

2010 Environmental Information Symposium “Enabling Environmental Protection through Transparency and Open Government”

Date: May 10-14, 2010

Location: Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel
1201 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

<http://epa.gov/oei/symposium/2010/index.html>

ABSTRACT

Session Title: **Watershed Central: Dynamic Collaboration for Improving Watershed Management**

The Watershed Central web and wiki pages will be presented and demonstrated real-time as part of the overview of Web 2.0 collaboration tools for watershed management. The presentation portion will discuss how EPA worked with watershed practitioners and within the Agency to determine what users really needed to improve watershed management, discuss Watershed Central's wiki and its benefits for networking, collaborative decision-making and problem-solving within and between watershed practitioners at all levels. We will also examine how collaborative technologies be used to improve environmental program development and decision-making, and more specifically, “What growing pains can be expected and how should you address them via adjustments to your watershed related tool?” We will also highlight the adjustments made, lessons-learned and future steps based upon first year in operation and projections of where we envision Watershed Central in the future and how it will be a potent force for dynamic collaboration. The demonstration portion will allow a hands-on opportunity to become acquainted and explore watershed information available on the site. There will also be opportunity to examine, comment on and rank the wiki pages. Members of the Watershed Central Steering Committee will also be available for continuing discussion and assistance at a booth or the web and wiki pages can be accessed online at <http://www.epa.gov/watershedcentral>.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this abstract are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the USEPA.

Authors: Curtis Cooper, USEPA/NRMRL/GWERD/ESPB
Stuart Lehman, USEPA/OW/OWOW/AWPD/NSCB
Elizabeth Jackson (Moderator), USEPA/OEI/OIAA/EAD/APB

Topic submission request: ONLINE FORM fill-in the blank

Session Title: *Watershed Central: Dynamic Collaboration for Improving Watershed Management*

Submitter's Name: *Curtis Cooper*

Submitters Organization: *ORD/NRML*

Submitter's Email Address: cooper.curtis@epa.gov

Session Objectives (Be as specific as possible):

**To discuss how EPA worked with watershed practitioners and within the Agency to determine what users really needed to improve watershed management*

**Discuss Watershed Central's wiki and its benefits for networking, collaborative decision-making and problem-solving within and between watershed practitioners at all levels*

**Highlights adjustments made, lessons-learned and future steps based upon first year in operation*

**Demonstration of key features of wiki: <http://www.epa.gov/watershedcentral>*

Key Audiences (Describe audiences that will benefit most from the session):

Key audiences include: individuals interested in using open source tools for collaboration and visualization as well as those more directly involved with developing, implementing and managing environmental efforts that would benefit from collective, dynamic input in their creation and analysis of results throughout.

Session Format:

**Single presentation*

**Ongoing demonstration at Exhibit booth throughout Symposium*

Key Questions to be addressed:

**How can collaborative technologies be used to improve environmental program development and decision-making?*

**What growing pains can be expected and how should you address them via adjustments to your tool?*

Session participants (Include speakers, discussion leaders, moderators, facilitators and any others who will assist in conducting the session. Identify participants and provide a title, organization and email address for each. Describe the role and contribution of each):

Session Presenters:

**Curtis Cooper, ORD*

**Stuart Lehman, OW*

Moderator: Elizabeth Jackson, OEI

AV and other requirements (Each room will be equipped with a laptop, projector and screen. The laptops will be pre-loaded with presentations and any other slides needed for the session. Session participants should be advised to adhere to the April 10, 2010 deadline for providing electronic materials to prevent mistakes or last minutes emergencies. List any additional requirements, including room set-up here):

In addition to the provided equipment, an internet connection will be required.

Keywords: Watershed Central, Communication tools, Watershed management, Decision support

Task Number: 23494