



## Introducing New NTWC Members: Scott Hauser and Chauncey Means



### Scott Hauser, At-Large Member – Region 10

Scott Hauser began working for the Upper Snake River Tribes (USRT) in February 2012 as their first Environmental Program Director funded under the EPA's General Assistance Program. USRT, located in Boise, Idaho, is comprised of two tribes (Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone, and Shoshone-Paiute of Duck Valley) in Region 9, and two tribes (Burns Paiute, and Shoshone-Bannock of Fort Hall) in Region 10. In 2016, Scott was promoted to his current position as Executive Director.



In Scott's time with USRT, he has worked on many projects relating to water quality and quantity. Early in his career, he led USRT's effort on the multi-year Idaho water quality standards/fish consumption revision process. During this time, he attended and completed the EPA's Water Quality Standards Academy in Washington, D.C. It was also during this time that Scott developed many close and lasting relationships with EPA staff. Since then, his work has largely revolved around the effects of the Columbia Basin hydropower system and mining projects on water quality and fish and wildlife, particularly salmon and steelhead. Additionally, Scott developed and continues to build a climate resilience program at USRT. Of the six completed and ongoing USRT climate projects, Scott is most proud of the climate curriculum developed for tribal youth with a strong focus on water.



Scott is a graduate of the University of Idaho (2002 and 2004) and holds undergraduate degrees in History (Environmental focus) and Political Science (Natural Resources Policy and Law focus) and a master's degree in Environmental Science. Scott's thesis work centered on a provision of Idaho's water rights law known as the "public interest criterion." Following graduation and prior to working at USRT, Scott worked in Missoula, Montana, for the U.S. Forest Service as a fire ecology technical researcher/writer and later as a hydrologic technician and for a consulting firm as an environmental scientist.



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## Introducing New NTWC Members: Scott Hauser & Chauncey Means

Scott has happily spent more than 27 years with his wife and best friend, Corey. Having spent more than half of their lives together, their adventures and experiences could fill the pages of this newsletter for years to come. Scott and Corey enjoy traveling, spending time outdoors, and listening to live music. One of Scott's favorite hobbies is golfing, which he has been doing with minimal success for over 40 years. Recently, Scott and Corey added a new addition to their family, a young black lab named Palmer.



### **Chauncey Means, Region 8 Representative**

Chauncey Means is currently the Water Quality Administrator for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Tribes) on the Flathead Indian Reservation (Reservation). Chauncey is a Northern Cheyenne Tribal member from southeastern Montana. He earned his Associate of Science Degree from Chief Dull Knife College on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in southeastern Montana, a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Water Resources from the University of Montana, Missoula, and a Master of Science in Environmental Studies emphasis Water Resources from the University of Montana.

His research included using silica polyamine composites to mitigate arsenic water contamination on streams on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Chauncey has produced over 30 technical reports for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for Tribal funded grants during his time with the Tribes. He is the lead water quality professional staff member for the Tribes' Natural Resources Department for all water quality related activities on the Reservation, as well as off Reservation activities that affect water quality on the Reservation.

Funding sources for the last two years include EPA-funded water quality grants, non-point source base funding and non-point source competitive funded restoration projects. He also actively participates in all non-point source and water quality EPA Tribal and regional conferences and has presented in regional, Tribal and local conferences and virtual trainings.

During his free time, Chauncey enjoys fishing and watching sports with his wife and three children.



## Updates & Announcements

### **Southwest Tribal Climate Camp in Ghost Ranch, NM - March 12-18, 2023**

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Navajo Technical University, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, and the Northwest, Southwest, and Southcentral CASCs have announced that they are accepting applications for the 2023 Tribal Climate Camp in Ghost Ranch, NM, to be held March 12-18, 2023. The camp will support teams of Tribal leaders, climate change coordinators, planners, and program managers to build skills, gather information, and develop Tribal plans and policies needed to address climate change impacts. Applications will be prioritized from delegations of 3-4 individuals from each Tribe and/or organization and will be considered from all geographies. The deadline to submit an application is **January 12, 2023**. For more information, please visit: <https://atnitribes.org/climatechange/tcc/>

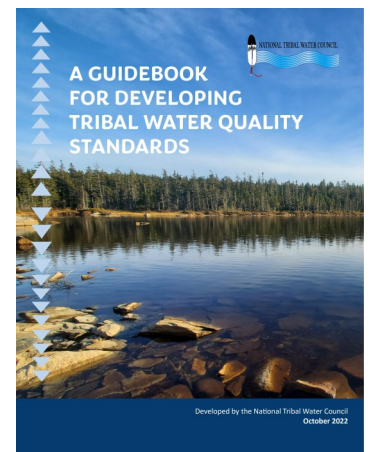




At the start of 2022, the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC/Council) took the opportunity to outline several key priority actions that are important and crucial to tribes. Additionally, the NTWC developed comment letters on proposed rulemakings actions, contributed to and participated in meetings, webinars, and collaborated with the EPA Office of Water throughout the year. Below are highlights of the Council's activities this past year.

#### **Release of the Tribal Water Quality Standards Guidebook**

On November 4, 2022, the NTWC released its publication ***A Guidebook on Developing Tribal Water Quality Standards***. In close coordination with the NTWC, the guidebook was co-authored by James Grijalva, Professor of Law, University of North Dakota, and Cheryl Pailzote, Water Resources Department Director, White Mountain Apache Tribe. The NTWC has been working with the co-authors for the past two years. The guidebook was developed to serve as a tool and a guide to assist tribes in developing a water quality standards program under tribal legal authority. To access the guidebook, please visit: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>



#### **Policy Response: Developed Comment Letters on EPA Proposed Rulemaking Actions**

- Updated comment letter on Proposed Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule 1; Submitted February 7, 2022
- NTWC member Nancy Schuldt provided input on the Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge portion of the EPA CWA Section 106 Tribal Guidance Revision
- Comment letter on EPA's Potential Revisions to the Drinking Water Infrastructure Grant Tribal Set-Aside Allocation Formula (DWIG-TSA); submitted on May 2, 2022
- Comment letter on EPA's Draft CWA Section 303(d) Vision Memo; submitted on May 23, 2022
- Comment letter on EPA's Office of Research & Development's Research Plan - Safe & Sustainable Water Resources; submitted on May 25, 2022
- Comment letter on EPA's Proposed CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule; submitted on August 8, 2022
- NTWC's input on the National Association of Wetland Manager's comment letter on Pebble Deposit Areas in Alaska; submitted on August 18, 2022



## A Year End Review of 2022 NTWC Activities *(continued)*

- Comment letter on the EPA's 2021 Recommended CWA Section 304(a) Ambient Water Quality Criteria to Address Nutrient Pollution in Lakes & Reservoirs; submitted on August 29, 2022

### **NTWC Collaborated and Contributed alongside Tribal Partnership Groups and the EPA**

- Tribal PFAS Working Group's comment letter on EPA's Proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS); submitted on February 25, 2022
- Tribal PFAS Working Group Listening Session at the ITEP Tribal Lands & Environment Forum on August 11, 2022
- Tribal PFAS Working Group's comment letter on EPA's Rulemaking to Designate PFOA and PFOS as Hazardous Substances under CERCLA; submitted on November 7, 2022

### **Joint Bi-Annual Meetings with the EPA**

The NTWC and the EPA Office of Water jointly held their spring bi-annual meeting virtually on June 7-8, 2022. After two and a half years of virtual meetings, the first in-person meeting was held on October 11-12, 2022, at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona.

### **Welcoming New Members in 2022**

The Council welcomed new members: Brian Patterson (Region 2), Jaclyn McCasland (Region 6), Heather Bartlett (Region 10), Scott Hauser (At-Large - Region 10), Chauncey Means (Region 8), and Yolanda Barney (Navajo Nation).

### **Recognition of Former NTWC Members**

The NTWC recognizes former members that served and resigned this past year. NTWC greatly appreciates Daniel Mosley (Region 9) and Colin Larrick (Region 8) for their membership and contributions to the NTWC.



### **National Tribal Water Council's Webinar on the Newly Released Tribal Water Quality Standards Guidebook - January 26, 2023**

The National Tribal Water Council is hosting an informational webinar on its newly released publication ***A Guidebook for Developing Tribal Water Quality Standards*** on January 26, 2023. NTWC members along with Professor James Grijalva, co-author of the guidebook, will provide a summary and highlight key points in the guidebook. Please visit the NTWC website for updates: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>

## Grant/Cooperative Agreement Opportunities

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Fish Passage Program

**Deadline: December 30, 2022**

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners. NFPP aims to maintain or increase fish populations in order to improve ecosystem resiliency and to provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. Example project types include dam removals, culvert replacements, and the installation of fishways. For more information: <https://www.fws.gov/service/fish-passage-technical-and-planning-assistance>

### BIA Fish Hatchery Maintenance Program

**Deadline: January 13, 2023**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Wildlife & Parks is accepting applications for the Fish Hatchery Maintenance Program. Eligible recipients include any multi-purpose or single-purpose facility owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or a federally recognized tribe engaged in the spawning, hatching, rearing, holding, caring for, or stocking of fish and/or shellfish. For more information, please visit: [https://www.nafws.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2023-Application-for-Fish-Hatchery-Maint-funding-4-pages\\_RP.pdf](https://www.nafws.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/2023-Application-for-Fish-Hatchery-Maint-funding-4-pages_RP.pdf)

### FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant

**Deadline: January 27, 2023**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program will support states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards, including: wildfires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme heat, and flooding. The BRIC program's guiding principles are supporting communities through capability and capacity building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency. The deadline for submissions is January 27, 2023. For more information: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

## Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

### EPA's Notification of Continued Consultation and Coordination on Potential EPA Actions to Increase Tribal Capacity to Maintain and Expand Nonpoint Source Management Programs

**Deadline: December 23, 2022**

EPA is continuing consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes to inform potential EPA actions the Clean Water Act (CWA) (§) 319 national Nonpoint Source (NPS) program could take to better support CWA §319-eligible Tribes in their efforts to manage NPS pollution.

As outlined in EPA's September 27, 2021, national policy memorandum, [Near-term Actions to Support Environmental Justice in the Nonpoint Source Program](#), in fiscal year (FY) 2022, EPA committed to engaging the national NPS community, including Tribal, state, and territorial CWA §319 grantees, in a dialogue on advancing equity and environmental justice in the national NPS program. Over the past year, EPA hosted a series of Tribal CWA §319 grantee equity listening sessions, then convened workgroups, which included EPA staff and Tribal volunteers, to develop suggestions for potential EPA CWA §319 program actions to help achieve equity goals. As part of this engagement effort, on March 29, 2022, EPA initiated consultation and coordination with Tribes to help



## Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

identify potential CWA §319 program actions to address challenges facing Tribal NPS programs.

Based on input received over the last year, EPA released a second national policy memorandum on September 30, 2022, entitled [Continued Actions in FY23 to Increase Equity and Environmental Justice in the Nonpoint Source Program](#). This memo outlines a set of new actions in support of national NPS program equity goals, including EPA's intention to implement the FY23 President's Budget proposal to commit an additional \$7 million to the Tribal CWA §319 set-aside, contingent on a final appropriation from Congress.

As part of this continuing consultation and coordination process, EPA is now soliciting Tribal input on potential changes to the CWA §319 Tribal grant allocation formula. Specifically, EPA invites Tribal input on proposed alternative approaches in how the NPS program awards CWA §319 base grants to eligible Tribes.

The consultation and coordination period ends on December 23, 2022. EPA held two informational webinar and listening sessions for tribal governments on November 1, 2022 and November 10, 2022.

Tribes may submit written comments by emailing comments to Steve Epting at [tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov), or submitting comments through an [electronic form](#). Additionally, Tribal governments may request one-on-one consultation meetings with EPA. If you are interested in requesting consultation with EPA during the consultation and coordination period, please contact Steve Epting at [tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov).

For more information: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1457::::>

### EPA's Proposed Revisions to the Federal Water Quality Standards Regulation to Protect Tribal Reserved Rights

**Deadline: February 28, 2023**

EPA is continuing consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes to inform proposed revisions to the federal Clean Water Act water quality standards (WQS) regulation at 40 CFR part 131 that would clarify and prescribe how WQS must protect aquatic and aquatic-dependent resources reserved to tribes in waters subject to state WQS.

EPA conducted tribal engagement and consultation on the concepts reflected in this proposed rule between June and September 2021, prior to drafting the proposed rule. We are resuming consultation because EPA has just signed the proposed rule and will soon be initiating public comment. This proposed rule reflects input received during the pre-proposal consultation period. This second invitation for consultation and coordination provides tribes an opportunity to share input and comments with EPA on the proposed rule now that it has been released for public review. The proposed rule was signed by the EPA Administrator on November 28, 2022 and will soon be published in the Federal Register for a 90-day public comment period.

EPA is holding two identical listening sessions via webinar for tribal leaders and staff on **January 5, 2023** from 2:00-4:00 pm (ET) and **January 10, 2023** from 3:00-5:00 pm (ET). To register, please visit EPA's website for this rulemaking at <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/tribal-consultation-and-coordination-protecting-tribal-reserved-rights-in-WQS>.

The deadline to submit comments is **February 28, 2023**. For any questions, please contact Jennifer Brundage by email at [Brundage.Jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:Brundage.Jennifer@epa.gov) or by phone at (202) 566-1265.

The consultation materials may be found at: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1390::::>.  
For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/protecting-tribal-reserved-rights-in-WQS>.



## Events and Webinars

### EPA 2023 National Fish Forum

The EPA Office of Water will hold a virtual National Forum on Contaminants in Fish (Fish Forum) to bring together interested stakeholders to discuss the many issues related to human health and contaminants in fish. This is a free virtual conference that will include topics such as environmental justice, emerging science in developing fish consumption advisories, and sampling and analysis. The virtual conference will be held as follows:

- Week 1: February 28 and March 2, 2023 (12:00-5:30 PM ET)
- Week 2: March 7 and 9, 2023 (12:00-5:30 PM ET)

For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/fish-tech/2023-national-fish-forum>

### Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. – National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing live online training. Each course consists of sequential lessons that are provided in a series of live online classes that are 3-hours in length.

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Wastewater Math: January 3 to 26, 2023
- Tribal Utility Management: January 18 to February 10, 2023
- General Module & Very Small Water System: January 17 to March 2, 2023

To register or to view the training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

### Tribal Climate Health Project's Tribal Health and Adaptation Peer-Learning Roundtable Webinars

The Tribal Climate Health Project has developed training to assist Tribes to begin to prepare, cope, build resilience to, and recover from the health and other impacts of climate change.

This advanced training from the Tribal Climate Health Project is for Tribal-serving practitioners, including environmental and health professionals, who have gained some level of transferable, real-world climate and health knowledge and experience through their work with Tribes. This training is open to Tribes and Tribal-serving professionals throughout the United States who work within the intersections of climate change, health, and community well-being.

Below is the upcoming schedule:

- January 19, 2023: Lessons on conducting tribal vulnerability assessments that incorporate TEK, community input, and Western and Indigenous science
- February 16, 2023: Preparing dynamic and actionable adaptation plans that protect Tribal health and wellbeing

For the complete schedule and more information about the webinars, please visit: <http://ped.palatribes.com/tcha-webinar-vi/>

### National Association of Wetlands Managers Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

- February 16, 2023: Developing Your Tribal Wetland Program

To register, please visit: <https://www.nawm.org/nawm/nawm-webinarscalls/4840-epa-region-10-tribal-wetland-training-webinars>



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