2016 National Training Workshop for CWA 303(d) Listing & TMDL Staff

Navigating the Course

National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
June 1-3, 2016

Training Workshop Agenda

This project made possible through a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency
**PURPOSE OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP**

To provide an opportunity for state, tribal, and territorial staff from Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Listing and TMDL Programs—along with their federal counterparts—to learn about and discuss how to more effectively achieve water quality restoration and protection, through collaboration and innovation.

**WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES**

- Learn about progress made by states, tribes, territories, and EPA with regard to key program responsibilities, particularly in light of the CWA 303(d) Program Vision.
- Learn about new and improved tools and data systems for decision-making and water quality data reporting.
- Advance mutual understanding among states, tribes, territories, and EPA about the role and nature of alternatives to TMDLs.
- Learn and discuss how effectiveness monitoring and other data needs of the CWA 303(d) Listing and TMDL Programs may be realized through collaboration with other CWA programs, other agencies, and the public.
- Learn methods of integrating with other programs to improve waste cleanups and the relationship between TMDLs and MS4 Permits.
- Better understand the needs of and challenges facing other states, tribes, territories, and EPA.
- Enhance the network of listing and TMDL professionals by expanding and improving communication among the states, tribes, and territories and with EPA regions and headquarters.

**OUTPUTS**

No. 1: A final report summarizing presentations and discussions from the training workshop. The report will include a summary of individual input from workshop participants and may serve as a reference for program personnel.

No. 2: A summary report of state and territorial CWA 303(d) Program Vision prioritization framework documents, identifying key characteristics of each framework.
AGENDA

Tuesday, May 31

Arrival, Check-In, and Registration

3:00 pm – 8:00 pm  NCTC Check-In and Training Workshop Registration
                    Main Lobby
                    Murie Lodge, Lounge Area

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm  Dinner
                    Commons Dining Room

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm  Informal Welcome
                    Murie Lodge, Lounge Area
Wednesday, June 1

6:30 am – 8:15 am  Breakfast
                   Commons Dining Room

8:30 am – 9:30 am  Welcome, Introductions, and Training Workshop Overview
                   Auditorium
                   Greeting and Introductions  Adam Schempp, ELI
                   Opening Remarks  Benita Best-Wong, EPA HQ
                   Training Workshop Overview  Adam Schempp, ELI

9:30 am – 10:15 am Session #1
                   Vision Priorities – Lessons and Next Steps
                   Auditorium
                   Overview of State Prioritization Frameworks  Adam Schempp, ELI
                   Vision Priorities and Program Overview  Jim Havard, EPA HQ

Session #1 Outcome:
- Participants will learn what other states and territories have prioritized, for purposes of the CWA 303(d) Program Vision, and how they selected those priorities.

10:15 am – 10:35 am  Morning Break

10:45 am – 11:30 am Session #2
                   The ATTAINS Redesign
                   Auditorium
                   Overview of the ATTAINS Redesign and Its Progress  Shera Reems, EPA HQ
                                               Dwane Young, EPA HQ
11:30 am – 12:30 pm  
**Session #3**  
**Data Discovery and Assessment Tools**  
Auditorium

**Introduction: Finding Water Quality Data / The Water Quality Portal**  
*Dwane Young, EPA HQ*

**Data Assessment for CWA 303(d) Listing in South Carolina**  
*Wade Cantrell, SC*

**The Data Discovery Tool**  
*Dwane Young, EPA HQ*

**Session #3 Outcomes:**
- Participants will learn about digital tools being used to retrieve data and perform water quality assessments.
- Participants will be introduced to the Water Quality Portal.
- Participants will learn about the Data Discovery tool, a digital interface to query, summarize, quality control, and display data from the Water Quality Portal.

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm  
**Lunch**  
Commons Dining Room

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
**Session #4**  
**Effectiveness Monitoring**  
Auditorium

**Assessment Goal – Effectiveness Monitoring**  
*Rosaura Conde, EPA HQ*

**Using Probabilistic Monitoring to Assess the Effectiveness of Stream Management Efforts**  
*Larry Willis, VA*

**Integration of NY’s Monitoring Program into NY’s Vision Approach**  
*Ken Kosinski, NY*

Facilitated Discussion
Potential Discussion Questions:

- In what other ways have your programs conducted effectiveness monitoring, and with what success?
- In order to track and document success, what is the greater need: more data faster or more controls and a longer timeframe?
- How do you achieve and demonstrate outcomes?
- How do you determine when, after implementation has started, effectiveness monitoring should occur?

3:00 pm – 3:20 pm  Afternoon Break

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm  Session #5
Monitoring Data Challenges and Solutions
Auditorium

Registration Responses Regarding Monitoring
Adam Schempp, ELI

Facilitated Discussion

Session #5 Outcomes:

- Participants will learn about effective methods for collaborating with the monitoring program.
- Participants will learn how others prioritize their data needs.
- Participants will learn about potential additional sources of monitoring data and how others have procured those data.

Potential Discussion Questions:

- How does your CWA 303(d) program prioritize its data needs?
- What have you found to be valuable tools, procedures, agency structures, or other means of communicating those data priorities to the monitoring program and other data providers?
- What sources of data outside the monitoring program have you found to be particularly helpful for any CWA 303(d) program purpose (e.g., for operations, assessment, TMDL development, adaptive management, and determining effectiveness)?
- What sources of financial support have been important to producing the monitoring data on which you rely?
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm  Session #6
Protecting Healthy Waters
Auditorium

A Preliminary Conceptual Framework for the CWA 303(d) Vision’s Protection Goal
Doug Norton, EPA HQ

Facilitated Discussion

Session #6 Outcomes:
- Participants will learn about and discuss different ways of implementing the Protection Goal.
- Participants will learn about the content and state-specific products coming from the ongoing Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessments.

Potential Discussion Questions:
- Protection approaches and WQ-27 and WQ-28: what might count for which measure?
- How and where may protection approaches link to the CWA?
- What examples are out there already?
- What questions about protection would you most like to see answered?

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm  Dinner
Commons Dining Room

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm  Bonfire
Thursday, June 2

Training Workshop Day 2

6:30 am – 8:15 am  Breakfast  
Commons Dining Room

8:30 am – 9:30 am  Session #7  
Alternatives – Work in Progress  
Auditorium

Alternatives under the CWA 303(d) Program Vision – A Few Key Reminders  
*Menchu Martinez, EPA HQ*

Coordination between the CWA 319 and CWA 303(d) Programs on Alternatives  
*Lynda Hall, EPA HQ*  
*Jim Havard, EPA HQ*

Region 6 Coordination on Reviewing NPS-only Watershed Plans as Category 5-Alternatives  
*Richard Wooster, EPA R6*

Nebraska’s Approach to Alternatives and the Collaboration with EPA Region 7  
*Laura Johnson, NE*  
*Tabatha Adkins, EPA R7*

Results of ELI Research into the Many Approaches to Addressing Water Quality Problems  
*Adam Schempp, ELI*

Session #7 Outcomes:

- Participants will better understand the multiple expectations of a watershed-based plan that is designed for both CWA 319 and CWA 303(d) program purposes.
- Participants will learn about an example of coordination between a state and an EPA Region in the development of an innovative alternative approach.
- Participants will learn various ways that states, tribes, and territories have addressed water quality problems significantly or completely in the absence of a TMDL.

9:30 am – 9:50 am  Morning Break
10:00 am – 11:20 am  **Session #8**  
**Alternatives Breakout Assignment**  
Breakout Rooms, Various Locations

This session will consist of six breakout groups, with each group being assigned one hypothetical water quality problem to solve using “alternatives.” Each participant is assigned to a group based on his/her topic preference expressed prior to the training workshop.

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<th>Session #8 Outcome:</th>
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<td><em>Participants will gain experience in working collaboratively to develop alternative plans that are more likely to meet water quality standards and be counted under the measure.</em></td>
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11:30 am – 12:30 pm  **Session #9**  
**Conclusions from the Breakout Assignment**  
Auditorium

Facilitated Discussion

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<th>Session #9 Outcome:</th>
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<td><em>Participants will learn how others approached the problems presented and the pros and cons of those various approaches.</em></td>
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12:30 pm – 1:15 pm  Lunch  
Commons Dining Room

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  **Session #10**  
**Breakouts by Region**  
Breakout Rooms, Various Locations

This session will consist of nine breakout groups, one for each region (regions 1 and 2 being combined), each with state, tribal, territorial, and EPA participants from that region as well as the regional liaison from EPA headquarters.

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<th>Session #10 Outcomes:</th>
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<td><em>Participants will better understand the needs, challenges, and views of others in their respective regions.</em></td>
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<td><em>Participants will have resolved, or at least advanced conversation on, issues important to the states, tribes, and territories of the region.</em></td>
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**An Introduction to the Regional Data Coordinators**
Training Workshop Day 3

Friday, June 3

6:30 am – 8:15 am  Breakfast  
Commons Dining Room

8:30 am – 10:00 am  Session #11(a)  
Integration with Other Programs – MS4 Permitting  
Auditorium

CWA 303(d) Program Integration: National-Level Activities  
Ruth Chemerys, EPA HQ

Update on EPA Efforts to Support Translating TMDLs to  
Stormwater Permits  
Jamie Fowler, EPA HQ  
Greg Schaner, EPA HQ

Facilitated Discussion

**Session #11(a) Outcomes:**

- Participants will learn what progress has been made at the national level regarding integration with OST, OWM, Superfund, OGWDW, and other federal agencies.
- Participants will learn methods for integrating TMDLs and MS4 Permits.

Potential Discussion Questions:

- How have you been linking your TMDLs and stormwater permits (i.e., overcoming the translation challenge between load-based WLAs and BMP-based MS4 permits)?
- What tools, procedures, agency structures, or other means of facilitating coordination have you found useful when it comes to MS4 permitting and TMDL development?

10:00 am – 10:20 am  Morning Break

10:30 am – 11:15 am  Session #11(b)  
Integration with Other Programs – Cleanup Efforts  
Auditorium

“WQS… we’re supposed to meet standards?”  
Jason Sutter, AZ

Facilitated Discussion
Potential Discussion Questions:
- Have others experienced similar issues where the cleanup program’s goals were met but water quality was still degraded?
- In what instances have cleanup efforts resulted in water quality standards being attained, and was the CWA 303(d) program involved?
- What methods of coordination have improved, or could improve, the likelihood of cleanup actions meeting multiple agencies’ goals?

11:15 am – 12:00 pm  
**Training Workshop Wrap-Up**  
Auditorium

**Summary and Next Steps**

Jim Havard, EPA HQ  
Adam Schempp, ELI

**Send-Off Remarks**

Tom Stiles, KS

12:00 pm – 12:45 pm  
Lunch  
Commons Dining Room

**NCTC Check-Out & Departure**

1:00 pm  
Departure of Shuttle Bus for Dulles Airport  
Murie Lodge, Parking Lot