

MIDDLE RIO GRANDE URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP

September 29, 2015

Vision – Through our partnership, we will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.

URBAN WATERS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Next Urban Waters Meeting

Date: *Wednesday, October 28th*

Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Place: Mountain View Community Center • 201 Prosperity Ave SE
Agenda TBD

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dia del Rio

October 18th

8:30am - 1:00pm

See below under “Events”

EPA – Urban Waters Small Grant RFP

Deadline for filing is November 20

See below under “Funding Opportunities”

RELATED URBAN WATERS DATES

EPA – MS4 Permittees Workshop

Date: *October 29th*

Time: 9:00am - 4:30pm

Place: **TBD**

EPA is sponsoring a facilitated workshop to help the new MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permittees understand the cooperative agreements encouraged by the permit and how they can help with permit compliance. EPA sees this as a nuts-and-bolts meeting for the permittees that is not open to non-permittees. There will be ***an update on the MS4 permit at the next Urban Waters meeting on October 28th***.

EPA – MS4 Permit NOIs

Deadline for comments for current NOIs is October 31st

The public can get involved in the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) NOI (Notice of Intent to discharge) process that’s going on right now and which are open for public comment. Currently, there are several NOIs open for comments. Information about them and the NOI process is available at: <http://www3.epa.gov/water/npdes/sw/sms4/sms4noi.htm>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Michael Jensen / Middle Rio Grande Urban Waters Ambassador
michael.jensen@bosqueschool.org • (505) 362-1063

NEWS FROM OTHER URBAN WATERS SITES

Groundworks USA & River Network – Urban Waters Learning Network

The Learning Network has a number of resources, including “Impact Stories from the Field” about success stories from the various Urban Waters partnership locations; past webinars; a toolbox for issues such as outreach, stormwater, and monitoring; and fundraising guides. <http://www.urbanwaterslearningnetwork.org>

NEWS

EPA & Pueblo of Cochiti Develop Green Infrastructure Projects

The initiative focuses resources from multiple federal agencies to help meet economic, environmental, and community needs identified by tribal leaders. The Pueblo of Cochiti has identified several challenges including flooding, drainage, and drinking water systems where EPA can offer assistance. EPA is also providing assistance with brownfields evaluation. As part of this effort, EPA is leveraging support from other organizations and federal agencies to find sustainable solutions to address environmental challenges.

EPA Finalizes Rule to Modernize Clean Water Act Reporting

The Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule to modernize Clean Water Act reporting for municipalities, industries, and other facilities. The final rule will require regulated entities and state and federal regulators to use existing, available information technology to electronically report data required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program instead of filing written paper reports. EPA estimates that, once the rule is fully implemented, the 46 states and the Virgin Islands Territory that are authorized to administer the NPDES program [NB: New Mexico is NOT a delegated state] will collectively save approximately \$22.6 million each year as a result of switching from paper to electronic reporting. The final rule will make facility-specific information, such as inspection and enforcement history, pollutant monitoring results, and other data required by NPDES permits accessible to the public through EPA’s website. This rulemaking is part of EPA’s *Next Generation Compliance* strategy, as well as the *E-Enterprise for the Environment* strategy with states and tribes, to take advantage of new tools and innovative approaches to increase compliance and reduce pollution. The shift toward electronic reporting in the NPDES program and others will help make environmental reporting more accurate, complete, and efficient. It will also help EPA and co-regulators better manage information, and improve effectiveness and transparency. EPA expects to publish the final rule in the Federal Register in October 2015. The final rule will be effective 60 days following this publication. View the final rule at: <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/final-national-pollutant-discharge-elimination-system-npdes-electronic-reporting-rule> and get more information on Next Generation Compliance at: <http://www2.epa.gov/compliance/next-generation-compliance>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Fruit Tree Planting Foundation – Orchard in Your Community

Ongoing

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation (FTPF) strategically donates orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, including at community gardens, public schools, city and state parks, low-income neighborhoods, and Native American reservations. For more information: <http://www.ftpf.org/apply.htm>

Smart Growth America – Technical Assistance Workshop Applications

Deadline is October 21st

Each year Smart Growth America offers a limited number of free workshops to help communities find solutions to local development issues, so that participating communities are able to grow in ways that benefit residents and businesses while protecting the environment and preserving a sense of place. Communities can apply for one of 12 workshop types as part of the free program, including:

- [Implementing smart growth 101](#)
- [Planning for economic and fiscal health](#)
- [Sustainable land use code audit](#)
- [Complete Streets](#)
- [Using LEED-ND to accelerate the development of sustainable communities](#)
- [Walkability workshop/audit](#)
- [Regional planning for small communities](#)
- [Smart growth zoning codes for small cities](#)
- [Transportation performance measurement](#)
- [“Cool planning”](#)
- [Parking audits](#)

- [Implementing transit-oriented development 101](#)

Any unit or subdivision of local government, Indian tribe, or regional government is eligible to apply for these free workshops. Communities may apply for more than one workshop, but must submit separate applications for each. For more information and to apply, please go to: <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/2015/09/23/applications-now-being-accepted-for-smart-growth-americas-2016-free-technical-assistance-workshops/>

EPA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grants

Solicitation scheduled to open in October 2015

The SBIR program funds small businesses developing green technologies that protect the environment. 2015 draft topics include, among others: home-based sensors for organic pollutants, non-toxic and biodegradable plastics, innovative construction materials, and water-related resource and/or energy recovery. For information about recent SBIR Phase I awards, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir2015phase1>. For information about the SBIR Program, please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/ncer/sbir/> and <http://www2.epa.gov/sbir/sbir-funding-opportunities>. For information about the SBIR Program across the Federal Government, please visit: <https://www.sbir.gov/>

USDA – Innovation Challenge

Deadline is October 27

USDA and Microsoft have launched a competition, called the Innovation Challenge, to help farmers and local food systems adapt to climate change. The Challenge is meant to encourage software developers to create applications that will use more than 100 years of USDA data on weather and climate, markets and consumer trends, and a wide range of other information to explore how our food system can achieve better food resiliency and help preserve existing farms and encourage new entry into agriculture. For more information: [“Innovation Challenge”](#) and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ON_wlflwZBg&feature=youtu.be

EPA – Urban Waters Small Grant RFP

Deadline for filing is November 20 (9:59pm Mountain Time; electronically via Grants.gov at <http://www.grants.gov>)

The total estimated funding available for awards under this competition is approximately \$1.6 million with the expected award to range from approximately \$40,000 to no more than \$60,000. EPA Regional Offices will award the cooperative agreements resulting from this announcement. It is anticipated that each EPA Regional Office will award approximately two to three cooperative agreements. **A minimum non-federal cost share/match of \$4,000 is required.** EPA will host **one national Information Session regarding this announcement via webinar on Oct 22, 2015 at 12:00pm** Mountain Time. For more information and the RFP, go to:

<http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

or

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279164>

EVENTS

LOCAL

(“Local” includes webinars and teleconferences)

Albuquerque Open Space – PARCH: An art exhibit exploring the nature of water

Date: Reception October 3rd; Exhibit thru December 27th

Time: Reception 2:00pm - 4:00pm; Visitor Center hours are Tuesday - Sunday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Place: Open Space Visitor Center • 6500 Coors Rd NW

PARCH is a group multi-media art exhibition exploring the nature of water in the desert. Water has a transformational quality, carving the political and physical landscapes of our world. It supports and takes life, and any given time can be abundant or exceedingly scarce. It flows, vaporizes, and freezes, falls from the sky and bubbles up from the earth. It is revered, coveted and feared. In PARCH, six local artists express their relationship with water in the desert, using a variety of techniques, ranging from fiber to acrylics to ceramics. Their creations embody the mission of the Open Space Gallery, “inspiring an exchange of ideas, solutions and interpretations ... and deepening understanding, appreciation and stewardship for Albuquerque’s unique natural and human community.”

Kirtland Air Force Base – Tour of Bulk Fuel Facility & Jet Fuel Plume Cleanup

Deadline for registration has been extended to Oct 4, midnight

Date: October 24th

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm or 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Place: Participants will board buses at the Cesar Chavez Community Center at 7505 Kathryn Ave SE for transportation to Kirtland AFB

The field trip will be a *two-hour tour* of project locations on KAFB and will focus on work being done to remove contamination caused by a decades-long leak at the base bulk fuels facility. Air Force and NMED environmental experts will be available at the tour stops to explain cleanup activities and answer questions. If you have any questions, please contact the Air Force Civil Engineer Center Public Affairs office at (866) 725-7617 or email afcec.pa@us.af.mil. *The field trip is limited to the first 100 people who sign up by Oct. 4 at <https://www.portageinc.com/kirtland/>*

Albuquerque Museum – Contemporary Issues Series

Date: October 4th

Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Place: Albuquerque Museum

Architect David Green will discuss designing spaces for innovation. The Contemporary Issues Series is a monthly program developed in conjunction with the Museum's new history exhibition, *Only in Albuquerque*. The series brings together thought-provoking speakers from a variety of disciplines to respond to the exhibition's main themes: Resourceful, Courageous, Innovative, and Spirited. The series is made possible by a grant from the New Mexico Humanities Council. The talk is included with regular museum admission.

New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) – The Triennial Review

Date: October 13-16

Time: beginning at 9:00am each day

Place: Room 307, New Mexico State Capitol Building (490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe)

The WQCC will hold a public hearing to consider proposed amendments to various sections of 20.6.4 NMAC, *Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters*. The proposed amendments, docketed as WQCC 14-05 (R), include amendments proposed by the New Mexico Environment Department's Surface Water Quality Bureau, as well as amendments proposed by Amigos Bravos, Peabody Energy Corporation, Freeport-McMoRan Chino Mines Company, and San Juan Water Commission. Proposed amendments include revisions to various definitions, use attainability analysis requirements, uses and criteria for unclassified waters and some classified segments, provisions for site-specific criteria and other provisions. The petitions and proposed amendments may be viewed on the Department's website, at www.env.nm.gov/swqb/TriennialReview/2013, or during regular business hours by contacting Pam Castaneda, Commission Administrator, 1190 S. St. Francis Drive, Room S-2102, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502, (505) 827-2425. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the New Mexico Water Quality Act, NMSA 1978, § 74-6-6, the *Guidelines for Water Quality Control Commission Regulation Hearings*. A copy of the *Guidelines, Procedural Order, and Scheduling Orders* are available on the Department's website (<https://www.env.nm.gov/wqcc/regulations.html>) or may be obtained from the Commission Administrator at the address and phone number above. Notice of Hearing of WQCC 14-05 (R) was originally published on October 31, 2014, and then again on April 6, 2015 as a result of the hearing being moved to June 9, 2015; however, the date of the hearing has now been changed to October 13, 2015, therefore this notice is being issued. All current parties submitted their respective Notices of Intent to Present Technical Testimony by December 12, 2014. All interested persons will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to submit relevant evidence, data, views and arguments, orally or in writing, to introduce relevant exhibits and to examine witnesses testifying at the public hearing. Persons desiring to present technical testimony at the hearing must file with the WQCC a written notice of intent. The notice of intent to present technical testimony shall:

- identify the person for whom technical testimony will be presented;
- identify each technical witness the person intends to present and state the qualifications of that witness, including a description of their education and work background;
- attach the full direct testimony of each technical witness, which shall include an express basis for all expert opinions offered;
- include the text of any recommended modifications to the proposed regulatory change; and
- identify and attach all exhibits anticipated to be offered by the person at the hearing.

The deadline for filing notices of intent is September 14, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Administrator's office. All documents filed in this matter, including notices of intent, must be filed with a single-sided original and

fourteen copies. *Any person may offer non-technical public comment at the hearing or submit a non-technical written statement in lieu of oral testimony at or before the hearing. In order to present technical testimony rebutting the testimony of another party at the hearing, a person must file a notice of intent to present rebuttal testimony no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 5, 2015.* The notice shall comply with the requirements set out above. In addition, if a party takes a position on proposed changes of other parties, the notice shall include the basis for that support or opposition. *In the event that more time is needed after 5:00 p.m., the hearing will move across the street to the P.E.R.A. Building, Apodaca Hall, at 1120 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe*

USDA/Forest Service - The Power of Tree Canopy Data to Plan, Prioritize, and Inspire Stewardship

Date: October 14th

Time: 11:00am – 12:15pm Mountain Time

Place: Webinar

Part I: Research Foundations, will introduce the science and motivating questions behind Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) data collection and analysis, illustrating the value of integrating tree canopy data with ecological, social, and economic data to achieve municipal goals. Tom Jacobs (Mid-America Regional Council) will provide an introduction to UTC assessments through a case study and description of the need for UTC information, the collaboration process, and key UTC products. Morgan Grove (USDA Forest Service) will describe the science behind UTC assessments and how data integration, analysis, and stakeholder engagement promotes collaborative action across sectors and disciplines. Dexter Locke (Clark University) will introduce cutting edge, social market research that informs effective outreach strategies for urban tree stewardship across different neighborhoods. Please also tune in to **Part II: Connecting with the Community**, which will bring UTC experts together to demonstrate how tree canopy data can empower decision-making and strategic action at regional, state, and city neighborhood scales.

Date: October 28th

Time: 11:00am – 12:00pm Mountain Time

The October 14th webinar is limited to 100 computer log-ins – please join in groups where possible. Connect early to ensure your spot; the phone lines will be open to all.

Contact the Urban Forest Technology & Science Delivery Team at urban@fs.fed.us with questions, feedback, requests for special accommodations, speaker suggestions, or to be added to the mailing list. Please feel free to forward this announcement to interested parties. Check the [website](#) for updates and to watch recordings of previous webinars. **Please use the information below to connect to the webinar:**

- **FIRST TIME USERS: MAKE SURE YOU CAN CONNECT** – If you have never attended an Adobe Connect meeting before, test your connection before the webinar. Go to: https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm
- **CONNECT TO THE WEBINAR ON YOUR SYSTEM** – Go to: <https://usfs.adobeconnect.com/ucf-100/> (limited to 100 connections)
- **AUDIO** – (unlimited)
Broadcast audio through your computer or use the information below to connect via telephone conferencing:
Toll-free: (888) 621-9649 or (617) 231-2734 – Participant code: 420362
- **TROUBLESHOOTING**
Unable to join the meeting? Call Adobe Connect at (800) 422-3623. Need help with telephone conferencing? Call AT&T Connect Support at (888) 796-6118

Sustainable Community Development Group: Equitable Development Technical Assistance Webinar

Date: October 14

Time: 12:00pm - 1:00pm Mountain Time

Place: Webinar

Equitable development seeks to comprehensively address deeply entrenched issues such as poverty, economic development, and environmental quality within our communities. Economic opportunity is a cornerstone of equitable development, particularly within communities facing the additional challenges development models of community ownership and wealth building. The webinar focuses on two highly successful equitable development models of community ownership and wealth building. They are the Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland, OH, three employee-owned green businesses that create jobs that deliver living wages and career pathways for local low income residents; and the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative's Community Land Trust in Roxbury, MA, which was created to take ownership of more than 30 acres of land and realize a vision of development without displacement. For more information, please see: www.sustainablecommunitydevelopmentgroup.org

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) – Public Comment on Expedited Public Transportation Improvement Initiative (XPEDITE)

Date: *Comment deadline is October 16*

Time: N/A

Place: Online

FTA is undertaking an effort to speed up planning, approval and delivery of its capital investments and better support innovative financing methods that support capital investments in transit. The multi-faceted [Expedited Public Transportation Improvement Initiative \(XPEDITE\)](#) will enhance and increase the transit industry's access to:

- Improved public transportation technologies
- Proven methods to speed up planning, development, approval and delivery of FTA supported capital investments
- Enhanced financing methods and opportunities for public-private partnerships through "value capture" that support improved capital project delivery.

The transit industry and others interested in public transportation are invited to provide comments on ways to improve program delivery. FTA will consider the comments received through the **Online Dialogue** as it updates its administrative requirements. If necessary, FTA will propose changes in those requirements through its normal Notice and Comment processes to help expedite program delivery. FTA has provided a [list of questions and subject areas](#) that they want comments on as well as comments on what is missing from their list that should be considered as FTA begins work on this initiative. Once the online dialogue has closed, you will be able to receive a report highlighting the full range of comments and suggestions, and to see which ideas were most popular with those that commented. To share your ideas:

- Enter a brief description or title for your idea
- Select the category that best relates to your idea
- Provide more detail about your idea in the description area, if you like
- Click Post

Bosque Action Team – Bosque Events

The BAT has put together a Fall calendar of events. Events are held on Saturdays

- *Bosque By Wheelchair*

Date: *October 17*

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Place: **Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area**

This area includes a ¼ mile trail made of crushed gravel, there is ADA parking, an ADA fishing pier for the irrigation ditch, and a picnic area. Those who want to can also explore some hard-packed dirt trails. The purpose of this outing is to enjoy the trail but also to see how well it works for people who use wheelchairs or other assistive devices (walkers, canes, etc.) and make recommendations to agencies on how they can improve and properly care for these trails. Please do know that there may be unexpected challenges. If you need special assistance, please contact the organizer before hand, but there will be outings leaders who can help on the inclines if needed. Please send ideas and suggestions even if you can't make it. **To access the Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area** take Rio Bravo Blvd. west from Broadway. Before the bridge turn right onto Poco Loco Rd. and follow it west into the parking area. Please bring good shoes and wheels, walkers, crutches, canes, etc., water, hat, sunscreen, snack and lunch if you want to stay to picnic afterwards. For more information, please contact: camilla.feibelman@sierraclub.org

- *Visit a hidden wetlands on the Rio Grande*

Date: *October 24*

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Place: **Meet at the parking area on the northwest corner of Central Bridge**

Explore the Bosque on the west side of the river, immediately north of Central Avenue and extending slightly beyond an old MRGCD diversion canal that has been turned into a wetland for silvery minnows and waterfowl. The 2-2.5 miles is fairly level walking. **Limited to 20 walkers.** Please bring insect repellent, good walking shoes, hat, sunscreen, binoculars, water and snack (if you wish). For more information and to RSVP, please contact Colston Chandler at (505) 343-9498 or ccent@swcp.com

- *Poetry in the Bosque*

Date: *October 31*

Time: 8:30am – 11:00am

Place: **Rio Grande Nature Center (2901 Candelaria Rd NW)**

Stroll through the beautiful autumn Bosque with stops for short poetry readings to help deepen our connection

to this forest and river. We will also learn about conservation efforts and wildlife sightings in this area, as well as visit some hidden land art. Moderate 3 mile loop through both young and mature forest, no elevation gain.

Limit 15 people. Please bring hat, sunscreen, water, and binoculars (optional). No dogs please. For more information and to RSVP, please contact M.J. Zimmerman at mjzim@hotmail.com

- *Bosquitos Event: Bosque Treasure Hunt with Noel Chilton*

Date: November 8

Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Place: Open Space Visitor Center (6500 Coors Blvd NW)

Learn how to use compasses and sun dials while learning about the bosque. Please bring a water bottle and snacks. For more information, please contact Sarita Streng at (505) 288-8713 or saritastreng@yahoo.com

- *Fall Hike in the Bosque*

Date: November 14

Time: 9:00am – 11:00am

Place: Meet at the parking lot just east of the SE corner of Montañño and Coors

Hike the west side stretch of the Bosque from Montañño to the Oxbow (approx. 1 ½ miles). The stand of cottonwoods behind the Bosque School should be beautiful this time of year. Then follow a side trail to the river and talk briefly about the benefits of the new embayment installed by the Corps of Engineers and then move on to the new pond at the edge of the Oxbow for a discussion of the Corps' project and the importance of the Oxbow and it's place in the Rio Grande Valley State Park. Please dress for cool fall weather and bring what is necessary for a two-hour hike. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Peter Kelling at

cloudsandwater@juno.com

- *Bosque By Wheelchair*

Date: November 21

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

Place: Bachechi Open Space (9521 Rio Grande Blvd NW)

This area, just outside the river's levees, has a forested and wetland area, in addition to a rose garden and educational center. Explore Bachechi and then walk the Paseo del Bosque trail to explore routes down to the River. The purpose of this outing is to enjoy the trail but also to see how well it works for people who use wheelchairs or other assistive devices (walkers, canes, etc.) and make recommendations to agencies on how they can improve and properly care for these trails. Please do know that there may be unexpected challenges. If you need special assistance, please contact the organizer before hand, but there will be outings leaders who can help on the inclines if needed. All are welcome on this outing. Please send ideas and suggestions even if you can't make it. Please bring good shoes and wheels, walkers, crutches, canes, etc. water, hat, sunscreen, snack. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Colston Chandler (505) 343-9498 or

ccent@swcp.com

City of Albuquerque Open Space – Día del Río: A Celebration of the Rio Grande

Date: October 18th

Time: 8:30am - 1:00pm

Place: TBA – the location of the event changes each year depending on areas that need restoration work; check back at the website

Join the Open Space Division and other local organizations for the 20th Annual Dia del Rio and a variety of conservation projects that nurture and protect the Bosque and river, including trail work, re-vegetation, and trash clean up. There will be activities appropriate for all ages. **Please arrive promptly at 8:30am to sign in and enjoy free refreshments provided by generous sponsors.** At the end of the event, make sure to stick around for a *fabulous prize drawing!* Please bring: gloves, sun protection, plenty of water. **Registration starts mid-September.** Please logon to www.rei.com/albuquerque or call 247-1191 to register. *The first 80 people to pre-register will receive a free t-shirt the day of the event, courtesy of REI!*

Organize your own bosque cleanup: Do you live near the bosque? Or do you have a favorite area near the river? Organize your own clean up the day of the event. Open Space will provide trash bags and haul off the collected trash. Call 452-5216 or email kswanson@cabq.gov to sign up your group for your own cleanup.

ABQ-BernCo Comprehensive Plan & ABQ Integrated Development Ordinance

Date: Various October thru December (check the [project website](#) for dates, times, and locations)

- **October 19-20 – Integrated Development Ordinance Module 1** meetings to walk through and discuss proposed zoning districts and uses
- **November 30-December 1 – Comprehensive Plan “Chapters” Focus Groups** (eight separate groups) on:

Neighborhoods, Urban Design, Land Use, Transportation, Economic Development, Housing, Open Space/Parks/Community Facilities, and Heritage Conservation

- **December 3-4 – Comprehensive Plan Update Open Houses** to share the full Comp Plan draft for public review and discussion
- **December 4 – Comprehensive Plan “Chapters” Focus Groups** (three separate groups) on: Resiliency/Sustainability, Service Provision, and Implementation/Small Area Planning

EPA – Urban Waters Small Grant RFP

Date: October 22nd

Time: 12:00pm Mountain Time

Place: Webinar

EPA will host *one national Information Session regarding the Urban Waters Small Grant* announcement. For more background information and webinar information (the page says that webinar information will be posted soon), go to:

<http://www2.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants>

and for the RFP and Application Package, go to

<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279164>

EPA – Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems Webinar Series

Date: Monthly

Time: 12:00pm – 1:00pm (Q&A from 1:00pm – 1:30pm) Mountain Time

Place: Webinar

EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Water are hosting this monthly webinar series to communicate EPA's current small systems research along with Agency priorities. The series is providing a forum for EPA to communicate directly with state personnel and other drinking water and wastewater small systems professionals, which allows EPA to provide training and foster collaboration and dissemination of information.

Attendees have the option of receiving a certificate for one continuing education contact hour for each webinar. (Note: Continuing education contact hour certificates cannot be offered for watching previously recorded webinars. Acceptance of certificate is contingent on state and/or organization requirements. EPA cannot guarantee acceptance.) Recordings and presentation slides are available for past webinars, and are being hosted by the [Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' \(ASDWA\)](#). The remaining webinars are:

- **October 27** – Decentralized High-Rate Wastewater Treatment of Peak Wet Weather Flows
- **November 24** – Treatability Databases, Cost Models, and other Tools for Water Systems
- **December 15** – Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water

For information about upcoming webinars and to register: <http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-small-systems-webinar-series>

EPA – Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program

Date: Monthly

Time: 10:00am - 11:00am Mountain Time

Place: Webinar

EPA's Office of Research and Development is hosting monthly webinars to share information on its Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program. Through innovative science and engineering, cost-effective, sustainable solutions to 21st century complex water issues are being developed. These solutions will help ensure that clean and adequate supplies of water are available to support human health and resilient aquatic ecosystems, now and into the future. The remaining webinars are:

- **October 28** – Acidification of Rivers, Lakes, and Oceans
- **November 18** – Advances in Resource Recovery Technologies and Energy Efficiency, and Metrics and Tools for Life-Cycle Comparisons
- **December 16** – Ecosystem Services Approaches to Restoring a Sustainable Chesapeake Bay and its Tributary Watersheds

For more information and to register: <http://www2.epa.gov/water-research/2015-water-research-webinar-series>

NON-LOCAL

River Rally 2016 – Call for Workshops is Open

Date: Proposal Deadline is October 15

Do you have a proven approach or innovation that could help achieve healthy rivers and other waters that sustain all life? River Rally provides an excellent opportunity to share your experience with a broad audience. Please review the guidelines and instructions on River Rally's website before submitting a workshop proposal for next year's event. **River Rally will be held May 20-23 in Mobile, AL.** For more information and to submit proposals via an online form, go [here](#).

RESOURCES

South Valley's Pop-Up Visitor Center

Place: 840 Bridge Blvd. NW (just east of Isleta on the south side of Bridge)

The Pop-Up Visitor Center is a free public celebration of groups that wish to better serve their community. It is an opportunity for MRGE3 (Middle Rio Grande Environment Education Employment) Alliance and other organizations to have a space to reach out to the community and a chance for the community to talk directly to these organizations and express their wants and needs. For more information, contact Larisa Chavez at (505) 721-9029 • larisa@conservationlegacy.org

11th Street Bridge Park – Equitable Development Task Force

A key goal of the 11th Street Bridge Park, a project of the Ward 8 based non-profit Building Bridges Across the River at THEARC, is to serve as an anchor for economic growth. While the Bridge Park's design strategies will increase connectivity and interaction between those living on both sides of the Anacostia River, more must be done to ensure that residents living near the site will continuously benefit from the success of this signature new civic space. Efforts are focused on strategies for Workforce Development, Small Business Enterprise, and Housing. The Task Force has developed a draft *Equitable Development Plan* for public comment, with an updated version to be presented at a public meeting October 3rd and the final version at a November 5th [Community Development Finance Summit](#): "Equitable Economic Development East of the River".

International City/County Management Association (ICMA) - Advancing Social Equity Goals to Achieve Sustainability: Local Governments, Social Equity, and Sustainable Communities

This report describes the current activities, leading practices, and achievements of sustainable communities. Such communities were created through a comprehensive, integrated approach to sustainability supported by inclusive engagement, equal access to services, and livable neighborhoods. The report examines the extent to which social equity activities are included within an integrated approach to sustainability, how social equity is defined, and the level of commitment of local governments in addressing equity issues. The analysis examines all local governments that responded to the ICMA 2010 survey, focusing in particular on the characteristics of the minority of governments – fewer than 1 in 10 – that are very active in social equity. To download the report, go to: http://icma.org/en/icma/knowledge_network/documents/kn/Document/306328/Advancing_Social_Equity_Goals_to_Achieve_Sustainability_Local_Governments_Social_Equity_and_Sustaina

Cornell University & North American Association for Environmental Education – Idea Book: Urban Environmental Education

Written by environmental educators in the US, this book advances our understanding of settings, audiences, teaching approaches and goals of urban environmental education. This book can be a useful reading for in-service and in-training educators who are interested in urban environmental education. The authors of this book hope that it will help educators in the US and elsewhere to reflect on their own work, and inspire new ideas to improve their educational programs. To download the report (and others), go to: <http://www.naaee.net/publications>

Merrimack River Watershed Council & Northern Middlesex COG - Developing an Effective Stormwater Education and Outreach Program for Your Community

Effective community education about the problems of, and solutions to, polluted stormwater can make a difference in both the quantity and quality of stormwater that reaches a river or other receiving water body. By targeting both

community members and municipal decision-makers, stormwater education and outreach can change individual behavior. This project was undertaken to create and implement stormwater education that includes tailored strategies to reduce known pollutants from individual and community sources to the Merrimack River, ultimately restoring water quality. The Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) is a regional planning agency in Massachusetts, and the Merrimack River Watershed Council, (MRWC) is a regional nonprofit. To download the manual, go to: http://www.nmstormwater.org/Websites/nmcleanwaters/images/Stormwater_Education_and_Outreach_Manual_2014.pdf

Earth Force - Next Generation Science through Stormwater

This document is a PowerPoint presentation made at River Rally 2015, held at the Tamaya Resort. Earth Force discussed work piloted in Denver and expanded in Albuquerque that connects schools with water quality monitoring experience and classroom environmental education curricula tied to common core requirements. For the presentation (and a number of other River Rally presentations), go to: <http://www.rivernetnetwork.org/rally/2015/workshops/materials>

University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center – Local Government Stormwater Financing Manual 2014

This manual was inspired by and written for local government leaders. It is at the local level where the most significant and substantive stormwater investments will be made and it is at the local level where the most innovative, effective, and transformative financing programs are being developed and implemented. The goal with the manual is to provide local leaders with the foundation for establishing and growing effective stormwater management programs that maximize the value and impact of every dollar invested in their communities. Public sector financing in general, and stormwater financing specifically, often appear to be inaccessibly complicated and technical to even experienced public officials. Therefore, rather than try to address the myriad of issues associated with stormwater financing, the manual provides a foundation for local officials to move forward by focusing on perhaps the most important financing attribute: leadership and the ability to move communities towards effective action. The manual is divided into four parts:

- An introduction, which asserts that a paradigm shift is underway in stormwater finance, and local government staff have a critical role to play in leading that shift
- A description of why stormwater management and finance are being transformed and why local governments are at the center of that transformation process
- A policy/program development model that was created by Bryson and Crosby (1992) and is applied in the manual to the development of stormwater policies and programs
- A set of appendices

To download the manual, go to: [http://efc.umd.edu/assets/efc_stormwater_financing_manual_final_\(1\).pdf](http://efc.umd.edu/assets/efc_stormwater_financing_manual_final_(1).pdf)

UCLA/Center for Occupational & Environmental Health – Urban River Parkways: An Essential Tool for Public Health

This report reviews evidence of contributions to health from green spaces, specifically those along watersides, and even more specifically along urban river parkways. Endpoints examined include physical, mental, community, and environmental health, as well as the overall economic well-being of the population. The report will attempt to address the degree to which creating and maintaining places for respite and recreation improves health. Many urban parts of the United States have limited open green spaces and trails and also little access to water features. We explore these lost opportunities and consider remedies. We also examine the degree to which ill-considered environments reduce the human capacity to develop and maintain healthy behaviors. To download the report, go to: https://ehs.ph.ucla.edu/sites/default/files/downloads/Urban%20River%20Parkways%20Full%20Report_1.pdf

USDA / Southwest Climate Hub & Jornada Experimental Range ARS – Climate Change Reports

- Link to the Jornada ARS: <http://jornada.nmsu.edu>
- Links to the Southwest Climate Hub: <http://swclimatehub.info> and <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/southwest>
- Links to climate change assessments: <http://jornada.nmsu.edu/presentations/climate-change> and <http://climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/southwest/regional-assessments>

National Wildlife Federation - Species Vulnerability Assessment for the Middle Rio Grande, New Mexico

The document is a product of an expert workgroup on climate change vulnerability assessment convened by the National Wildlife Federation in collaboration with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. For a copy of the full report, go to: <http://www.nwf.org/~media/pdfs/global-warming/climate-smart-conservation/>

[nwfscanningtheconservationhorizonfinal92311.ashx](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_other/rmrs_2011_finch_d001.pdf). For the section on the Middle Rio Grande, go here: http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_other/rmrs_2011_finch_d001.pdf

US Forest Service - Climate Change Adaptation in United States Federal Natural Resource Science and Management Agencies: A Synthesis

This report, organized under the auspices of US Global Change Research Program's (<http://www.globalchange.gov>) *Adaptation Science Interagency Working Group*, is a snapshot in time (2013-2014) of the status of climate change adaptation in Federal agencies that study and manage land and water resources. http://www.globalchange.gov/sites/globalchange/files/ASIWG_Synthesis_4.28.15_final.pdf

Smart Growth America – Complete Streets Case Studies

A series of case studies centered around engaging residents in long-range transportation planning, with examples from Houston, Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington DC. For more information, please go to: <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/tag/complete-streets-case-studies/>

EPA – Pollution Prevention/Source Reduction

Pollution prevention (P2), also called source reduction, is any practice that reduces, eliminates, or prevents pollution at its source. EPA has emphasized P2 for 25 years, starting with the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, which tasked EPA with establishing a grant program to teach state and local governments and businesses about the benefits of P2. Agency grants support state programs that help businesses seeking source-reduction opportunities, such as funding for developing P2 plans and training for source-reduction techniques. The Toxic Release Inventory collects information to track industry progress in reducing waste generation and moving toward safer waste-management alternatives. EPA also promotes P2 awareness during Pollution Prevention Week and year-round with the P2 Information Clearinghouse. EPA also supports several voluntary programs to assist businesses, organizations, communities, and consumers in “greening” their processes and increasing their sustainability. From environmental management systems to the Green Chemistry and Safer Choice programs, EPA resources can help many groups in achieving their P2 goals. Individuals can prevent pollution, too. Whether at home, shopping, or on the road, anyone can make pollution prevention choices every day to protect the environment, save money, and conserve natural resources. You can learn more about pollution prevention at: <http://www2.epa.gov/p2/what-you-can-do-about-pollution-prevention> and <http://www2.epa.gov/p2>

White House – Smart Cities Initiative Announcement

The Administration is announcing a new “Smart Cities” Initiative that will invest over \$160 million in federal research and leverage more than 25 new technology collaborations to help local communities tackle key challenges such as reducing traffic congestion, fighting crime, fostering economic growth, managing the effects of a changing climate, and improving the delivery of city services. The new initiative is part of this Administration’s overall commitment to target federal resources to meet local needs and support community-led solutions. Over the past six years, the Administration has pursued a place-based approach to working with communities as they tackle a wide range of challenges, from investing in infrastructure and filling open technology jobs to bolstering community policing. Advances in science and technology have the potential to accelerate these efforts. An emerging community of civic leaders, data scientists, technologists, and companies are joining forces to build “Smart Cities” – communities that are building an infrastructure to continuously improve the collection, aggregation, and use of data to improve the life of their residents – by harnessing the growing data revolution, low-cost sensors, and research collaborations, and doing so securely to protect safety and privacy. As part of the initiative, the Administration is announcing:

- More than \$35 million in new grants and over \$10 million in proposed investments to build a research infrastructure for Smart Cities by the National Science Foundation and National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Nearly \$70 million in new spending and over \$45 million in proposed investments to unlock new solutions in safety, energy, climate preparedness, transportation, health and more, by the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, Department of Energy, Department of Commerce, and the Environmental Protection Agency
- More than 20 cities participating in major new multi-city collaborations that will help city leaders effectively collaborate with universities and industry

The Administration’s Smart Cities Initiative will begin with a focus on key strategies:

- Creating test beds for “Internet of Things” applications and developing new multi-sector collaborative models
- Collaborating with the civic tech movement and forging intercity collaborations

- Leveraging existing Federal activity
- Pursuing international collaboration

Complementing this effort, the President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology is examining how a variety of technologies can enhance the future of cities and the quality of life for urban residents. The Networking and Information Technology Research and Development (NITRD) Program is also announcing the release of a [new framework](#) to help coordinate Federal agency investments and outside collaborations that will guide foundational research and accelerate the transition into scalable and replicable Smart City approaches. Finally, the Administration’s growing work in this area is reflected in the [Science and Technology Priorities Memo](#), issued by the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy in preparation for the President’s 2017 budget proposal, which includes a focus on cyber-physical systems and Smart Cities. For more information, please see [the full announcement](#).

EPA – Clean Power Plan

“Net Zero Heroes – Saving Energy and Money at Wastewater Treatment Plants” – Learn how treatment plants help communities be more sustainable, protect against climate change, and save money. See the video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_no2kKYyt6w. More EPA videos are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/USEPAgov/videos>