



GLOBAL WATER FUTURES OBSERVATORIES

GWFO Operations Team Workshop, January 14 & 16, 2026

Held online via Zoom

Purpose

This workshop is to bring together the GWFO Operations Team, including all facility leads, managers, technicians, data management personnel, GWFO secretariat, and the Strategic Management Committee. It's purpose is to share updates and plans, to establish technical thematic working groups and get them started on some issues of compatibility, optimal approaches, and interoperability, to discuss an approach for addressing ongoing CFI Standing Advisory Committee concerns, to populate our central data catalogue and the GWFO Data Centre, and to prepare for the Year-3 reporting cycle and review the process and timelines.

Agenda

Wednesday, January 14

Workshop Introduction, GWFO Status & Updates, New GWFO Partners		
Chair: John Pomeroy		
9:30 AM CST	John Pomeroy, GWFO Director Stephen Stanley, Board Chair	Welcoming remarks and workshop introduction
9:40 AM	John Pomeroy	Overview of GWFO status, progress, and activities
9:55 AM	Chris DeBeer	GWFO’s Strategic Plan 2023–2029 and data policy
10:05 AM	Monica Morrison	GWFO User Advisory Panel
10:10 AM	Questions and discussion	
New facilities partnering with GWFO		
10:20 AM	Julie Thériault	The Cloud to Aquifer Natural Observatories (CANO) network
10:30 AM	Questions and discussion	
10:32 AM	Stephen Déry	Monitoring Extreme Climate and Hydrometeorological Events: The MECHE Observatory
10:42 AM	Questions and discussion	

10:44 AM	Al Pietroniro, Tricia Stadnyk, Masaki Hayashi	University of Calgary facilities in the Canadian Rocky Mountains and foothills region
10:54 AM	Questions and discussion	
Partner Institution Updates Chair: Chris DeBeer		
12:30 PM CST	Philippe Van Cappellen	University of Waterloo
12:45 PM	Questions and discussion	
12:47 PM	Sean Carey	McMaster University
1:02 PM	Questions and discussion	
1:04 PM	Aaron Fisk	University of Windsor and RAEON partners
1:24 PM	Questions and discussion	
1:26 PM	Jennifer Baltzer	Wilfrid Laurier University
1:41 PM	Questions and discussion	
1:43 PM	John Pomeroy	University of Saskatchewan
1:58 PM	Questions and discussion	

Friday, January 16

GWFO Data Management and Systems		
Chair: Stephen O’Hearn		
9:30 AM CST	Stephen O’Hearn	GWFO’s central data catalogue and data access system, GWFNet
9:50 AM	Questions and discussion	
Data Management at each of the Partner Institutions		
Questions: How is data managed at each of the partner institutions and what are the systems in place? How do technicians and data managers liaise?		
Discussion: How can we improve data openness, discoverability, and reach? How can we improve the usability, functionality, and data-type coverage of the GWFO Data Centre? How can we work across institutions to improve GWFO data management?		
10:00 AM	Philippe Van Cappellen, Bhaleka Persaud	University of Waterloo
10:10 AM	Sean Carey, Gordon Drewitt	McMaster University
10:20 AM	Aaron Fisk, Katelynn Johnson	University of Windsor and RAEON partners
10:30 AM	Jennifer Baltzer, Michael Steeleworthy	Wilfrid Laurier University
10:40 AM	John Pomeroy, Stephen O’Hearn	University of Saskatchewan

10:50 AM	Discussion	
Thematic Working Groups and GWFO Operations		
Chair: Cuyler Onclin		
12:30 PM CST	Cuyler Onclin, Chris DeBeer	Overview of questionnaire on GWFO operations by thematic category; purpose of working groups
12:40 PM	Facilitator: Altaf Arain	Discussion topic: Eddy covariance flux measurements
1:00 PM	Facilitator: Helen Baulch	Discussion topic: water quality observations
1:20 PM	Facilitators: Cuyler Onclin, Chris DeBeer	Discussion topic: hydrological observations
1:40 PM	Cuyler Onclin, Chris DeBeer, Monica Morrison	Training opportunities, Year-3 reporting to CFI, inventories of GWFO facilities for website
1:55 PM	John Pomeroy	Final remarks

