In the common interests of advancing education and training in rainwater harvesting best practices, Gaia College (GAIA) and the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA) intend to increase exposure and availability to rainwater harvesting strategies and implementation through signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

1. Introduction

GAIA and ARCSA both work in the interest of environmental sustainability, stewardship and improvement, and share specific and common interests in rainwater harvesting. The GAIA online course “Rainwater Harvesting and Management” (RWH/M), also offered through special arrangement with several other educational institutions, shares the same philosophies, methods, and objectives as the ARCSA Accredited Professional (AP) program.

This MOU creates a partnership between GAIA and ARCSA, built on commonalities and each organization’s unique strengths. Participants in the RWH/M course will be able to utilize their gained knowledge and expertise in working towards accreditation with ARCSA.

2. Roles and Contributions

The intent of this MOU is for course participants in the GAIA RWH/M course to apply rainwater harvesting and management knowledge towards meeting the ARCSA AP accreditation requirements.

3. Terms and Legal Effect

This MOU is a living document that defines mutually-agreed requirements and deliverables for collaborative efforts between GAIA and ARCSA. Both GAIA and ARCSA hereby acknowledge that this MOU constitutes a non-binding memorandum of
understanding that reflects the intent of the parties to cooperate in good faith regarding the transactions herein and does not constitute a legally binding agreement.

4. Conditions, Exchanges, and Deliverables

a. GAIA’s RWH/M course shall cover the material addressed in ARCSA’s two-day Accredited Professional workshop. The workshop is based on the current ARCSA 2015 Rainwater Harvesting Manual, November 2015. Updates and changes to the manual shall be incorporated into the course material.

b. The GAIA RWH/M course shall cover the rainwater/stormwater ARCSA/ASPE/ANSI Standards 63 and 78 contained in the manual or as stand-alone support documents.

c. Participants in GAIA’s RWH/M course wishing to pursue accreditation with ARCSA will understand that they are required to purchase the ARCSA manual, upon which the AP exam is based.

d. GAIA will provide ARCSA with a name-only list of RWH/M participants who have indicated an interest in pursuing accreditation, for ARCSA to verify compliance and qualification towards application for the AP exam. ARCSA will not use the list for any other purpose.

e. GAIA and ARCSA will promote their agreement with a press release, and will furthermore recognize each other appropriately on their respective websites and/or relevant printed material.

f. GAIA instructors/facilitators shall explain to all participants in the GAIA RWH/M course

   i. the ARCSA mission
   ii. that ARCSA is a non-profit organization with one-of-a-kind rainwater harvesting accreditation
   iii. the process and requirements of becoming accredited
   iv. the levels of accreditation
   v. the ARCSA membership fee structure
   vi. the ARCSA Exam and Administration fee structure
   vii. details of the Recurring Continuing Education requirements
   viii. details of ARCSA’s merger with CANARM and related MOUs

g. Interested participants may access detailed information on the ARCSA website at www.arcsa.org

h. GAIA is hereby authorized to advertise itself as an “ARCSA-Recognized Rainwater Harvesting Educational Institution”
i. No financial obligation or transactions between GAIA and ARCSA are required for this agreement. Course participants wishing to pursue accreditation would individually join ARCSA and complete the requirements directly with ARCSA.

5. Duration, Renewal, and Termination

This MOU shall take effect immediately upon signing by GAIA and ARCSA, with both GAIA and ARCSA hereto acknowledging that this MOU constitutes a non-binding memorandum of understanding that reflects the intent of the parties to cooperate in good faith regarding the conditions described herein. This MOU shall have a term of three (3) years from time of signing, and may be renewed or extended at any time, if mutually agreed upon, through submission in writing to the other party not less than thirty (30) days prior to its expiration.

This agreement may be terminated by either party in writing at any time, through submission in writing not less than thirty (30) days prior to the intended date for discontinuance of the relationship within the scope of this MOU. Such notice shall indicate the reasons for request for termination.

Gaia College

Name: Michael Hermary
Title: President
Signature: [Signature]
Date: Jan 15, 2016

American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association

Name: David Crawford
Title: President
Signature: [Signature]
Date: 1/15/16