

Exchange Network Forum

Partnerships with EPA, States & Tribes

Thursday, November 9, 2023

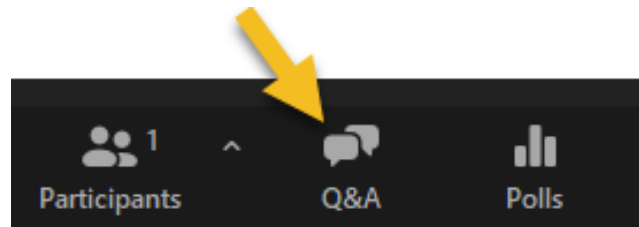
Format

- **This Forum is an open meeting.** We want to encourage open dialogue. Please be respectful.
- **You will hear from Tribes, States, and EPA.** Calls are divided into thirds, with time for each group to push updates and request feedback.
- **We will send polls, surveys to gauge interests.** This is a call run by Exchange Network partners for Exchange Network partners.

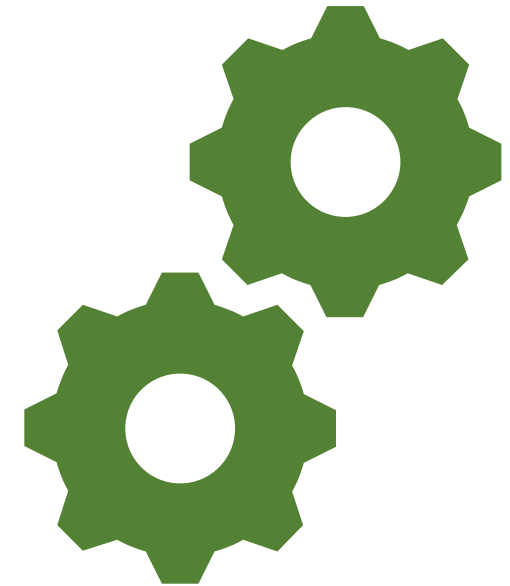


Logistics

- **Introduce yourself!** If or when you speak, please tell us your name the organization you represent.
- **Submit questions using Zoom Q/A Feature.** We will do our best to answer questions during the call.

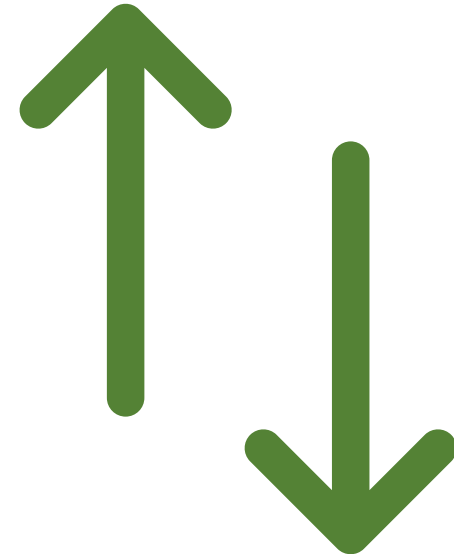


- **Use the chat to share ideas.** You can message the (co)hosts and participants directly.



Meeting Guidelines

- **Choose to be present and participate**
- **Engage actively, raise your hand to speak**
- **Maintain a respectful, open space to share and discuss ideas**
- **Assume positive intent, don't dwell on the past**
- **Be curious and open to new ideas**
- **Listen and question with a desire to understand**
- **Stay on topic**
- **Turn on your camera when speaking**
- **Meetings will be recorded**



Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Setting the Stage for this Forum**
- **Exchange Network Reinvigoration**
- **Tribal Engagement Roundtable**
- **Improving Data Flows**
- **Open Forum**



Welcome

- **Thank you for joining us today!** This is our first Forum call in what will be a monthly series, held on the 2nd Thursday of each month.
- **This Forum is run in partnership** with Tribal, State, and EPA representatives. We are committed to improving data sharing and decision-making to protect human health and the environment.
- **We want to hear from you** and discuss how we can improve Exchange Network services. We hope to build community among partners and serve as a node for routing your questions as well.



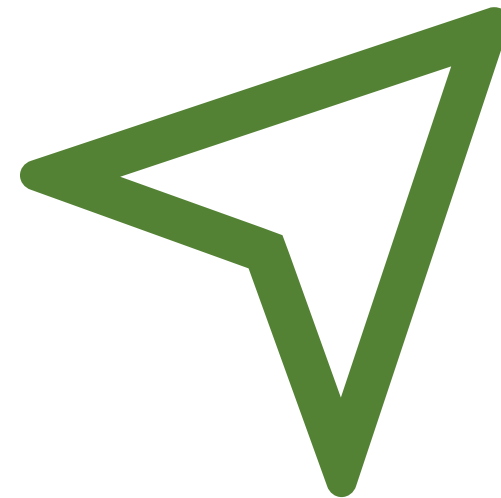
Setting the Stage

- **Welcome Jennie Campbell**, who serves as the Office Director in the Office of Information Management.
- **Context for the Exchange Network Forum**, and why these calls are happening now.
- **Active engagement from EPA**, including direct interaction with EPA Exchange Network Staff and connection with broader Exchange Network community.



Exchange Network Reinvigoration

- **Welcome Dwane Young**, who serves as the Deputy Office Director in the Office of Information Management.
- **Collaborative Exchange in Raleigh, NC**
 - Introduce the Meeting's Purpose
 - Overview Our Lessons Learned
- **Exchange Network (EN) Reinvigoration**
 - Adopt the E-Enterprise Digital Strategy
 - Inventory and Iterate on Existing Data Flows
 - Engage Tribes in the Exchange Network



Collaborative Exchange

- **In-person Meeting to Improve Partnerships.**
In June, EPA, States and Tribes met in Raleigh, NC to improve communication and chart a path forward for EN collaborations.
- **Building Shared Vision for Exchange Network.**
Meeting goals were to revisit the technical framework empowering the EN, update the vision, and outline ways to improve communication.
- **Charting Paths & Projects for Collaboration.**
Identify short, actionable efforts that can build on meeting outcomes and reinvigorate the Exchange Network.



EN Representation

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Vaughn Noga (Office of Mission Support)

Jennie Campbell (Office of Mission Support)

Dwane Young (Office of Mission Support)

Vince Allen (Office of Mission Support)

Alex O'Neill (Office of Mission Support)

Lek Kadeli (Office of the Chief Financial Officer)

Andy Battin (Office of the Chief Financial Officer)

Shana Harbour (Office of the Chief Financial Officer)

Carol Terris (Office of the Chief Financial Officer)

Michael Plastino (Office of Water)

Jane Wallace (Office of Enforcement & Compliance Assurance)

Chet Wayland (Office of Air & Radiation)

Tribal Representation

Jerry Cain (Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians)

Frank Harjo (Muscogee Creek Nation)

Angie Reed (Penobscot Nation)

Ashley Gries (ITEP)

State Representation

Victoria Phillips (MA-DEQ)

Eric Cleckler (AL-DEM)

Steve Girt (WY-DEQ)

Miriam Patrocinio (NC-DEQ)

Kurt Rakouskas (ECOS)

Shared Vision

- **Toward a Shared Vision for EN Partnerships.**

The Exchange Network enables data sharing, leading to better decision-making to protect people and the environment

- **Thinking About the Future of Data Sharing.**

Should “data sharing” be broader to encompass the full data lifecycle: “collecting, sharing and using data.”



Guiding Principles

- **Affirm Exchange Network Guiding Principles**
 - Build Relationships & Facilitate Engagements
 - Empower States & Tribes to Build Capacity
 - Embrace Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable (FAIR) Data Principles
 - Meet States & Tribes Where They Are
 - Maintain & Optimize Current Resources
 - Leverage Shared Services
 - Leave a Positive Legacy



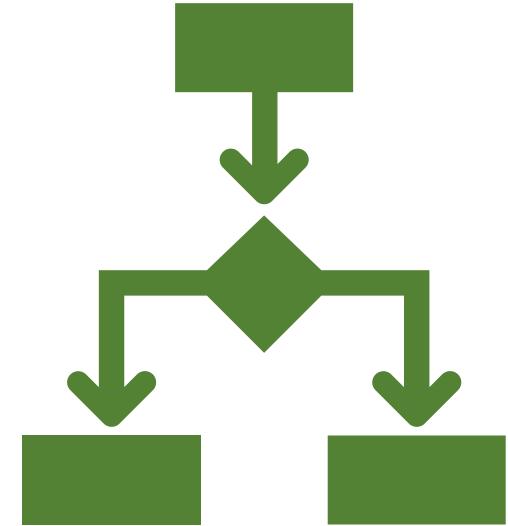
Meeting Reflections

- **Reinvigoration starts with broader engagement.**
- **We need to distinguish the 'What' from the 'How'.**
- **Meaningful engagement with tribes is critical to success.**
- **Up-Front conversations around the strategic direction of the Exchange Network.**



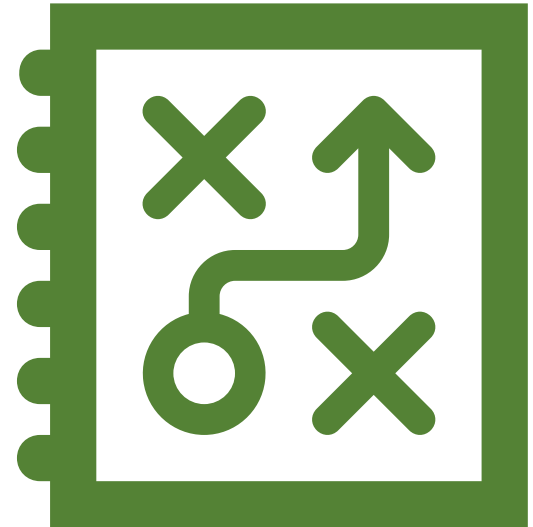
Workgroup Outcomes

- **Finalize the E-Enterprise Digital Strategy.**
Workgroup iterated on the EE Digital Strategy and recommended operationalizing the Strategy's principles.
- **Host Tribal Engagement Roundtable at Penobscot.**
Roundtable will focus on how EPA can more meaningfully engage with Tribes through the Exchange Network.
- **Examine EN Data Flows.**
Identified need to chart existing EN data flows to understand where we should go in the future.



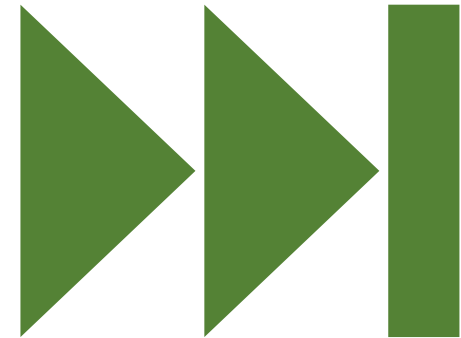
Digital Strategy

- **Released as Interim Digital Strategy in 2019.** Shared Vision among E-Enterprise partners to better coordinate their information technology (IT) systems and services.
- **Leading with Three Core Principles:** Customer-centric, Information-centric & Shared Platforms
- **Guides Modernization Efforts** to meet business needs, maximize resources, and enhance interoperability among States, Tribes and EPA:
 - Drinking Water State-Federal-Tribal Information Exchange System (DW-SFTIES)
 - Combined Air Emissions Reporting System (CAERS)
 - Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS)



Digital Strategy: Next Steps

- **Workgroup agrees that Strategy principles and strategic actions are relevant today.**
- **Recommend forming agile teams to:**
 - Ensure the Strategy is relevant to States & Tribes
 - Update the Strategy to include value proposition, mission context, remove dated information & recommend improvements
 - Identify activities partners can implement to further operationalize the Strategy's principles



Tribal Engagement

- **Welcome Frank Harjo**, who serves as co-chair of the Tribal Exchange Group and GIS Manager with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation.
- **Proposing a Tribal Engagement Roundtable.**
Idea introduced during Collaborative Exchange. Build shared understanding of Tribal Experiences in EN through time. Identify actionable steps EN can take to engage tribes in a more structured way.
- **In-person event with virtual components.**
Meeting dates are set for November 28th through 30th at the Penobscot Nation, Maine.



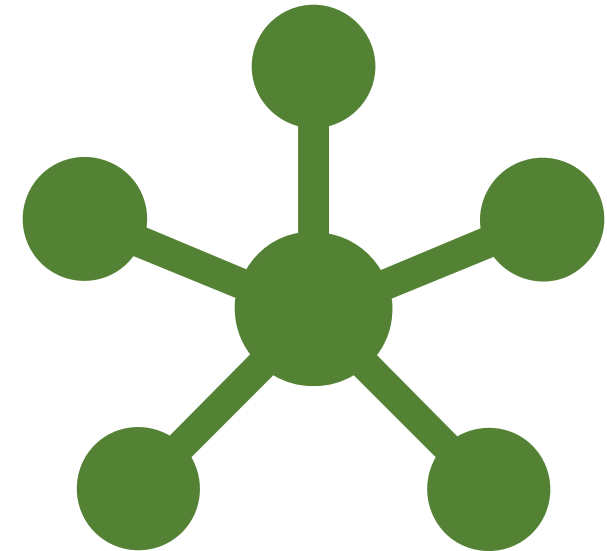
Roundtable Goals

1. **Understand** how Tribes are currently engaged by the Exchange Network;
2. **Document** what is working well for Tribes as well as challenges encountered;
3. **Clarify** the role of the Tribal Exchange Group (TXG) in the Exchange Network and its relationship to other Exchange Network-affiliated programs; and,
4. **Identify** strategies and solutions to improve Tribal engagement, including potential State and Tribal synergies.



Data Flows

- **Welcome Eric Cleckler**, who serves as an IT Manager with Alabama's Department of Environmental Management.
- **EN has 20 Years of Success.** As a platform, the EN has been remarkably durable, stable; but technology, business needs, and expectations change.
- **Analyze Active Exchange Network Data Flows** to understand the current state to know where we can go in the future.
 - How do partner agencies and programs use existing EN data flows?
 - How, why have usage patterns have change?
 - How do current flows meet, not meet user needs?



Next Steps

- **Organize Sprint Teams with Exchange Network.**
The first sprint will conduct a quick scan of current usage patterns; the second sprint will take a deeper dive on flow usage, user satisfaction, and future requirements.
- **Close coordination with State and Tribal Partners.**
Commitment to ensure that data flows and future systems meet partners where they are.



Take Away

- **Efforts are underway** to reinvigorate the Exchange Network and EPA, State & Tribal Partnerships.
- **Coordinated meetings began in June 2023** and will continue with Agile workgroups that will advance EN action items.
- **We welcome your participation.** Please message us in the Q/A feature if these are projects that you would like to be involved with.



Open Forum

- **We will share a few polling questions** to learn about you and your organizations. We hope these questions can help us get the conversation started.
- **Submit questions using Zoom Q/A Feature.** We will do our best to answer questions during the call. If not, we will follow up with you directly or during the next Forum.



Contact

Moderator: [Alex O'Neill](#) (US EPA)

Panelists: [Jennie Campbell](#) (US EPA), [Dwane Young](#) (US EPA), [Eric Cleckler](#) (Alabama DEM), [Frank Harjo](#) (Muscogee [Creek] Nation), [Kurt Rakouskas](#) (ECOS)

Hosts: [Beth Jackson](#) (US EPA), [Matt Kelly](#) (US EPA), [Kate Sijthoff](#) (US EPA, Contractor)



Thank you!

Questions?