

Exchange Network Forum

Thursday, September 12, 2024

1:00 – 2:00 PM ET

Welcome

Alexander O’Neill, EPA Office of Information Management (OIM), Office of Mission Support (OMS)

- Alex Oneill welcomed participants to the meeting and noted that this Exchange Network (EN) Forum meeting will continue the series of information sessions with Regional Exchange Network Coordinators.
- This will include a discussion with EPA Region 4’s EN Coordinator, which includes much of the Southeastern United States.
- The meeting will also include updates on the Central Data Exchange (CDX) Login.gov integration and an update on the Tribal Exchange Network Conference (TENC), which will be held in Spokane, Washington.
- The final topic will be a discussion to prepare for the Environmental Information & Innovation National Meeting, which will include a demonstration of the Whova meeting applications.

Meet Your EN Coordinator: Region 4

Dr. James Davies, EPA Region 4

- Dr. James Davies introduced himself and noted that he has been with the EPA for thirteen years.
 - Dr. Davies has served as the Region 4 EN Coordinator for nine months.
 - He is also the E-Enterprise Coordinator and PPG Project Officer for three Region 4 performance partnership grants and serves as the Environment Science Center Grant coordinator and Multiple Point Grant Coordinator.
- Region 4 is comprised of eight southeast states and six tribes.
- The Region has eight open EN grants that are working with the following projects:
 - Shared CROMERR Services (SCS)
 - Emission Inventory System (EIS)
 - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
 - Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA Info)
 - Open Data Projects (including Geospatial Data)
 - Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)

- States are the most common recipients of EN grants in Region 4, with 96% of grants going to state agencies for a total of 105 grants, 3% to Tribes for 3 grants, and one grant going to a university (UNC-Chapel Hill), which represents 1% of Region 4's EN grants.

CDX Login.gov Integration

Alex Oneill, EPA Office of Information Management (OIM), Office of Mission Support (OMS)

- On August 17, 2024, OIM successfully deployed the CDX Identity, Credentials, and Access Management solution, also known as CDX ICAM.
- This integration supports phishing resistant Multifactor Authentication (MFA) and allows EPA to comply with federal and Agency MFA requirements.
- At their first sign-in, users will be prompted to complete the account migration process.
- Organizational users will authenticate with their PIV cards, while non-organizational users will authenticate via Login.gov. Additional information is available on the [Access Frequently Asked Questions](#).
- Contact Joe Carioti (carioti.joe@epa.gov) for additional information.

Tribal Exchange Network Conference

Lydia Scheer, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

- Lydia Scheer announced that the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG) will be hosting the Tribal Exchange Network Conference (TENC) at the Northern Quest Resort in Spokane, Washington from October 16-17, 2024. The theme is *Tribal Data: Sharing Stories, Supporting the Future*.
- TENC is designed for Tribal communities to connect with colleagues across the country to expand Tribal capacity for environmental data sharing, management, and analysis.
- The 2024 Tribal Exchange Network Conference (#TENC24) aims to expand Tribal capacity for environmental data sharing, management, and analysis through informational, interactive sessions that foster connection and collaboration opportunities, and strengthen Tribal participation in the Exchange Network.
- The registration deadline is October 10, 2024. Refer to the [Access Registration Portal](#). There is no registration fee and there will be a virtual component.
- The scholarship deadline has passed for supporting travel costs, but if there are special circumstances, please contact event coordinators.
- Information about hotels and additional details on the event can be found on the [TENC website](#). The agenda, speakers, and topics will be published soon.
- [Sign up to receive more information and to keep up to date with the TXG.](#)

Environmental Information & Innovation (E2i) National Meeting

Alex Oneill, EPA Office of Information Management (OIM), Office of Mission Support (OMS)

- The E2i National Meeting will run from September 17 to 19, 2024 and be held at the [Westin Kansas City at Crown Center](#) in Kansas City, Missouri.
- The agenda is available on the [website](#).

- Speakers include EPA's Deputy Administrator, Janet McCabe, Region 7 Administrator Meg McCollister, EPA Chief Information Officer (CIO), Vaughn Noga and former head of DC Water, George Hawkins.
- All speakers will submit their biography and contact information prior to E2i. This information is available on the website and meeting application.
- Presenters, panelists and session leads should have received information on logistics. A member of EPA's Office of Information Management will be reaching out to coordinate session presenters.
- Tuesday and Wednesday morning will open with plenary sessions. These include keynote addresses, roundtable discussions and other presentations that are of interest to the entire audience. These sessions are based on the polling during the EN Forum calls and other conversations that have taken place during the past year.
- In the afternoons breakout sessions are scheduled. They will highlight program innovation, collaborative efforts, and other topical discussions.
- Thursday will include working sessions. Support staff will record meeting minutes and questions and look for common themes and trends. These will be used to guide the conversations during the EN Reinvigoration discussion.
 - Dwane Young noted that the Thursday session will be a new format to kickoff the EN Reinvigoration and connectivity between the community.
 - The next step will be looking at technology and how it works. The Thursday sessions will include group discussions to start brainstorming about the future of the Exchange Network.
 - In preparation for the session, background will be provided on the EN and how it works.
 - He would like the group to consider that the EN historically has been focused on batching exchange data. They want to explore the future of the EN, including the business processes supported, the level of transactions batch processing supports and how EN data exchanges can better support business processes moving forward.
 - One session will focus on the principles adopted. It is a high technological bar to generate XML and APIs to exchange information. They do not want this to be the future. Instead, they want to meet states and Tribes where they are without instituting a high bar for technology. Discussions are needed on how to accomplish this.
 - Another session will focus on the current network nodes, NAAs, CROMERR shared services, etc. Discussions are needed on what future services could look like and where modernization and change are needed.
 - The sessions will be facilitated discussions.
- Other Logistics:
 - Check-in is Monday night between 4-5 PM.
 - Coffee and Tea will be available each morning.
 - Light snacks will be provided at the 3:45 break.
 - Meals are not provided.

- Dress is business casual.

Whova Application Demonstration

Kurt Rakouskas, Environmental Council of States (ECOS)

- The Whova application will be used to organize E2i National Meeting sessions and as a meeting application.
- Kurt Rakouskas provided a demonstration of the application. Refer to the meeting recording for more information.