



NWQTA

National Water Quality Trading Alliance

An Overview of Water Quality Trading and the National Water Quality Trading Alliance

www.wqtalliance.com

BRENT FEWELL | ALEX JOHNSON

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A national consortium of leaders from the business, governmental, non-profit and regulated community focused on

enhancing and expanding market-based opportunities for improving water quality

and accelerating the restoration of watersheds. The National Water Quality Trading Alliance (NWQTA) works to support comprehensive and coherent government rules and policies on trading as well as the development of new and existing state and regional trading markets, while serving as a platform to advance the science and ecological effectiveness of water quality trading.



1. American Farmland Trust
2. Association of Clean Water Administrators
3. Cardno
4. Chesapeake Conservancy
5. Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Land Trust
6. Ecosystem Insurance Associates, LLC
7. Ecosystem Services Exchange
8. Electric Power Research Institute
9. Environmental Banc & Exchange
10. Falling Springs
11. GreenVest LLC
12. Kieser & Associates
13. National Association of Clean Water Agencies
14. Restoration Systems
15. Timmons Group
16. The Freshwater Trust
17. The Louis Berger Group
18. U.S. Water Alliance
19. World Resources Institute
20. Willamette Partnership

As of December 11, 2014



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Mission/Goals

- **Develop and enhance opportunities for private investment in water quality improvement projects**
- **Foster communication and commerce between sectors utilizing WQT and other market mechanisms**
- **Promote the enhancement of existing state and regional trading markets and the establishment of new markets that are economically and ecologically sound**
- **Serve as an informational resource for WQT managers and practitioners**
- **Provide a platform and vehicle for advancing and disseminating information on the science and ecological effectiveness of WQT**



Mission/Goals (cont.)

- Identify and overcome barriers to WQT
- Monitor challenges to federal, state and local WQT programs and participate in those challenges in order to support and defend WQT, where appropriate
- Enhance and promote informed communication, coordination, certainty and comfort in the application of WQT at all levels
- Maintain up-to-date information on WQT programs, projects, grant funding opportunities and studies
- Educate stakeholders and the public about the benefits of WQT

NWQTA in Action



January 2014 – NWQTA Comments on EPA Water Quality Standards Rulemaking

March 2014 – Testimony Before the Subcommittee On Water Resources and Environment of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives.

March 17, 2014 – NWQTA Comments on Draft Bay Watershed Agreement

2014 - US Water Alliance and NWQTA Co-Hosted two roundtable events: "Leveraging Market-Based Strategies to Solve Urban Stormwater Challenges" and "Agriculture, Trading and Watershed Restoration"

August 21, 2014 – NWQTA met with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials

December 2015 – NWQTA Develops Draft Options Matrix

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Newsfeed – Click here.

Document Archive

- US Water Alliance Stormwater Trading
- NWQTA Comments on Draft Bay Watershed Agreement
- Brent Fewell Testimony to U.S. House

Meeting Notes & Call Recordings

- Jan. 13, 2015 Monthly Call Recording - [here](#)
- Dec. 12, 2014 Q4 Call Recording - [here](#)
- Nov. 11, 2014 Monthly Call Recording
- Oct. 27, 2014 Agriculture, Trading and Watershed Restoration Roundtable
- Oct. 14, 2014 Monthly Call Recording
- Q3 2014 Meeting Notes - [here](#)

Water Quality Trading News

January 22, 2015

PGJTA studies area bank loan options and savings

The News-Item (Shamokin, Pennsylvania), PINE GROVE — Authority members recently expected to save the authority more than \$1 million.

Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority

The News-Item (Shamokin, Pennsylvania), PINE GROVE — The chairman of the Pine Grove Joint Treatment Authority recently visited the administration building which is now situated on the former site of the old Pine Grove.

Pine Grove Joint treatment Authority examines loaner pump program

The News-Item (Shamokin, Pennsylvania), PINE GROVE — What to do about the "LPSS" made. Plant supervisor Nicholas Stark questioned the program.

January 21, 2015

MARYLAND: Ex-EPA official tapped

E&E News PM, December 23, 2014 Tuesday
Annie Snider, E&E reporter A former U.S. EPA Grumbles led EPA's water office for four years policy to water efficiency and wastewater recycling.

January 15, 2015

EPA REGION 7 CHIEF TOUTS REGIONAL BID TO CUT FARMS' AMMONIA EMISSIONS

Clean Air Report, January 15, 2015
EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks is touting Midwestern states in the region, potentially offering EPA Regions 7 and 8 -- which together span much of the Midwest -- collaboration with the agency and states. Regional states on reducing PM could be particularly crucial in the fight against the pollutant.



Action Items for 2015

§131.13 General policies.

States may, at their discretion, include in their State standards, policies generally affecting their application and implementation, such as mixing zones, low flows and variances. In addition, States may implement water quality trading programs between and among point and non-point sources on a local, state or interstate basis to attain water quality standards.

Trading is permitted for water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs) so long as data and ecological modeling confirm that the proposed trade would not result in adverse localized impacts or contribute to an exceedance of any applicable water quality standard. Such policies are subject to EPA review and approval.

Advocacy

Outreach

Partner

Inform

Grow

National Water Quality Trading Network: Vision

To improve the consistency, integrity, and environmental performance of water quality trading through shared principles, core program elements, and best practices.



Building a Water Quality Trading Program: Options and Considerations

- Need:
 - Lots of diversity in existing programs can generate mistrust
 - High costs to start new programs
- Objectives:
 - Make it easier for new programs to start
 - Provide greater transparency about what trading can accomplish
 - Help trading program developers meet their clean water goals



Building a Water Quality Trading Program: Options and Considerations

- A reference on the elements and decisions inherent in trading
- Focus of this version is on point-nonpoint trading
- Detailed options on 11 elements of trading
- Pros and cons for each option
- Examples with detailed references
- Consistent definitions and language





Thank you!

Let's keep the conversation going...

