoder  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
\* sskipton1@unl.edu

### Abstract:

Over 130 University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) faculty and staff members representing many colleges and departments work on water-related issues in protection, use, management, education, and public policy. Working collaboratively across disciplines and with public and private sector partners, they address real-world water problems facing Nebraska and beyond.

The desire to increase awareness of UNL's water work, enhance the delivery of water information to audiences, and integrate extension, research and teaching components led to the development of a comprehensive water Web site. Project goals included merging the vast pool of UNL water-related knowledge and resources, as well as coalescing several disparate web sites.

A team representing UNL Extension, the UNL Water Center, and the Communications and Information Technology unit provided governance for the project. A diverse group of faculty and staff members were charged with collaborating on the design and content. Input from stakeholders and users was collected through surveys and listening sessions.

The water Web team worked through a group consensus process as they made all decisions for the Web site. After a year filled with myriad meetings and many compromises, the Web site was launched. The result is a site organized with a diversity of users in mind. Thought was given to why people will visit the site and how information should be presented to address their issues/interests effectively and efficiently. Equally important, faculty and staff members have taken ownership of the Web site; they are committed to maintaining and improving a Web site that will be 'All Things Water at UNL.' Efforts are underway to include additional faculty from additional disciplines across UNL, enhance content and to make the site more interactive.

### Impact Statement:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) faculty and staff members representing many colleges and departments increased awareness of UNL's water work, enhanced the delivery of water information to audiences, and integrated extension, research and teaching components by developing a comprehensive water Web site. A diverse group of faculty and staff members worked through a group consensus process as they collaborated on the Web design and content. Input from stakeholders and users was collected through surveys and listening sessions. The result is a site organized with a diversity of users in mind. Thought was given to why people will visit the site and how information should be presented to address their issues/interests effectively and efficiently. Initial feedback is positive with user comments including, 'I like the set up - it is easy to navigate and find resources available,' and 'I have viewed the web site a couple of times. Very nice'. I am impressed.' Equally important, faculty and staff members have taken ownership of the Web site; they are committed to maintaining and improving a Web site that will be 'All Things Water at UNL.' Efforts are underway to include additional faculty across UNL, enhance content and to make the site more interactive.

Category: Other Water Resource Topics

Type of Presentation: Poster Presentation