



ENVIRONMENTAL LAW INSTITUTE®

AN INDEPENDENT, NON-PARTISAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND POLICY RESEARCH CENTER.

2015 NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP ON CWA 303(d) LISTING & TMDLS

MAKING THE VISION A REALITY

National Conservation Training Center
Shepherdstown, West Virginia
April 7-9, 2015

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 participants from Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Listing and TMDL Programs—along with their federal counterparts—to learn about and discuss approaches for implementing CWA 303(d) Program responsibilities consistent with the [Vision](#), methods of identifying progress under the new program measures, and what assistance is needed to accomplish these ends.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Learn about **progress made** by states, tribes, territories, and EPA for each milestone of the Vision Goals.
- Share information that **supports the CWA 303(d) prioritization efforts** of states, tribes, and territories.
- Advance **mutual understanding** among states, tribes, territories, and EPA about the expectations for reporting under the new measures and the role and nature of alternatives to TMDLs.
- Learn about **state, tribal, and territorial needs** for implementing CWA 303(d) Program responsibilities consistent with the Vision and for reporting under the new measures.
- Learn about the **redesign of data systems** to report and track water quality data.
- Learn and discuss how the data and outreach needs of the CWA 303(d) Program may be **aided through integration and coordination** with other CWA programs, other agencies, and the public.
- Learn and discuss **terms and phrases** that can be used to describe the CWA 303(d) Program and the Vision when communicating with stakeholders and the public.
- 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 implementing their responsibilities consistent with the Vision.

No. 2: A menu of terms and phrases that can be used to describe the CWA 303(d) Program and the Vision when communicating with stakeholders and the public.

AGENDA

Monday, April 6

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 |

Tuesday, April 7

Training Workshop Day 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

Bruce Myers, ELI

Opening Remarks

Tom Stiles, KS
Jim Havard, EPA HQ

Training Workshop Overview

Adam Schempp, ELI

Teeing Up the Communication Discussion

Jeff Berckes, IA

9:30 am – 10:00 am

Session #1(a)
Prioritization
Auditorium

Registration Responses Regarding the Prioritization Goal

Adam Schempp, ELI

CWA 303(d) Program Vision – Prioritization Goal

Jim Havard, EPA HQ

Session #1(a) Outcomes:

- *Participants will learn what progress has been made by other states, tribes, and territories, as well as EPA and ACWA, in implementing CWA 303(d) Program responsibilities consistent with the Prioritization Goal.*
- *Participants will receive clarification on details regarding the Integrated Reporting memo.*

10:00 am – 10:20 am

Morning Break

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Session #1(b)
Prioritization (cont'd)
Auditorium

Facilitated Discussion

Session #1(b) Outcomes:

- *Participants will learn about examples of processes and factors used to establish priorities consistent with the Vision, and early experiences with them.*
- *Participants will learn about successful methods for engaging the public when developing and disseminating priorities.*

Discussion Questions:

1. What priorities and means of prioritizing have states, tribes, and territories found to have worked and not worked?
2. What do states, tribes, and territories need in order to have priorities to report for the FY16 measure?
3. What have been successful methods for engaging the public when developing and/or disseminating priorities?

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Session #2

Assessment

Auditorium

The Results of the ACWA Survey

Traci Iott, CT

Review of Assessment Goal and Its Milestones

Eric Monschein, EPA HQ

**Working with Your Monitoring Program to Support the
Assessment Goal and Its Milestones**

Susan Holdsworth, EPA HQ

Facilitated Discussion

Session #2 Outcomes:

- *Participants will learn what progress has been made by other states, tribes, and territories, as well as EPA, in implementing CWA 303(d) Program responsibilities consistent with the Assessment Goal.*
- *Participants will learn opportunities for improved coordination between monitoring and CWA 303(d) programs, at the EPA- and state-levels.*
- *Participants will learn potential designs for baseline and effectiveness monitoring plans.*

Discussion Questions:

1. How can the CWA Monitoring and CWA 303(d) Listing and TMDL Programs work better together to support the Assessment Goal and its milestones in priority areas?
2. Defining monitoring objectives is the first step in developing plans to collect data. How would you define your monitoring objectives – what questions do you need answered with monitoring data?
3. What are the potential sources of that data? What does, can, and might the Monitoring Program provide the CWA 303(d) Program, and what innovative opportunities are there to partner with others?

12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

Lunch
Commons Dining Room

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Session #3
Integration and Coordination
Auditorium

Registration Responses Regarding the Integration Goal

Adam Schempp, ELI

Brief Review of the Integration Goal

Ruth Chemerys, EPA HQ

Updates on Integration from the CWA 319 Program

Cyd Curtis, EPA HQ

Overview of CWA 303(d) Program Integration Efforts with NPDES

Jenny Molloy, EPA HQ

Cindy Lin, EPA R9

Tom Laverty, EPA HQ

Facilitated Discussion

Session #3 Outcomes:

- *Participants will learn what progress has been made by other states, tribes, and territories, as well as EPA and ACWA, in implementing CWA 303(d) Program responsibilities consistent with the Integration Goal.*
- *Participants will learn about opportunities to link CWA 303(d) priorities with those of other programs, with a focus on CWA programs.*
- *Participants will learn about engagement efforts of other programs and the potential for integrated engagement.*

Discussion Questions:

1. Integration success stories: in what ways has inter-program and inter-agency cooperation improved, and what have been the outcomes of that integration, particularly for prioritization?
2. What do we hope to achieve this year?
3. What opportunities are there for integrated engagement, and what are obstacles to it (stemming from institutional structure, resource availability, terminology, etc.)?

3:00 pm – 3:20 pm

Afternoon Break

3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Session #4
Alternatives
Auditorium

Registration Responses Regarding the Alternatives Goal

Adam Schempp, ELI

CWA 303(d) Program Vision – Alternatives

Menchu Martinez, EPA HQ

Facilitated Discussion

Session #4 Outcomes:

- *Participants will learn about alternative restoration approaches consistent with the Vision.*
- *Participants will learn the distinction between alternatives under Category 5 and Category 4b.*

Discussion Question:

What factors could help when determining whether alternative restoration approaches would address an impairment more rapidly than a TMDL?

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Dinner
Commons Dining Room

8:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Bonfire

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

8:30 am – 10:00 am **Session #5**
Updates on the Measures
Auditorium

**Oh the Awesome Work We Will Now Be Able to Show - CWA
303(d) Measures “WQ-27 and WQ-28”**

Shera Reems, EPA HQ

Facilitated Discussion

Session #5 Outcomes:

- *Participants will have a high level of comfort with the measures as a whole, as well as the computational guidance.*
- *Participants will understand their roles regarding the measures.*
- *Participants will be prepared to explain to colleagues in their offices what information EPA needs and how to prepare and transmit the information to EPA.*
- *Participants will understand how to use the information to communicate with the public.*

Discussion Question:

What support (i.e., technical support, programmatic support, meetings to help clarify questions) do states, tribes, and territories need in order to report under the new measures?

10:00 am – 10:20 am Morning Break

10:30 am – 11:30 am **Session #6**
ATTAINS Redesign
Auditorium

**Bringing It All Together: ATTAINS Redesign and CWA 303(d)
Measures “WQ-27 and WQ-28”**

Shera Reems, EPA HQ

Session #6 Outcomes:

- *Participants will learn what changes are being made to the ATTAINS database.*
- *Participants will learn the significance of the ATTAINS redesign, particularly in light of its relationship to the new measures.*
- *Participants will learn how to better use the ATTAINS database to engage their management and the public in their work.*

11:30 am – 12:15 pm Lunch
Commons Dining Room

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm **Session #7(a)**
Breakouts by Region
Breakout Rooms, Various Locations

This session will consist of ten breakout groups, one for each region, each with state, tribal, and territorial participants from that region as well as EPA regional and headquarters staff.

- The groups from regions 3 and 5 will together meet with an EPA headquarters representative for a tailored tutorial and Q&A period regarding reporting under the new measures. The groups from regions 1, 6, and 7 will together do the same with another EPA headquarters representative.
- The groups from regions 2, 4, 8, 9, and 10 each will convene in separate breakout rooms to: (1) discuss the obstacles and opportunities that they foresee in accomplishing what has been discussed to that point of the workshop; and (2) identify up to three top questions or issues that they would like to have presented during the report back and discussion.

1:45 pm – 3:00 pm **Session #7(b)**
Breakouts by Region (cont'd)
Breakout Rooms, Various Locations

- The groups from regions 2 and 4 will together meet with an EPA headquarters representative for a tailored tutorial and Q&A period regarding reporting under the new measures. The groups from regions 8, 9, and 10 will together do the same with another EPA headquarters representative.
- The groups from regions 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 each will convene in separate breakout rooms to: (1) discuss the obstacles and opportunities that they foresee in accomplishing what has been discussed to that point of the workshop; and (2) identify up to three top questions or issues that they would like to have presented during the report back and discussion.

Session #7 Outcomes:

- *Participants will learn the steps in the automated process of deriving the universe and baseline from priorities.*
- *Participants will better understand the priorities, challenges, and views of others in their respective regions.*

3:00 pm – 3:20 pm

Afternoon Break

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Session #8
Report Back and Discussion
Auditorium

Clarification of Issues Raised in the Measures Reporting Tutorials
Shera Reems, EPA HQ

Report Back and Discussion of Top Issues from the Breakouts
Adam Schempp, ELI
Menchu Martinez, EPA HQ

Facilitated Discussion

Session #8 Outcome:

- *Participants will receive answers to their most pressing questions and discuss key outstanding issues.*

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Open

NOTE: During this time, the developers of EPA's WATERSCAPE tool, Recovery Potential Screening tool, automated measures process, and protection prioritization component related to the Healthy Watersheds Program will be available in the Murie Lodge lounge area to discuss and further demonstrate these resources.

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Dinner
Commons Dining Room

7:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Informal Evening Session
Murie Lodge, Lounge Area

Program Innovations

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

8:30 am – 9:30 am **Session #9**
Engagement
Auditorium

Registration Responses Regarding the Engagement Goal

Adam Schempp, ELI

Facilitated Discussion

Session #9 Outcomes:

- *Participants will learn what progress has been made by other states, tribes, and territories, as well as EPA, in implementing CWA 303(d) Program responsibilities consistent with the Engagement Goal.*
- *Participants will learn what engagement processes have been successful and unsuccessful across the country.*

Discussion Questions:

1. What is or are the end goal(s) of engagement?
2. What has and has not worked to engage stakeholders and the public in CWA 303(d) Program processes?
3. What do states, tribes, and territories need to successfully engage stakeholders and the public?

9:30 am – 9:50 am Morning Break

10:00 am – 11:15 am **Session #10**
Communication
Auditorium

Communication Building Blocks – Kickoff to Team Exercise

Jeff Berckes, IA

Facilitated Discussion (after preliminary small group problem-solving regarding communication issues identified during the workshop)

Session #10 Outcome:

- *Participants will learn new ways of conveying CWA 303(d) Program concepts and issues to the public, stakeholders, and other programs and agencies.*

11:15 am – 12:00 pm

Training Workshop Wrap-Up
Auditorium

Summary and Next Steps

Jim Havard, EPA HQ

Concluding Comments

Traci Iott, CT

Jeff Berckes, IA

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