

# **Exchange Network Forum**

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

**Thursday, November 14, 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.



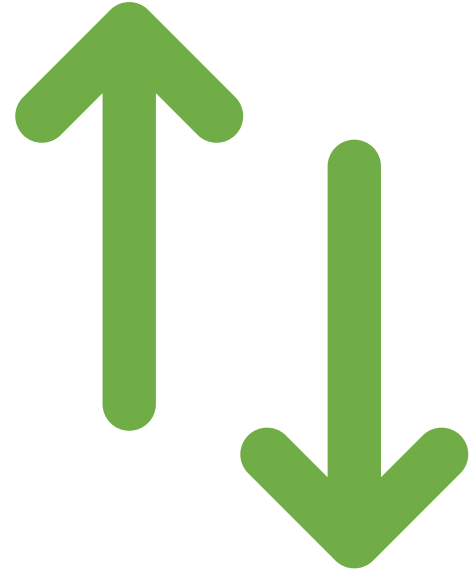
# Logistics

- **Introduce yourself!** If or when you speak, please tell us your name the organization you represent.
- **Submit questions in the Microsoft Teams chat.** You are also welcome to message the meeting host 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**
- **From Ideas to Applications**
- **Tribal Exchange Network Conference**
- **Open Forum**





# FROM IDEAS TO APPLICATIONS

# WE'VE ALL BEEN HERE....

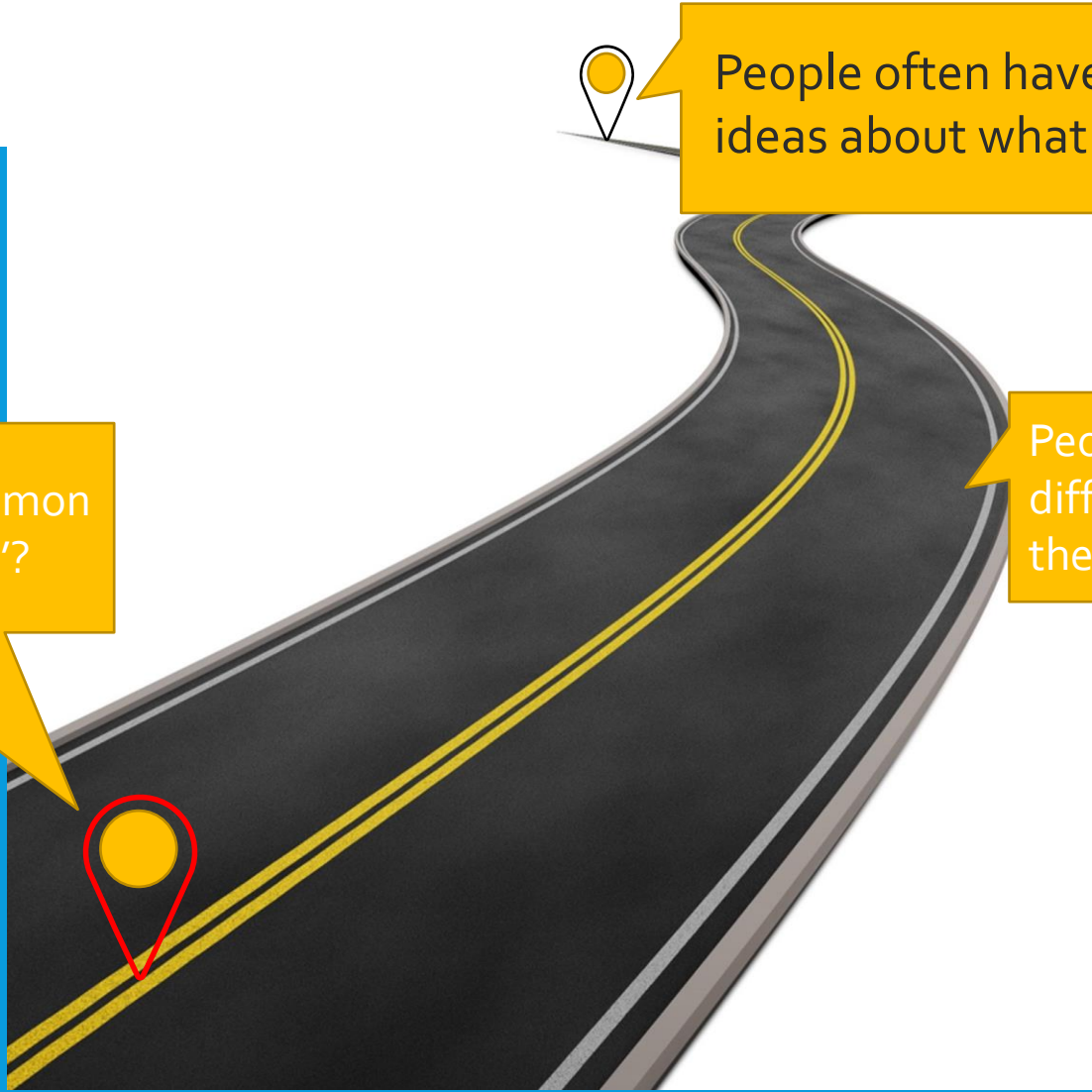
Many things can trigger the beginning of this process:

- A new rule or statute
- A problem is identified that needs to be resolved
- Someone has a good idea!



# GETTING FROM "HERE" TO "THERE"

Does everyone have a common understanding of the 'As-is'?



People often have different ideas about what 'there' is

People also often have different ideas on 'How' to get there



# THIS IS NOT AN ARGUMENT FOR WATERFALL!

- Following a lengthy 'What' process is equally perilous!
- You don't need to have a 'perfect' understanding of the 'What' to get started
  - Recognize what you know and what you don't know
  - Develop standard methodologies to iterate through questions and document outcomes
  - Don't be afraid to engage partners even though you may not know all the answers

# DISCUSSION AREAS

DISCOVERY

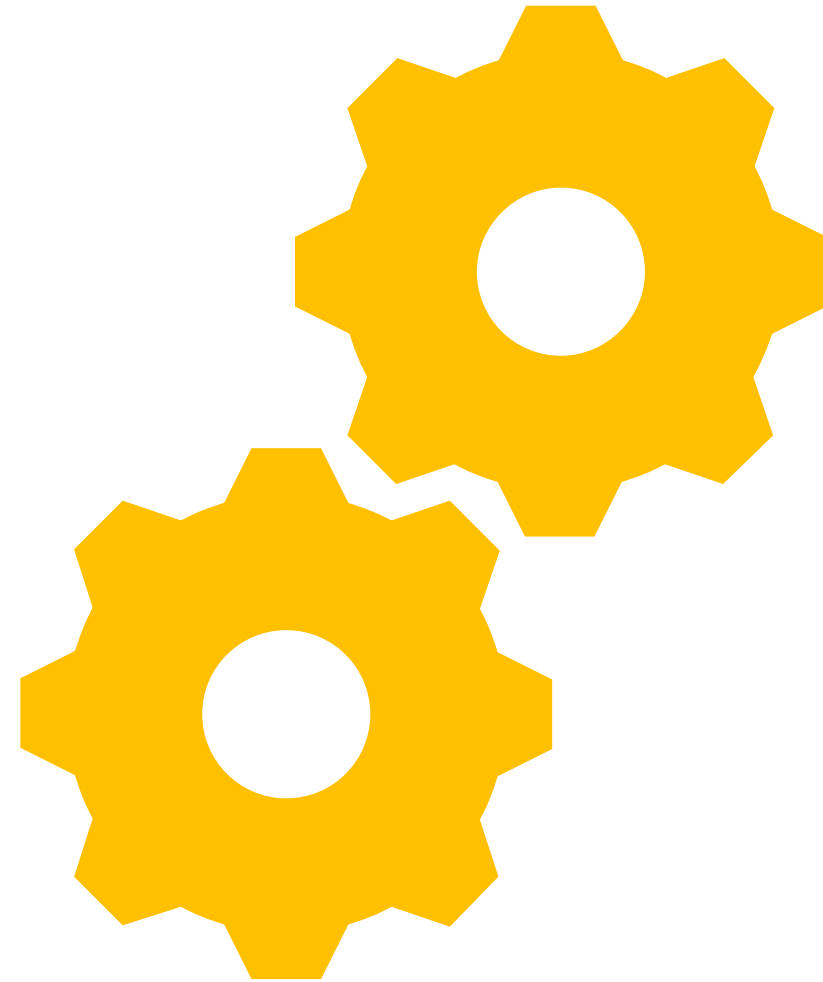
BUILDING  
MOMEMENTUM

TRANSLATING  
FROM 'WHAT'  
TO 'HOW'

GETTING  
THERE

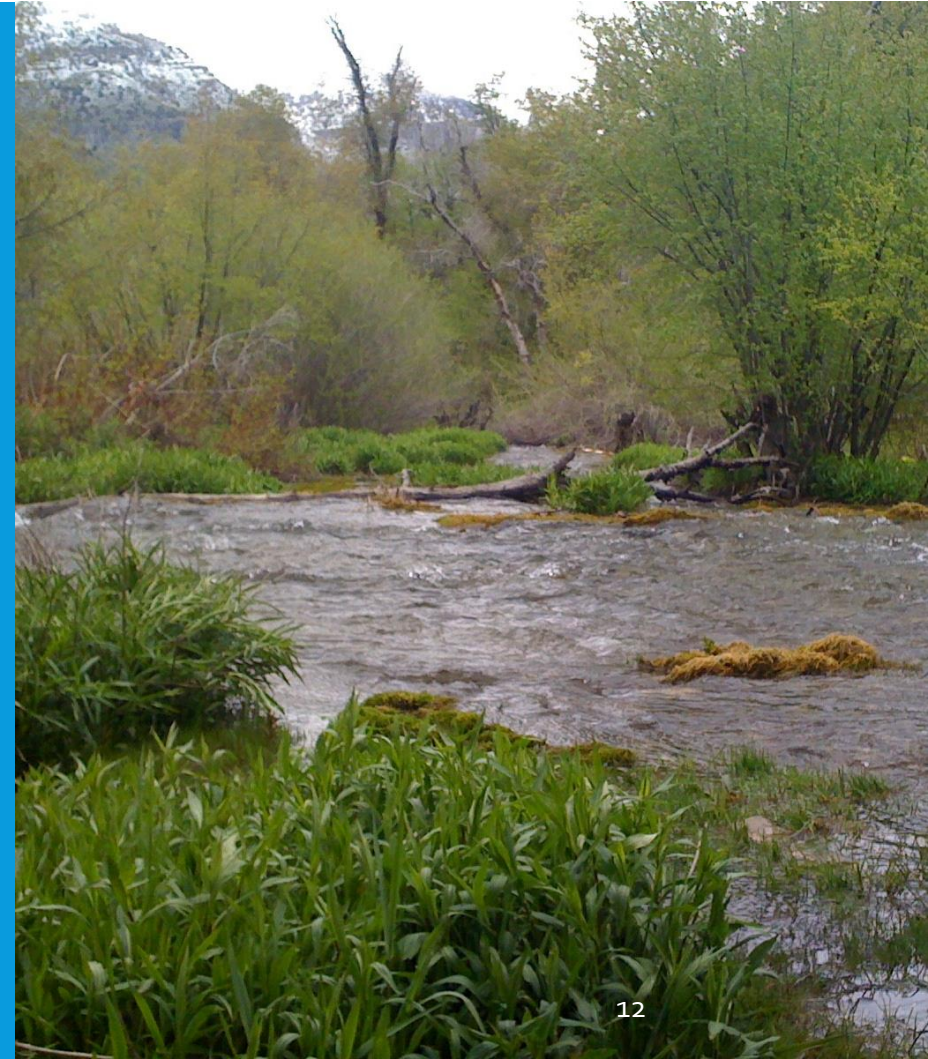
# 1. DISCOVERY

- Discovery Phase – lean on Communities of Practice
  - Has someone else already solved this problem?
- Understanding the Problem
- Develop budgets and align budget requests



## 2. BUILDING MOMENTUM

- Establishing a Vision/Plan
- Include stakeholders
- Getting Buy-in
- Document business processes and requirements
- Engage Users and Build a Community that has interest in your success
- Set expectations



### 3. TRANSLATING FROM 'WHAT' TO 'HOW'

- Turning business requirements into technical requirements
- Understand and document your data model before you start development
- Refine budget – get to budget reality
- Evaluate technical options



# 4. GETTING THERE

- Continue to use Agile approaches
- Work with partners/customers throughout the process
- Plan for iterative releases and prepare to adjust
- Plan for approaches to bring in new users
- Training, training, training!

# TIPS FOR THE ENTIRE PROCESS

- Be aware of your risks – they can be opportunities and not always threats
- Develop Governance that includes your stakeholders
- Communication is key to success – apply resources to this need
- Maximize the use of other investments (rent/buy/build)
- Working with contractors is a skill in itself – this can't just be 'another duty'
- Recognize that you're not just building something – you're actually creating a 'change' to someone's reality. Plan to manage the change process accordingly

# Discussion & Questions



SPOKANE, WA & ONLINE

# 2024 TRIBAL EXCHANGE NETWORK CONFERENCE



#TENC24

## TRIBAL DATA: SHARING STORIES, SUPPORTING THE FUTURE

OCTOBER 16-17, 2024 8:00AM - 5:00PM  
With pre-conference workshops on October 15th

 [txg@tribalexchangenetwork.org](mailto:txg@tribalexchangenetwork.org)



# TENC24 Highlights

A community of Tribal, EPA, and others convened the **2024 Tribal Exchange Network Conference** at the Northern Quest Resort near Spokane, Washington, October 16-17, with the theme of ***Tribal Data: Sharing stories, Supporting the future.***

- Hybrid event with live-streamed sessions and recordings posted online at [www.bit.ly/tenc24](http://www.bit.ly/tenc24).
- ~150 registered for in-person or virtual participation
  - 50% Tribal agencies & organizations
  - 20% Federal agencies
  - 30% Other entities (private, academic, non-governmental, etc.)

# TENC24 Agenda

**>30 speakers @ 20 sessions** - informative panels, interactive discussions, mini-workshops, and networking opportunities

- Coding and data science topics
- Exchange Network (EN) Reinvigoration
- EN grants program and grant-funded projects
- Emerging Technologies and Artificial Intelligence
- Water quality, fisheries, GIS, Brownfields, air quality and more!

***“Lightning Rounds”** and **“Data Drop-in Sessions”** were popular for topic-specific small-group interactions. **Learning about Tribal projects** and **meeting new people** were noted highlights of the event.*



# Lightning Rounds



**... and the witches!**



# What's next?

- Seek input from Tribal and EPA partners on planning for future TENCs
- Attend Tribal EN Roundtable sessions (dates and location TBD)
- Attend other Tribal events such as the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, and Tribal Lands & Environment Forum
- Host Tribal data workshops sessions (dates and location TBD)
- Offer monthly "Tribal Data Drop-in Sessions" throughout 2025

***Check out our website and subscribe to our email list for updates***



**[www.tribalexchangenetwork.org](http://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org)**



# Contact

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

**Panelists:** [Lydia Scheer](#) (ITEP),  
[Dwane Young](#) (US EPA),  
[Angie Reed](#) (Penobscot Nation)

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



# Thank you!

Questions?