



NATIONAL TRIBAL WATER COUNCIL

November 2025

Volume 7, Issue 11

Recap of the National Tribal Water Council's 2025 Fall In-Person Meeting



The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water held its 2025 fall in-person meeting on October 15-16, 2025, in Sitka, Alaska. The meeting was hosted by Eric Morrison (NTWC Alaska representative), Tribal Administrator for the Salamatof Tribe. The meeting was attended by 13 NTWC members (11 in-person and two virtually) and two ITEP staff. The EPA staff participated virtually.

On October 15, 2025, the meeting commenced with opening remarks from NTWC Chair Ken Norton, Hoopa Valley Tribe, and Adam Baron, Director of the Tribal Trust and Assistance Division – EPA Region 10. The meeting continued with presentations from Eric Morrison on the Sitka Tribe of Alaska environmental program and a former project to map historical sites in Juneau and Sitka. The NTWC members enjoyed a tour of the [Sitka National Historical Park](#) with totem poles along a walking trail (*photo to the left*). The remainder of the day included a presentation from Ann Wyatt on the Klawock Tribal Environmental projects, an update on the Clean Water Act (CWA) 301(h) waiver for the Asplund Wastewater Treatment Plant and ending with the NTWC roundtable discussion.



On October 16, 2025, the meeting started with a water infrastructure funding and technical assistance update from Wynne Miller, Deputy Director of the EPA Office of Wastewater Management, and Yu-Ting Guilaran, Deputy Director of the EPA Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water. Additionally, Brian Berube, Program Manager of the Community Environment and Health, provided an overview of the drinking water operator training available through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The meeting continued with regulatory updates from the EPA Office of Water programs on the Tribal Reserved Rights Rule, Clean Water Act Section 401, and “Waters of the U.S.” Additionally, Lilly Cohen, Native American Rights Fund fellow, provided a presentation on improving management of water resources in Alaska.

That afternoon NTWC members visited the [Alaska Raptor Center](#) that rehabilitates injured eagles and other birds of prey (*photo to the left*). Afterwards, an update on the mining, oil and gas activities was provided by Erin Seyfried, EPA Region 10, and Patricia McGrath, EPA Office of Policy. The meeting concluded with the NTWC Business Session and closing remarks from NTWC Chair Ken Norton.



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NEWSLETTER

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VISIT US AT:

<https://itep.nau.edu/ntwc/>

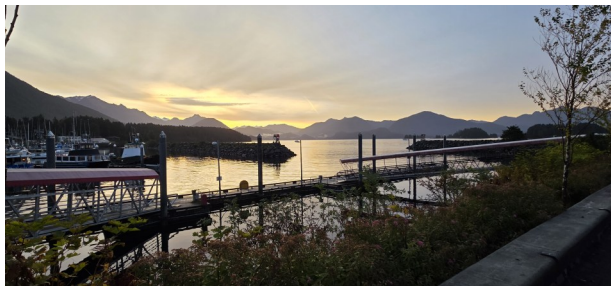
NTWC 2025 Fall Meeting Recap (*continued*)

Later that evening, NTWC members were invited to tour the [Sitka Tribe of Alaska community house](#) that is used as a gathering place for clan families. Thereafter, NTWC members were welcomed to the [Alaska Native Brotherhood Hall](#) for a traditional dinner that included herring eggs and fish fry. During the dinner, Eric Morrison provided a gift to Ken Norton and Nancy Schuldt for their dedicated work to the NTWC. Nancy Schuldt, Water Projects Coordinator for the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, who has been a member of the NTWC for 17 years plans to retire at the end of the year.

The NTWC and EPA Office of Water will hold its next in-person meeting in May 2026 in Washington, D.C.

For more information, please visit:

- Sitka Tribe of Alaska: <https://sitkatribes.org/>
- Harvesting herring eggs: [The Herring Spawn | Our Way of Life - YouTube](#)



Tribal Clean Water Act (CWA) Convening Highlight

The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) co-hosted a one and a half day convening for Tribes in Boulder, Colorado, October 28-29, 2025, focused on protecting Tribal waters through the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The purpose of this event was to bring together Tribal leaders and staff, clean water experts, and environmental professionals to discuss the implementation of CWA programs in Indian Country in the wake of the Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision, ongoing regulatory changes, and reduced program funding. The group shared experiences, insights, successes, and problem areas in implementing the CWA on Tribal lands with the intention of developing priorities and an initial advocacy strategy to address the CWA priorities and to develop a plan to help safeguard Tribal waters for generations to come.

Throughout the event, questions such as these were asked: what works, what does not, what does EPA need to do better to support Tribes, what do Tribal governments need to better manage programs, what other funding streams can Tribes tap into, and are there program tweaks, policy changes, or law changes that can help? Through facilitated discussions, priority areas and issues were outlined that may assist in building a CWA action agenda.

The NARF's new Tribal Water Institute and their partners are devoted to supporting the collaborative development of policy proposals based on Tribal needs and this meeting helped to identify the clean water issues that face Indian Country and how to begin to take steps at addressing those issues.

The co-hosts will be drafting meeting summaries and outlining the priorities that were mentioned during the group discussions.

Four National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) members attended the event and NTWC Chair Ken Norton provided the opening blessing on the morning of the first day. Elaine Wilson, NTWC Project Manager, also attended the event.

CONSIDER JOINING OUR WATER COUNCIL



SCAN HERE
for the application

WHO WE ARE

The National Tribal Water Council is a technical and scientific body established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water quality.

WHAT WE DO

- **Policy Response:** Conducts analysis of water policies and initiatives that impact Tribes and responds by preparing comment letters, white papers, or briefs.
- **Information Exchange:** Engage and collaborate with national, regional, tribal organizations, or working groups.
- **Set Priorities:** Publish a biennial "Tribal Water Priorities" document that identifies Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) priorities.

OPEN POSITIONS: REGION 3 & AT-LARGE REPS

The Council is accepting applications from tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization to fill three (3) vacancies.

- **Region 3:** Tribal water professionals from Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, & West Virginia)
- **At-Large:** Tribal water professionals from Regions 1 to 10 to fill two (2) vacancies for the At-Large positions.

Tribal water professionals with knowledge in the CWA and SDWA are encouraged to apply. Also, an applicant with a background in water infrastructure, drinking water, wastewater, and operations and maintenance, is a plus but not required.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

Member duties include, but not limited to:

- Participating in monthly virtual calls;
- Attending two in-person meetings annually; and
- Creating and participating in crafting response documents to policy and/or rulemaking actions.

To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at elaine.wilson@nau.edu.

<https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEP Accepting Applications for Water Resources and Land Management Host Sites

Deadline: November 21, 2025

ITEP is now accepting host site applications for the **Summer 2026 ITEP Water Resources and Land Management Internship Program** from Tribal nations and organizations, state, and federal agencies, as well as water or land management NGOs, and non-profit organizations located within a Colorado River Basin States. The application window will close on November 21, 2025.

As a host site, your program will have the opportunity to mentor a college student interested in Tribal environmental work. Interns will be placed with programs around the Colorado River Basin and will work on on-going meaningful projects that support Tribal water and land management efforts.

If your program is interested in hosting an intern, please complete the host site [application](#). For more information, please visit: <https://itep.nau.edu/internships/>

2025 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum – Recording Available for “The World of Emerging Contaminants”

Page Hingst and Dianne Barton, co-leads for the Tribal PFAS Working Group, led a one-day workshop on “The World of Emerging Contaminants” at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum on August 18, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The workshop provided information on PFAS, 6-PPD quinone, microplastics, and nanomaterials. The workshop recording is available on ITEP’s Mediaspace page:

https://mediaspace.nau.edu/media/Clip+of+The+World+of+Emerging+Contaminants/1_jwxsmwy7/381819972

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

NAPECA Grant Program: Community-based Circular Economy Strategies to Improve Local Well-being and the Environment

Deadline: December 1, 2025

The North American Partnership for Environmental Community Action (NAPECA) grant program is accepting project proposals that will help North American communities implement circular economy initiatives and strategies to improve local well-being and the environment.

The way resources are being extracted, used, and then disposed of in the current linear economy model is putting pressure on natural systems, communities, and public health. A circular economy shifts toward sustainable production and consumption patterns by improving management and efficient use of materials and resources throughout their life cycles (from extraction to recovery). This shift opens the door to new economic and environmental opportunities, as well as securing a more sustainable and resilient economic future for our communities.

For more information: <https://www.cec.org/grant-programs/north-american-partnership-for-environmental-community-action/>

EVENTS & WEBINARS

Tribal Exchange Network Group - Monthly Tribal Data Drop-in Sessions

Held the third Thursday of every month from 10:00-11:30 AM (Pacific)

<https://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/trainings-events>

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 online, in-person, and blended trainings. To register or to view the 2025 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society

- November 13, 2025: Professional Development – Identifying Opportunities

To register: <https://www.nafws.org/events-training/>

CLU-IN Training & Events

- November 13, 2025: Microplastics

To register: <https://clu-in.org/training/>

Environmental Finance Center Network

- November 13, 2025: Basic Drinking Water Math for Operators
- November 20, 2025: Antidegradation – The Most Misunderstood Water Quality Standard

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

NTAA WEBINAR
Clearing the Air
Understanding the threat of
PFAS in Tribal Communities

WEDNESDAY, November 19th
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. MST
11:00 -12:30 a.m. Alaska, 12:00-1:30 p.m. Pacific, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Central,
2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern Time

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
Meeting ID: 896 5415 2145
Password: 791811

SPEAKERS
Laura McKelvey
PFAS 101
Dr. Bill Auberle
Chemours Case Study
Dr. David Gay
PFAS Pilot
Kirstin Underwood and Chris Soctomah
PFAS Exposure in Peskotomuhkati Aquatic Ecosystems

Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid
Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid

National Tribal Air Association PFAS Webinar

Clearing the Air: Understanding the threat of PFAS in Tribal Communities

Wednesday, November 19th

12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time

Zoom [Link](#)

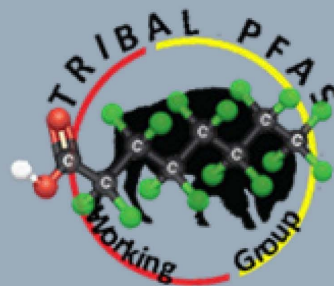
Meeting ID: 896 5415 2145

Password: 791811

Join us on

Thursday, December 11th

11 AM (PST)/12 PM (MST)/1 PM (CST)



Study on Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA)

Our featured presenter Hans Peter H. Arp discusses the study on trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) and its persistence in the environment. Trifluoroacetic acid is one of the ultrashort chain perfluoroalkyl acids and is a transformation product of PFAS.

Join via Zoom by clicking [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 860 9712 2226

Password: 368789



Hans Peter H. Arp, PhD
*Professor at the Norwegian
University of Science and
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NTWC MEMBERS

For more information on our members, visit [Meet the Council](#).

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YOUR TRUSTED TRIBAL RESOURCE HAS A NEW HOME! CHECK OUT ITEP'S NEW WEBSITE AT [ITEP.NAU.EDU](https://itep.nau.edu)

This website is not just a digital upgrade—it's a renewed commitment to empowering Tribal communities with the tools and knowledge they need to protect their lands, cultures, and futures.

– ITEP Director, Nikki Cooley, Diné