

Ohio EPA – DEFA

Water Resource Restoration Sponsor Program



Kent Bog – Open sphagnum meadow with three-way sedge (*Dulichium arundenaceam*), woolgrass (*Scirpus cyperinus*), and prickly bog sedge (*Carex atlantica*)

Q&A Session
April 23, 2020

Welcome

- WRRSP Staff Introductions

Rose

Ang

Tom

Mike

Linda



Introduction



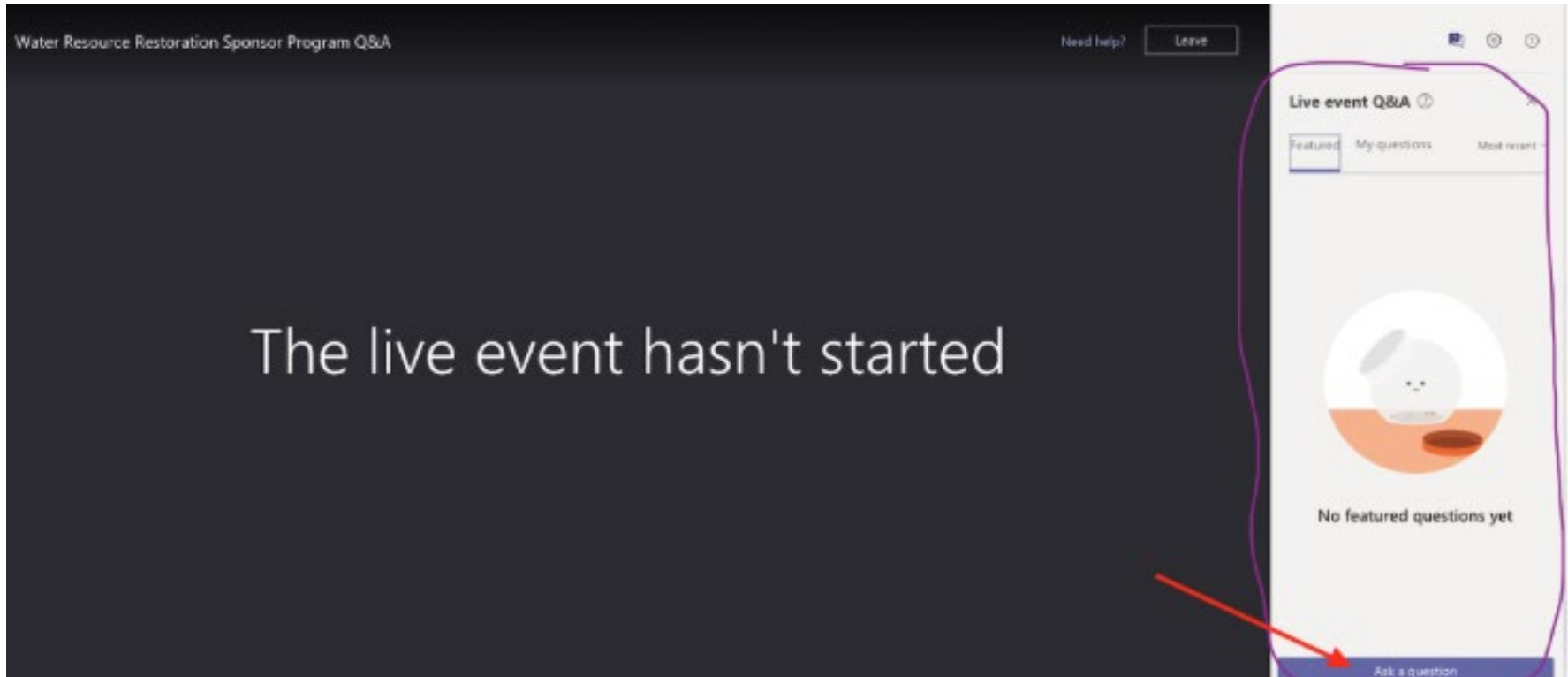
Steve

- Purpose of today's Q&A
 - Discuss work for currently active projects
 - Provide update on PY 2021 Nominations
 - Solicit input on your challenges/questions
- Acknowledge unknowns with Stay-At-Home restrictions and economic uncertainties

Meeting Mechanics

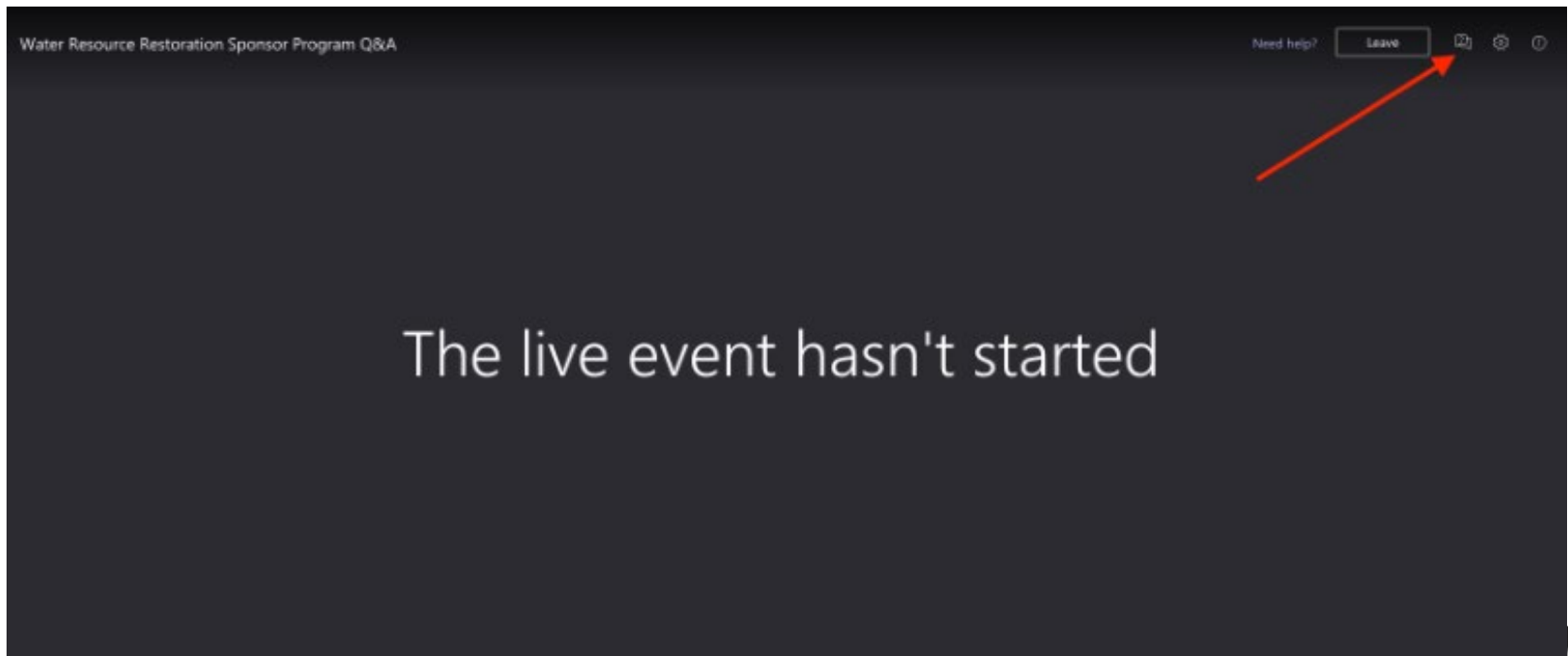
- Step 1: Identify Yourself
 - Upon joining the event, click “**Ask a question**” within the tan screen and type in your name & organization
- Step 2: Ask a Question
 - Click the “**Ask a question**” box again to type your question. Be aware that your information may be visible
 - You are encouraged to submit comments at any time during the presentation rather than wait until the end

How to Submit Comments



How to Submit Comments

- If viewers don't see the "Live event Q&A" screen, open it by clicking the "? talk bubble" icon located in the upper right corner



Meeting Mechanics

- All participants joined the presentation in mute
- Questions will be read aloud at the end of the presentation. We'll get to as many as we can
- This Q&A Session will be recorded and should be available on our web page shortly

www.epa.ohio.gov/default/wrrsp

Communicating with WRRSP Staff

- Part 2 - Webinar – targeted mid-May
- Reach out to a WRRSP team member for specific questions regarding specific projects
- Recommend communicating with WRRSP staff by e-mail
- Voicemail is also available but you'll get a faster response with e-mail

Status of Current Projects

- Trying to maintain project schedules
 - Environmental review - LER/EA prep
 - No sites visits until SAH restrictions are lifted
- Submit documents via e-mail or Liquid Files
 - no hard copy submissions can be accepted at this time
 - RFQ/RFP, Management Plans, Detail Plans, Environmental Covenants
- Instructions for Liquid Files for large files:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkeiTm5e9zE

<https://epa.ohio.gov/Portals/29/documents/ofa/LiquidFiles%20Instructions.pdf>

Status of Current Projects

- Sponsoring loans
- Have you identified a sponsor?
 - Some loans may be pushed back due to delays by the sponsoring community
 - Watching interest rates
 - Large WRRSP projects may need multiple sponsors
 - Watching if sponsors cut back on large projects
- Pay Requests
 - Still being processed/paid

Program Year 2021 - Nominations

- Nominations for 2021
 - Pre-Nomination Coordination still required
 - Site visits once restrictions are lifted and
 - Desktop reviews/conference calls
 - Pre-Nomination form will be required
 - To be posted on the website
 - Still plan to require title searches, encumbrances, appraisals, habitat (biological) data collection

Program Year 2021 - Nominations

- Nomination submission period
 - Considering various options
 - 7/15 – 8/15
 - 8/1 – 8/30 (WPCLF nomination period)
 - 8/15 – 8/30
 - Want to ensure time for pre-nomination consultation and that implementers have time to prepare nominations
- Nomination form
 - To be posted on the website

Program Year 2021 - Funding

- Plan on \$15 M to be made available
 - \$7.5 Restoration Projects
 - \$7.5 Protection Projects
- We will continue having the sub-category to fund Urban Corridor Dam removals with multiple communities
- We are talking to sponsors to determine their ability to pursue WPCLF loans and sponsor WRRSP projects

Working Through Covid-19



The WRRSP remains very important to us and to Ohio EPA, so we intend to do whatever we can to help our implementers and sponsors continue to implement high-quality, water resource projects.

Summary Questions

- What issues are you having any current projects?
- Are you able to find a sponsor (or sponsors)?
- Do you have to consultants to complete projects and prepare the necessary documents?
- Have you been able to submit documents to WRRSP staff?

Summary Questions

- It's early, but do you anticipate, or are you currently experiencing, difficulties obtaining/preparing nomination information?
- Are you able to access properties?
- Are you able to retain appraisers and consultants and conduct field work?
- Are you able to coordinate with sponsors?
- What other issues are you encountering?

Wrap Up

- Submit Q&A follow-up questions to the WRRSP Unit at:

tom.harcarik@epa.ohio.gov