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EMERGING PROFESSIONALS WORKING GROUP

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Emerging Professionals Working Group (EPWG) provides a platform for emerging environmental professionals to connect and network. An emerging environmental professional is generally defined as an individual working in the environmental planning field, with less than 15 years of experience; however, all environmental professionals are invited to take part in this working group. This is a new working group within NAEP, and we are looking for young leaders to help guide the development of this group. The EPWG has hosted quarterly meetings this year to discuss topics that are pertinent to young professionals and developing their careers. The group will continue to host quarterly meetings to discuss relevant topics.

Purpose:

- Strengthen NAEP's culture and expand EP participation in NAEP and its Chapters.
- Develop a sense of camaraderie in the EP community.
- Provide education and training opportunities for professional development.

Measure of Success:

We define success by active participation of our members and our collective accomplishments. To begin, we plan to look at a handful of indicators that will signal if we're on track.

- Member engagement and feedback,
- Member participation, and
- Organization impacts.



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ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORKING GROUP

Purpose

The Environmental Justice Working Group provides a platform for leadership and guidance on environmental justice through an environmental lens. Periodic sessions will facilitate discussion on regulatory changes, case studies, and best practices in environmental justice. This working group will serve as a vital resource for the environmental professional seeking to stay informed on industry trends, connect with industry experts, and build confidence in implementing environmental justice in this ever-evolving subject.

Working Group Contact

Working Group Chair

Emily Gulick

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BIOLOGY

Purpose

The mission of the biological resources working group is to provide a means by which NAEP members share and discuss emerging issues surrounding biological resources. Biological resources are defined broadly to include all aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals, and the ecological systems upon which they rely. Topics for discussion include:

- advances in research,
- new impact analysis and mitigation/conservation methodologies, and
- changes in associated laws, regulations, and policies and their interpretations.

Laws discussed include the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, among others.

Working Group Contact

Working Group Chair

Mike Mayer

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NEPA

Purpose

The NEPA Working Group plays a lead role in keeping NAEP membership informed of important legislative and regulatory changes and their potential impacts on the environment, and it serves to highlight best practices in NEPA compliance for all environmental professions.

The Working Group also informs environmental professionals on important emerging issues and environmental policies, regulations, and legislation. Through the work of this group, NAEP members gain a broader appreciation of the value of NEPA and the NEPA process while more confidently understanding the role of the federal government in addressing social, economic, and environmental issues in project development.

The NEPA Working Group holds monthly virtual meetings, normally on the second Wednesday of the month. Meeting agendas typically include a review of current rulemaking efforts, legislation, executive orders, and agency guidance affecting NEPA compliance; recent NEPA-related court rulings; and notices of intent for preparations of EISs of particular interest. Other agenda items may include NEPA case studies and in-depth discussions of NEPA issues. The NEPA Working Group also produces an annual NEPA report summarizing NEPA court rulings, numbers and preparation times of EISs, NEPA legislation, and related NEPA topics. The 2022 report is nearing completion.

Current topics being tracked include the forthcoming proposed rulemaking on the Phase 2 revisions to the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations and Congress's ongoing attempts to amend the act.

Working Group Contacts

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BROWNFIELDS AND REMEDIATION

Purpose

This Working Group serves as a resource to NAEP members interested in the planning and implementation of characterization and/or remediation of sites contaminated with hazardous materials. Topics applicable to this group include but are not limited to environmental site assessment, quality assurance planning/data quality objectives, laboratory analysis, ecological and human health risk assessment, remedial investigations, feasibility studies, contaminant modeling and visualization, remediation design & construction, emerging contaminants, and public outreach. Regulations of the most interest to our activities are the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), and various state/territorial environmental cleanup regulations.

Leadership:

- Chair and co-chair; Irv Cohen (ICohen@enviro-sciences.com) and Dennis Peters (dpeters@haleyaldrich.com)
- BOD liaison: Dennis Peters (dpeters@haleyaldrich.com)

Goals for 2023:

- Increase our membership to 50.
- Increase # of submissions and accepted presentations for the 2024 annual conference B/R technical track such that we can run a continuous B/R track through the conference.
- Draft a paper for submission to the EPB by June 2023
- Prepare topic and speaker(s) for Fall 2023 Webinar

Working Group Contacts

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OFFSHORE WIND

Purpose

Provides a platform for environmental professionals who are working at the forefront of new regulatory oversight and scientific expansion in support of the offshore wind industry. This working group will provide an opportunity to expand and diversify the network of environmental professionals working in the offshore wind energy space, allow for greater collaboration and extol the importance of our work outside of the industry.

Working Group Co-Chairs Contacts

Samantha Ramsey at sramsey@kearnswest.com
Dane Pehrman at dane.pehrman@outlook.com.

TRANSPORTATION

Purpose

Provides a space for transportation-focused dialogue related to how we operate as environmental practitioners in the transportation industry. Each session will have key topics meant for participants to deliver and share new knowledge related to transit, rail, airports, and highways in all project phases. The transportation working group is not aimed to solve global environmental problems, yet it is geared to generate conversation and present lessons learned as industry professionals. In turn, these sessions should result in better methods of transportation problem-solving and fine-tuning possible solutions to planning process deficiencies in transportation projects. This group has a goal of collaboration and information exchange in this fast-paced industry and everchanging regulatory environment. Each session will be tailored to the attendees' preferred topics with a focus on a specific topic to elaborate. The goal of these sessions is to grow a team committed to the research and development of the transportation industry through continued dialogue and conversations, publications, and white papers. The continued commitment should result in effective and productive communications and the advancement of environmental professionals in the transportation industry.

Working Group Contact

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WATER AND COASTAL RESOURCES

Purpose

Provides leadership and guidance on best practices for water and coastal resources across the country, including Waters of the US/wetlands, floodplains, permitting, coastal resiliency, and other relevant water resources.

The Committee identifies relevant policies, legislation, and regulatory changes to water and coastal resources and provides a broader context for these changes to the NAEP community. Project reviews and insights are used to provide lessons learned and cultivate institutional knowledge within NAEP. Participants are active in addressing legislative issues associated with water and coastal resources, including climate change. Regional projects are also highlighted to promote innovative discussions on problem-solving.

Working Group Contact

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CULTURAL RESOURCES

Purpose

The NAEP Cultural Resources Working Group members consists of archaeologists and architectural historians who are leaders in the professional community. Members include vice presidents, emeritus federal archaeologists, strategic director, principals, presidents of various organizations, and advocates at all levels of career development. Our mission is to strengthen and expand the engagement and visibility of cultural resources within the environmental community and beyond by offering training for all aspects of heritage consulting, supporting education programs, the pipeline of early career professionals, working with partner organizations toward mutual goals, such as diversity and inclusion of underrepresented communities within the field, and staying current on the changing landscape of heritage consulting in the United States and abroad.

This year our working group developed four sessions for the NAEP 2023 Conference and Training Symposium. We maintain an organizational partnership with the American Cultural Resource Association and are working to develop partnerships with the Register of Professional Archaeologists and Society of Architectural Historians International Council on Monuments and Sites. And we have developed training for materials focused on the Intersection of the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.

Working Group Contacts

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