

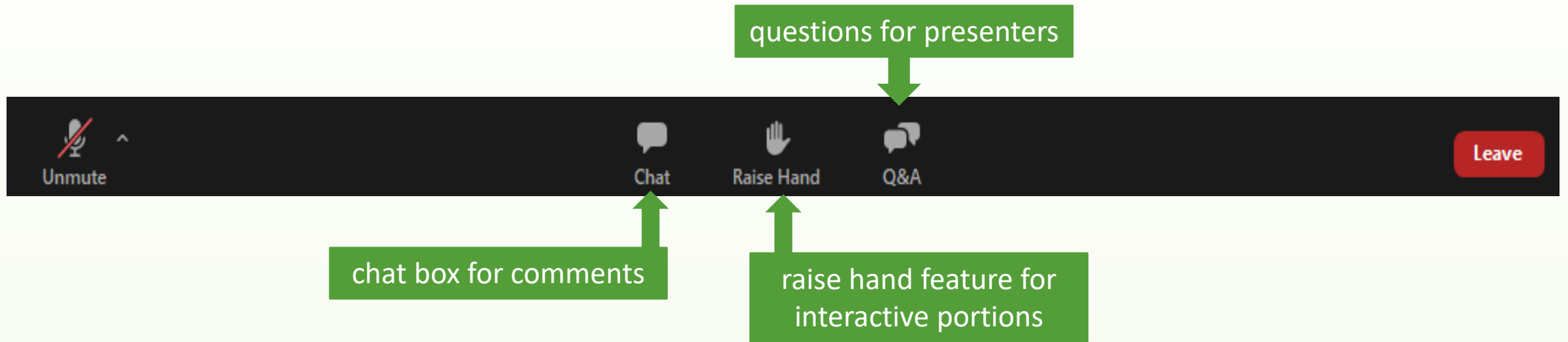


Justice40 and the Wetland Program Development Grants Workshop #4

COMMUNICATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MAY 23, 2023

Webinar Logistics



To ask a question: Type your question in the Q&A box. We will take questions at the end of the webinar during the interactive discussion.

Technical difficulties: Please send a message to Gabby Vinyard, ERG (Zoom support) or email gabby.vinyard@erg.com.

A recording of the webinar and a PDF version of today's PowerPoint presentation will be posted online following today's session.

Today's Presentation Outline:

- Review Justice40, Climate Opportunities, Reporting Benefits of Wetland Program Development Grants
- Enhancing State and Tribal Wetland Program (ESTP) approaches to peer-peer learning, tech transfer, and sharing best approaches to building wetland programs
- State, Territories, and Tribes input on improving technical assistance

Remaining Wetland Program Development Grants J40 Stakeholder Workshop

EPA Summary of Findings and Recommendations: June 6th

EPA will provide an overall summary of findings and recommendations provided by the Regional ESTP Coordinators, Tribes, States, and Territories.

Review: Justice40, Climate Opportunities, Communicating Benefits of Wetland Program Development Grants

Justice40

- In January 2021, President Biden issued [Executive Order 14008 – Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#) and announced Justice40 (J40), which mandates that **at least 40%** of the benefits of certain federal programs must flow to disadvantaged communities.
- Six pilots including State Revolving Funds.
- Expanded to include programs funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that matched the J40 criteria as well as additional programs. Key examples include:
 - **Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs)**
 - National Estuary Program
 - Geographic Programs (e.g., Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound)
 - Gulf Hypoxia Program
 - Section 319 Grant Program

Addressing J40 through Wetland Program Development Grants

All J40 covered programs are required to engage in stakeholder consultations and ensure that community stakeholders are meaningfully involved in determining program benefits.

Covered programs are also required to report benefits directed to disadvantaged communities.

EJ and Climate Actions and Activities were added to the Core Elements Framework.

Changes to the WPDG Request for Applications

- **New National Priority for climate change** with points for projects that address climate change.
- **New National Priority for J40 projects** in disadvantaged communities with points for projects that address benefits (outcomes) to those disadvantaged communities.
 - The tasks in your applications that affect J40 communities.
 - The outputs and outcomes in your applications that affect J40 communities.
 - List, map, or describe the disadvantaged communities affected for your state, tribe, territory or local area using the Climate and Environment Justice Screening Tool (CEJST).

WPDG J40 Reporting Metrics for FY23

EPA will be reporting on:

1. The **number of grants** awarded with J40 tasks
2. The **percentage of number of awards** made with J40 tasks
3. The **amount of funding associated** with those J40 tasks
4. The **percentage of funding** associated with J40 tasks/awards

EPA will need to report on the benefits associated with those awards at time of award and potentially when the grants close out in 1-4 years.

Proposed Categories of Benefits of the WPDGs

- Improves habitat; addresses water quality and/or quantity challenges; or prevents or reduces nonpoint source pollution.
- Reduces, minimizes, or avoids wetland losses or impacts.
- Expands research, education, information, and/or deepens community engagement or use for recreational or cultural purposes.
- Expands the adaptive capacity of communities to be resilient to climate change.

Engagement Discussion: Enhancing State and Tribal Wetland Program (ESTP) approaches to peer-peer learning, tech transfer, and sharing best approaches to building wetland programs

ESTP Current Approaches to Technical Assistance and Peer to Peer Learning

- ESTP webpages that include links to the CEF, guidance documents, current State and Tribal Wetland Program Plans, Case Studies, key EPA personnel
- National and regional meetings/workshop and trainings
- One-on-one conversations with Regional ESTP and Regional Grant Coordinators
- Sustained EPA partnership with National Association of Wetlands Managers (NAWM) and establishment of long-term funding mechanisms for NAWM to provide assistance to States, Tribes, and Territories
 - NAWM highlights include the NAWM annual meeting, NAWM training webinars & professional certifications, NAWM website, NAWM newsletters, and other social media posts
- Feedback on grant proposals as requested, trainings on grant writing, and regular check-ins with Regional Grant Coordinators

ESTP Current Approaches to Technical Assistance and Peer to Peer Learning

We strive to provide information on:

- Successful grant projects
- Best approaches to building wetland programs under the Core Elements
- Basic data and valid data assessment tools
- Lessons learned from past wetland program building projects
- Best methods to link program building action in the CEF to EJ or Climate State and Tribal decision-making
- Creating successful and impactful partnerships
- Communicating grant project's environmental results

Questions For Engagement Session with States, Tribes and Territories

- In general, what are the most helpful types of outreach and assistance your State, Tribe, or Territory has received?
- What are your top technical assistance needs?
- Do you have suggestions for EPA for specific actions, directions or technical guides that EPA does not address under our ESTP program and WPDG assistance?

Questions For Engagement Session with States, Tribes and Territories

- For each Core Element:
 - In addition to the actions and activities included in each Core Element table, what other types of technical assistance or analytical guidance would be helpful? Would it be helpful to link benefit outcomes to the activities?
 - Consider the three phases under each Core Element:
 - Phase 1: Planning Considerations: **Jumping in!**
 - Phase 2: Data Collection and Assessments Considerations: **Doing!**
 - Phase 3: Refinement and Wetland Management Decision-Making Considerations: **Implementing!**

Questions For Engagement Session with States, Tribes and Territories

- For the Monitoring and Assessment Core Element:
- Consider the three phases under each Core Element:
 - Phase 1: Planning Considerations: **Jumping in!**
 - Phase 2: Data Collection and Assessments Considerations: **Doing!**
 - Phase 3: Refinement and Wetland Management Decision-Making Considerations: **Implementing!**

Questions For Engagement Session with States, Tribes and Territories

- For the Regulatory Core Element:
- Consider the three phases under each Core Element:
 - Phase 1: Planning Considerations: **Jumping in!**
 - Phase 2: Data Collection and Assessments Considerations: **Doing!**
 - Phase 3: Refinement and Wetland Management Decision-Making Considerations: **Implementing!**

Questions For Engagement Session with States, Tribes and Territories

- For the Voluntary Restoration and Protection Core Element:
- Consider the three phases under each Core Element:
 - Phase 1: Planning Considerations: **Jumping in!**
 - Phase 2: Data Collection and Assessments Considerations: **Doing!**
 - Phase 3: Refinement and Wetland Management Decision-Making Considerations: **Implementing!**

Questions For Engagement Session with States, Tribes and Territories

- For the Water Quality Standards for Wetlands Core Element:
- Consider the three phases under each Core Element:
 - Phase 1: Planning Considerations: **Jumping in!**
 - Phase 2: Data Collection and Assessments Considerations: **Doing!**
 - Phase 3: Refinement and Wetland Management Decision-Making Considerations: **Implementing!**

Please provide additional ideas and suggestions to EPA for consideration

We know after you get back to your desk you may have additional suggestions or ideas for us to consider as EPA strives to improve our technical assistance delivery.

WPDG-RFA@epa.gov

EPA CEF and WPP Information

- Core Element Framework and WPDGs:

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/core-elements-effective-state-and-tribal-wetland-programs>

http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/cefintro.cfm

- Approved Wetland Program Plans:

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/state-and-tribal-wetland-program-plans>

- October 2009 WPP memorandum from EPA:

http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/upload/wetland_program_plan_memorandum.pdf

- EPA Regional Grants Coordinators and ESTP Contacts:

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants-and-epa-wetlands-grant-coordinators>

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<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/justice40-and-wetland-program-development-grants>