

**National Tribal Water Council and EPA Monthly Conference Call**

**Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

**2:00 – 3:30 P.M. ET**

**CALL SUMMARY**

**I. Introductions** (Elaine Wilson, ITEP)

**NTWC:** Ken Norton (Chair, R9); Chauncey Means (Vice Chair, R8); Rainee Tetreault (R4); Shaun Livermore (R4, At-Large); Nancy Schuldt (R5); Deborah Dotson (R6); Kayla Vondracek (R7); Yolanda Barney (R9, Navajo); Mary Verner (R10); Scott Hauser (R10, At-Large); Eric Morrison (R10, Alaska)

**EPA:** Holly Galavotti, Danielle Anderson, Nizanna Bathersfield, Daniel Consigli, Erica Fleisig, Matthew Floyd, Kruttika Gopal, Karen Gude, Rory Hytrek, Rodges Ankrah, Gabriella Neusner, Julian Oliver, James Ray, Matthew Richardson, Teagan Rostock, Amy Weber

**ITEP:** Elaine Wilson, Elaina Doral

**II. NTWC Updates** (Ken Norton, NTWC)

- **EPA CWA Section 401 Comment Letter**

NTWC responded to six questions posed regarding the tribal consultation on *EPA's Upcoming Efforts to Address Implementation Challenges Associated with the Clean Water Act Section 401*.

NTWC collaborated with the Native American Rights Fund's (NARF) Tribal Water Institute, Earthjustice, and the Region 10 Regional Tribal Operations Committee Policy Advisor. The letter was submitted on September 5, 2025.

- **NTWC Fall Meeting**

The fall meeting is scheduled for October 15-16, 2025, in Sitka, Alaska. NTWC discussed potential agenda topics, including the Waters of the United States and an update on the FY 2026 program funding.

- **FY 2026 Budget**

Chair Norton mentioned a potential continuing resolution at the end of the fiscal year, or a government shutdown, which would cause ramifications for Tribes. Currently, the award for CWA funding, such as 106 and 319, has not been awarded yet. Tribes are concerned since tribal staff rely on these funding for program salary. EPA staff indicated that there is a slight delay in issuing the award letters.

- **Clean Water Act Convening – Hosted by NARF/NWF**

NARF and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) are co-hosting a *Clean Water Act Convening: Issues, Priorities, and Advocacy Strategy for Tribal Nations* on October 28-29, 2025, in Boulder, Colorado. NARF/NWF invited NTWC members to participate in the event.

**III. EPA Office of Water**

- **Waters of the United States – Proposed Rule**

Holly Galavotti shared that the proposed rule is at the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review. The proposed rule will be posted in the Federal Register after the review is complete. Tribes or tribal organizations may request an E.O. 12866 Meeting while OMB is

reviewing the proposed rule. To request a meeting:

<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eo/neweomeeting?rin=2040-AG44>

- **Water Technical Assistance for Tribes Webinar** (Karen Gude, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water; Matthew Richardson, Office of Wastewater Management)  
EPA is hosting a Water Technical Assistance for Tribes webinar on September 23, 2025 (2:00-3:00 PM ET). It will cover the technical assistance available to Tribes through the EPA's Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) Program. The webinar will include stories of tribal experiences with the WaterTA Program.

For more information on the WaterTA Program, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance-waterta>

### Questions/Comments

Eric Morrison requested information on grants for private well sampling, and concerns of industrial companies near private wells. Karen Gude will follow up with Eric.

Chair Norton suggested conducting a webinar on multiagency technical assistance and how it is working in Indian Country. The webinar could provide information on agency flexibility and statutory provisions. Chair Norton mentioned he notified the Hoopa Valley Tribe's public utilities director regarding the EPA WaterTA webinar.

Scott Hauser is currently working with and getting assistance from the EPA Region 10 staff and the GAP project officer regarding an E. coli breakout.

Chair Norton inquired about circuit riders. In the past, circuit riders assisted Tribes with early capacity building. This may be beneficial for smaller Tribes. EPA staff shared that the Training and Technical Assistance Program for Rural, Small, and Tribal Wastewater Systems is in the process of selecting organizations to provide that type of technical assistance and circuit rider program. For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/small-and-rural-wastewater-systems/training-and-technical-assistance-ta-program-rural-small-and>

Training and Technical Assistance for Small Systems Funding (drinking water) -  
<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/training-and-technical-assistance-small-systems-funding>

- **Draft agenda discussion for NTWC/EPA Fall In-Person Meeting; October 15-16, in Sitka, Alaska**  
A current list of potential agenda topics was shared and discussed. The topics included:
  - Presentation from the Sitka Tribe of Alaska
  - Historical sites mapping project by Eric Morrison
  - EPA's Alaska Landfill Contamination Project
  - Asplund 301(h) waiver update
  - FY 2026 program funding update
  - Impacts of Mining in Alaska
  - NTWC Roundtable and Business session

**IV. Workgroup updates (if any)**

- [Hypoxia Task Force](#): Deborah Dotson has volunteered to participate in the task force temporarily
- National Water Quality Monitoring Council – Nancy Schuldt and Rainee Tetreault
- Water Quality Standards Management Association – Yolanda Barney
- Tribal PFAS working group – Elaine Wilson, Shaun Livermore, Dan Kusnierz

**V. Consultation Opportunities/Announcements**

**VI. Closing** (Ken Norton, Chauncey Means, NTWC)

**VII. NTWC's next monthly call, Oct. 8** – reserve for any last-minute planning for fall meeting

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**Announcements/Upcoming Meetings:**

**Webinar: EPA's Water Technical Assistance for Tribes**

Sept. 23, 2025, 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

This webinar will cover a variety of technical assistance available to Tribes through EPA's Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) program. Support for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure includes but is not limited to preparation for funding applications, capacity development, planning and project prioritization, and a wide range of engineering assistance such as preliminary engineering reports (PERs). Hear from representatives from Tribal communities on their WaterTA experiences, including:

- Lummi Tribe, WA
- Menominee Indian Tribe, WI
- Skokomish Indian Tribe, WA
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, SD

For more information on WaterTA, please visit [www.epa.gov/WaterTA](http://www.epa.gov/WaterTA).

Register: [https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_6lJuL-HeSpeawvFgQ8Y6iw#/registration](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_6lJuL-HeSpeawvFgQ8Y6iw#/registration)

**U.S.-British Columbia Transboundary Watershed Grant Program**

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-17m-transboundary-watershed-grants>

EPA announced eight (8) organizations will receive \$1,749,700 to monitor and reduce transboundary mining pollution in U.S.-British Columbia transboundary watersheds. The selected organizations include:

- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Ketchikan Indian Community - Alaska
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation - Washington
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality

### **National NPS Biennial Workshop**

**October 27 – 29, 2025 in Baton Rouge, LA.**

This event offers an opportunity for CWA Section 319 state, territorial, and Tribal grantees to convene on national programmatic and knowledge sharing and technical assistance. The national NPS program and planning committee are developing robust Tribal specific sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Outreach for Tribal speakers and session participants will be happening throughout the summer. If you are interested to be involved with planning, please reach out to Margot Buckelew ([Buckelew.margot@epa.gov](mailto:Buckelew.margot@epa.gov)). Additionally, if interested to attend, registration is open and you may [Register for the workshop here](#).

### **EPA – Pacific Northwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training**

**Who:** Tribal water quality and water resources staff

**When:** November 17-20, 2025

**Where:** Tulalip Resort Casino, 10200 Quil Ceda Blvd., Tulalip, WA 98271

The training will address Clean Water Act (CWA) programs including Section 106, Section 319, Section 303(d), water quality standards, and wetlands and will be useful to Tribes who work on these programs or are interested in pursuing Treatment in a similar manner as a State (TAS) status for one or more programs. The training workshop will target Tribes who conduct water quality monitoring, issue water quality certifications, and address water quality issues, nonpoint source pollution, and impaired waters/TMDLs. Tribal staff from across the country are invited, although there will be a focus on examples and applications for Tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

The training workshop is free to attend and registration is open!

<https://nawm.org/trainings/pacific-northwest-tribal-clean-water-act-training>