



# CLEAN WATER CONFERENCE 2009

## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

### **Level 2 Water Quality Training**

#### **Chemical Water Quality Assessment Training**

*Presenter: Jen Bowman, Ohio University Voinovich School*

NOTE: This is a 2-day training program and you not be able to take any other workshops during the Clean Water Conference.

Water Sample Collection provides protocols for a number of field data collection procedures. Discussions include maintaining quality in collecting water samples and proper equipment calibration, a step-by-step protocol for collecting a number of field parameters is covered, and for the collection of filtered and non-filtered water quality samples. Also a detailed description of how to label sample bottles and complete chain of custody forms.

Flow Measurement, provides detailed instructions for measuring stream discharge. Along with instructions for maintaining quality during discharge measurement and calibrating equipment, guidance for determining flow through the use of Pygmy and AA current meters, portable cut-throat flumes, using a bucket and stopwatch, estimating flow using various methods, and accessing USGS gaging stations for discharge data are examined. Discussions also include installation and maintenance of stream gages and staff plates, channel roughness, Manning's Equation and applying channel-survey data to estimate peak streamflow. Bring your boots.

### **Collaborating for Success & Sustainability**

*Presenter: Stacy Baker, Institute for Conservation Leadership*

Especially in today's economy, groups of all types are looking for new ways to team up for greater effectiveness, resource savings, and sustainability. Well designed collaborations can be a perfect solution, but a bad match or poor start can drain resources and sap momentum. Increase the impact and effectiveness of your current coalition or next collaborative effort with tools and techniques in this interactive workshop.

This ICL workshop will help you clarify your reasons and options for collaborating, know when to collaborate (and when not to!), and identify what helps cooperative efforts start well or recover from a shaky beginning. For groups particularly interested in ways nonprofits can better share resources or create efficiencies, we will identify a range of strategic resource

sharing and restructuring options, questions to ask, and resources to assist, drawing on new case studies and models collected by ICL. Finally, each participant will initiate an action plan to apply lessons to their own collaborative efforts, with an opportunity for feedback from peers and ICL.

The program builds on ICL's work with coalitions and collaborations across the country, including concepts and tools from ICL's publication, "Working Together: A Toolkit for Cooperative Efforts, Networks and Coalitions."

## **Your Board at Its Best**

*Presenter: Stacey Baker, Institute for Conservation Leadership*

Make your board more effective, efficient, and enjoyable with strategies from this workshop designed for board members or staff.

In this engaging program, you will explore six skills that promote board-centered leadership, consider your leadership in relation to the board, and identify strategies for getting the most from your board. Participants will gain practical ideas to help the board better carry out major board responsibilities, including to:

- Oversee annual budget and finances,
- Fundraise,
- Set mission and goals,
- Manage its work and replace itself, and
- Promote the organization ("open doors").

Learn how others have solved common board challenges, and initiate an action plan to strengthen your board, with an opportunity for feedback from peers and ICL.

The program builds on ICL's work with hundreds of environmental and conservation nonprofit boards across the country, as well as board best practices and benchmarks in ICL's publication, "Benchmarking Your Organization's Development."

## **Database Management**

*Presenter: Jen Bowman, Ohio University Voinovich School*

This session will start with a demonstration an on-line database systems currently in-use by watersheds groups in Southeast Ohio. Then we will explore setting-up a spreadsheet for multiple data purposes and discuss quality assurance and quality control. Bring your laptops.

## **Building Community Involvement**

*Presenter: Rural Action*

Community engagement is an important principle for community based nonprofits, including watershed groups. But growing volunteer participation is difficult in these busy times. Rural Action is a regional sustainable development organization that has fostered a participatory approach to its work for the last 18 years. With Rural Action staff, workshop participants will share and evaluate the strategies they have tried and problem solve to find ways to improve participation in their groups. Rural Action will then share its approaches as a membership organization with a strong volunteer program.

## **Water Words That Work, Part I**

*Presenter: Eric Eckl*

Make a splash with your communications! In part one of this two part workshop, participants will explore the differences between how conservation professionals and everyday citizens perceive nature protection and pollution control issues – and practice steps one and two of the Water Words That Work™ method for translating professional conservation information into compelling speeches, fundraising letters, blog posts, petitions, blast emails, advertisements, web pages, press releases, and other communications pieces intended for everyday citizens.

## **Water Words That Work, Part II**

*Presenter: Eric Eckl*

In part two of this two part workshop, participants will practice steps three and four of the Water Words That Work™ method for translating professional conservation information into compelling speeches, fundraising letters, blog posts, petitions, blast emails, advertisements, web pages, press releases, and other communications pieces intended for everyday citizens.

## **Saving Rivers and Fighting Climate Change by Connecting Water and Energy**

*Presenter: Bevan Griffiths-Sattenspiel, River Network*

Integrated water and energy policies and programs can address climate change by improving the resiliency of our rivers, making water supplies last longer and by reducing energy demands and carbon emissions. Participants in this workshop will learn the latest information on the anticipated impacts of global climate change and gain a better understanding of how the water-energy nexus can bolster their ongoing river protection efforts. Findings from “The Carbon Footprint of Water” will be discussed to describe how water conservation, efficiency, reuse and low impact development can reduce carbon emissions and water demand.

## **Designing a Volunteer Monitoring Program**

*Presenter: Breann Hohman, Firelands Coastal Tributaries, Erie SCWD*

Volunteer monitoring programs are a great way to engage the community while learning valuable information about your watershed! Initiating a monitoring program can be a challenge if you are stepping into it blindly but it is possible start a meaningful program without losing your mind in the process. Discover the ins and outs of selecting sampling locations, parameters to monitor, purchasing equipment, and how to keep your volunteers engaged and happy. Participants will learn how the Firelands Coastal Tributaries “Tribes Team” got started and is continuing to expand. Learn from our mistakes so you don't make them too!

## **Fundraising Planning**

*Presenter: Diane Toledo, River Network*

Begin to draft your organization's Fundraising Plan for the coming year! We will review best practices to some key fundraising strategies that most river and watershed organizations should be using, and share a Plan template designed to help you track all your fundraising activities, the parties responsible for their implementation, deadlines, costs and expected income. To make the most of this session, we recommend that two representatives from an organization attend. Bring your organization's 2008 fundraising goals and the actual money you raised (broken by category), as well as next year's anticipated fundraising goal. And if you have a laptop, bring that too!

## **Clean Water & Sustainable Agriculture**

*Presenter: Joe Logan, Ohio Environmental Council*

The practice of agriculture is critically important to Ohio's water quality status. Row crop farming, primarily corn, soybeans and wheat, occupy over 50% of land surface. Modern agriculture is extraordinarily productive but that productivity is dependent on a matrix of technology, and imported nutrients. Ohio imports millions of tons of chemical fertilizer each year, to supplement the millions of tons of livestock manure, which is also applied to Ohio's 13.6 million acres of row crops. Unfortunately too many of these nutrients are lost due to farm runoff, and end up as part of a major water quality problem. We will discuss these dynamics along with some suggestions for mitigating these problems.

## **Water and Pharmaceuticals**

*Presenter: Ellen Mee, Ohio Environmental Council*

Recent reports of low levels of pharmaceuticals – including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers, and sex hormones – in the nation's waters raise important questions about the impact of these emerging contaminants on human health and development. In this

workshop we'll examine the potential public health and environmental impacts of these emerging contaminants, and consider an array of policy solutions.

### **Affecting Policy with Water Quality Data**

*Presenter: Cheryl Johncox, Ohio Environmental Council*

Educate or advocate, learn what you can and can't do with your water quality data to affect water policy at the local, state and national level. This workshop will be hands on and use participant issues to clarify grey areas for quasi- government employees and nonprofits who receive state or federal funding. Participants will receive templates and examples of appropriate educational materials.