

ACES 2016 Tuesday Lunch Town Hall
December 6, 2016 | 11:45am-12:50pm | Grand Ballroom 3

Title: *Collaborative Processes to Advance Markets-based Solutions to Clean Water Goals*

Description:

The National Network on Water Quality Trading (Network) was established in 2013 to improve consistency and integrity across WQT programs by providing a community of WQT practitioners to articulate shared principles, core trading program design elements, recommendations for implementing and operating trading programs, and lessons learned. The Network continues to use the facilitated dialogue structure to connect a variety of clean water stakeholders and practitioners to share lessons learned and work collaboratively on a variety of topics that can benefit the water quality community.

The goal of this session will be to 1) share deliverables that have been produced from the National Network dialogue series; 2) discuss the structure and successful elements of the collaborative process; and 3) identify future potential directions and topics for the Network.

Session Agenda:

The session will be structured as a World Café providing attendees the opportunity to interact and discuss a number of elements of the National Network on Water Quality Trading. The session will begin with a 15 minute presentation providing background on the origins of the National Network, its evolution, and the collaborative process. Following this introduction, attendees will have the opportunity to circulate among four roundtables where Network steering committee members, funders, and Network participants will discuss the following topics:

The Power of the Network Process: The Network's strength is derived in part from this diversity of experience and viewpoints while allowing participants to maintain their own individual positions on any issues or documents discussed or published. This format allows for an open process that encourages a diversity of voices and viewpoints while working towards a common outcome.

Building a Water Quality Trading Program: a Network product: Over a two year period the National Network focused on identifying common trading issues and the options, considerations, and examples important to building a trading program. The product of those discussions is *Building a Water Quality Trading Program: Options and Considerations* guide. The strength of the guide is its comprehensive examination of a broad range of topics related to water quality trading to assist local stakeholders to develop trading frameworks without being prescriptive.

Market-based Stormwater Management: Across the country communities and stormwater utility managers are exploring alternative management approaches such as offset credits and other flexible, cost effective strategies to meet regulatory requirements. The National Network on Water Quality Trading will share conversations and outcomes from its most recent dialogue series where participants discussed the need for a common language, connected lessons learned from water quality trading, and development of tools such as road maps for communities to assess critical paths for program development.

Future Dialogue Topics: The Network will continue its facilitated dialogue series over the next three years and has identified a range of topics to discuss including quantification, assurances and unlocking demand. This session is an opportunity discuss the timeliness of previously identified topics and emerging issues that the National Network on Water Quality Trading may be well suited to address.

Audience:

The intended audience for this session includes individuals interested in market-based approaches for cost-effectively achieving environmental goals, and collaborative efforts to advance those approaches. Specific entities may include regulators; trading project managers and developers; supporting non-profit organizations; point sources, such as power plants and wastewater treatment plants; stormwater sources, such as municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s); and other interested stakeholders.

Conference Themes:

The proposed session covers the conference themes by sharing the structure and products of a collaborative process to overcome challenges and advance implementation of ecosystem services. Specifically, under *Methods* the session will touch on the engagement of stakeholders in creating innovative solutions. By sharing the products of the National Network Dialogue series, the session will touch on several elements of *Science and Practice* including urban ecosystems and services, ecosystem services and agriculture, institutions incentives and legal frameworks, and adaptive decision making in the face of uncertainty. Finally, the session will share examples and lessons learned from *Implementation, Practice, and Policy* including markets, government, education and communication, implementation advances and challenges.

Contact Information for Invited Speakers:Speaker 1:

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Speaker 2:

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Speaker 5:

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Speaker 6:

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Executive Director

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Session Organizer:

Qualifications of the Organizers:

Neil Crescenti is a Clean Water Project Manager for Willamette Partnership and the coordinating staff to the National Network on Water Quality Trading. In this role, Neil focuses on development of state level water quality trading policy tools and templates, assists states in the development of trading programs, and conducts outreach of national best practices on water quality trading.

Organizer contact information

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