



Water Alliance
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Working Group Request for Proposals

September 23, 2026

The MSU Water Alliance is now accepting proposals for Working Groups to **catalyze new collaborations that generate tangible outcomes** such as grant proposals, peer-reviewed publications, white papers, or outreach products. We define a working group as a small, targeted team of MSU faculty, specialists, and early career professionals from multiple disciplines working together to address a specific opportunity.

All work must contribute to one or more MSU Water Alliance goals. The goals of the Water Alliance are to:

- 1) enable MSU to be a global leader in developing transdisciplinary tools and solutions to water related ecological and human problems;
- 2) amplify and promote water related research, teaching, and outreach across MSU units and disciplines;
- 3) serve as a connector among MSU water science units and faculty with water expertise.
- 4) build and sustain partnerships between MSU and external organizations in government, industry, foundations, and communities; and
- 5) create education and training opportunities in water with a strong commitment to reaching underrepresented groups.

Eligibility Criteria

- You must be a member of the Water Alliance to apply
 - Non-Alliance members and external partners may be members of the working group, but the core group should be affiliated with the MSU Water Alliance
- The Working Group leader must be an MSU faculty member or specialist
 - Student working groups welcome, but must have faculty/specialist leader

MSU faculty, specialists, post-docs and graduate students can check their membership and/or join the Water Alliance via the Member Directory on our website (<https://water.msu.edu/members>).

Available Funding

Each Working Group may request **up to \$4,000**. Funds should be used to support activities/expenses that directly contribute to producing the group's product(s). Types of activities supported include:

- Summer salary for faculty to generate product(s)
- Salary support for MSU employees to generate product(s)
- Data collection
- Travel
- Workshops and stakeholder forums

How to Apply

The application form is available as a link on the Water Alliance Teams site. To join the Teams site, visit the Connect page on the Water Alliance website (<https://water.msu.edu/connect>).

One member of the group should complete and submit the form on behalf of the Working Group. The form requires the following information:

1) Contact information for Working Group Leader

- a. Working Groups may have co-leads, but one faculty member or specialist needs to serve as the primary contact for the group.

2) Information about Working Group members

3) Proposal

- a. Alignment with Water Alliance goals
- b. Type of support requested
- c. Upload a 1-page pitch for why the Alliance should support your Working Group
 - i. Goals for your Working Group
 - ii. Product(s) you will generate
 - iii. Value added by Working Group
 - iv. Timeline & short budget

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by the Water Alliance leadership based on the following:

- Alignment with Water Alliance goals
- Multidisciplinary team (at least 3 disciplines represented)
- New collaboration
- Inclusion of early career professionals (e.g., assistant professors, post-doctoral scientists, graduate students)
- Value added by your working group to the Water Alliance and MSU

Deadlines & Timeline for Review

The Water Alliance will accept proposals on a rolling basis until funds are expended. There will be two review periods each academic year:

- Fall semester: November 15
- Spring semester: March 15

If you submit a proposal between review periods, it will be held until the next review period. Decision notifications will be made within one month of the start of the review period.

Program Contact

If you have questions, please contact:

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