

# **Exchange Network Forum**

**Partnerships with EPA, States, Tribes & Territories**

**Thursday, July 11, 2024**

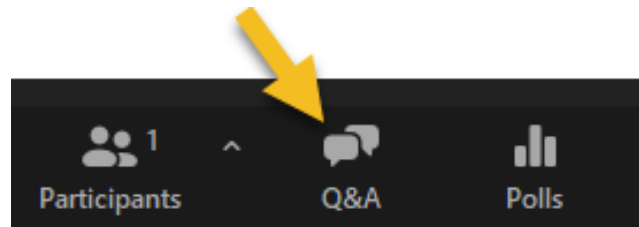
# Format

- **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.

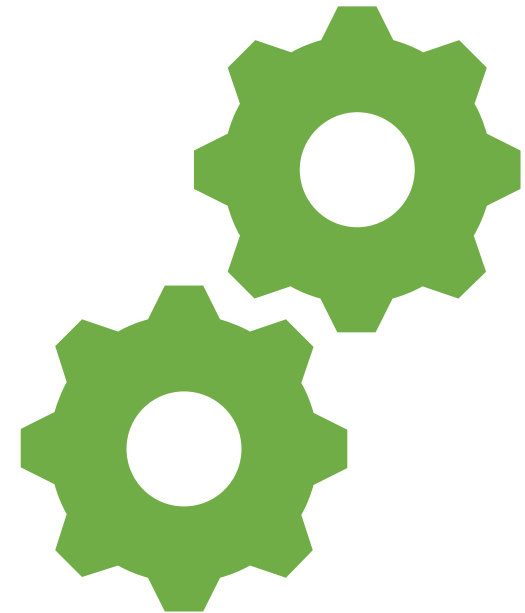


# Logistics

- **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.

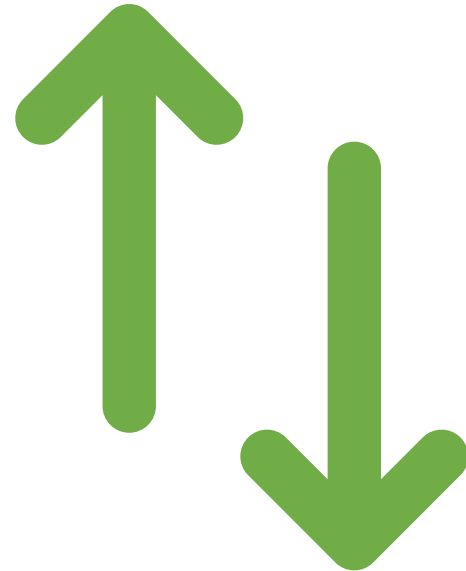


- **Use the chat to share ideas.** You can message the (co)hosts and participants directly.



# 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**
- **Meet Your EN Coordinator: Region 2**
- **Environmental Information & Innovation (E2i) National Meeting**
- **CDX Login.gov Integration**
- **EN Reinvigoration Update: Data Flows**
- **Open Forum**





+ 8 Tribal Nations

## EPA Region 2

### Regional Exchange Network Coordinator (RENC)

# R2 RENC Overview

**Name:** Barry Kaye

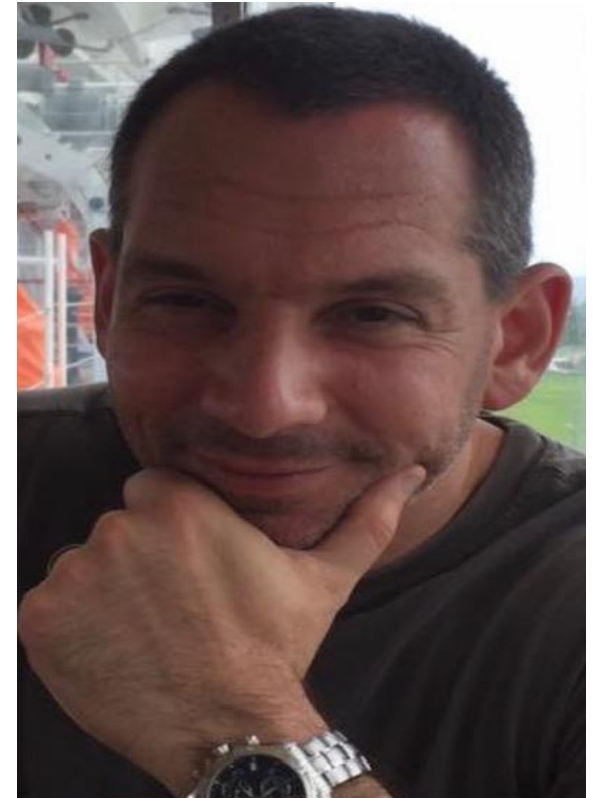
**Job Title:** IT Specialist

**Time at the Agency:** 31 Years, 1 Month

**Time in the RENC Role:** 8 Years, 0 Months

**Other Job (non-RENC) Roles:** Systems Admin (RCRA), SQL Oracle/SQL Server Admin; Report Writer, DataViz Creator; Liaison for Forms, CUI and Section 508; 508 Truster Tester; EE Regional Coordinator; various other IT needs.

**Contact Information:**  
kaye.barry@epa.gov  
212-637-3323

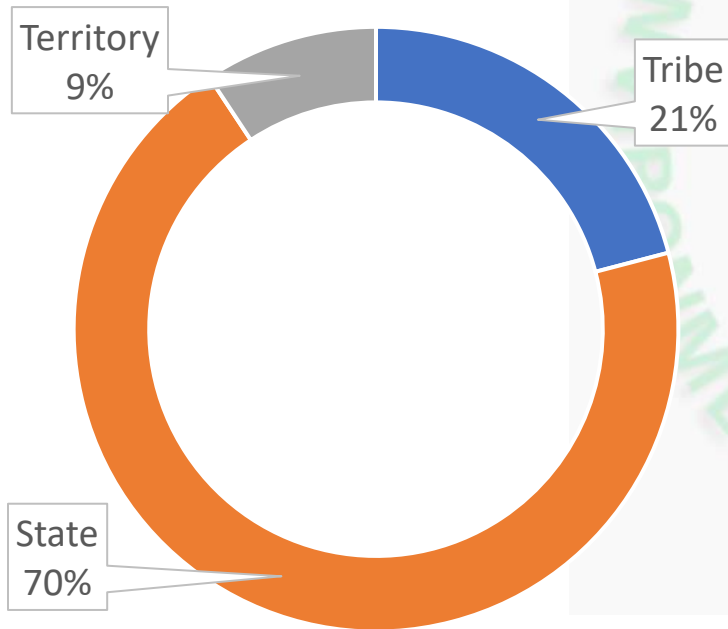


# R2 RENC Overview

## 3 Open Grants

43 Total Grants since 2002

R2 Grantees by Applicant Type (2002-2022)

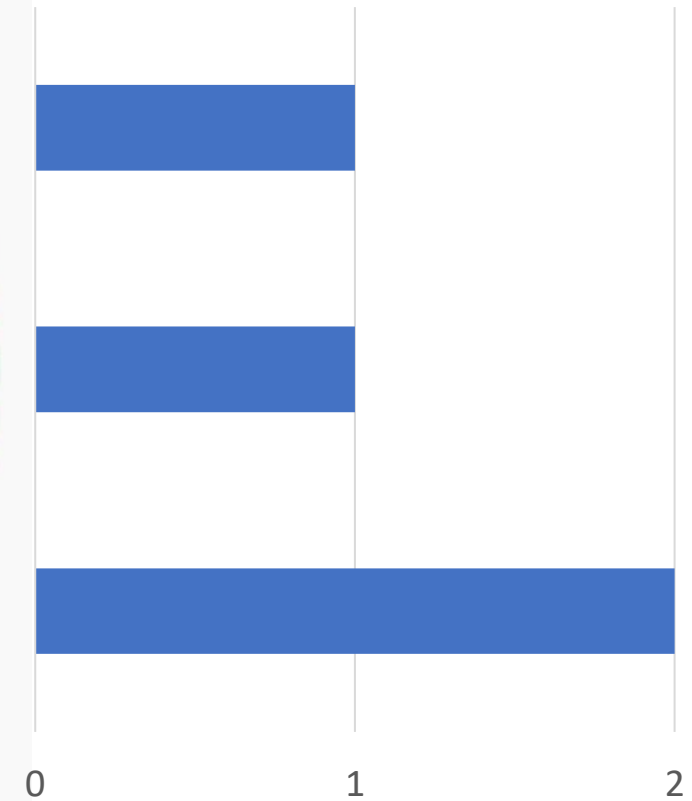


FY21-23 Project Trends R2

Assessment TMDL Tracking And Implementation System (ATTAINS)

Individual Capacity Building

Open Data Projects (including Geospatial Data)





# R2 Project Highlight

Grantee Org:

St Regis Mohawk Tribe

Award Year:

2022

EN Partnership Grant?

N

EN Project Opportunity:

Innovative Business Processes, Open Data, Data Modernization and Digital Transformation Projects Including Geospatial Data

Project Description:

On demand portal for env. mapping data and reducing admin costs of delivery.

Notable Project Highlights/  
Accomplishments:

- Content development
- Project team review
- Feedback and input

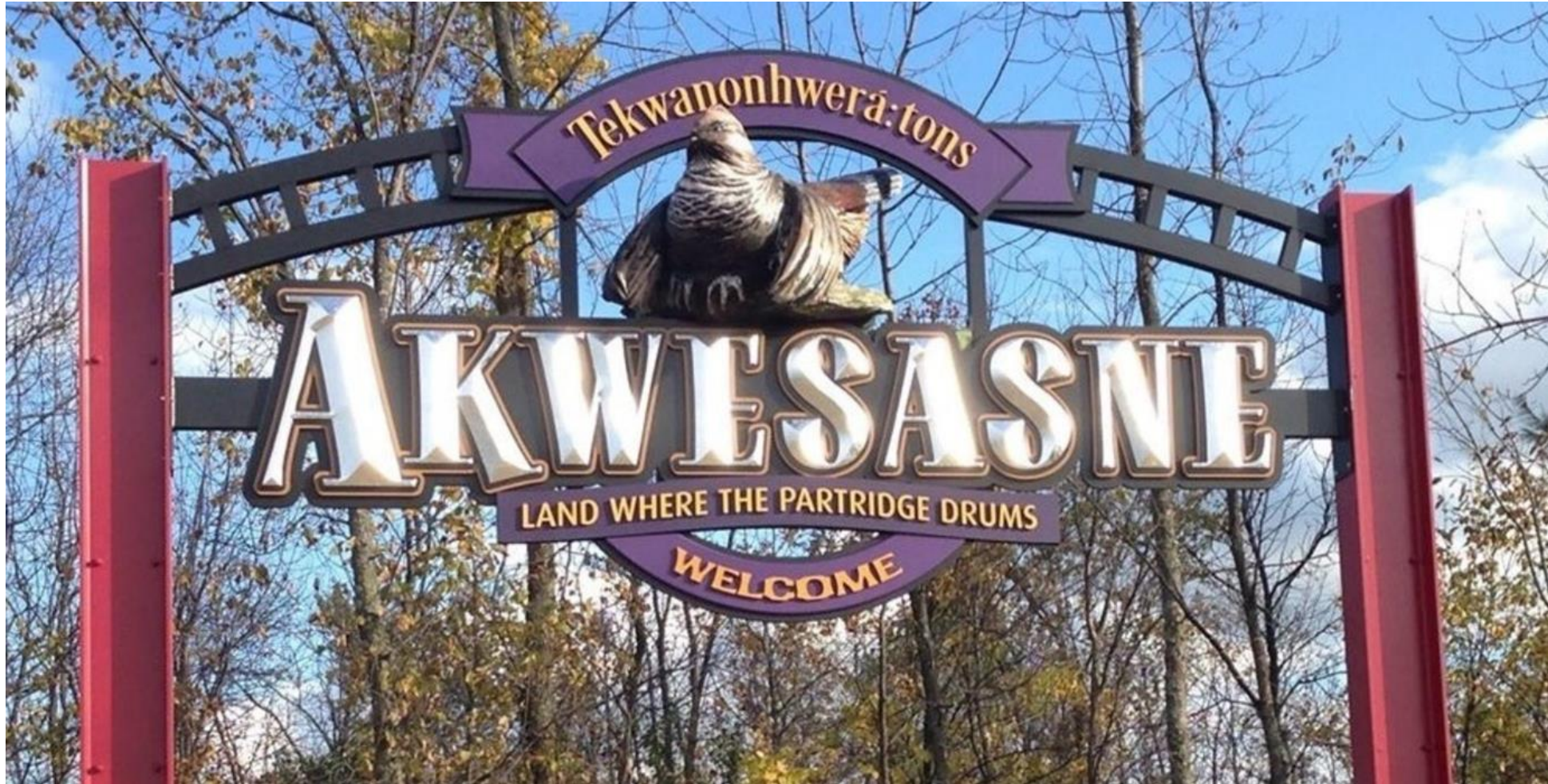


# Introduction

- Les Benedict
- Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

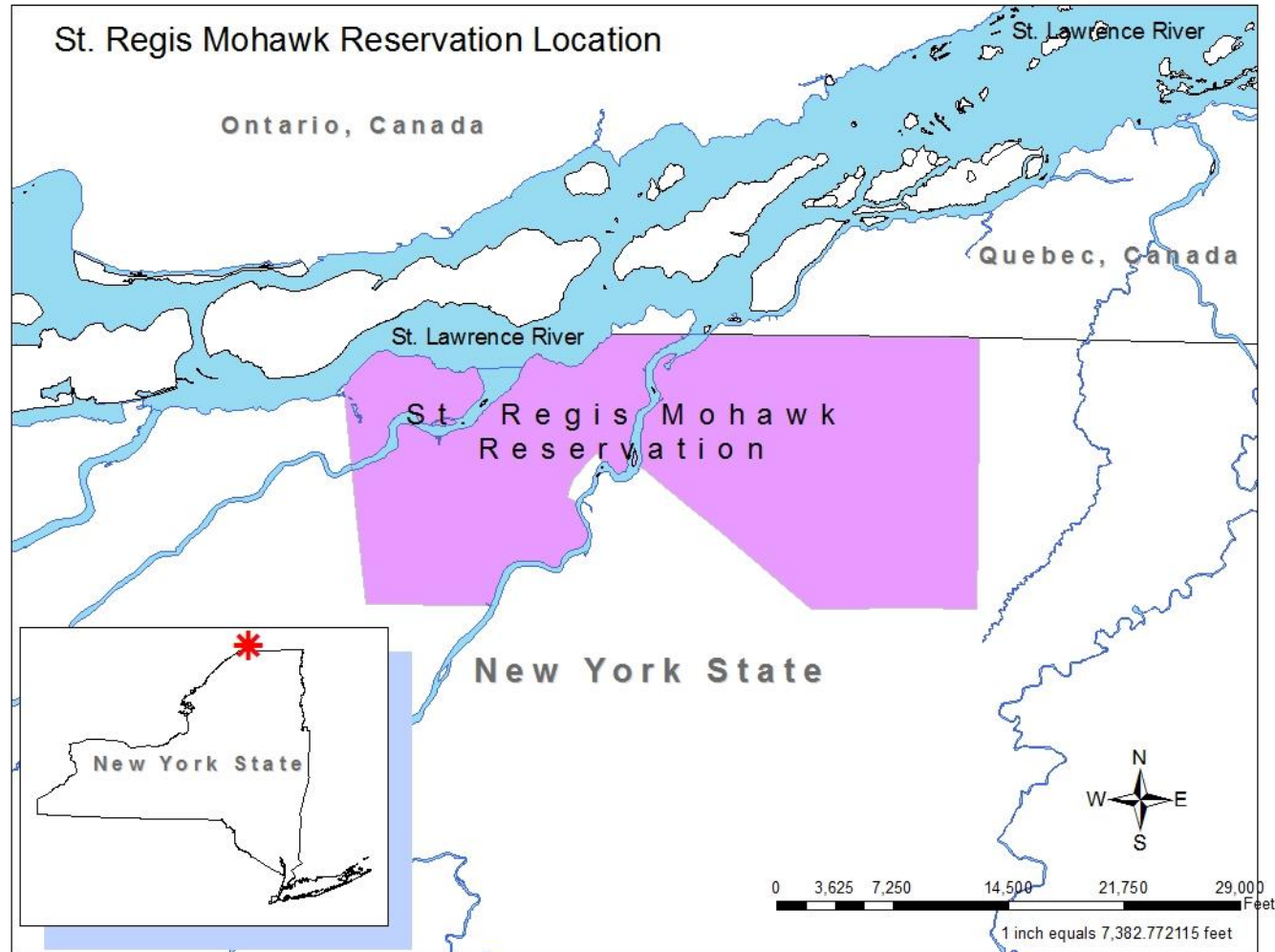


# Location



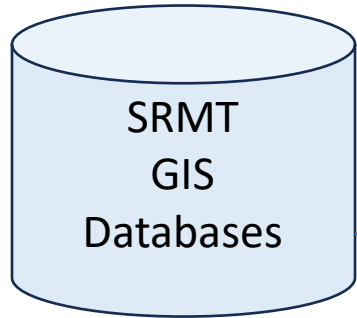


# Location of Akwesasne



# 1 Portal Site

## 2 Source Geo Data



2.1  
Set to  
Public

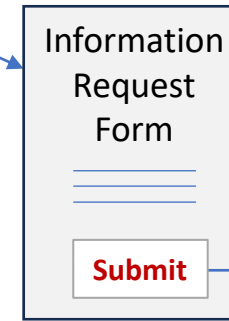
'Data Sync'  
program

2.2

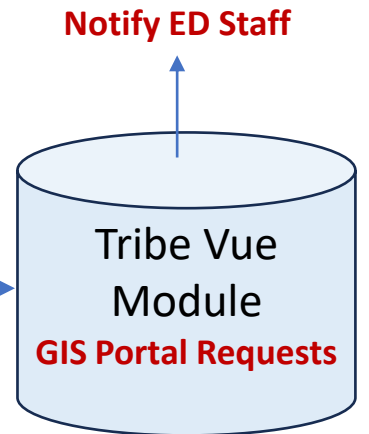
Information  
Request  
Form



## 3 Information Requests



3.1



3.2

## 4 Public Access Statistics

# Tribal GIS Portal Highlights

- To provide public Environmental Data Access
- Respond to community needs, on demand data accessibility
- Enhance data collecting for Tribal employees
- Support Tribal Environmental Management and Policy Decisions -
- Lower the costs of the administrative process in the delivery of map data to the community

# Platform



## ArcGIS Hub

Transform how you engage and collaborate with your community

- ESRI ArcGIS Hub
- Organize tribal data
- Share open data
- Improve tribal service delivery for mapping for decision-making, e.g. resource management and improve outcomes
- Leverage existing data and technology
- ArcGIS Hub is supported by USDOJ-BIA licensing



# Features

- Forest cover types
- Non-forest cover types
- Rivers & streams & water bodies
- Roads
- Wetlands
- Urban interface areas and boundaries
- Links to external GIS data, e.g. - Access to external data being considered is USFWS, USFS, USGS and USDA-Soils data

# Progress



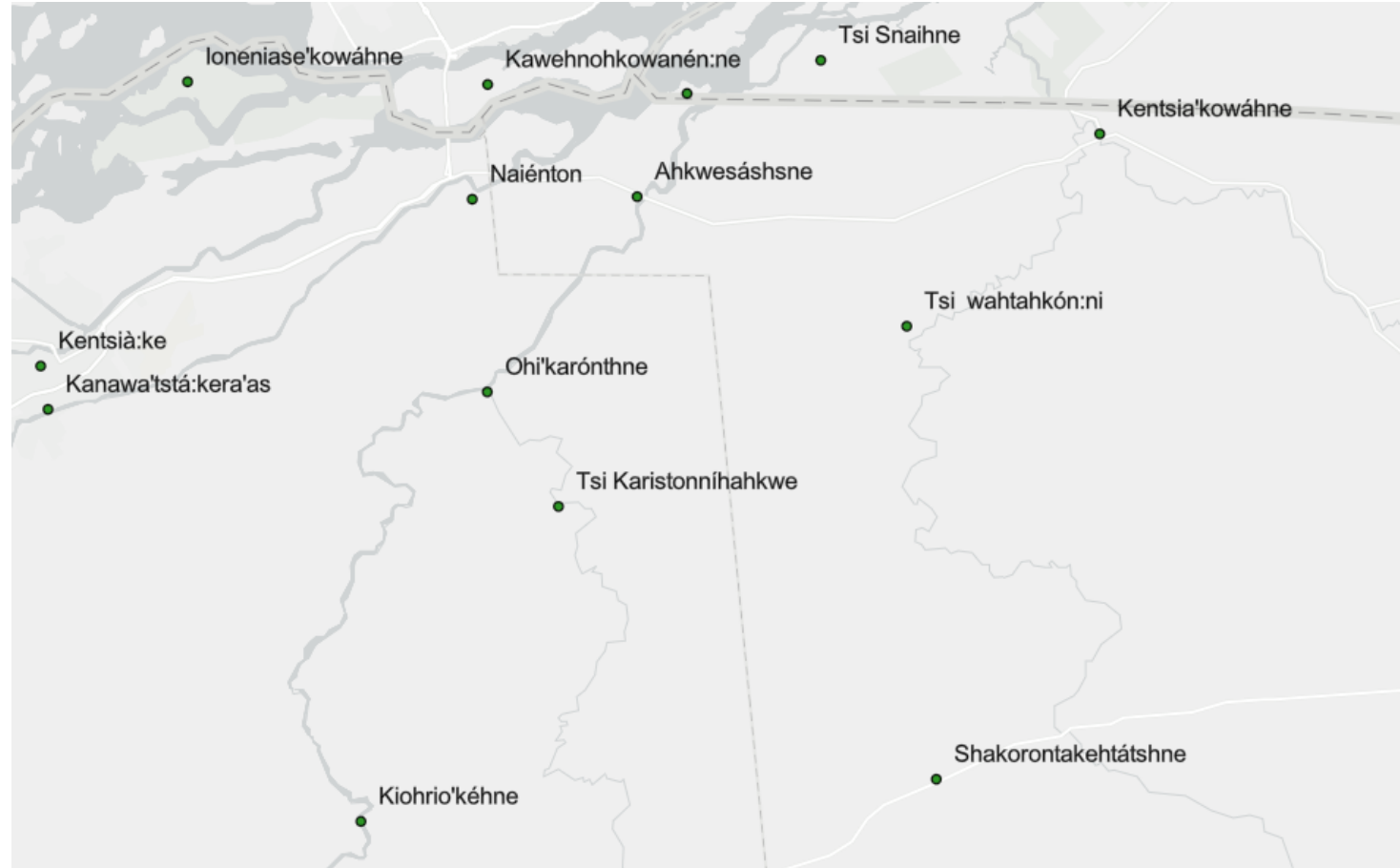
## Tribal Community Geographic Information System (GIS) Portal

Enabling the Tribal community to access GIS functionality from the Tribe's environmental geodatabase and public sources.

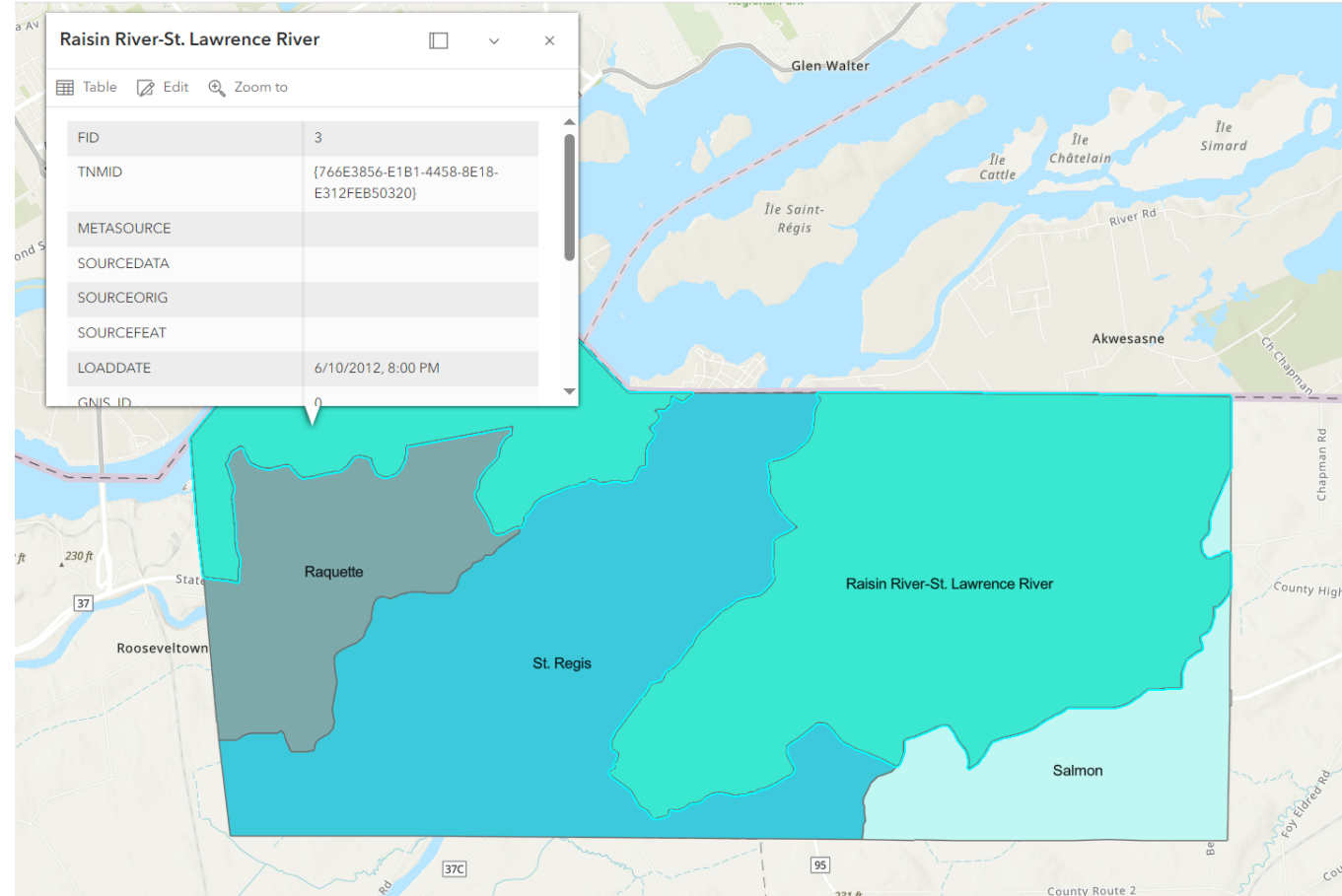
*Note: These maps are created from a subset of data from the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Geographic Information System (GIS) database. The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe makes no claims, no representations, and no warranties, express or implied, concerning the validity (express or implied), the reliability or the accuracy of the GIS data and GIS data products furnished by the Tribe, including the implied validity of any uses of such data.*

*The burden for determining accuracy, completeness, timeliness, merchantability and fitness for or the appropriateness for use rests solely on the user accessing this information. The user acknowledges and accepts all inherent limitations of the maps and data, including the fact that the maps and data are dynamic and in a constant state of maintenance, correction and revision. The maps and associated data at this website do not represent a survey.*

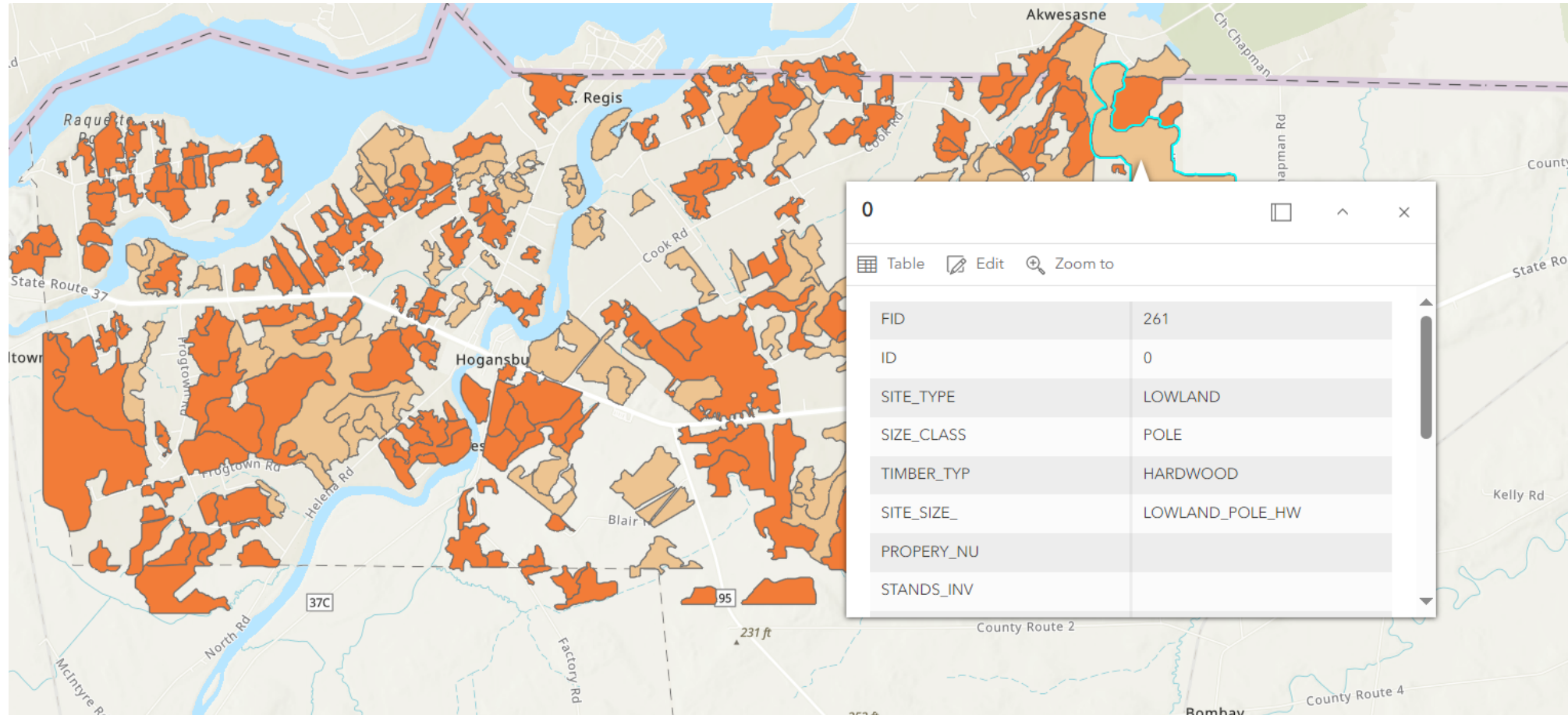
# Language is Important



# Watershed



# Forest Cover Types



# Niawen Kowa – Thank you Greatly

Les Benedict  
Assistant Director  
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Environment Division  
71 Margaret Terrance Memorial Way  
Akwesasne, NY 13655  
518-358-5937  
[les.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov](mailto:les.benedict@srmt-nsn.gov)

- **E2i** is national meeting for the environmental protection community that builds on a long-standing meeting series.
- **Draft Agenda is Live!** We are continuing to curate the agenda and additional session based on your feedback during the EN Forum.
- **Registration is Live!** Meeting website will be shared through ECOS & TXG Listservs.

A promotional poster for the E2i Environmental Information & Innovation meeting. The background is dark green with a glowing green lightbulb shape composed of a network of lines and dots. The text is white and red. At the top, it says 'Environmental Information & Innovation' in a large font, with 'E2i' in a smaller font below it. Below that, it says 'REINVIGORATE | COLLABORATE | INNOVATE' and 'SEPTEMBER 17 - 19, 2024 | KANSAS CITY, MO'. At the bottom, there is a red button that says 'REGISTER FOR E2I' in white text.

**Environmental  
Information & Innovation**  
**E2i**

REINVIGORATE | COLLABORATE | INNOVATE  
SEPTEMBER 17 - 19, 2024 | KANSAS CITY, MO

**REGISTER FOR E2I**

[www.e2imeeting.net](http://www.e2imeeting.net)

# National Meeting

- **Confirmed Keynote! Jennifer Pahlka** author of the widely read and wildly popular *Recoding America*, will be giving our keynote address.
- **Pahlka spent years consulting with various government agencies**, trying to improve their performance. In part, her book seeks to guide government teams bridge policy and implementation teams to improve public services.





# CDX Login.gov Integration

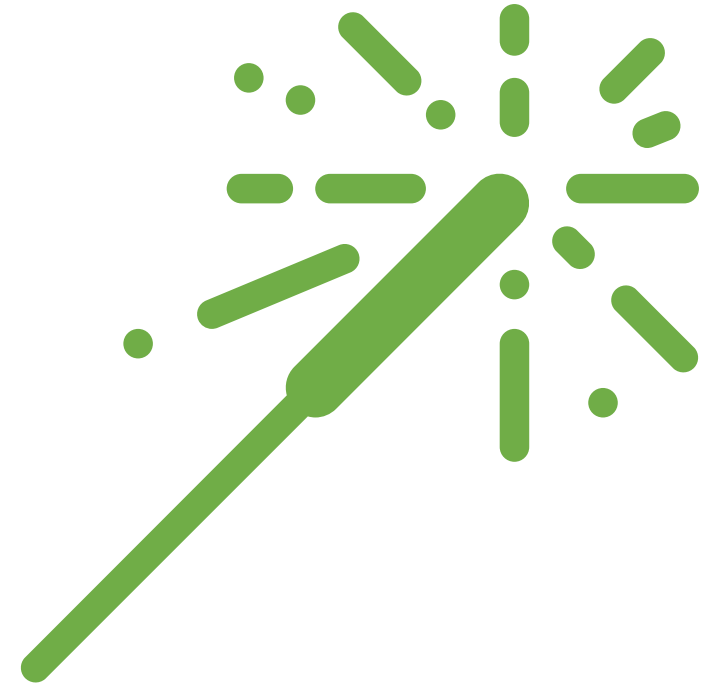


**LOGIN.GOV**



# EN Reinvigoration

- **From 2017 and 2019, the Exchange Network experienced fewer, direct interactions** between the EPA, Tribal, state and territorial partners. These dimming lines of communications were punctuated by the pandemic and staff turnover within organizations.
- **Over the years, the Exchange Network has pursued projects that did not align with our core mission** of providing a common operating framework. As a result, we've lost momentum on continuing to advance basic data collection and exchange opportunities.



# EN Reinvigoration

- **Technology has changed significantly since the Exchange Network started;** however, Exchange Network-systems have been slow to adapt to these changes. We need to think about modernization.
- **New Executive Orders and federal legislation around open data, security, and data management** also require us to revisit how Network systems work, including, but not limited to the Evidence Act and the 21st Century Act.
- **EPA must meet Exchange Network partners where *they are*,** and move forward, together, at a steady pace.



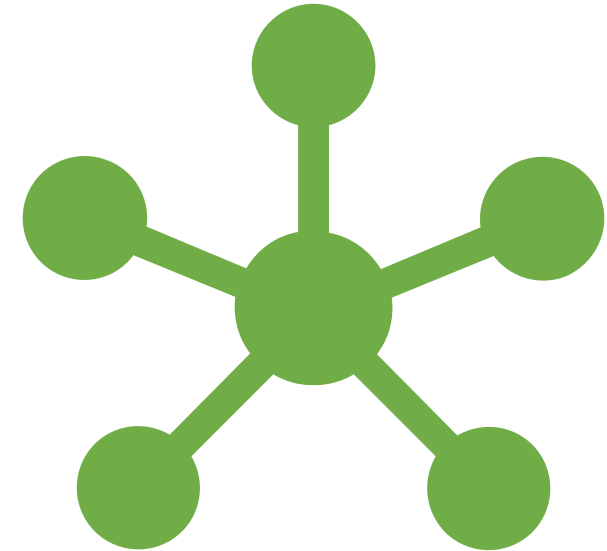
# EN Reinvigoration

- **The Exchange Network is a *partnership* that requires direct interaction to be successful.** Relationships must be rekindled improve data sharing and achieve our shared mission to protect health and the environment.
- **Meaningful progress is only possible if EPA listens to, hears from, and engages** with our Tribal, state and territorial partners at the earliest stages of planning.
- **EPA's vision is to increase its direct interactions with our partners moving forward** to ensure the Exchange Network adapts to changing needs and technologies - as we meet our partners where *they* are.



# Examine Existing Data Exchanges

- **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.
- **Analyze Active Exchange Network Data Exchanges** to understand the current state of these systems so we can know where to go in the future.
  - How do partner agencies and programs use existing Exchange Network data flows?
  - How and why have those usage patterns have changed over time?
  - How do current flows are or are not meeting user needs?



# Data Exchanges

- Analysis focused on **21 data exchanges** actives in the past 10 years. Looked at *Submissions, Solicits, and Queries*.
- These exchanges are **managed by 5 Program Offices and 1 Region**.
- **Exchanges are in various states of activity.** Some systems have been decommissioned (e.g., UIC); others require some context (e.g., FACID\_v.3.0 and FRS-3-0)

Data Flow	Program Office	Data Submitted	Data Solicited	Data Queried
AQS	OAR	X		
CERS_v2	OAR	X		
EIS_v1_0	OAR	X		
ICISDA	OECA	X	X	X
ICIS-NETDMR	OECA		X	
ICIS-NETDMR2	OECA		X	
ICIS-NPDES	OECA	X		
RCRA	OLEM	X	X	X
FacID_v3.0	OMS	X	X	X
FRS	OMS	X	X	X
FRS-3-0	OMS		X	X
NAICS	OMS			X
SRS	OMS		X	X
TRIME-STATE	OMS	X		
ATTAINS	OW	X	X	X
BEACHES	OW	X		
eBeaches	OW	X		
SDWIS	OW	X	X	
UIC	OW	X		
WQX	OW	X	X	X
GLEND A	Region 5	X	X	X
<b>Total Data Flows</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>

# Data Exchanges

- **Over the past 10 years**, the Exchange Network has included over **300** unique partner organizations.
- **State submissions have remained steady across data exchanges; Tribal participation has generally increased**, led by submissions to WQX and AQS.
- **Metrics for each data exchange available** in an Excel format and will be used to guide future conversations.

Partner Type	Number of Partners	Notes
States	51	Includes DC
Tribes	181	
Territories	6	Includes local partner within a territory, Junta de Calidad, PR
Local	51	Local partner data only included in FY19-FY23 spreadsheet
Federal	5	Includes EPA, Exchange Network and a few other federal entities
Other	9	Includes "Other," universities, organizations/companies
<b>Total</b>	<b>303</b>	

# Tribal Data Exchanges

- **Tribes participate in 5 EN Data Flows:** Air Quality System (AQS), Emissions Inventory System (EIS), Consolidated Emissions Reporting Schema (CERS), Beaches/eBeaches & Water Quality Exchange (WQX).
- **Water Quality Exchange (WQX)** is the most active data flow for Tribes with **181** Federally Recognized Tribes submitting to WQX over the past 5 years.
- **Air Quality System (AQS)** is the second most active data flow for Tribes with **52** Federally Recognized Tribes submitting to AQS over the past 5 years.





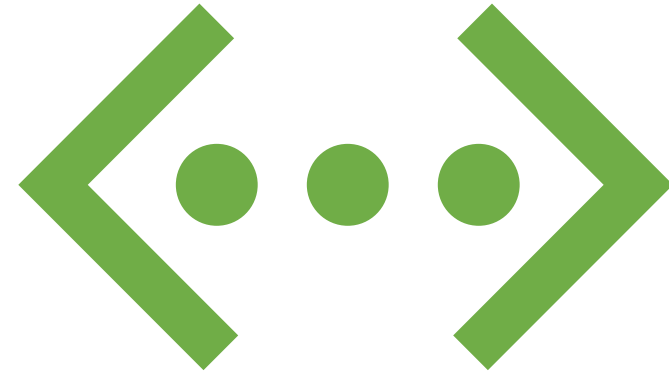
# Tribal Data Exchanges

- **Participation in other data exchanges is marginal.** The EIS, CERS & Beaches/eBeaches data exchanges have c. **5** Tribes over the past 10 years; c. **2** over the past 5 years.
- **One Alaskan Native Village participates in Exchange Network data exchanges.** Levelock Village has and continues to submit to WQX.



# Data Exchanges

- **Solicits:** Increase in state partner solicits of data, attributed to rise in RCRA data solicits. State partners account for almost 90% of solicits. No territory or local partners solicited data.
- **Queries:** Generally unremarkable. To some extent, state partners querying data decreased between FY18-FY22. State partners account for almost 60% of data queries. No territory or local partners queried data.



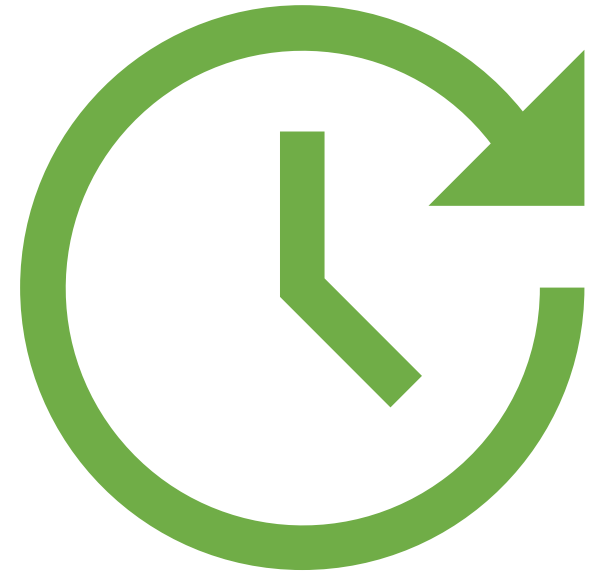
# Data Exchanges

- **In terms of outcomes, we now have a list of environmental organizations who participate in the Exchange Network** and coarse data on their participation over the past 10 years. These are folks we can potentially work with and interview going forward about their experiences.
- **For Tribal programs, we have a list ORG\_IDs for all Tribal entities submitting to the Water Quality Exchange.** We can match these against 106 grant recipients. The team is working to get this 106 information now.



# Future Directions

- ~~How do partner agencies and programs use existing Exchange Network data flows?~~
- ~~How and why those usage patterns have changed over time?~~
- How the current flows are or are not meeting user needs?



# Open Forum

- **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:** [Barry Kaye](#) (US EPA),  
[Dwane Young](#) (US EPA)

**Hosts:** [Alex Desibour](#) (US EPA, Contractor);  
[Kate Sijthoff](#) (US EPA, Contractor)



# Thank you!

Questions?