Urban Waters Learning Forum
AGENDA

Monday, May 8th, 2017,
Amway Grand Plaza Hotel (Room TBD), Grand Rapids, Michigan

Welcome! This in-person networking opportunity is sponsored by EPA and hosted by River Network and Groundwork USA. The Urban Waters Learning Forum is open by invitation to all EPA Urban Waters Small Grant recipients as well as other urban waters practitioners. Our goal is to foster networking, mentoring and learning among peers. The afternoon session is a REQUIRED meeting for both those receiving EPA Urban Waters scholarships AND 2016 EPA Urban Waters Small Grant recipients. Please join the morning session as your travel permits.

Please RSVP your attendance via email to Diana Toledo (dtoledo@rivernetwork.org) and Erin Wall (ewall@rivernetwork.org) and specify if you'll be attending the morning, afternoon, or BOTH sessions.

Morning session (10:00AM-11:30AM)

10:00 Fostering Upstream/Downstream Connections: How to Start, Sustain & Make Them Successful.

A panel of representatives of three watershed organizations will share the ups & downs of establishing and maintaining these upstream/downstream connections within their watersheds. We will follow the panel with small group discussions to share strategies on making such connections and to discuss opportunities and challenges of the work participants are leading to bridge the divide between upstream and downstream communities.

Panelists:

- Laura Rubin, Huron River Watershed Council Executive Director
- Patrick Herron, Mystic River Watershed Association Executive Director
- Gail Gunst Heffner, Plaster Creek Stewards Co-Director

11:30 Lunch

Take the opportunity to spend time with an EPA manager over lunch or grab lunch on your own. There a multiple lunch options available within the hotel (e.g. a coffee shop, a Wolfgang Puck kitchen to-go counter and a sports grill) and across the street from the hotel. Bring back your lunch to the meeting room and join an informal round-table discussion with an EPA manager.

URBAN Waters LEARNING NETWORK

Afternoon Session (1:00PM-5:15PM)

1:00 Welcome & Introductions
- Nicole Silk, River Network
- Benita Best-Wong, EPA, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
- John Goodin, EPA, Acting Director, Office of Oceans, Wetlands and Watersheds

1:15 Urban Waters Learning Network Awards
- Overview of the Awards
  - John Goodin, OWOW Acting Director
  - Members of the Award Review Committee – Paulina Lopez, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition; Ann-Marie Mitroff, Groundwork USA; Diana Toledo, River Network
- Awardee Presentations

1:35 Highlights of YOUR Work – Your 2-minute drill – Ann-Marie Mitroff and Diana Toledo will facilitate this networking session. In smaller groups of 30, take 2 minutes to introduce yourself and share what enthused you most about your project this past year and particular successes or important "failures" others can learn from (so we don't have to repeat them)!

2:35 Identifying Open Space "Flash Topics" and Hubs for Networking Throughout Year – Come ready to propose a key question(s) or topic you'd like to discuss with your peers. What peers do you need to network with throughout the year? What is your thorniest issue? From this list, we will identify topics for smaller group discussions the rest of the afternoon.

2:45 BREAK

3:00 Open Space Session I: "Flash Topics"

3:45 Open Space Session II: "Deep Dives—Establishing Topic Hubs for Year-Long Networking"

4:30 Learning Network Member Feedback—Diana Toledo and Ann-Marie Mitroff
- Topic Hubs - next steps
- Making the Urban Waters Learning Network Serve You - What in the coming year do you need from the network? What training opportunities or regular peer communications would support your work – around what topics? What in the network is useful to you now?
- Preview of Urban Waters sessions at River Rally 2017

5:15 **Adjourn** (River Rally Welcome & Opening Reception begins at 6:00 pm)

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