

August 16, 2017



Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC)—Cycle 17, Session 4 Wednesday was the fourth Professional Learning Community (PLC) in this cycle.

This was the fourth PLC session in Cycle 17. This cycle of ten bi-weekly phone calls will focus on effective Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) strategies and how to prepare for the next EPA Request for Proposals (RFP). Calls will be a mix of open discussion, workforce development news, resources, and presentations from current grantees.

- Topics:
1. News from Washington and HMTRI
  2. Post-meeting materials and presentations available for download
  3. Overview of the 2017 Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting—Open discussion/comments, overall meeting impressions, presentations that impressed, new trends emerging as part of EWDJT
  4. Meetings and workshops
  5. Technical assistance websites
  6. Tune in to the next PLC

## **1. NEWS FROM WASHINGTON AND HMTRI**

This week we heard some good news. If all goes as planned, the 2018 EWDJT Request for Proposals should be issued later this fall. This is earlier than previous years. However, with internal reviews and work schedules, RFPs have historically slipped into November or December.

In any case, an RFP will be issued in just a few months and the time to begin preparations is now. As we have noted many times, information requested in the RFP requires extensive groundwork and cannot be assembled in a month or two.

First up—development of community and labor market assessments concurrent with the establishment of advisory boards. (The next PLC will address advisory boards and their relationship to market assessments and student placement.)

## **2. POST-MEETING MATERIALS AND PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD**

Notes from Glo Hanne regarding post-meeting announcements and meeting materials:

*“Meeting materials are being processed. We will let you know when they have been uploaded to the Brownfields Toolbox website.”*

*For those attending the Annual Environmental Job Development All-Grantee Meeting in Alexandria last week, it was great to see everyone again and to make some new friends.*

*I want to extend a very special thank you to all of the graduates who attended this year and shared their experiences on the panel and throughout the meeting. I received so many great comments on that session. For many attendees, it was their favorite part of the meeting. Andre, Prince, Marcel, Ricardo, and Wendy.....thank you for taking time out of your busy days to be a part of this year's meeting. I hope you enjoyed attending the meeting as much as everyone liked having you there!*

*Another special thank you goes out to all of the grantees who served as mentors by presenting in a small-group session. Your willingness to share your knowledge and experience is invaluable to everyone attending!*

*Below is a list of updates, reminders, and announcements. Most importantly, though, is this reminder—As you process all of the information you received at the meeting, please remember that we at HMTRI are a resource for you. Contact us if you have any questions. If we can't answer your question, we will point you in the direction of someone who can help you.*

*The Grantee Listserv has been updated to include everyone who attended this year's meeting. Please remember that besides me posting announcements for you, this listserv can also be used as a tool for you to request information from your fellow grantees. Just send me your request and I'll put it on the listserv on your behalf. If you can help someone with their request, do not hesitate to reply. We are all here to help each other develop and sustain excellent job training programs across the nation. So please.....use this valuable resource! That's what it's for. If you want one of your partners added to the listserv, please send me their email address and I'll add them.*

*The [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website will house all of the PowerPoints and materials from this year's meeting. If you have not yet sent me your PowerPoint or materials, please send them to me as soon as possible. I will let you know when everything has been uploaded. Some of the information posted will include:*

- 1. A compilation of all of the notes from the small-group sessions.*
- 2. PowerPoints and resources from all grantee and EPA sessions (when available).*
- 3. OSHA training handouts.*
- 4. An updated participant list to continue the networking that you started at the meeting."*

*If you had to leave the meeting early or have suggestions for next year's meeting, email your ideas to Glo. Last year's suggestions were helpful in planning and updating this year's event.*

[gianne@eicc.edu](mailto:gianne@eicc.edu)

Phone 563.441.4081

### 3. OVERVIEW OF THE 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL JOB DEVELOPMENT ALL-GRANTEE MEETING

#### Comments and overall impressions of the meeting

- Suggestions from current grantees and last year's participants resulted in several changes and additions to this year's meeting. Topic areas, agenda schedules, regional coordinator participation, and session presenters were created to accommodate submitted ideas. In particular, a meet and greet introduction session was added allowing participants to roam the room introducing themselves to new acquaintances. Breakout sessions addressed topics submitted by meeting participants. If we missed any anything, let us know so we can include that in next year's meeting.
- Another addition to this year's meeting was a panel of EWDJT graduates accompanied by their sponsors. EWDJT graduates provided a frank and compelling insight into what their lives were like before, during, and after environmental training.
- The Los Angeles Conservation Corps with Intel Corporation demonstrated how leveraging private sector partners can expand the concept of private/public partnerships to develop viable workforce training programs.
- Perhaps the best part of All-Grantee Meetings is an opportunity for networking, making new friends and developing relationships with others having common interests. It's not surprising that participants warm up to each other so quickly. Everyone deals with the same issues, has the same work-life goals, and is seeking out strategies to make their program the best it can be.

#### Presentations that impressed

- Clearly, Wendy's presentation followed by Andre, Prince, Marcel, and Ricardo were impressive and reminded meeting participants why EWDJT exists and its impact on individuals' lives. Graduate discussions expressed genuine feelings setting the tone for the entire two-day meeting.
- Paul McFaddin provided a compelling story on his efforts to establish his EWDJT program in Rochester, NY. Paul's relationship with city officials and the mayor combined with frank and aggressive expectations from local employers resulted in more job offers than available graduates.
- Pauline Auberle Foundation was impressive in that they provide services to program participants—everything from meals, housing, mental health services, transportation, and drug rehabilitation.
- Amy from Oregon Tradeswomen has always been impressive, teaching all of us how to be more inclusive and gender neutral in our training programs.

## New trends emerging as part of EWDJT

- When the panel of graduates and their sponsors were asked “which course was the most useful in securing employment,” almost every response was the OSHA 10-hour Construction Industry Outreach Training. All acknowledged that 1910.120 is necessary to gain access to hazardous waste sites, but the OSHA 10-hour training provides background knowledge for every site.
- Job readiness skills, team participation, and professional conduct are essential more than ever in finding employment.
- Drug testing has moved from being “an issue” to being “the major issue” in recruitment, retention, and placement of program participants. Grantees vary widely on policies regarding testing as a requisite for program entry vs. drug rehabilitation as part of the student services provided by the program. Everyone found it necessary to structure their program to ensure that their graduates were drug-free.
- An increasing number of EWDJT programs are taking advantage of “off-the-shelf” technology such as “Google for Nonprofits” for program management and tablets for instruction.
- More programs are seeking resources from private sector companies, providing funds and services to back up operations, provide additional assistance to participants, and contribute to program sustainability.

These are just a few of the ideas discussed at this year’s meeting. Every participant appeared to leave Alexandria with new friends, ideas, and strategies for starting, enhancing, and sustaining their program.

## **4. MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS**

Fall is the season for local and regional Brownfields conferences. Local conferences provide a great opportunity to network with employers, meet government officials, and seek out supporters and potential partners. Often registration fees can be waived for grantee staff and students. However, it is important that conference organizers be contacted directly for special assistance and waiver of fees. Here are a few upcoming conferences.

### **Local and regional brownfield associations**

#### West Virginia Brownfields Conference

September 12–14, 2017

Erickson Alumni Center

Morgantown, WV

Registration is now open for the 2017 West Virginia Brownfields Conference. Hosted by the West Virginia Brownfields Assistance Center, this year’s event includes fun and educational pre-conference workshops and tours beginning on September 12. The two-day conference will feature sessions covering the latest trends and topics related to Brownfields redevelopment in West Virginia and the Central

Appalachian region. The Brownfields Assistance Centers will also partner with Main Street WV & ON TRAC to host their fall training as part of the conference activities.

Visit their [website](#) for more information.

#### 2017 Southeast Brownfields Workshop

November 7–9, 2017

Georgia Tech Research Institute Conference Center  
Atlanta, GA

EPA Region 4 and the Georgia Brownfield Association are hosting the 2017 Southeast Brownfields Workshop on November 7–9, 2017. More than 200 attendees, including grantees, state environmental agencies, tribes, urban and rural local governments, nonprofit organizations, environmental professionals, and community members are expected to attend this year's event.

Visit their [website](#) for more information.

#### 20th Anniversary of Florida's Brownfield Program—Embracing Florida's Past, Enhancing Florida's Future

October 1–4, 2017

The Renaissance Vinoy  
St. Petersburg, FL

Hosted by the Florida Brownfields Association and its members, this conference offers a great opportunity to network and share expertise with a unique group of stakeholders with an interest in Florida Brownfields redevelopment. Registration including signing up for sponsorship and exhibit space is now open online. For more details of the celebration of 20 years of the Brownfields program in Florida, visit their [website](#).

#### Annual Georgia Environmental Conference

August 23–25, 2017

In its 12th year, the Annual Georgia Environmental Conference is the largest, most comprehensive and diverse educational opportunity for environmental professionals in Georgia and the Southeast region. Visit their [website](#) for more information and to register.

#### **EPA Regional and ICMA national conferences**

##### Effective project management training for EPA Region 7 grantees

The U.S. EPA Region 7 Brownfields and Land Revitalization Branch are hosting a three-day workshop. Receive training to ensure effective project management, review key expectations, support the sharing of knowledge, and showcase untapped resources.

Contact:

Alma Moreno Lahm

Brownfields Project Manager

Phone: (913) 551-7380

Email: [moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov](mailto:moreno-lahm.alma@epa.gov)

### 2017 National Brownfields Training Conference

December 5–7, 2017

Pittsburgh, PA

The session selection process is complete. Brownfields 2017 is set to offer attendees a robust and expansive conference experience. This year's conference programming and speakers will engage attendees on topics at the forefront of today's Brownfields and economic development landscapes, challenging both emerging and seasoned professionals as well as a diverse range of Brownfields stakeholders to think outside the norms when addressing land revitalization and redevelopment. For more information and to register, visit their [website](#).

## **5. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE WEBSITES**

### HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox Website

HMTRI, under cooperative agreement with EPA, provides technical assistance to communities and organizations interested in developing and sustaining environmental workforce development and job training programs. The [Brownfields Toolbox](#) website is the HMTRI repository for all things related to environmental workforce training. Below are a few topic areas.

- [Professional Learning Community \(PLC\)](#) post-session notes and audio recordings
- [Start a Program](#)
- [Social Media Directory](#)
- [Resources from current and past Environmental Job Development All-Grantee meetings](#)
- [CONNECT News](#) newsletter archive

### TAB Websites

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) addresses technical aspects of Brownfields assessment and remediation. TAB provides free technical assistance to communities and other stakeholders with Brownfields redevelopment efforts.

Three organizations provide technical assistance to EPA grantees and potential applicants seeking federal funding for assessment and remediation projects. Each has a website with current information and resources particular to the regions they cover.

[Kansas State University \(KSU\)](#) is the TAB provider to EPA Regions 5, 6, 7, and 8.

[New Jersey Institute of Technology \(NJIT\)](#) is the TAB provider to EPA Regions 1, 3, and 4.

[Center for Creative Land Recycling \(CCLR\)](#) is the TAB provider to EPA Regions 2, 9, and 10.

#### 4. TUNE IN TO THE NEXT PLC

The schedule for the remaining sessions in PLC Cycle 17 is below.

1. August 30
2. September 13
3. September 27
4. October 11
5. October 25
6. November 8

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Next PLC Session: August 30, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. ET  
319.527.3513, access code 550105#  
Please call in five minutes early.



Feel free to invite a guest! Send your contact information to Mike Senew at [msenew@aol.com](mailto:msenew@aol.com).

Visit our [HMTRI Brownfields Toolbox](#) website for more information on Brownfields Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training programs. All [PLC session notes and recordings](#) are also located on the website. For those interested in providing content or suggestions, please contact Glo Hanne at [ghanne@eicc.edu](mailto:ghanne@eicc.edu).

**NOTE:** The PLC brings together ideas and opinions of individuals interested in environmental workforce development and job training. Ideas and opinions are not those of EPA or its policy and should not be taken as official guidance.