

303(d) Workshop 2018

Key Takeaways

Themes

- Notion of edges – two distinct habitats come together. Attracts Generalists and specialists. We are a bridge to water quality.
- We have convening powers
- Confident in our Vision, and most importantly, our People
- Continuity – training and collection/sharing of resources key
- Water brings us together; presents challenges in unpredictable and exciting ways

Themes (continued)

- Communication is key – we are encouraged to **make connections!**
- We are encouraged to think of ourselves as restoration specialists. And as protection specialists.

Nutrients

- Use of narratives for assessment – developing and vetting methods can bring buy-in and a path to TMDLs/alternatives
- Stakeholder engagement is key – using science/tools/models
- Communication on the nature of the problem is very important
- Heard some positive examples of addressing NPS
- Alternatives – Watershed based plans continue to be an important point of integration

Burrowing In -- Assessment and Planning

- **The PATH** If a TMDL is the math and the path, folks need more details on the path. Need to work with permit writers so that they can understand what it means to be consistent with the WLA in your TMDLs.
- **Alternatives** – 87 Vision alternatives; heard several positive examples (ND and TX); stakeholder engagement is key; plan to meet WQS; flexibility; can help with point and NPS; be strategic.
- **Future of ATTAINS** is Very Bright, but a lot to do; coordination key.
- **Protection** – Some great enthusiasm; further dialogue on parameters.

Burrowing In -- Assessment and Planning

- **Monitoring** - Find synergies and be strategic
- Importance of **Administrative Records** – comments are our friends
- **TAS/Tribal** – continued dialogue; technical assistance; integration with other programs; different levels of develop. I strongly encourage dialogue with Regions. Targeted EPA HQ investments.
- **Measures** – Outcome and planning measures.
- **Communication tools** – exciting; great energy

Upcoming Opportunities

- Open season – Reflect current priorities based on the work that you are doing and expecting to do – Mid-June through August
- ACWA Modeling Training Workshop -- June
- ACWA Nutrient TMDLs and Permits Workshop – November (Biloxi, MS)
- NPS Management Plans updates – work with NPS
- National Monitoring Conference – March 2019 in Denver – will have an NPS track.
- Dialogue on Measures

Actions for EPA HQ

- Modeling Resources
 - Explore options for modeler support network. Circuit riders.
 - How to choose, what to look for, when reviewing a model – reviewing a product from contractor, identifying red flags.
- Training and resources
 - Support for developing a hands-on training course that would walk users through the process starting with a listing and ending with a TMDL.
 - Explore options that include self-paced modules and other recorded material.
 - Communications training/products for TMDL staff – How to communicate scientific and technical information to lay audiences.
 - Share information e.g., bacterial source tracking technologies and experiences.
 - Repository for case studies, methods, communication approaches, etc.
- Nutrients
 - Share information about NSTEMPS and User Surveys when available
 - Share approaches (e.g., webinars) e.g., information about assessment methods
- Integration

- THANKS
- Safe travels!

- We are restoration specialists
- We are protection specialists
- Water brings us together!