

Region 5

Tribal Workshop on Wetland Monitoring and Assessment

January 31 – February 2, 2023

Agenda

Workshop Description

This three-day workshop will focus on the foundations of a tribal wetland monitoring and assessment program. Through presentations and facilitated discussion, participants will gain knowledge about the development of a sustainable monitoring program from the initial steps of Level 1 landscape assessments to the development of a Level 3 or intensive site function and condition assessments. Examples from Region 5, and across the country, will illustrate Tribal experiences and lessons learned across the range of program development stages. Additional sessions will discuss integrating culture and tradition in monitoring and assessment, wild rice monitoring programs, and other hot and emerging issues.

Day 1

9 – 10 am

Welcome and Introductions

Rebecca Kihlsinger, Environmental Law Institute and Kerryann Weaver, U.S. EPA Region 5

Intro Questions: *Each person will have 3 – 4 minutes to introduce themselves and their programs.*

- A. Introduce yourself
- B. Describe the status of your Tribe's wetland monitoring program – where you are and where you would like to be.
- C. Describe your favorite river, lake, stream, or wetland

10 – 11 am

Keynote: Integrating Culture and Tradition in Monitoring and Assessment

The keynote presentations will discuss recent guidance on recognizing and including Indigenous Knowledge in Federal research, policy, and decision making and integrating culture and tradition in monitoring.

White House Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge (Felicia Wright, U.S. EPA)

Integrating culture and tradition in monitoring and assessment (Tony Kuchma, Wetland Program Manager, Oneida Environmental, Health, Safety, Land, and Agricultural Division)

11 – 11:15 am

Break

11:15 am – 1 pm

Panel and Discussion: Foundations of a sustainable monitoring and assessment program

This panel will discuss the process of building and expanding a sustainable monitoring and assessment program.

The basics of monitoring and assessment (Kerryann Weaver, Wetland Section Supervisor, U.S. EPA Region 5)

Lac du Flambeau Tribe's Process of Development of a Wetland Monitoring & Assessment Program (Celeste Hockings, Natural Resource Director, Lac du Flambeau Tribal Natural Resource Department)

Developing a Wetland Monitoring Program for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (Erin Johnston, Wildlife & Habitat Section Lead and Dave Runquist, Wetland Specialist, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Natural Resources Department)

Fond du Lac Wetland Monitoring and Assessment (Rick Gitar, Water Regulatory Specialist/Tribal Inspector, Fond du Lac Office of Water Protection)

1 pm

Wrap-up

Day 2

- 9 – 9:15 am **Welcome**
Rebecca Kihslinger (ELI)
- 9:15 - 10 am **Keynote: Wild Rice**
The Keynote will focus on wild rice with presentations on the Michigan Wild Rice Initiative and managing wild rice data.
- Region 5 AWQMS Database (Nancy Schuldt, Water Projects Coordinator, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa)
- Michigan Wild Rice Initiative (Alexis DeGabriele, Aquatic Biologist- Wetlands, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Natural Resources Department)
- 10 - 11 am **Panel and Discussion: State Monitoring Programs**
The panel will discuss state wetland monitoring initiatives and how state programs can be of assistance to Tribal wetland monitoring efforts.
- Michigan (Katie Fairchild, Wetland Monitoring and Coastal Wetland Analyst, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy)
- Wisconsin (Sally Jarosz, Water Resources Management Specialist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources)
- Minnesota (Michael Bourdaghs, Environmental Research Scientist, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)
- 11 – 11:15 am **Break**
- 11:15 – 12:30 pm **Facilitated Discussion: Building monitoring programs – learning from experiences across the region**
The discussion will provide opportunities for participants to talk about obstacles to building a Tribal monitoring program and for Tribes to learn from the experiences of other Tribes in the region.
- 12:30 **Wrap-up**

Day 3

9 – 9:15 am

Welcome

9:15 - 10 am

Keynote: Using Indigenous Science

Using Indigenous Science to Protect Wetlands: The Swinomish Tribe's Wetlands Cultural Assessment Project (Todd A. Mitchell, Environmental Director, Swinomish Tribe)

10 – 11 am

Flash Sessions: Hot and Emerging Issues in Wetland Monitoring

The Flash Session panel will focus on new and emerging issues in wetland monitoring.

Regional Monitoring Network (Micah Bennett, EPA, Region 5, Water Division, Watersheds & Wetlands Branch, Standards & Monitoring Section)

Climate Change and Wetland Program Development (Michelle Bahnick, Wetland Biologist, Tulalip Tribes)

Jurisdictional Wetlands Mapping Analysis (Eric Krumm, Water Resources Specialist, Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe, Water Resources Program)

11 – 11:15 am:

Break

11:15 – 1 pm:

Panel and Discussion: Recent Grant Funded Projects

This panel will discuss monitoring and assessment grant work from simple to more complex work from within the region.

Red Lake Monitoring Program (Tyler Orgon, Biologist, Red Lake DNR, Water Resources)

Mapping and Monitoring Ephemeral Ponds (Mike Jones, Wetland Specialist, Stockbridge-Munsee Community, Ecology Department)

Experiences in Monitoring Forest County Potawatomi Wetlands (Alyssa Grelecki, Biologist-Botany/Wetlands, Forest County Potawatomi Community)

Development of a Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program in Red Cliff (Jessica Jacobs, Wetlands Specialist, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa)

Developing a Tribal Wetland Monitoring Plan (Melissa Lewis, Wetlands Specialist, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians)

1 pm:

Wrap-up