

2024 National Urban Waters Federal Partnership Workshop: The Power of Partnerships

April 2-3, 2024, 12:00 PM ET

Tuesday, April 2, 2024, (Open to All)

12:00 – 12:40 PM ET: Welcome Panel

Urban Waters Partner organizations will kick off the meeting by discussing the workshop theme “The Power of Partnerships.”

- Moderator: **Zach Schafer**, Director of Policy and Special Programs, Office of Water, EPA
- Speakers
 - **Nausheen Iqbal**, Acting Assistant Director of Urban and Community Forestry, USDA Forest Service.
 - **Lisa Pelstring**, Environmental Advisor, U.S. Department of the Interior.
 - **Weston Brinkley**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Green-Duwamish Watershed (Seattle, Washington).
 - **Katherine Baer**, Vice President of River Programs, River Network.

Sharing information about EPA's Transformational Toolkit, a variety of grant programs and technical assistance resources, across the Office of Air & Radiation (OAR) and Office of Environmental Justice & External Civil Rights (OEJECR).

- Speakers:
 - **Jasmine Davenport**, Senior Advisor for Climate Justice, Office of Air and Radiation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - **Dr. Larissa Mark**, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Staff Lead, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

12:40 – 1:30 PM ET: Equitable Development and the Role of Arts & Culture

This session will discuss the equitable development collaborative hosted by the Urban Waters Learning Network and the importance of arts & culture in strategies to counter displacement.

- Moderator: **Jeanine Finley**, Program Analyst, Urban Waters Federal Partnership, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Speakers
 - **Maria Brodine**, Director of Network Support and Learning, Groundwork USA.
 - **Katherine Bray-Simons**, Special Assistant for Chair Initiatives, Office of the Chair, National Endowments for the Arts.

1:30 – 1:50 PM ET: U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Matching Funds Program

This session will discuss the Cooperative Matching Funds program and its services.

- Speaker: **Joel Galloway**, Acting Cooperative Matching Fund Program Manager, Water Mission Area Tribal Advisor in the Office of Planning and Programming, U.S. Geological Survey.

1:50 – 3:05 PM ET: Climate Resilience Planning with the Equitable Resilience Builder Tool

This session will include opportunities to explore the Equitable Resilience Builder tool and work through scenarios for equitable climate resilience planning. To download the tool, click [here](#).

- Moderator: **Jeanine Finley**, Program Analyst, Urban Waters Federal Partnership, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Speakers
 - **Emily Eisenhauer**, Social Scientist for Office of Research Development, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
 - **Robert Cloy II**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (Grand Rapids, MI).
 - **Cara Decker**, Director of Environmental Programs, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (Grand Rapids, MI).

3:05 – 3:15 PM ET: Break

3:15 – 4:00 PM ET: Ambassador Panel: Power of Partnerships:

Urban Waters Ambassadors will discuss important aspects of partnership coordination and leadership.

- Moderator: **Magali Rojas**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Blue River Watershed (Kansas City, MO).
- Speakers
 - **Cindi Ptak**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Rio Reimagined Watershed (Tempe, AZ).
 - **Jaren Peplinski**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Middle Rio Grande Watershed (Albuquerque, NM).
 - **Robert Cloy II**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds (Grand Rapids, MI).

4:00 – 4:45 PM ET: Urban Waters Partners World Café

Urban Waters partners will have the opportunity to engage in breakout room discussions on shared interests and priorities.

- Breakout Rooms
 1. Learn about **green infrastructure** resources and technical assistance: **Robyn DeYoung**, Green Infrastructure Program Lead, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
 2. Learn about urban tree canopy and **workforce development** efforts at the Northwest Indiana Partnership. Facilitator: **Victoria Wittig**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Northwest Indiana Watersheds (Michigan City, IN), Purdue University Northwest.
 3. Ask questions about strategies to enable **equitable development**. Facilitator: **Maria Brodine**, Director of Network Support and Learning, Groundworks USA.
 4. Discussion on **trash prevention and clean-up** projects in Urban Water Federal Partnership locations. Facilitator: **Tara O'Hare**, Urban Waters and Trash Free Waters, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
 5. Discuss and share strategies for translating federal resources to the local level. Facilitator: **Megan Whalen**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Los Angeles River Watershed (Los Angeles, CA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

4:45 – 5:00 PM ET: Closing Remarks: Special thanks and reminders for next day sessions.

- **Mindy Eisenberg**, Associate Division Director of the Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 (*Open to All*)

12:00 – 12:15 PM ET: Welcome & Keynote: Recap of previous day's highlights and outline of the agenda for second day.

- **Mindy Eisenberg**, Associate Division Director of the Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

12:15 – 1:15 PM ET: USDA Forest Service Partnership Panel

This session will cover the partnership between the USDA Forest Service and the Urban Waters program and the connection between urban forestry and Urban Waters Federal Partnership locations.

- Moderator: **Jasmine Forsberg**, Program Specialist at the Department of State, Private and Tribal Forestry, USDA Forest Service.
- Speakers
 - **Nausheen Iqbal**, Acting Assistant Director of Urban and Community Forestry, USDA Forest Service.
 - **Amin Davis**, State & Local Projects Manager of the Water Resources Development Grant for the Division of Water Resources, NC Department of Environmental Quality.
 - **Drew Hart**, Chicago Region Natural Areas Liaison, USDA Forest Service.
 - **Weston Brinkley**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Green-Duwamish Watershed (Seattle, Washington).

1:15 – 2:00 PM ET: Federal World Café

Federal agency staff will lead breakout rooms for attendees to connect and learn about featured programs and initiatives that may be a resource for Urban Waters partner locations.

- Breakout Rooms
 1. **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):** Learn about partnership activities at Urban Waters locations to illustrate NOAA's mission and discuss potential weather service capacity through NOAA's Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors program. Facilitators: **Nicole Bartlett**, North Atlantic Regional Coordinator and **Doug Hildebrand**, Preparedness and Resilience Program Lead, National Weather Service.
 2. **National Park Service (NPS):** Learn about the [NPS Community Assistance Programs](#) such as the [Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program \(RTCA\)](#) (see also state-level [story maps](#)). Facilitator: **Heather Passchier**, Program Manager, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program.
 3. **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):** Learn about how USACE partners work with other agencies and organizations to improve the social, economic and environmental conditions of communities. Facilitator: **Tyson Vaughan, Ph.D.**, Sociologist, Institute for Water Resources.
 4. **Silver Jackets – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):** Learn about the nature & purpose of the [Silver Jackets Program](#), its similarities to the Urban Waters Initiative and opportunities for collaboration with Urban Waters Federal Partnership Locations. Facilitator: **Katherine Rowden**, National Silver Jackets Program Manager.

5. **U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA):** Learn how the agency works across six regions and with economic development districts. Facilitator: **Naomi Friedman**, Disaster Recovery & Resilience National Coordinator.
6. **U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS):** Learn about available technical and financial assistance resources. Facilitator: **Leslie Glover**, Program Manager, Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production.
7. **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):** Learn about the HUD "Building for the Future" Funding Navigator and the Resources Locator to explore opportunities for collaboration with the agency and its network. Facilitators: **Roberto Frugone**, Program Analyst, Office of Field Policy & Management and **Johnnie Lattimore**, Management Analyst / Community Liaison.
8. **U.S. Department of Treasury-Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (USDT-CDFI Fund):** Learn about the mission of CDFI, what they do in the community and how organizations should engage with them. Facilitator: **Jeff Merkowitz**, Senior Advisor to the Director, Community Development Financial Institutions Fund.

2:00 – 2:15 PM ET: Break (transition Zoom links if attending following sessions)

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 (Invitation Only: Ambassadors and Urban Waters Location Leads)

2:15 – 3:15 PM ET: Coordinating Collaborative Proposals

Mini-workshop lead by River Network discussing best practices for facilitating connections between partners that lead to collaborative proposals.

- Moderator: **Diana Toledo**, Senior Director of River Programs, River Network.

3:15 – 4:45 PM ET: Increasing Partnership Impacts

This session will help Ambassadors and partnership location leads develop a greater understanding and appreciation of Partnership Impacts and associated strategies to strengthen collaboration.

- Moderator: **Liz Madison**, Senior Fellow and Instructor of Partnership and Community Collaboration Academy.
- Speakers
 - **Xavier Brown**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Anacostia Watershed (Washington, DC).
 - **Megan Whalen**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Los Angeles Watershed (Los Angeles, CA).
 - **Sushant Bajracharya**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Mystic River Watershed (Boston, MA).
 - **Sam Wallace**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, South Platte River Watershed (Denver, CO).
 - **Alyanna Wilson**, Urban Waters Federal Partnership Ambassador, Walnut Creek Watershed (Raleigh, NC).

4:45 – 5:00 PM ET: Closing Remarks: Special thanks and reminders for next day sessions.

- **Mindy Eisenberg**, Associate Division Director of the Oceans, Wetlands and Communities Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.