



Federal Funding for the Prevention, Monitoring, and Treatment of Harmful Algal Blooms

Virtual Forum | November 9-10, 2021

Overview

EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center (WIRFC) is hosting a two-day virtual forum to provide state agencies and coastal and inland communities experiencing harmful algal bloom (HABs) related issues with an overview of federal funding programs available to prevent, monitor, and treat HABs and case examples of communities that have utilized those funds.

Forum Objectives

- Provide information to participants on federal sources available to fund the prevention, monitoring, and treatment of HABs
- Hear about real-world examples of coastal and inland communities and landowners that have successfully used these funding sources for HABs related projects
- Allow participants to share perspectives with federal agencies on their experiences, challenges, and successes accessing funding for HABs

All times listed below are in Eastern Time.

Day 1: 1pm - 4pm EST

Virtual Zoom.Gov meeting

10 min	Welcome & Introductions <i>Welcome session to introduce participants to the forum approach and objectives</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EPA Office of Water Welcome• Rob Greenwood, Ross Strategic
10 min	HABs: Overview & Impact <i>Overview of the impact of HABs on ecosystems and the related financial impact</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lesley D'Anglada, US EPA, and Katherine Foreman, US EPA
10 min	Landscape: Federal & Innovative Funding Related to HABs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rob Greenwood, Ross Strategic

1:30 pm Federal Funder Profile 1: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

30 min

Overview of NOAA Funding (20 min)

Overview session lead by NOAA to describe funding programs related to HABs at NOAA, funding allocation/application process for those programs and utilization of the program to address HABs challenges

- Felix Martinez, Competitive Research Program Manager (National Ocean Service/National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science), NOAA

Presentations followed by approx. 10 mins of Q&A

20 min

NOAA Funding: Discussion

- What successes have you had in applying for and using NOAA funding?
- What challenges have you encountered in applying for and using NOAA funding?
- How can NOAA engage more effectively with localities in need of funding to respond to HABs?

2:20 pm Federal Funder Profile 2: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

20 min

Overview of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Funding (12 min)

Presentation providing an overview of USACE funding opportunities related to HABs.

- Jeremy Crossland, Program Manager for Land Management, USACE

Presentation followed by approx. 8 mins of Q&A

Break (15 min)

2:55pm Federal Funder Profile 3: United States Geological Survey (USGS)

30 min

Overview of USGS Funding (10 min)

Overview session lead by USGS to describe Cooperative Matching Funds and the Water Resource Research Institute funding opportunities to address HABs challenges.

- Sandra Eberts, Water Resources Mission Area, HQ Office of Planning and Programming, Program Science Coordinator at USGS

Accessing USGS Funding: A Community Example (10 min)

Case study that highlights the use of USGS Cooperative Matching Funds to inform HABs monitoring efforts and science priorities in New York State.

- Jennifer Graham, Research Hydrologist at the USGS New York Water Science Center

Presentations followed by approx. 10 mins of Q&A

20 min

USGS Funding: Discussion

- What successes have you had in applying for and using USGS funding?
- What challenges have you encountered in applying for and using USGS funding?

- How can USGS engage more effectively with localities in need of funding to respond to HABs?

3:45pm Day 1 Wrap Up

10 min	<p>Accessing Funding: A Walkthrough of EPA’s Water Finance Clearinghouse <i>Water Finance Center will lead a hands-on demonstration of the Water Finance Clearinghouse to show participants how to find eligible funding sources for HABs projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addison Chau, U.S. EPA
5 min	<p>Closing: Day 1 recap, Day 2 lookahead</p>
4:00 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>

Day 2: 1pm - 4pm EST

Virtual Meeting on Zoom.gov

10 min	<p>Welcome & Recap</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rob Greenwood, Ross Strategic
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1:10 pm Federal Funder Profile 4: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

40 min	<p>Overview of USDA Funding (20 min)</p> <p><i>Overview session lead by USDA to describe funding programs related to HABs at USDA, funding allocation/application process for those programs and utilization of the program to address HABs challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martin Lowenfish, Conservation Initiative Team Leader, USDA-NRCS • David Flesher, Community Programs Specialist for Water and Environmental Programs, USDA Rural Development <p>Accessing USDA Funding: A Community Example (10 min)</p> <p><i>Case study that highlights the use of USDA specific funding to address HABs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Thum, Deputy Director, Division of Soil Conservation, Indiana State Department of Agriculture <p><i>Presentations followed by approx. 10 mins of Q&A</i></p>
20 min	<p>USDA Funding: Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What successes have you had in applying for and using USDA funding? • What challenges have you encountered in applying for and using USDA funding? • How can USDA engage more effectively with localities in need of funding to respond to HABs?

Break (15 min)

2:25 pm Federal Funder Profile 5: US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

40 min	<p>Overview of US EPA Funding (30 min)</p> <p><i>Overview session lead by EPA to describe funding programs related to HABs at EPA, funding allocation/application process for those programs and utilization of the program to address HABs challenges</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellie Flaherty, Biologist, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds • Susan Holdsworth, Supervisory Ecologist, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds • Sonia Brubaker, Director, Water Infrastructure and Finance Center <p><i>Presentations followed by approx. 10 mins of Q&A</i></p>
20 min	<p>EPA Funding: Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What successes have you had in applying for and using EPA funding? • What challenges have you encountered in applying for and using EPA funding? • How can EPA engage more effectively with localities in need of funding to respond to HABs?
<p>3:25 pm Innovative Federal Funding Sources & Approaches</p>	
25 min	<p>Deepwater Horizon National Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Program and Nutrient Reduction</p> <p><i>Overview of the DWH NRDA program, how nutrient reduction restoration projects help in HABs reduction in the Gulf of Mexico, and the process to submit project ideas</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treda Grayson, NRDA Program Manager, US EPA <p>The Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative: An Innovative Partnership to Address Inland HABs</p> <p><i>The Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative (CMC) is a partnership of organizations, communities, and individuals that strives to better understand potentially harmful cyanobacteria in inland water bodies. Thanks to intensive collaboration and modest funding support, the CMC develops and freely shares cyanobacteria monitoring approaches and tools for a range of audiences.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shane Bradt, Cooperative Extension State Specialist, University of New Hampshire <p><i>Presentations followed by approx. 5 mins of Q&A</i></p>
15 min	<p>Wrap Up</p> <p><i>Summary of federal programs, identifying gaps in funding, and how to follow up to learn more about eligible programs</i></p>
4:00 pm	<p>Adjourn</p>