

Notes from the Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community (PLC) – 5/19/2021

These are post session notes from the eighth call in this cycle of Workforce Development Professional Learning Community (PLC) conversations. The Environmental Workforce PLC meets every other Wednesday from 2:00 pm to 2:30 pm Eastern time via conference call from any telephone. Each PLC session includes discussions related to workforce development and the successful implementation of EPA Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT) programs. The next PLC will be June 2nd, same time and call-in instructions.

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among Brownfields Job training communities and assist new communities develop environmental job training programs.

This week's discussion topics

- Updates from Washington
- Revisiting the 2021 Virtual All Grantee Meeting
- All grantee meeting questions, ideas and thoughts moving forward
- Preparing for the next EWDJT funding cycle

If you received these notes, you are on our list to continue receiving announcements and session notes. Return this email with subject "Remove" if you are no longer interested in receiving PLC notes and announcements.

If you or an associate would like to be added to the PLC participant list, send contact information to Josh at HMTRI@eicc.edu

Ideas presented during these sessions represent individual opinions. They do not represent EPA, state, local or organizational policy. Information presented should not be taken as such.

Post Session Notes Session 253, May 19th, 2021

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1. Latest from Washington

EPA awards MAC Grants

On May 11th, EPA announced the selection of 151 communities to receive 154 grant awards totaling \$66.5 million in Brownfields funding through its Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup (MAC) Grants. Funding is for a variety of activities over the three-year grant period, including brownfields site inventories, Phase I and II environmental site assessments, cleanup of contaminants, and redevelopment planning. It is especially important for current, new and prospective grantees to be aware of the work underway in their community. Local assessment and cleanup activities provide job opportunities for EWDJT graduates. Additionally, communities selected for brownfields economic redevelopment often coincide with opportunity zones and target communities selected for environmental workforce development.

Brownfields 2021 is rescheduled as an in-person conference December 8-11, 2021

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

EPA and ICMA are committed to ensuring the National Brownfields Training Conference provides the best networking and learning environment possible for the brownfield's community. Several considerations relate to the current, and anticipated, Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. While we are increasingly optimistic about the Fall, we have rescheduled Brownfields 2021, yes again, from its September dates to December 8 – 11, 2021, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Sign up for the latest information on the 2021 Brownfields Conference.

Visit the conference website

EPA Stakeholder Listening Session

A recording of EPA's April 23 Brownfields Stakeholder Listening Session with Nonprofits and Community Foundations is now available at the following site.

Listening

passcode 35254331

Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) programs announced

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the selection of six nation-wide organizations to receive a total of \$11 million in grants to provide training and technical assistance to communities. While HMTRI provides technical assistance related to environmental training and job development, TAB grantees provide technical assistance related to the assessment and cleanup of brownfield communities. Here are the recently announced TAB grantees:

- The University of Connecticut will provide assistance in EPA's Region 1.
- The New Jersey Institute of Technology will provide assistance in EPA's Region 2.
- The West Virginia University Research Corporation will provide assistance in EPA's Region 3.
- The International City/County Management Association will provide assistance in EPA's Region 4.
- The Kansas State University will provide assistance in EPA's Regions 5-8. The university
 will also coordinate with the other selected recipients on nationally led efforts and
 tools.
- The Center for Creative Land Recycling will provide assistance in EPA's Regions 9 and 10.

The Brownfields TAB Program helps communities, states, tribes and others understand the human health and environmental risks associated with contaminated or potentially contaminated properties, and learn how to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse them. For example, the training and research deliveries from selected TAB providers assist communities in:

- Identifying and prioritizing brownfields for redevelopment.
- Determining the potential public health impact of brownfield sites.
- Identifying appropriate funding/financing approaches.
- Applying for and managing EPA brownfields grants.
- Evaluating economic feasibility of reuse plans.
- Interpreting technical brownfield reports, assessments and plans.
- Understanding and navigating regulatory requirements.

More information on the TAB program:

https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/brownfields-technical-assistance

2. From HMTRI

All of us at HMTRI would like to reach out to everyone able to attend the 2021 Virtual All-Grantee Meeting.

To those grantees who sent in PowerPoints, videos, and interviews we say, "Thank you." The videos shared during the grantee meeting underscore the impact EWDJT is having on people's lives across the country. To our co-facilitators and presenters, we also say "Thank you," for sharing your knowledge and experience with other grantees. A willingness to help others, and become the best grantee they can be, is what makes this program special. And of course, we cannot leave out our EPA and NIEHS partners. Sharing your knowledge and experience provides

EWDJT grantees access to the latest news and technology in environmental training, health and safety.

Evaluations help insure the relevance and direction of our technical assistance efforts. Your comments are important to our effort moving forward. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill out the Meeting evaluation form for us. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021AllGranteeMeeting

Next August, look forward to seeing everyone again, peer-to-peer, in Alexandria, Virginia.

3. Questions from PLC participants

Question: I work for a small municipality and we are a new awardee. Are there any other municipalities awarded that we could reach out to discuss best practices, etc.? **Response:** Currently 7 of our 44 active grantees are cities with another two from county governments. City run programs have advantages over those operating outside local governments. Being associated with city government provides an opportunity to learn about other municipal services, departments and potential funding opportunities.

We suggest spending some time getting acquainted with other programs within your city including health and human services, environmental, housing, community relations, demolition/construction. and purchasing (for potential employers). We will also be discussing this topic in future PLCs. At your request, we are sending you contact information for individuals in city sponsored EWDJT programs that can provide some excellent guidance, tips and ideas working in a municipal environment.

Question: We are currently in the middle of our training cohort and I was not able to attend the All-Grantee Meeting. Will there be recordings of the sessions and when will they be available?

Response: We are currently processing recordings from the 18 breakouts and 7 plenaries. When complete, materials will be posted and announced that they are available on the brownfieldstoolbox.org website. We also plan on incorporating ideas presented at the All-Grantee Meeting into our PLC discussions.

4. EWDJT News

Congratulations to newly funded grantees from Region 3 including first year Pittsburgh Conservation Corps dba Landforce. Returning programs include Energy Coordinating a 2014, 2016 and 2021 grantee and West End Neighborhood House a 2015, 2018 and 2021 grantee. Here is a summary of their proposed programs.

<u>Pittsburgh Conservation Corps dba Landforce</u> Training objective Train 38 students and place at least 27 in environmental jobs

Curriculum

The training program includes 95 hours of instruction

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- Environmental Stewardship
- Tree Tender
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- Chain Saw Safety
- Tools and Safety
- First Aid/CPR
- One state and one federal certification

Target community

Residents of Pittsburgh and nearby communities who experience barriers to employment

Key partners

- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Penn State Center-Pittsburgh
- Partner4Work
- Rivers of Steel
- Jones Lang LaSalle
- Operation Better Block
- Davey Trees
- Kimicata Brothers, Inc.
- Pittsburgh Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute

Energy Coordinating Agency

Training objective

Train 54 students and place 48 in environmental jobs

Curriculum

The training program includes 160 hours of instruction

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- OSHA-10
- Mold and Moisture
- Lead Renovation, Repair, and Painting
- Whole House Air Sealing and Insulation
- Students who complete the training will earn up to four federal certifications

Target community

- Returning citizens
- Latino residents
- Unemployed underemployed residents
- Recent high school graduates of North Philadelphia's low-income West Kensington neighborhood

Key partners

- Clean Water Action
- En-Staff
- Johnson Controls International
- Energy Coordinating Agency
- JEVS Human Services
- Solar States

West End Neighborhood House, Inc.

Training objective

Train 58 students and place at least 50 in environmental jobs

Curriculum

The training program includes 123 hours of instruction

- 40-hour HAZWOPER
- OSHA-10 General Industry
- Forklift Operation
- EPA Lead Renovation, Repair, and Paint
- Asbestos Worker
- Mold and Microbial Worker
- OSHA Confined Space Entry
- Soil Sampling
- Students who complete the training will earn up to two state and five federal certifications

Target community

• Residents of the City of Wilmington with an emphasis on veterans

Key partners

- BrightFields, Inc.
- Delaware Department of Labor
- Astec Environmental
- EDiS Company

5. Revisiting the 2021 Virtual All Grantee Meeting

Again, we would like to thank everyone for attending the 2021 Virtual All-Grantee Meeting. Your pre-meeting input allowed us to construct 18 breakout and 10 plenary sessions with hundreds of proposed talking points that address issues and concerns related to the successful delivery of EWDJT programs.

The primary goal of the All-Grantee Meeting is to share information and discuss ideas to assist development of successful and sustainable Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training programs. Objectives to address the primary goal include the following:

- Provide an opportunity for grantees to network with EPA regional and headquarters representatives to review program components and guidelines to ensure grant requirements are fulfilled.
- Provide technical assistance in a peer-to-peer setting among grantees and prospective grantees new to EWDJT.
- Provide a forum for attendees to discuss issues of common interest.
- Share and discuss success stories, challenges, and solutions on topics of concern.
- Develop relationships among grantees that promote peer-to-peer mentoring.

Without participation from grantees, regional coordinators and headquarter staff, this meeting is not possible. This year was an ambitious undertaking; asking participants to attend more than nine hours on ZOOM over the course of three days. Quantitatively, evaluations suggested the meeting was informative and well run. It provided interesting opportunities for discussion and peer-to-peer discussion. Here is a sample of the comments as part of the evaluation:

- A nice networking opportunity
- The breakout room on substance abuse & program landmines
- Sharing after hours
- Learning from other programs
- Meeting all the other organizations that are decades ahead of our organization. I am brand new to the nonprofit, environmental advocacy world and am SO impressed with the knowledge and resources shared so freely & willingly with us. Very impressed.
- Sharing of best practices
- Connecting with other organization and EPA program managers across the regions.
 Awesome!
- Breakout sessions were informative
- The opportunity to interact with other grantees, idea sharing and program collaboration.
- The content and the presenters sharing specific details regarding the implementation of their programs. Very helpful information

Advantages of a virtual format included the convenience, economy and ease of attending the meeting. Detracting from the virtual format is the necessity for over 9 hours of ZOOM to cover less material that would be covered in a 2-day workshop. In person meetings allowed for additional peer-to-peer mentoring and more participant interaction than a virtual format. Moving forward, the challenge is to develop a hybrid approach using the best of both formats and filling the goals and objectives of future All Grantee Meetings.

Given constraints posed by virtual meetings and based on post meeting evaluations, we feel we are on the "right track". However, there are things we can do better. Moving forward to inperson or perhaps hybrid events may introduce a new approach to facilitate networking and peer-to-peer mentoring. Keeping the event fresh and informative for experienced, as well new and prospective EWDJT program managers, is the challenge for next year's meeting. As always, your ideas guide the direction of this event.

6. Preparing for the next EWDJT funding cycle

Don't get caught off guard. At this year's All Grantee Meeting, EPA indicated that the FY22 requests for EWDJT applications (RFA) are issued this summer. When the RFAs are issued, applicants are only given 60 days to prepare and submit a comprehensive competitive proposal. While FY21 awardees will not be eligible to submit applications for FY22, over 26 FY20 grantees will be eligible for consideration in addition to former grantees and new organizations interested in establishing EWDJT programs. We do not know how many proposals are going to be funded, but it appears that competition is expected to be intense. Successful applications will need to be comprehensive and well prepared. Establishing relationships including recruitment of potential employers, advisory committee members, supporting partners and community involvement is time intensive and should already be underway. Our current "best guess look ahead" for application submission, award and program implementation for the FY22 workforce development cycle is flexible but could look like this.

- EPA Request for Applications posted on grants.gov August 2021
- Proposal planning and team building pre grant preparation Ongoing
- Community relationship and partnership development Ongoing
- Proposals due September October 2021
- Threshold criteria (Pass Fail) notifications of application rejection —October 2021
- Proposal evaluations December- February 2022
- Award announcements Spring, 2022
- Finalization of work plans and award finalization Summer 2022
- Authorization to spend funds –Late Summer 2022
- First year training cohorts begin –Fall, 2022
- ACRES and Quarterly reports Due quarterly after award finalization

The time to begin the next proposal cycle is now. Moving forward the PLC will focus on "best practices" that assist in responding to ranking criteria when the RFA is issued.

7. Resources, webinar recordings and posted materials

What the Federal Budget Means for Brownfields Redevelopment April 29th recording is now available

A Recording of the April 29 Passed and Proposed: What the Federal Budget Means for Brownfields Redevelopment webinar is now at the following sites.

Webinar Recording

Additional links to handouts include:

National Brownfields Coalition One-pager

EPA Brownfield Redevelopment Resources and Guides

"Passed and Proposed" Webinar Slidedeck

ECWTP Fact Sheet Now Available

The NIEHS Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) released a new fact sheet to describe the program. ECWTP provides training to increase opportunities for individuals from disadvantaged and underserved communities to obtain careers in environmental cleanup, construction, hazardous waste removal, and emergency response.

WTP

Building Programs to Protect Workers from COVID-19 in the Workplace

A new Training Tool: Building Programs to Protect Workers from COVID-19 in the Workplace, Replaces the Essential and Returning Worker Training Tool.

Among other additions and revisions, the updated version adds the following: an icebreaker to gauge participants' concerns, a graphic illustrating transmission, information on asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, new slide on vaccines, information on portable air cleaners,

data on mental health effects during COVID-19, new slides on ventilation filtration, and a slide on the use of ultraviolet light to disinfect air.

WTP COVID-19 Resources Page

8. Upcoming webinars

National Environmental Justice Conference: Federal Title VI and Environmental Justice Priorities May 20th

The National Environmental Justice Conference, Inc. will present the first in its series of virtual workshops and training programs on May 20 at 10:00-11:30 a.m. ET. This session will be a panel discussion with Federal civil rights offices engaged in Title VI enforcement and compliance work related to environmental and health programs receiving federal financial assistance.

Meeting Registration

June 10, 12:00PM-1:00PM EST

California EPA's Pollution and Prejudice Project

Learn about tools developed by CalEPA's racial equity team to help agency staff and communities explore the connection between racist land use practices of the 1930s and the persistence of environmental injustice.

Register Here

Stigma of Addiction Summit June 10th

The National Academy of Medicine, Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin, and Shatterproof are pleased to announce the Stigma of Addiction Summit on June 10. It is a half-day, virtual, action-oriented summit entirely dedicated to understanding, addressing, and eliminating the harmful impacts of stigma on people who use drugs. The goal of the Summit is to elevate current efforts at reducing stigma, identifying successes and gaps in the evidence base, and prioritizing and identifying areas for future research.

Meeting Registration

9. Virtual and in person conferences

CCLR's 6th Annual NYS Redevelopment Summit.

June 16-18

Communities today are on the cusp of unprecedented resources to address brownfield cleanup and reuse challenges. Are you ready? Get the tools, training, and connections you need to create and capitalize on opportunities for revitalization - virtually - at CCLR's 6th Annual NYS Redevelopment Summit.

You'll learn from and network with other experts who share your passion for lifting up communities through beneficial reuse that promotes resilience, sustainability, and environmental justice. We hope you're as excited as we are about what's on tap! Topics and speakers will include:

- Keynote Speaker Peggy Shepard, Executive Director of WE ACT for Environmental Justice and newly appointed member of the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council
- Renewable energy development as a means of addressing both reuse and sustainability challenges.
- Public and private land reuse funding sources and how to access them.
- Workforce development to prepare local people for local jobs.
- How New York's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) will affect land reuse.
- Updates on State and Federal programs from the U.S. EPA, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Department of State, NYSERDA, Empire State Development, and more.

Register Today!

https://pheedloop	.com/register/	/NYSRedevSumr	mit2021,	/attendee/
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GBA Virtual Brownfields Conference June 22-23

Join to support GBA in its mission to ensure our State benefits from the continued cleanup of and reinvestment in environmentally impacted and underutilized properties in Georgia. We hope that you will be a part of this exciting work, which will benefit you as an individual and the industry as a whole. Click here to download an overview of 2021 membership levels and benefits. Sign up for Early Bird Registration for the 2021 Brownfield Seminar and you'll receive discounted registration. And thank you to those of you who submitted abstracts for this year's conference.

Click	<u>here</u>	to	<u>learn</u>	more			
REGISTER NOW!							

The 26th Florida Remediation Conference November 17-19, 2021 Call for Speakers and Poster Presenters Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, Florida

The Florida Remediation Conference (FRC) is one of the premier soil, air and water remediation conferences of the year. Though FRC started out as a Florida-centric event 25 years ago, it has developed a solid reputation for fostering the remediation and redevelopment industries across the Southeast. FRC attracts over 600 attendees comprised of a mix of industry representatives, developers, consultants and contractors, and over 100 exhibitors and sponsors from across the country. It is far from just being a Florida event.

Topical areas for consideration include:

- Innovative Remediation Technologies
- Environmental Assessment and Analysis
- Emerging Contaminants
- Vapor Intrusion Investigation and Remediation
- Brownfields and Redevelopment
- Characterization, Fate and Transport
- Risk Assessment Practices, Applications, and Benefits
- Environmental Forensics
- Innovative Strategies and Approaches to Expedite Site Closure
- Remediation of Petroleum and Heavy Hydrocarbons
- Funding and Insuring Remediation Projects
- Business Aspects for the Environmental Professional
- Other

Oral Platform and Poster Session Format

FRC 2021 Oral Platform Sessions have been designed to allow for three (3) 30-minute speaking slots. We suggest presenters plan for a 20-minute talk and allow 10 minutes for Q&A.

For Poster presentations, posters will be on display for the entire event with a Poster Reception to be held on Thursday, November 5th in the exhibit hall.

If you have an interest in presenting an oral or poster presentations, please click on the button below.

Submission Deadline: July 15, 2021.

SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT, CLICK HERE

10. Funding, leveraging and outreach opportunities

CPWR

Accepting applications for funding from the Small Study Program Open applications accepted

CPWR's Small Study Program provides seed money of up to \$30,000 to investigate promising new research initiatives. Many major research projects began with a Small Study to demonstrate its viability or test the approach, and other studies have resulted in important

stand-alone projects. A survey of researchers funded under this program found that more than 60 percent had published their findings in peer-reviewed journals.

How to apply for a Small Study Grant

Researchers interested in funding should review the Small Study Guidelines, which explain the requirements and process in detail. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis and can come from investigators from a wide range of disciplines, including applied computer sciences, communication sciences, construction management, consumer marketing, economics, engineering, psychology, and work organization. We also welcome innovative proposals from occupational safety and health researchers, ergonomists, epidemiologists, researchers partnering with industry practitioners, and others.

Learn more from reviewing the list of Funded Small Studies, go to:

Additional information

SBIR E-Learning for HAZMAT and Emergency Response Application Due Date - July 30, 2021

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) encourages Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant applications from small business concerns (SBCs) that propose to further the development of Advanced Technology Training (ATT) products for: the health and safety training of hazardous materials (HAZMAT) workers; waste treatment personnel; skilled support personnel associated with an emergency/disaster; emergency responders in biosafety response, infectious disease training and cleanup; emergency responders in disasters and resiliency training; and for ATT tools to assist in responding to environmental disasters. ATT as defined by the Worker Training Program (WTP) includes, but is not limited to, online training, mobile device training, virtual reality, and serious gaming, which complement all aspects of training from development to evaluation including advanced technologies that enhance, supplement, improve, and provide health and safety training for hazardous materials workers. These products must complement the goals and objectives of WTP. The major objective of the NIEHS WTP is to prevent work related harm by assisting in the training of workers in how best to protect themselves and their communities from exposure to hazardous materials. The financial support for this initiative comes directly from NIEHS Worker Education and Training Branch SBIR funds.

Go to:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-ES-21-005.html

EPA EJ Small Grants and Collaborative Problem-Solving Grants Extended to June 1

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) anticipates the potential for additional funds up to approximately \$10.5 million to be made available through the 2021 Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants and EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving funding opportunities along with the original amount of EJ funds. These potential additional funds can be used for COVID-19 projects specifically to address clean air issues and/or training for a safe drinking water workforce. For more information, go to:

EJ Small Grants

EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving

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11. Contact EPA Regional Coordinators

Regional Coordinators are the first place to go regarding questions about EWDJT grants, extensions, budgets, or work plans. Many Regions maintain a Listserv for past, current, and potential grantees. It is important to be on their contact list for conference calls and newsletters.

EPA Region 1

CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

Myra Schwartz

Phone: (617) 918-1696

E-mail: schwartz.myra@epa.gov

EPA Region 2

NJ, NY, PR, VI Schenine Mitchell

Phone: (212) 637-3283

E-mail: mitchell.schenine@epa.gov

EPA Region 3

DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

Gianna Rosati

Phone: (215) 814-3406

E-mail: Rosati.Gianna@epa.gov

EPA Region 4

AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN

Wanda Jennings Phone: 404-562-8682

E-mail: jennings.Wanda@epa.gov

EPA Region 5

IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Linda Morgan

Phone: (312) 886-4747

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EPA Region 6

AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

Rita Ware

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EPA Region 7

IA, KS, MO, NE

Alma Moreno Lahm Phone: (913) 551-7380

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EPA Region 8

CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

Christina Wilson

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EPA Region 9

AZ, CA, HI, NV, AS, GU

Nova Blazej

Phone: (415) 972-3846

E-mail: blazej.nova@epa.gov

Noemi Emeric-Ford Phone: (213) 244-1821

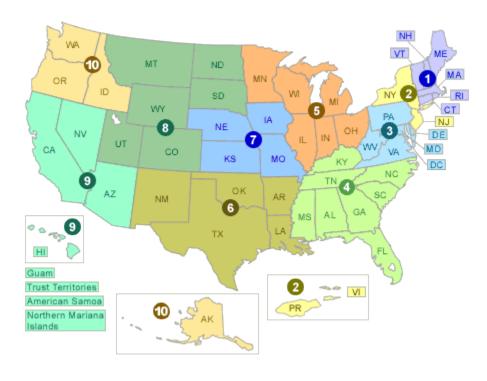
E-mail: emeric-ford.noemi@epa.gov

EPA Region 10

AK, ID, OR, WA Susan Morales

Phone: (206) 553-7299

E-mail: morales.susan@epa.gov



12. Join us for the next Professional Learning Community call

The objective of the (PLC) is to promote and share innovative strategies among those interested in establishing community based environmental job training programs. Our sessions allow participants to stay in touch with EWDJT happenings, ask questions, showcase their

programs and help others. The Environmental Workforce PLC is open to all and there is no cost or obligation to attend. Join us when you can.

Next PLC call – Wednesday, June 2nd, 2021 – Same time and "call in"

Email questions or to be placed on the PLC register send contact information to HMTRI@eicc.edu

To participate in our Environmental Workforce Professional Learning Community session call: (319) 527-3513

Use access code 550105 followed by # to be connected to our session.

Sign up a friend – no cost – no obligation

Join us for helpful hints & open discussion

Call from any phone at: 1:55 pm Eastern time (5 minutes early) Discussions last about 30 minutes.

-- PLC notes and recordings of past sessions are also uploaded to our website at: http://brownfields-toolbox.org/plc-sessions/.

If you would like to invite a guest, feel free to forward this email.

HMTRI is part of Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and has provided environmental workforce development technical assistance since the inception of EPA's Brownfields Initiative.

PLC notes presented represent individual opinions and ideas from Professional Learning Community participants and EWDJT grantees. They do not represent EPA policy, guidance or opinions and should not be taken as such.

For more information on HMTRI technical assistance services or to be added to our Grantee and Community Outreach Listsery, please contact Josh at HMTRI@eicc.edu.

