# 2017 ACWA Nutrients Permitting Workshop



## December 5 – 7, 2017
## Boise, Idaho

**Purpose:**
This meeting is intended to help support states and EPA to further identify challenges & barriers to nutrient permitting program implementation, highlight opportunities for program improvement & enhancement, showcase innovations, assist with analysis of training, guidance, tools, and other support material needs, improve administrative efficiencies, clarify roles and responsibilities, promote program streamlining, build stronger linkages to WQS & TMDLs, modernize permit terms and data management, revise program performance measures, identify program areas where targeted technical assistance would be most beneficial, and attempt to solve some of the most intractable nutrients issues. The target audience for this meeting is state and federal nutrient program staff.

**Attendees:**
The Nutrients Permitting Workshop is a national event specifically organized by state and federal regulators for EPA and state program staff representatives. Attendees include:

- State program staff involved in managing nutrients programs
- EPA Headquarter and Regional staff involved in nutrient program management
- Partnering state and federal agency staff that provide technical and/or regulatory assistance to the nutrient programs
- Invited guests

**Special thanks to:**
United States Environmental Protection Agency, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and 2017 Nutrient Permitting Workshop Planning Committee

## DRAFT – Subject to Change

# Tuesday, December 5

**This meeting is generally "closed" and for co-regulators only, except for specific sessions with invited speakers.**

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| **7:30 AM** | **Breakfast on Your Own** |
| **8:30 AM** | **Registration & Sign-In** |
| **9:00 - 9:30 AM** | **Welcome & Opening Remarks** |

*Idaho Department of Environmental Quality*

*United States Environmental Protection Agency*

**9:30 AM – 11:00 AM**   **Nutrients Permitting Among the States**

This panel will consist of 3 presenters discussing the status of nutrients permitting in their states.  Some issues presenters may choose to focus on include nutrient criteria in NPDES permits, issues with WWTP, Gulf Hypoxia Zone, permitting frameworks.  This session will include robust Q&A with attendees. (Perhaps get Mike Suplee from MT on this panel)

**11:00  - 11:15 AM**   **Break**

**11:15 AM - 12:15 PM**   **Nutrient Mitigation in Boise: Dixie Drain**

Representatives from the City of Boise will discuss the Dixie Drain project and its relationship to permitting

**12:15 - 1:45 PM**   **Lunch On Your Own**

**1:45 – 3:00 PM**   **Integrating TMDLs with Permits**

A panel of states will discuss their efforts regarding nutrient TMDLs and permitting.  California is a good option.

**3:00 PM - 3:15 PM**   **Break**

**3:15 – 4:15 PM**   **Water Quality Trading**

A panel of states and a representative from Willamette Partnership will discuss their efforts regarding point to point and point to non-point trading for nutrients and how these efforts relate to permitting.

**4:15 - 5:00 PM**   **The Interrelation of Permitting**

Panelists will discuss the relation between nutrients permitting and the permitting of other pollutants.

**5:00 PM**   **Meeting Adjourn**

# *Wednesday, December 6*

**7:30 AM**                                      **Breakfast on Your Own**

**8:30 - 9:30 AM**               **Nutrient Permitting Variances**

EPA will tee this session off with a brief overview of variances. Representatives from Wisconsin, and Montana will speak on their nutrient variances (Might be tough for Montana as they are currently in litigation).

**9:30 AM - 10:45 AM**         **Nutrient Reduction Strategies and Permitting**

Representatives from Iowa DNR (and one other state) will discuss their strategy, implementation, and current progress.

**10:45 – 11:00 AM**           **Break**

**11:00 - 12:00 PM**           **New Mexico's Permit Guidance**

New Mexico Environment Department is working through a project with EPA through N-Steps to provide overall guidance for permittees.  The state is currently working through a nutrient example with EPA.  The guidance will be coming in late 2017.

**12:00 - 1:30 PM**             **Lunch on Your Own**

**1:30 - 2:15 PM**               **Presentation on Idaho efforts from David Clarke, HDR**

Not sure what this will entail, but I wanted to get him on the agenda.

**2:15 - 3:30 PM**               **Performance Based Approaches to Nutrient Permitting**

Adam, perhaps you can add some more detail to this one.

**3:30- 3:45 PM**               **Break**

**3:45- 5:00 PM**               **Monitoring for Nutrients**

This session will hopefully include Alaska, Washington, and another state discussing monitoring, mixing zones, etc.

**5:00 PM**                                     **Meeting Adjourn**

# Thursday, December 7

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| **7:30 AM** | **Breakfast On Your Own** |
| **8:30 – 10:00 AM** | **Barriers to Permitting for Nutrient Pollution** |

This session will focus on identifying the key barriers to implementing nutrient controls in NPDES permits and tee up the small group discussion focused on a "what if" exercise.  State X will lead the large group in a discussion of major barriers they have identified in implementing nutrient controls. Small groups will then break out to discuss the key barriers in more detail but then shift to a discussion to what we could do instead of what we can't do.  The idea of this session is to identify the things that are making our jobs difficult when it comes to nutrient permitting, but shift the conversation to the positive.  The idea behind the "what if" discussion is to look at what we'd like to see happen, regardless of current regulatory structure and political pressures.  This small group discussion would challenge groups to think beyond "we can't do that because…"  and shift the discussion in more positive manner.   What if we could do X,Y,Z?  What would an ideal permitting program/approach look like to control nutrient pollution?  The small groups would each report out to the larger group.

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| **10:00 – 10:15 AM** | **Break** |
| **10:15 – 11:30 AM** | **Nutrient Removal Technologies** |

Lost Cost Nutrient Removal in Montana, Grant Weaver, PE and ABC Class IV wastewater operator, President, The Water Planet Company
Struvite harvested as a useful byproduct, Haley Falconer City of Boise
Biosolids Farming, Ben Nydegger, City of Boise

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| **11:30 - 12:00 PM** | **Program Wrap Up** |

*Association of Clean Water Administrators*
Environmental Program Manager
Mark Patrick McGuire