

RR Program External Advisory Group

2025 Meeting Proposal

November 2024

Proposal

Over the 2025 calendar year, the RR program will host in-person meetings for the full EAG only. Meeting topics will encourage discussion designed to solicit input from the EAG members on program-related issues while also offering training opportunities for the EAG and other interested stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Receive timely input and feedback on RR program topics through discussion with the full EAG
- Increase in-person interaction between stakeholders and the DNR RR program team
- Meet the request for training on RR program topics to grow knowledge and increase opportunities for engagement with stakeholders

Background

The Remediation and Redevelopment Program (RR Program) at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) oversees the investigation and cleanup of environmental contamination and the redevelopment of contaminated properties. The RR program established an external advisory group (EAG) in an effort to receive constructive and practical input from, and provide information to, interested parties on a wide variety of regulatory and policy issues. In 2022 and 2023 the EAG, with support from the DNR, created EAG subgroups. The subgroups are dedicated to the development of recommendations and deliverables related to funding sustainability, NR 700, vapor intrusion, contaminated sediment and environmental justice.

The EAG and the EAG subgroups meet quarterly. Following the subgroup meetings on December 5, the EAG and subgroups will have met 13 times in 2024. All meetings were offered as a hybrid or virtual meeting. Since 2020, in-person attendance has declined in favor of virtual attendance. Discussion by the full-EAG is abbreviated due to the creation of the subgroups.

In October 2024, the DNR's current rulemaking efforts were suspended and no timeframe for future rulemaking is set. At the EAG meeting in October 2024, the group discussed the impact of suspended rulemaking efforts on the EAG and the subgroups. The EAG recommended that subgroups meet on December 5, 2024 to consider next steps given the current status of rulemaking. The EAG requested consideration of the structure of the EAG and the subgroups. The EAG also directed subgroups to consider options for training newer consultants, which could increase engagement with the EAG, and subsequently the DNR. The RR program previously hosted an in-person Consultant's Day designed to provide information and training on RR program topics. Future EAG meetings may offer a forum to not only receive constructive and practical input from EAG members, but also offer needed training and information to stakeholders.

Approach

The EAG subgroups will complete issue papers currently in development by the EAG meeting in January 2025. Further actions related to the recommendations and finding that require legislative changes or updated authority will be tabled until a later date.

The DNR will schedule and host four in-person EAG meetings in 2025. There will be no subgroup meetings in 2025. If the EAG determines that a topic requires additional discussion, an ad hoc meeting

will be scheduled. Regional DNR staff will host “pop-up” locations to enable interested stakeholders to attend the meetings in-person. The in-person attendance will encourage consultants and regional staff to meet face-to-face, offering opportunities for additional discussion and engagement. Meeting dates and training topics will be scheduled in advance.

Summary of Actions

- Complete issue papers currently in development
- Present final issue papers to EAG in January 2025
- Host in-person, quarterly meetings of the full EAG; suspend subgroup meetings in 2025
- Schedule the meetings as full-day meetings, allowing conversation over the lunch hour
- Offer regional locations for interested individuals, who are not EAG members, to attend in-person
- Provide training and education on NR700 related topics as part of every agenda in an effort to meet the needs of both newer and more experienced stakeholders
- Craft agendas to address the most pressing and timely issues
- Provide refreshments in the morning
- Announce the meetings by RR Report, email and listservs, and personal outreach

Example Agenda

9:30 – 10:00 Coffee and conversation
10:00 – 12:00 EAG meeting (to include DNR updates)
12:00 – 12:45 Lunch
12:45 – 2:00 Training
2:00 – 2:30 Adjourn EAG meeting