

Good Morning and Welcome to this Training Workshop on Water Quality Trading. The event is been sponsored by the Environmental Trading Network with the support of a U.S. EPA Watershed Assistance Grant.

I would first like to thank the speakers and participants your willingness and interest in participation. I want to emphasize the "training" aspect of this event. So often we "cheerlead" for trading but don't have the time to get into the details in typical conference settings. These details are what we want to bring out at this workshop. What did and didn't work and why. What to avoid. What to emphasize. We want you to hear first-hand, from those that have been in the trenches, what it really takes to make trading work. I will be encouraging attendees to ask tough questions and I expect speakers and panelists to call it like they've seen it with candid and informative responses.

As you will note from the attached final agenda, the workshop

builds from the basic components of market-based trading approaches, to the tools of the trade, to specific applications and ultimately to our challenge for participant to frame a trading program of their own. This latter element of the workshop builds from Wednesday afternoon discussions regarding the Ohio River setting and rolls into the final morning where we will have breakout groups assigned to frame strategies for addressing key issues.

We will have some of our speakers assisting with facilitated breakout groups on Thursday morning. This last ½-day session is intended to spawn interest in regional trading and to export the same to beyond Region V.

We have over 40 attendees registered and we anticipate that there will typically be another 10 speakers in the audience at any one time. We have representatives coming from Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, West

Virginia, Idaho, Louisiana and Georgia. These cover conservation districts, academia, state agencies, USDA, utilities, NGOs and consultants.

There will be hand-out materials for some speakers that we will provide to you prior to the start of their session. The presentations, which will be posted, will also have web citations.

I am excited about the chance to get to the heart of trading at this workshop and hope you will find your participation rewarding.