

The Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium 2021 Buffer Summit Program

October 27th from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

Online meeting - RSVP below for Summit details



Join Consortium partners to build knowledge, capacity and enthusiasm for riparian buffer implementation in the Upper and Middle James watersheds through growing effective partnerships.



10:00 - 10:45 am

Welcome and State of our Buffers in the James Watershed
- an update on WIP III progress
with James Martin, Department of Environmental Quality



10:45 - 11:10 am

Flash Networking Session



11:15 am - 12:00 pm

For the Love of Plants: Growing Community Support for Native Riparian Species

with Shereen Hughes, Wetlands Watch

Erin Ling, Virginia Tech

Joshua McLaughlin, Department of Forestry

Virginia Witmer, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program



12:30 - 1:10 pm

Making Buffers Count: Dispelling the Myths and Sharing Tips for Reporting Projects

with Sally Claggett, US Forest Service

Bryan Hofmann, Friends of the Rappahannock

Bill Keeling, Department of Environmental Quality

Judy Okay, Consultant to Department of Forestry



1:10 - 1:40 pm

Buffers with Benefits: Carbon, Biodiversity, and Partnerships

with Dr. Kristen Dybala of Point Blue Conservation Science



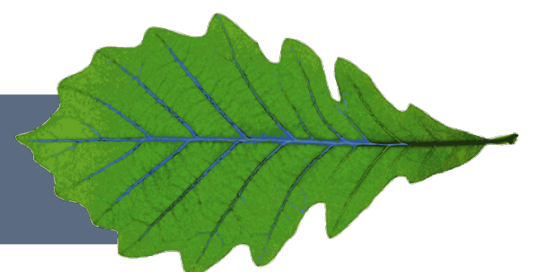
1:40 - 2:20 pm

Resilient Collaboration: Building Authentic Partnerships and Leaning into Your Gifts

with Ruby Stemmler, ecoLatinos

Lucas Swampdog Tyree, NDPonics

Register and see more details at: www.bit.ly/BufferSummit



The Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium is a network of partners working together strategically and collaboratively to create healthy streamside ecosystems for clean water in the James River today and tomorrow. Please see the Consortium website to learn more and explore the Streamside Report and Coordination Tools at www.jamesriverconsortium.org. Please contact Lea Taylor of Dialogue + Design at lea@dialogueanddesign.com with any questions.



The Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium 2021 Buffer Summit Agenda

Join on October 27th from 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87094745225?pwd=dIA4M0dFblZFM25uNDVKdll5cHE4QT09>

Phone dial-in (if needed) 1-301-715-8592 Meeting ID: 870 9474 5225 Passcode: 52431

After you have registered at the registration link on the flyer, you can join via Zoom online or by dialing in. Zoom tips on page 6.
Contact Lea Taylor with any technical difficulties: lea@dialogueanddesign.com or 703-232-9619 (texts if possible, please)

10:00	Buffer Summit and goals, Consortium overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome, agenda review, logistics, introductions via chat - Christine Gyovai, Dialogue + Design Associates• Consortium updates and overview - Amber Ellis, James River Association<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Coordination Tool: www.jrapt.cicapps.org- Streamside Report Tool: https://jamesstreamsideprograms.com/
10:25	DEQ update on the State of James River Buffers <ul style="list-style-type: none">• James Martin, Department of Environmental Quality
10:45	Flash networking session with introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In break-out rooms share your name, affiliation, your favorite restoration project, and what type of field activity or site tour would you like to do with the Consortium? (1 min. each followed by discussion. Share top ideas in chat.)
11:10	Stretch Break
11:15	For the Love of Plants: Growing Community Support for Native Riparian Species panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shereen Hughes, Wetlands Watch and Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Program• Joshua McLaughlin, Department of Forestry• Erin Ling, Virginia Tech• Virginia Witmer, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program
12:00	Break for Lunch (we'll leave Zoom open if you want to stay and chat.)
12:30	Making Buffers Count: Dispelling the Myths and Sharing Tips for Reporting Projects panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sally Claggett, US Forest Service• Bill Keeling, Department of Environmental Quality• Bryan Hofmann, Friends of the Rappahannock• Judy Okay, Consultant to Department of Forestry
1:10	Buffers with Benefits: Carbon, Biodiversity, and Partnerships presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Kristen Dybala, Point Blue Conservation Science
1:40	Resilient Collaboration: Building Authentic Partnerships and Leaning into Your Gifts panel <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ruby Stemmler, ecoLatinos• Lucas Swampdog Tyree, NDPonics
2:20	Closing and Reflections <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Click here to complete an evaluation for the Buffer Summit
2:30	Adjourn



Click [here](#) to fill out an evaluation for the 2021 Buffer Summit

The Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium

About the Panelists & Presenters



James Martin, Department of Environmental Quality

James provides management of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan, including tracking and reporting programmatic and project implementation activities. He assists in guiding the development and delivery of the Commonwealth's programs to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, Chesapeake Bay TMDL and WIP.



Shereen Hughes, Wetlands Watch and Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional

(Level 1 CBLP) Assistant Director of Wetlands Watch, Inc., the Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) VA Coordinator, and a Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council Board Member. She applies the collective impact, collaborative approach to engage, train, align and grow a network of green infrastructure professionals focused on climate resilience and watershed health through sustainable landscapes and natural and nature-based stormwater and shoreline management practices. She co-manages the development and expansion of CBLP workforce development programs while also mentoring a new generation of resilience professionals through the Wetlands Watch resilience design laboratory "Collatoratory". Prior experience includes consulting hydrogeologist, landscape designer, and Virginia planning commissioner.



Joshua McLaughlin, Department of Forestry

Joshua graduated from Virginia Tech in 2004 with a Bachelor's of Science in the major Wildlife Science with minors in Biology and Forestry. He has worked at the Virginia Department of Forestry's Augusta Forestry Center since 2004. This coming year will be his 17th crop at the Nursery. In that span of time, the nursery has grown over 50 million seedlings. Joshua's hobbies include spending time with family, hunting, hiking and Hokie Football.



Erin Ling, Virginia Tech

Erin is interested in the interface between human decision-making and subsequent behaviors, and the effect of these behaviors on water quality, human health and the environment. She currently coordinates a program to provide affordable water testing and education to the 1.7 million Virginians who rely on private water supplies such as wells, springs and cisterns. I work with collaborators to conduct research with the data we collect, on topics ranging from bacteria source tracking, characterization of metals (e.g., lead, arsenic and strontium) in private drinking water supplies, and characterization of contaminants of emerging concern (e.g. pharmaceuticals and ingredients in personal care products) in private drinking water supplies. She and her colleagues are growing an innovative citizen-science, service-learning program which extends our well and spring water testing to high school science classes across the state. I have strong communication, project management and facilitation skills. Erin is involved with and passionate about diversity and inclusion initiatives at the departmental, college and university level.



Virginia Witmer, Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program

Virginia Witmer has been the Outreach Coordinator for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program for the last 25 years. Virginia CZM is a network of state agencies and coastal localities funded by NOAA. The program is led by and headquartered at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Virginia is responsible for coordinating all facets of Virginia CZM's communication strategy from publications, website management and media relations to exhibits, workshops and social marketing campaigns focused on decreasing marine debris and increasing native plant use. The program initiated and funded, and Virginia has been coordinating, the Plant Virginia Natives marketing partnership for the last 12 years. Over the last few years, her focus has been on state-wide expansion of the regional native plant marketing model, including publication of regional native plant guides.



Sally Claggett, US Forest Service

Sally Claggett has been the US Forest Service Liaison to the Chesapeake Bay Program since 2002. In this capacity, she has worked with forestry and water quality partners to better integrate forestry as a solution to non-point source pollution. Prior to her work at the Chesapeake Bay Program, Sally was a botanist on National Forests in the Pacific Northwest. She holds a MS in Ecology from the University of Oregon, and a BS in Environmental Biology from the University of Colorado. She is a native of Chesapeake shores.

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About the Panelists & Presenters



Bryan Hofmann, Friends of the Rappahannock

Bryan joined Friends of the Rappahannock in 2013 as Programs Manager. Prior to his position with FOR, Bryan attended Xavier University in his hometown of Cincinnati, Ohio where he completed a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Following graduation and work on several political campaigns, Bryan decided to focus his policy work on Environmental issues and enrolled in Miami University's Institute of Environmental Sciences to study environmental policy and economics with a focus on water policy and stormwater management. In 2012 his studies landed him a position with American Rivers in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada where he continued his work on stormwater, low impact development, and green infrastructure. Living in California provided many opportunities for rafting, kayaking, and general river fun and Bryan took full advantage and was fortunate enough to become an assistant raft guide before he moved to Virginia. Bryan will continue his work on stormwater management and river restoration in Virginia to protect the Rappahannock River and Chesapeake Bay, and engage the local community in environmental stewardship.



Bill Keeling, Department of Environmental Quality

Bill is the Modeling and Data Coordinator for the Commonwealth and has been responsible for reporting annually of all NPS BMP implementation to EPA Chesapeake Bay Program since 2004.



Judy Okay, Consultant to Department of Forestry

Judy Okay was named Greatest-on-the-Ground Impact. Judy has served the Chesapeake Bay community for over 25 years as a leader both in riparian forest buffers and urban tree canopy. As a long-time Chesapeake Bay Forestry Workgroup member, Judy has contributed to nearly every major strategic effort that has advanced forests as a key part of our Chesapeake Restoration Strategy. She took the lead coordinating Virginia's efforts to launch RFB establishment after the first goals were set in the 1990s, contributed her scientific expertise to the Chesapeake Bay Program's water quality effectiveness guidelines for the watershed model, especially as it related to riparian forest buffers, and served a critical role in developing the first guidance on the establishment and management of riparian forest buffers. Judy continues to serve as a mentor for scores of foresters, in the field and classroom, on advanced techniques in buffer planting and landowner engagement.



Dr. Kristen Dybala, Point Blue Conservation Science

Dr. Kristen Dybala is Principal Ecologist at Point Blue Conservation Science where she leads research to inform conservation strategies that have multiple benefits for people, wildlife, and ecosystems. Originally from Houston, Texas, she earned her Ph.D. in Ecology at the University of California--Davis, and her research has included bird population and community responses to habitat restoration, climate change impacts, and trade-offs with carbon sequestration. She currently works in riparian and wetland ecosystems in California's Central Valley and supervises the long-term research programs based out of Point Blue's Palomarin Field Station in the Point Reyes National Seashore.



Ruby Stemmler, ecoLatinos

Ruby R. Stemmler is the founder and CEO of ecoLatinos. Ruby started ecoLatinos following her passion for the conservation of our madre tierra and her commitment to social and environmental justice, by engaging and advocating for Spanish -speaking and diverse communities. From her over 15 years of experience in government relations, public engagement and inclusive outreach, Ruby understands the need to build bridges with the fast-growing Hispanic community as well as other under-resourced communities and minority groups. She believes that communities of color are a great natural ally for conservation and environmental efforts and she has experience achieving engagement by employing a dynamic yet culturally sensitive approach. Through her previous work as Executive Director of the Maryland Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Appointments Advisor to the Maryland Governor's Appointments Office and Hispanic Liaison for Prince George's County, Ruby has built a strong record of proven results connecting private and public services and programs with hard-to-reach and under-resourced constituents. Ruby Roza received her higher education in management in her native Colombia.. Ruby is married to Jack and is the mother of David, a college freshman. They all share a deep love for Luna, their little Maltese dog.



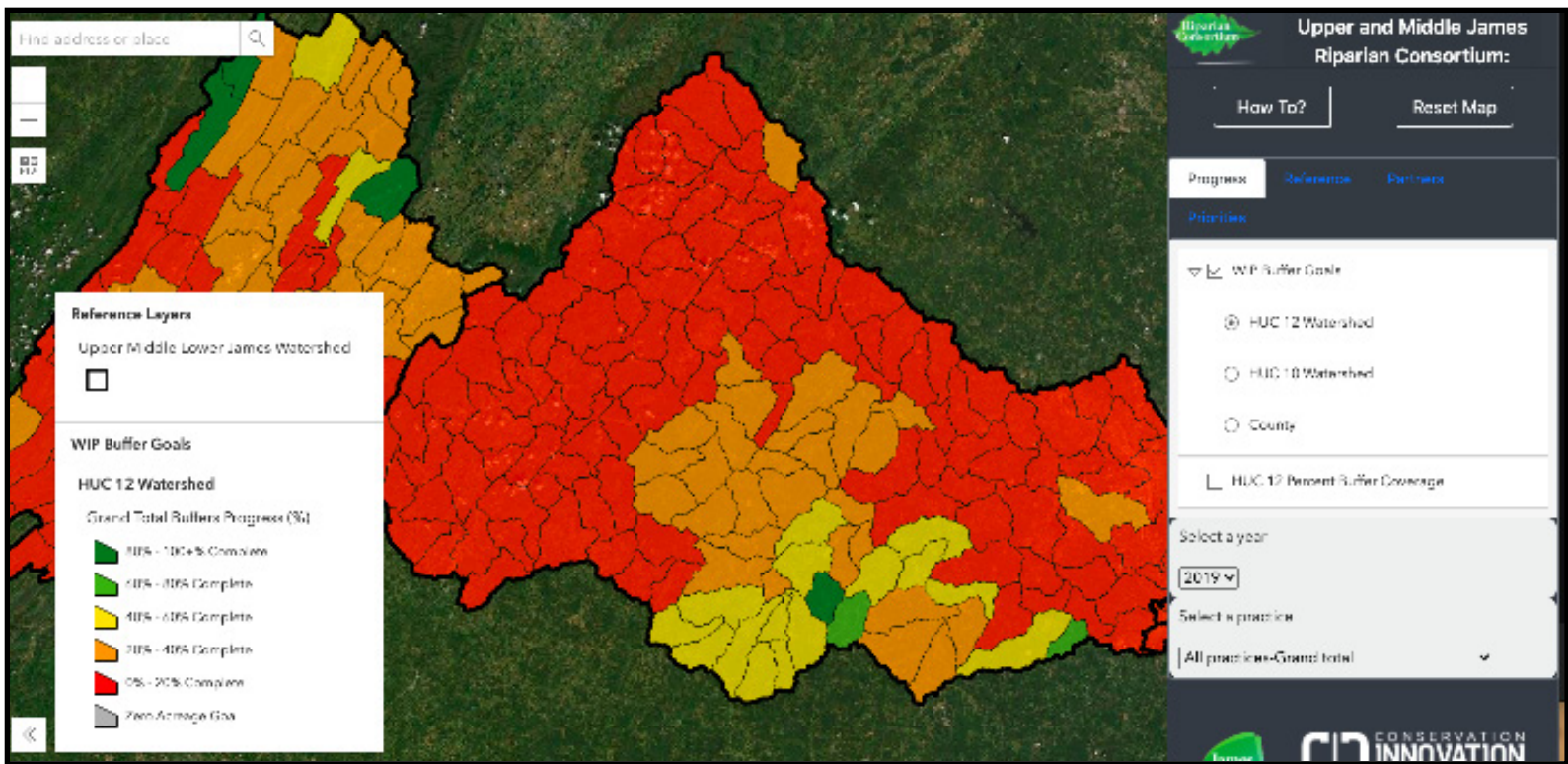
Lucas Swampdog Tyree, NDPonics

NDPonics aims to build an Old Growth Forest Preserve in the Blue Ridge Mountains that runs concurrent with indigenous permaculture forest lands as well as organic indigenous farming, supporting agribusiness that reinvests profits into land acquisition and programs that benefit Yesáh women entrepreneurship. Additionally, NDPonics creates economic opportunity and builds community resilience among Indigenous people of Virginia and North Carolina utilizing energy efficiency auditing and retrofitting, renewable energy and net metering, and low-cost efficient greenhouse farming systems to supply native community farmers' markets.

Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium Resources and Tools

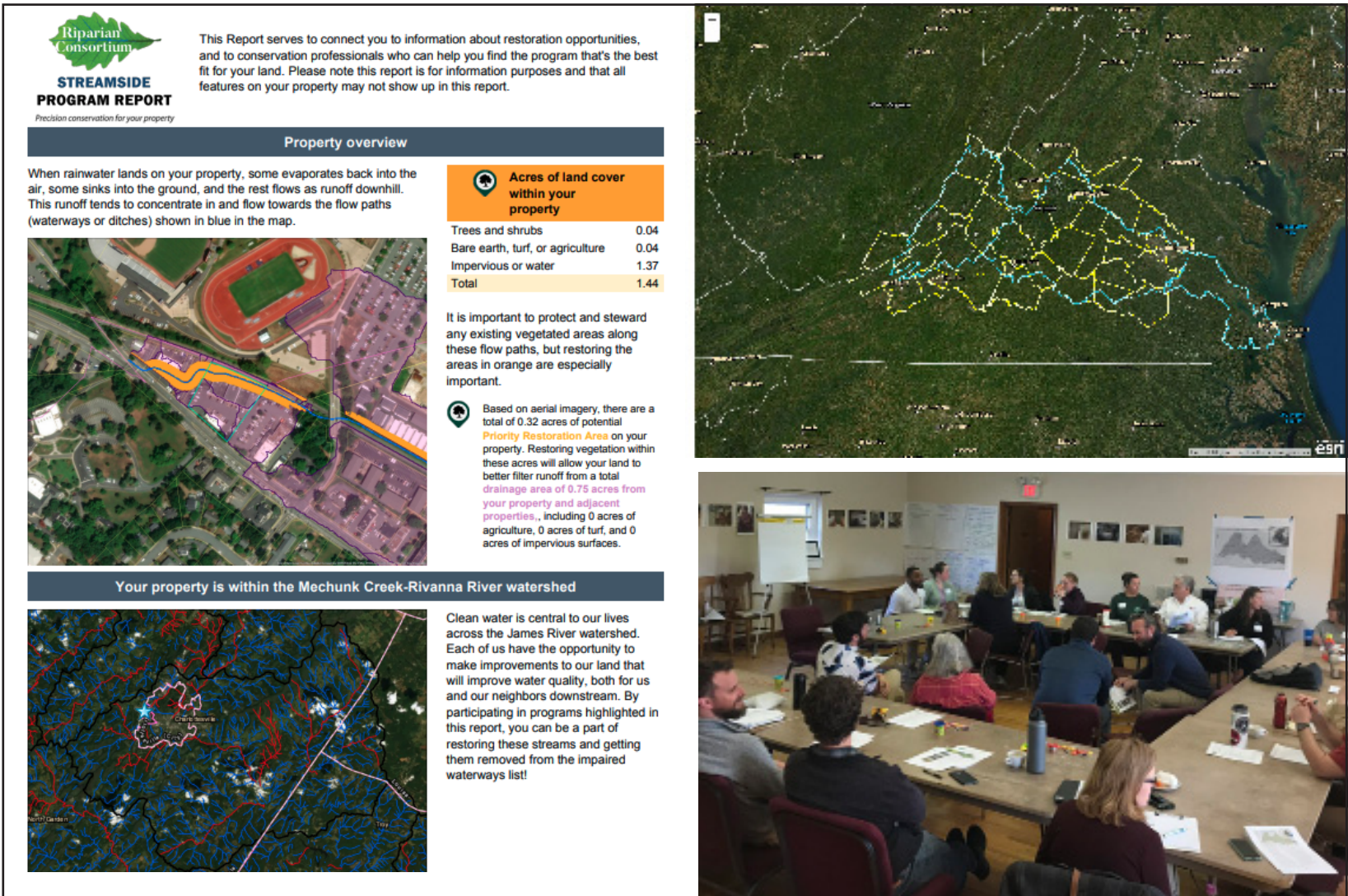
Coordination Tool

This tool was created for the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium by the Chesapeake Conservancy’s Conservation Innovation Center to facilitate coordination and collaboration among implementation partners across the James River watershed. The layers within the Coordination Tool provide spatial information and landscape context to support collaborative decision-making for members of the Upper and Middle James Riparian Consortium. You can also access the Coordination Tool by visiting the Riparian Consortium website and selecting the orange button on the homepage. To explore the tool, visit www.jrapt.cicapps.org.



Streamside Program Report

If you are a landowner in the Upper or Middle James Watershed, this free tool can help you get information about streamside opportunities on your property that can improve the ecological conditions you care about. Using state-of-the-art data analysis, Streamside Program Reports generates a customized report for your property, including the watershed you are a part of, the land cover composition of your property, and conservation programs that you may qualify for. You can select the riparian management focus areas you are most interested in, for example, riparian forest buffers or agricultural infrastructure. To explore the tool visit <https://jamesstreamsideprograms.com/>.



Visit us online: www.jamesriverconsortium.org to learn how to get involved!

Upper & Middle James Riparian Consortium

Zoom Pro Tips

Virtual Meeting How-to

Our platform for the Buffer Summit will be Zoom. Prior experience is not required. The Summit agenda contains a main session link to use if you need to leave and return. Instructions for joining every session are:

To join the Summit:

1. Go to the session link in your calendar or the agenda above.
2. Enter your full name and email address if requested.
3. Enter the meeting ID and passcode if requested.
4. Click “Join”.
5. Follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

*Watch this one-minute video to learn everything you need to know to download and join a Zoom meeting. <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>

Claim Your Space

Think about where you will be most comfortable during the workshop - sitting, standing, or some combination of both. Quiet places will help you concentrate and keep background noise to a minimum when you are speaking. Participants are encouraged, but not required to share their video, so check that whatever will be behind you is also okay to show to others.

Check Your Connection

Take a moment before the workshop begins to click on the links to ensure they open correctly. You will see a message that the meeting has not started yet. When the session is active and you are provided the opportunity, test the audio and video options on your device and adjust any settings as necessary. Something’s not working? Check out these troubleshooting tips and frequently asked questions.

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/206175806-Frequently-asked-questions>

It’s Summit Time!

Remember you are joining a virtual Summit. The facilitation team will invite you to introduce yourself via audio or chat and to participate using other tools during each session. Your active engagement is critical to a successful outcome. Please do not be shy but do be courteous to other participants by muting your audio line whenever you are not speaking. Raise your hand or use the chat board to signal to the facilitators you have something to add or a question and use respectful language when addressing other participants and acknowledging their comments. If you join late or have to leave a session early, let the facilitators know via the chat feature.

Participant View

Below is an example of what you will see when you join the workshop space. The toolbar icons along the bottom of the main screen allow you to turn audio and video on/off as well as view the participant list, chat board, and reactions. If you have a weak or unstable internet connection, turning your video off will help reestablish a clearer audio connection.



Non-verbal Communication Tools

At the bottom of the participant box are additional tools to send non-verbal communication to the workshop facilitators. These include raising your hand, a green check mark, a red “x”, and more. We may at times call on you to give us a quick response using these buttons.

Chat

Before you send each chat message, make sure you are sending it to your desired recipient – all participants (recommended), the facilitators, or privately to another individual participant.