



INCREASING THE PACE, EXPANDING THE SCOPE, AND
IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CONSERVATION

Joint Regional Agreement - Convening Interview Questions

Agenda: US EPA Region 10

Date/time: January 17th; 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Location: US EPA Region 10; 1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900; Seattle, WA 98101

I. Introductions and Project Overview

II. General Questions and Concerns

1. How do you see the future for water quality trading in the Region? Is the future bright and do you see the number of trades increasing, or limited in extent to just temperature?
2. What are your agency/organization's interests, hopes and expectations for the Joint Regional Agreement (JRA) process? How would you define success?
3. How would your organization use the products and tools developed out of this process?
4. What resources and who do you look to as important resources to shape how you think about trading?
5. How wide or narrow do we want to be in the scope? Should we just focus on P-NP trades, or should we also leave the door open for stormwater or P-P trades?
6. What are the challenges, barriers and/or potential obstacles that might interfere with project success? How might they be overcome?
7. What is your organization's process for approval?

III. Content-specific Conversations

1. Tier I Authorities

- a. What would be most helpful in terms of clarifying/formalizing Clean Water Act authorities for different elements of water quality trading?

- b. What about existing authorities could be improved – where are there holes?
- c. How about clarification in state guidance/law—for DEQ, for other agencies?
- d. What do you think of the strawman discussion draft of the authorities section that we provided? Do you think it should include reference to state law? Is it currently too broad or too specific? Is the format and tone appropriate?

2. Tier II Standard Operating Procedures

- a. What are the general criteria for determining when a trading approach is appropriate for an individual permit or group of permits (TMDL, Pre-TMDL, New growth)?
- b. How about determining whether a specific transaction would be eligible? (list of approved BMPs, trading area, etc)
- c. What tools do you need to easily incorporate trading into NPDES permits?
- d. What exactly is being traded? Temperature—KCAL/day? Nutrients—TP/year or TN/year unless there is a seasonal limit or other reason to shift units based on a TMDL.
- e. What quantification methods would you want to explore to quantify credits for nutrients and temperature? Both at the “Edge of field” and to model attenuation of pollutants through the watershed to a point of concern?
- f. Are there specific approval processes associated with acceptance of quantification methods?
- g. How do you think about trading ratios and other ways for dealing with uncertainty?
- h. How should reporting and verification work? Who does the verification? What are the contents of the report? How often is reporting done? What systems are in place to track trades? Etc?

3. Tier III State-specific Addenda

- a. What are some of the elements of trading that you think are unique to each state?

- b. How important do you think it is to have the Tier III sections from different states mirror each other as much as possible?

V. What do we want to test and try out?

1. Are there any specific pilots that you have in mind? Or ways you want to pilot application of the Joint Regional Agreement products and tools?
2. What kinds of approvals might need to be in place prior to testing?

VI. Communications and process

1. What ideas, suggestions and recommendations might you have for conducting an effective, productive and successful process—for the Interagency meetings?
2. Which stakeholders (individuals and groups) do you think it's important to communicate with while those interagency meetings are going on? During testing?
3. Do you have any ideas or suggestions on how best to engage those people (e.g. one-on-one updates; advisory group; quarterly update sessions; etc.)
4. What options would your organization consider for formalizing the resulting products from this process? What would the considerations, hurdles and timelines be associated with that?
5. As this project moves along is there a need to open up communications with other staff and managers within DEQ to provide information on the JRA? How might WP/TFT assist in providing that communication link?
6. Should this communication occur during or after the project?
7. Would it be helpful for WP/TFT to attend permit staff trainings or water program manager meeting to discuss the project or its final outcome?