

Agenda: Southern Plains DEWS Partners Meeting.

Date: August 25-26, 2026

Location: [Star One Conference Center, 3055 Hunter Road, San Marcos, TX 78666](#)

- While in-person attendance is encouraged and preferred, a virtual option will be available.

Purpose: Progress Drought Early Warning in the Southern Plains

Objectives:

- Discuss needed advancements to drought early warning, which includes drought monitoring, prediction, response, planning/preparedness, and communication.
- Explore emerging drought issues in the region and potential opportunities to address these issues as a regional network.
- Provide an opportunity to network and learn from one another around the topic of drought.
- Collaborate on goals and activities that will inform the next update to the Southern Plains Strategic Action Plan.

Day 1: Tuesday, August 25, 2026		
Time (CT)	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
11:30 a.m.	Arrive, light lunch, greet, and network	
12:00 p.m.	Welcome to Texas State University. Set the stage for the glass-bottom boat tour. All about the Edwards Aquifer and the Meadows Center	Robert Mace
12:15 p.m.	Welcome by NIDIS. Agenda. Goals for this meeting.	Joel Lisonbee
12:20 p.m.	Update from NIDIS & the Southern Plains DEWS	Joel Lisonbee
12:30 p.m.	Updates from Regional Partners: ● State Climate Offices ○ Oklahoma ○ Kansas ○ Texas Climate Office & Southern Regional Climate Center ● USDA Southern Plains Climate Hub ● USGS South-Central Climate Adaptation Science Center ● Texas Water Development Board ● Oklahoma Water Resources Board ● Ogallala Life	● Gary McManus ● Matt Sittel ● John Nielsen-Gammon ● Andres Cibils ● Emma Kuster ● Nelun Fernando ● Matt Cogburn ● Will Masters

2:00 p.m.	New Southern Plains Drought Research: - Southern Plains Drought Assessment 2020-2025 - Changing Texas for a Changing Climate II - How to Interpret a Drought Index - Upper Missouri River Basin Soil Moisture and Plains Snow Data Value Study	- B.J. Baule - Robert Mace - John Nielsen-Gammon - Elise Osenga
3:00 p.m.	Break	
3:30 p.m.	Drought Assessment and Indicators in the Southern Plains: - State-level drought assessment processes, needs, and gaps - Where do we go from here with drought indicators?	Molly Woloszyn and Joel Lisonbee
5:30 p.m.	Wrap Up	
6:00 pm	Evening social: Glass bottom boat yours at Spring Lake with food, drinks, and mingling at the Meadows Center Exhibit Hall.	
Day 2: Wednesday, August 26, 2026		
Time (CT)	Topic	Presenter/Facilitator
8:00 a.m.	Arrive, light breakfast, network	
8:30 a.m.	Drought Briefing: Current conditions and outlook	TBA
9:00 a.m.	Review: 2021 Southern Plains Strategic Action Plan - Which activities were accomplished - Which were not and why	Joel Lisonbee
9:30 a.m.	Plenary Discussion: Emerging drought issues in the region & events that have happened in the region since we last met. - To set the stage for the conversation throughout the meeting, this session will identify the important drought-related issues that will shape drought early warning for the next 5 years. Pre-meeting homework: Come prepared with some topics to discuss.	Joel Lisonbee
10:30 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m.	Plenary Discussion: 2026 SP DEWS Strategic Plan <i>What should “improved early warning” look like years from now?</i> <i>What are the priorities for the future of this</i>	Joel Lisonbee

	<i>network and region?</i>	
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (60 minutes)	
1:00 p.m.	Table-top Discussion: 2026 SP DEWS Strategic Plan • Goals and activities over the next 5 years • Framing the strategic plan • Working together: ○ <i>What activities can be truly collaborative?</i> ○ <i>Who will do what?</i>	Joel Lisonbee
2:45 p.m.	Round Up: • Time to discuss any other topics that came up over the course of the meeting	Joel Lisonbee
3:00 p.m.	Adjourn meeting with snacks and (optional) networking time	