UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

Next Steps in EPA's Nutrient Engagement

On February 6, 2019, David Ross, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, sent a memorandum to the EPA Regional Administrators that restates EPA's strong support for water quality trading and other market-based programs and expands the scope of opportunities envisioned in EPA's 2003 Trading Policy. The memorandum aims to accelerate the adoption of these programs and promote increased investment in nonregulatory conservation actions to improve water quality and benefit local communities and stakeholders.

This memorandum is part of a series of actions listed below that EPA and its federal partners are taking to support stakeholders and local conservation and water quality improvement.

- On December 4, 2018, EPA and USDA jointly invited directors of state environmental and agricultural programs to engage with the federal agencies and identify local opportunities to reduce excess nutrients in waterways.
- EPA and the Water Research Foundation (WRF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on February 1, 2019, to advance innovative nutrient management approaches within the agricultural community. EPA and WRF are currently working on an implementation plan.
- In early March 2019, EPA plans to host a public webinar and Q&A on the water quality trading memo.
- EPA and USDA will host a convening on Innovative Financing for Nutrient Reduction in late Spring 2019 and will host informational Water Finance Center Webinars on related topics.
- Senate-appointed leadership from EPA and other federal agencies with water quality management responsibilities plan to hold a roundtable discussion in Spring 2019 with representative stakeholders to discuss opportunities to strengthen collaboration to reduce excess nutrients in our nation's waters.
- EPA plans to reengage with its geographic and regional offices to promote the deployment of non-regulatory approaches to reducing excess nutrients. As an example, the Hypoxia Task Force (HTF) plans to host a public meeting in Spring 2019. Each HTF state nutrient reduction strategy mentions water quality trading and market-based solutions as a direction to move forward and this new policy is intended to facilitate deployment of those solutions.
- EPA will announce the winners of its Nutrient Sensor Challenge Winner in Spring 2019.

More information will be added to our website as this effort evolves at www.epa.gov/nutrient-policy-data/collaborative-approaches-reducing-excess-nutrients. Email nutrients@epa.gov to be added to our mailing list.