



A Look Back at 2024 - NTWC Accomplishments and Insights

The [National Tribal Water Council \(NTWC\)](#) has had a productive year that involved amending its bylaws, conducting outreach, and collaborating with other tribal partnership groups. Below are highlights of the Council's activities for this past year.

Amended Bylaws

Over the past year, the NTWC worked on amending its bylaws, and a final draft was reviewed by the NTWC members this quarter. The NTWC voted and approved the amended bylaws during its NTWC-only meeting on August 14, 2024. With the amended bylaws, the NTWC membership expanded to include a Region 3 representative and an At-Large representative. A copy of the bylaws is available on the NTWC website. https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/About/Bylaws_Meeting_Minutes

Outreach and Coordination Efforts

- On February 20, 2024, the NTWC hosted a [webinar](#) on the EPA's Final 2023 CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule. The webinar provided information for tribes on the final rule and Section 401 certification pathways. The webinar discussed options for tribes to best protect their water quality and assert their water quality-related goals and values.
- On May 14-15, 2024, NTWC members Chairman Ken Norton (R9), Nancy Schuldt (R5), and Yolanda Barney (Navajo Nation, R9) presented at the EPA Clean Water Act Tribal Water Forum.
- On May 30, 2024, NTWC member Shaun Livermore (At-Large, R4) served as a panelist at the *PFAS and Emerging Contaminants in Drinking Water Serving California Tribes* conference that was hosted by the Santa Clara University.
- On June 13, 2024, Chairman Norton presented at the [EPA Virtual Indigenous Community Climate Forum](#).
- The NTWC wrote a foreword for the newly released EPA's [Tribal Water & Natural Resources Conservation Resource Guide](#).

Policy Response: Comment Letters on EPA Proposed Rulemaking Actions

- NTWC Letter of Support for the Native Village of Eklunta's resolution for the restoration of the Eklutna River and salmon habitat; submitted February 16, 2024.



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NEWSLETTER

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NTWC Accomplishments in 2024 *(continued)*

- NTWC Letter of Support for the Use of CWA Section 104(b)(3) Funds for Tribal Wetlands Programs; submitted June 3, 2024.
- NTWC Comment Letter on EPA’s Proposed Reorganization of the National Tribal Caucus Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act; submitted July 22, 2024.
- Letter to Roselyn Tso, Director of the Indian Health Service – Support to the Operation and Maintenance Funding Allocation, Request for Tribal Participation in the Facilities Appropriation Advisory Board (FAAB); submitted October 18, 2024.

NTWC/Tribal PFAS Working Group

- [Tribal PFAS Working Group’s Priorities](#) document that lists six key priorities, which is featured in the working group’s new [brochure](#) - updated August 2024.
- Tribal PFAS Working Group’s comment letter on the EPA’s Proposed Rulemaking for Incorporating PFAS Reporting Requirements into NPDES Application Forms; submitted April 1, 2024.
- Tribal PFAS Working Group hosted a “PFAS 101 Workshop” at the ITEP Tribal Lands & Environment Forum on August 12, 2024.
- Tribal PFAS Working Group’s Open House Webinar “PFAS in the Southern Plains” on December 12, 2024.

NTWC/EPA Bi-Annual Meetings

The NTWC and the EPA Office of Water jointly held their spring bi-annual meeting on April 16-17, 2024, at EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The fall bi-annual meeting was held on September 25-26, 2024, in Carlton / Cloquet, Minnesota.

NTWC Vice Chair

In February 2024, NTWC members elected Chauncey Means as the new Vice Chair of the National Tribal Water Council. Chauncey joined the NTWC in 2022 as the Region 8 representative and serves as the Division of Environmental Protection Manager for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

New Members in 2024

The Council welcomed two new members to NTWC in 2024: Raine Tetreault, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Region 4); and Andria Greene, Upper Mattaponi Tribe (Region 3).



Photos: *(Top left) Chair Norton & Felicia Wright, EPA; (Top middle) 2024 Spring NTWC/EPA Meeting; (Bottom left) Tour of Perch Lake - 2024 Fall NTWC/EPA Meeting; (Right) Wild rice parching equipment, Spirit Lake Native Farms*

Introducing the New Region 3 Representative, Andria Greene

Hola!

My name is Andria Greene, but a lot of people call me by my nickname, Andi! I am the Environmental Director for the Upper Mattaponi Tribe. While I am not a tribal citizen, I have deep roots in Tsenacommacah or the homeland of tribes within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. I grew up playing in the local marshes and rivers, barefooted, alongside my half Mexican (Spanish, Mexican, Yaqui) and half White (Polish, French, and Cherokee) family that includes my six siblings. Yes, this means I can make amazing mole tamales and southern pound cake! Food is culture, no? I identify as a Mixed (Mexican and White) American Woman because of my close upbringing with the matriarchs of my family. The nuances of my identity are those passed on to me through storytelling. As a child I was enamored by stories!

My expertise in wetlands and water is shaped by my home. Generations of both sides of my family have been watermen. Today, I have four Tios that are blue crabbers. The niche culture within the Chesapeake Bay is dying, primarily due to fisheries collapse caused by modern humans. As a teen ever since learning the Bay was sick, I have been on a steadfast path to answer questions. First, “How is it possible that humans have impacted the largest estuary in the nation?” to questions refined during my undergraduate studies, “Can water quality indicator species like macroinvertebrates tell a story of similar impact?” Next, in my graduate studies, “How does wetland hydrology promote microbes to remove agricultural pollutants?” and now through a lens of community-based equity, “Are Tribes (and potentially others) disproportionately impacted by water pollution and/or a lack of water security?” While evidence suggests answers to all questions raised throughout my scientific career, it has become necessary to gain a local, independent dataset to make informed decisions, develop policy, and best of all, *advocate!*

My current work is faced with an interesting proposition: the Upper Mattaponi were among the first contacted by European settlers but among the last to gain federal recognition. In one attempt address a gap spanning multiple generations, my team of field scientists are taking first steps in data collection across a suite of environments known best to the First People. Here, I hope to add a scientific flavor to the stories of today and tomorrow.

For more information on the Upper Mattaponi Tribe’s Water Resources Program, please visit: <https://umitribe.org/water-resources-program/>

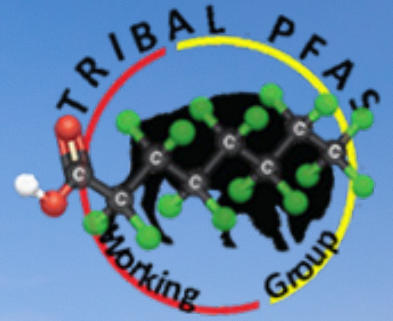


Have a story, idea, or update to share?

Email us at elaina.doral@nau.edu.



Tribal PFAS Working Group's
Open House Webinar:



PFAS in the Southern Plains

Dec 12th
12PM (MST)



Featured Presenter: **Isabella Gandara**

Isabella is a senior at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) majoring in Biological Engineering with a focus on public health, genetics, and toxicology. This past summer, she worked as a THESIS Intern for the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, where she pursued an independent research project to investigate what is known about PFAS on tribal lands, as well as risk factors for exposure that should be considered going forward. Concentrating on Oklahoma, her work involved analyzing trends in detection rates of public water systems, using machine learning models to predict PFAS levels in environmental samples, and identifying key risk factors for exposure and priorities for future testing.

To Join Webinar: [CLICK HERE](#)

Zoom Meeting ID: 876 6024 2446 Password: 996191

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! EPA Releases a Tribal Water & Natural Resources Conservation Guide

EPA released a [Tribal Water & Natural Resources Conservation Guide](#) for tribal environmental program managers and staff. This guide aims to provide resources to tribal environmental programs about federal assistance opportunities that can support tribally led efforts to protect and restore waters, protect air quality, protect wildlife and habitat, prepare for climate change and natural hazards, steward lands, and support and engage tribal communities. This comprehensive resource guide includes:

- An introduction to federal assistance for new tribal staff,
- Quick reference tables highlighting tribal-specific funding and technical assistance programs,
- 10+ tribal case studies highlighting how tribal programs have completed conservation projects with federal assistance, and
- Examples of federal planning frameworks and tools.

The EPA also published a [federal funding program inventory](#) as a supplement to the guide, available as a downloadable Excel Workbook that contains basic information about 150+ federal funding programs that can support tribal conservation work.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

Proposed Revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts

Deadline: December 31, 2024

EPA initiated consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes to obtain input on the agency's forthcoming Proposed Revisions to National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts, in accordance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and other applicable statutes. The EPA is developing proposed revisions to these National Primary Drinking Water Regulations to improve public health protection by reducing drinking water exposure to microbial contaminants and disinfection byproducts. Under this action, the EPA intends to propose and as appropriate, take final action on revisions to one or more of the Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts rules to further improve public health protection from contaminants relevant to the Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts rules in drinking water and, where possible, to reduce the regulatory burden while maintaining or improving public health protection.

The deadline to submit feedback and comments is December 31, 2024. Submit comment letters to MDBPRevisions@epa.gov. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsixyearreview/potential-revisions-microbial-and-disinfection-byproducts-rules>

EPA Issues Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Protect Salmon from Chemical Used in Rubber Products

Deadline: January 21, 2025

The EPA is issuing an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) under Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act to gather information on the potential risks associated with N-(1,3-Dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine (6PPD) and its transformation product, [6PPD-quinone](#), a substance often found in tire-rubber particles. In August 2023, the Yurok Tribe, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians submitted a [petition under TSCA Section 21 asking EPA to establish regulations](#) under TSCA Section 6 prohibiting the manufacturing, processing, use and distribution of 6PPD in tires. The [EPA granted this petition in November 2023](#) and committed to publishing an ANPRM by Fall 2024 in order to gather more information that could be used to inform a subsequent regulatory action. The EPA will accept written comments on the ANPRM for 60 days following publication via the [docket at Regulations.gov](#).

EVENTS & WEBINARS

EPA Tools and Research Webinar Series

- December 11, 2024: Better Together - Participatory Science Resources & Opportunities at EPA

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

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

- January 28, 2025: Lead Chemistry, Communication, and Local Engagement

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-drinking-water-systems-webinar-series>

Contaminated Site Clean-Up Information Training & Events

- January 14, 2025: Overview of the Tire-Derived Chemicals 6PPD & 6PPD-quinone
- January 16, 2025: Contaminants of Concern Identification Network
- January 28, 2025: ITRC PFAS Introductory Training

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

NTWC MEMBERS

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

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