

# **Exchange Network Forum**

**Partnerships with EPA, States & Tribes**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

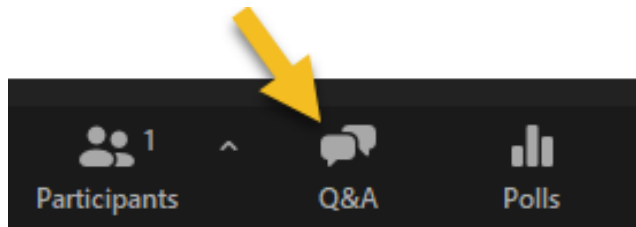
# Format

- **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.

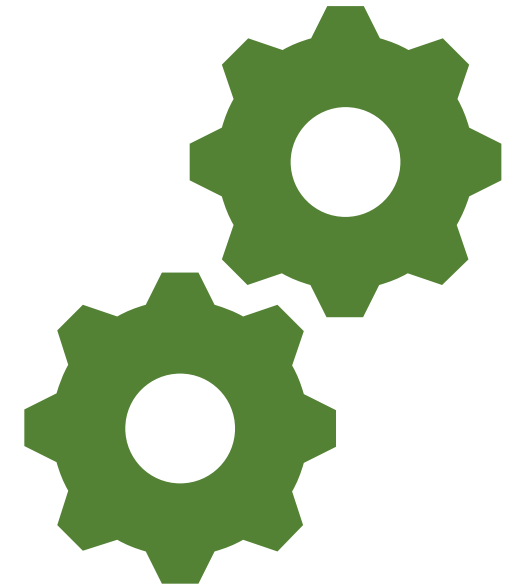


# Logistics

- **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.

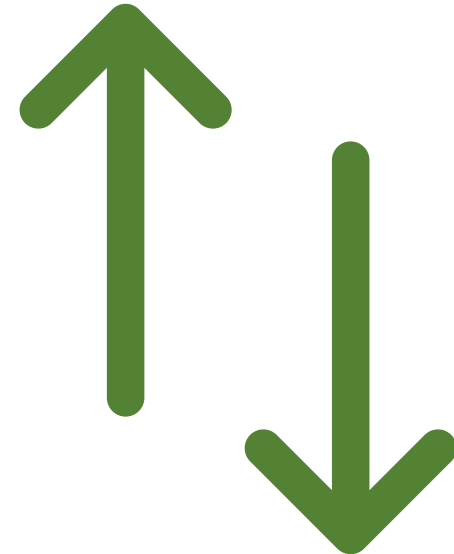


- **Use the chat to share ideas.** You can message the (co)hosts and participants directly.



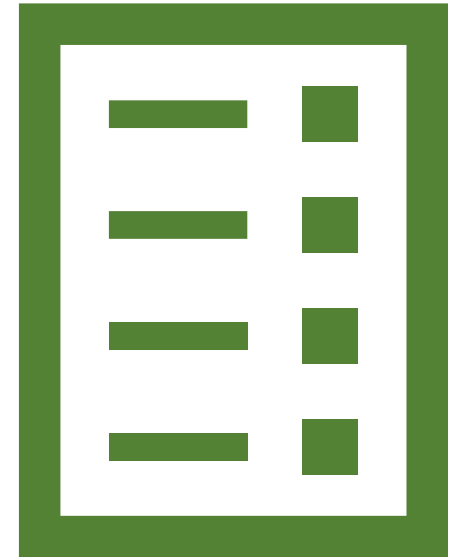
# Meeting Guidelines

- **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**
- **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**
- **Tribal Engagement Roundtable**
- **Update on Node Security**
- **EN National Meeting**
- **Questions & Answers**
- **Open Forum**



# Tribal Engagement Roundtable

- **Welcome Angie Reed**, who serves as co-chair of the Tribal Exchange Network Group.
- **Tribal Engagement Roundtable.** In-person event with virtual components. Meeting occurred from November 28th to 30th at the Penobscot Nation.
- **Participants explored how Tribes are currently engaged by the Exchange Network.** Identified strategies and solutions to improve Tribal engagement, including potential State and Tribal synergies. EPA made actionable commitments to meet Tribes where they are in terms of IT and data management.



# Roundtable Themes

- **Recognition that Tribal participation was limited in the early days of the Exchange Network** and this lack of early engagement had consequences on Tribal participation in the Exchange Network today;
- **Tribal environmental programs accomplish a significant amount with limited resources,** and participants could see this first-hand at Penobscot;
- **Improving Tribal engagement requires consciously and consistently meeting Tribes where they are** in terms of their IT/IM infrastructure and resource needs. Accessible messaging is needed across the board. The Roundtable was the start of an ongoing conversation.



# Roundtable Commitments

- **Commit to regular engagement** with Tribal Exchange Network Group and Exchange Network Tribal partners.
- **EPA will gather and share information on EN-Tribal data flows**, and will evaluate existing reports on Tribal data management processes to support TXG trainings, outreach, and support.
- **Increase coordination** between EPA Regions, Regional Exchange Network Groups, and Program Offices to improve Tribal engagement via the Exchange Network.
- **Improve collaboration and support among state and tribal organizations** to develop synergies.





# Tribal Exchange Group (TXG) History



**Exchange Network partnership & governance established**

2002



**E-Enterprise launched & Leadership Council (EELC) established**

2015

2000

**First pre-Exchange Network "One-Stop" grants awarded**



2008

**Tribal Governance Group (TGG) formed**



2020

**TGG renamed to Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)**



# Key Relationships

A collaborative effort from the EPA that strives to support better environmental decision-making through improving and expanding the ability for environmental agencies to manage and share environmental information.



**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
EXCHANGE NETWORK**

Tribal professionals working on aspects of the EN. TXG's primary purpose is to ensure representation and consideration of tribal perspectives and issues, and to support tribal participation in the EN through advocacy, mentoring, and technical assistance.



**TRIBAL EXCHANGE NETWORK  
GROUP**

ITEP supports tribal involvement in the Exchange Network. ITEP works closely with the TXG to strengthen the tribal voice amongst EN stakeholders to identify ways to foster projects and initiatives that are both relevant and sustainable for tribes.



**INSTITUTE FOR TRIBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS**

# Lead Members



**Angie Reed**  
Penobscot Indian  
Nation



**April Hathcoat**  
Cherokee Nation  
Environmental  
Programs



**Bruce Jones**  
Northwest Indian  
Fisheries  
Commission



**Sheryn Olson**  
Columbia River Inter-  
Tribal Fish  
Commission



**Brianda  
Hernandez**  
Bishop Paiute Tribe



**Darold Wallick**  
Pala Band of Mission  
Indians



**Frank Harjo**  
Muscogee Nation



**Jennifer Reyher**  
Muscogee Nation



**Lisa Gover**  
Gila River Indian  
Community



# 01

## TRAININGS & EVENTS

Tribal Data & Technology Academy  
workshops

Tribal Exchange Network Conference

# 02

## TRIBAL ASSISTANCE

Developing skills & knowledge through  
peer-to-peer support.

# 03

## EXCHANGE NETWORK GRANTS

[EPA competitive funding supporting  
tribal environmental data systems.](#)

# 04

## RESOURCES & ADVOCACY

Promoting tribal access, equity, &  
inclusion in the EN.



TXG SUPPORTS TRIBAL  
MANAGEMENT,  
ANALYSIS, AND  
SHARING OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

# Upcoming Events

- **2024 Conferences.** The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) will be hosting a couple of conferences where we'll continue the conversations from the Roundtable.
- **Many opportunities.** These events provide tribal environmental professionals opportunities to network with peers, learn about federal environmental rules and policy, get exposed to environmental monitoring and clean-up tools.
- **For more information,** please visit <https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/>



National Tribal Forum  
on Air Quality (NTFAQ)

May 2024

Location: TBD

[More Information](#)



Tribal Lands &  
Environment Forum  
(TLEF)

August 2024

Location: TBD

[More Information](#)

# Tribal Engagement Roundtable

- **If you are interested in joining the Tribal Exchange Network Group**, please contact:
  - Frank Harjo ([fharjo@muscogeenation.com](mailto:fharjo@muscogeenation.com))
  - Angie Reed ([angie.reed@penobscotnation.org](mailto:angie.reed@penobscotnation.org))
- **Visit the Tribal Exchange Network Website @**  
<https://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/about-us>



# Update on Node Security

- **What is Transport Layer Security?** Transport Layer Security (TLS) provides communications security over the Internet.
- **What is happening?** Azure support for TLS 1.0 and 1.1 will end on October 31, 2024. [Learn more.](#)
- **What does this mean for the Exchange Network?** This should mostly be a non-event for users of OpenNode2 or EN Node. However, there may be other nodes or node clients that may not support TLS v1.2 and they will need to be updated (e.g., custom node applications).



# TLS Next Steps

- **Verify your implementation**  
Point your node to the CDX Development environment: <https://devngn.epacdxnode.net>
- **Questions**  
The Exchange Network Node Helpdesk ([nodehelpdesk@epacdx.net](mailto:nodehelpdesk@epacdx.net)) can assist in verifying connectivity





# EN National Meeting

- **We are currently planning an Exchange Network National Meeting.** These meetings were held annually before the pandemic and were key for sharing information about the EN.
- **Tentative Dates are in Mid-September 2024.** We are exploring venues in Oklahoma City, OK and Kansas City, MO.
- **Presentations and Sessions.** We will be requesting presentations and ideas for conference sessions soon, including a poll today.



# Questions & Answers

## **Do EN Grants discriminate between Tribal lands classed as “fee land” versus “trust land?”**

An EN grant application determination will not be impacted by the different categories of tribal lands. The EN Grants are not regulatory in nature and there is no language in the EN Grants Solicitation Notice that restricts or designates a required category of tribal lands. It is important to note that a tribal applicant must be federally recognized to apply for an individual EN grant or as the lead entity in an EN partnership grant.



# Questions & Answers

## Does the Exchange Network have any examples of data sharing agreements?

The Exchange Network developed some resources around Trading Partner Agreements (TPAs). Much of this information is from the early 2000s and is dated; though, some organizations may find parts helpful. Initially, these TPAs were considered an important, though were never broadly adopted within the Exchange Network.

URL: <https://exchangenetwork.net/trading-partner-agreements/>



# Questions & Answers

## **Can monitoring sites be established as an applicable project goal for EN Grants?**

There are no restrictions or specific language pertaining to monitoring locations during project implementation, beyond requirement that work occurs within the United States.

However, the applicant must ensure they have the ability or approval from the appropriate entity to monitor at the proposed site, if the monitoring location is outside of tribal boundaries. The applicant tribe should also specify in their project narrative (workplan) that the 'place of performance' extends outside of their boundaries and provide general details as to the location and relevance of these location(s).



# Questions & Answers

## **Are there plans to extend to the EN solicitation notice to include local air agencies?**

Most local governments implementing EPA programs are not agencies or instrumentalities of the state and therefore not eligible to apply. Such entities are encouraged to partner with an eligible lead applicant (e.g., a state applicant) to allow their data to be reported and shared through the EN. Please see the rules and restrictions on EN partnership in Sections III-D and IV-B of the Solicitation Notice. There are no immediate plans to open current eligibility, though this may change with future grant cycles.



# Questions & Answers

## Are there plans to extend to the EN solicitation notice to include local air agencies? (continued)

If an applicant is applying with this status, there is an attachment that must be included in their application package:

### Additional Attachment F: Documentation Certifying Applicants Status as an [Instrumentality of the State or Tribe](#)

*This is mandatory for applicants applying as an instrumentality of the state or tribe.*

- States and Territories: Provide a signed attorney general letter certifying this status.
- Tribes: Provide a certification and supporting documentation from the tribal council or other appropriate tribal government official certifying this status.



# 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), [Angie Reed](#) (Penobscot Nation), [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?