



“Water is the Life of All of Us”
- Felix Aripa, Coeur d’ Alene Tribal Elder

PURPOSE

The **National Tribal Water Council** (Council/NTWC) was established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water quality. It is the intent of the Council to advocate for the health and sustainability of clean water and safe water, and for the productive use of water for the health and well-being of tribal communities throughout Indian Country.

WHO WE ARE

The National Tribal Water Council is a body comprised of members with technical, scientific and traditional cultural knowledge created to assist the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), federally recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Tribes, and tribal organizations, with research and information for decision-making on water quality related concerns that impact Indigenous Peoples throughout Indian Country. The Council is not a policy-making body and its input is not a substitute for government-to-government consultation.

WHAT WE DO

The National Tribal Water Council holds two in-person meetings annually, conducts monthly virtual calls, and works to address priority water issues impacting Indian Country. The Council has a strong working partnership with EPA’s Office of Water to advance and promote water issues of importance to Tribes and EPA. The Council’s core mission is to protect *“our sacred waters.”* The NTWC engages with Tribes and tribal partners to address common water concerns.

• Policy Responses

Conducts analysis of water related policies and initiatives that impact Tribes. The Council, in collaboration with subject matter and legal experts (Tribal Advisory Committee), responds by preparing comment letters, briefs, white papers or memorandums.

• Information Exchange and Outreach

Engages and collaborates with national, regional, tribal organizations or work groups; participates in informational sessions at various conferences.

Current Members:

- **Ken Norton**, *Hoopa Valley Tribe* (Chair)
- **Chauncey Means**, *Conf. Salish & Kootenai Tribes* (Vice Chair)
- **Daniel Kusnierz**, *Penobscot Indian Nation*
- **Brian Patterson**, *Oneida Nation*
- **Rainee Tetreault**, *Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians*
- **Shaun Livermore**, *Poarch Band of Creek Indians*
- **Deborah Dotson**, *Eastern Shawnee of Oklahoma*
- **Joshua Jojola**, *Pueblo of Santa Ana*
- **Kayla Vondracek**, *Ponca Tribe of Nebraska*
- **Yolanda Barney**, *Navajo Nation*
- **Scott Hauser**, *Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation*
- **Eric Morrison**, *Salamatof Tribe*
- **Mary Verner**, *Snoqualmie Indian Tribe*
- **Ann Wyatt**, *Klawock Cooperative Association/ Tribe*
- *Region 3 (vacancy)*
- *Region 5 (vacancy)*
- *At-Large (vacancy)*

 [Meet the Council](#)

The Council is administered by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals with grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water.



Connects with Indian Country through NTWC’s website, social media, monthly newsletters, webinars, and presentations at various water forums and meetings to promote tribal water program priorities and concerns.

Publishes a biennial “Tribal Water Priorities” document that identifies Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) priorities. This document helps to inform EPA’s Office of Water on key issues of importance to the Council and to the Tribes.

Publishes a monthly NTWC Newsletter that is distributed through the NTWC listserv. The newsletter includes a feature article, Council activities, consultation opportunities, training events, webinars, and grant opportunities.

- **Water Topics**

Topics addressed by the Council are varied depending on priorities. The list below is not exhaustive and additional concerns or emerging issues are added as they arise.

- ◇ Water - Drinking, Ground, Surface and Reuse
- ◇ Subsistence resources protection utilizing CWA provisions
- ◇ Water security in Indian Country
- ◇ Drinking water infrastructure, operations & maintenance
- ◇ Emerging contaminants, mining impacts and wetlands protection

TRIBAL PFAS WORKING GROUP

The Tribal PFAS Working Group (TPWG) formed in April 2020 to help address and reduce per- and polyfluoroalkyl

substances (PFAS) in Indian Country. The working group is comprised of members of the National Tribal Water Council, Tribal Science Council, National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, Tribal Pesticide Program Council, and the National Tribal Air Association.

The Working Group conducts monthly virtual calls. The priorities of the Working Group include:

- Identify Tribes and coordinate with Tribes that are currently impacted by PFAS;
- Develop and identify PFAS tools and resources;
- Promote the Tribal PFAS Working Group’s webpage with current information and resources;
- Advocate for rulemaking, research, and education actions to include tribal lifeways;
- Develop and host tribal webinars/workshops on PFAS issues; and
- Explore and research emerging contaminants and their impacts on various environmental media.

Additional information on the Tribal PFAS Working Group is available at the NTWC website.

 [Facebook.com/TribalPFASWorkGroup](https://www.facebook.com/TribalPFASWorkGroup)

Visit the NTWC Website

Please visit the website to access the Council’s comment letters and important water quality resources for Tribes. It is evolving to better meet the needs of tribal water professionals.

> itep.nau.edu/ntwc/



CONTACT INFORMATION

Elaine H. Wilson, Manager
Nikki Cooley, Co-Director
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals
P.O. Box 15004, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5004
EMAIL: Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu

