



NATIONAL TRIBAL WATER COUNCIL

“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. It is the intent of the Council to advocate for the health and sustainability of clean water, and for the productive use of water for the health and well-being of Indian Country, Indian communities, and Alaska Native Tribes.

WHO WE ARE

The National Tribal Water Council is a technical and scientific body created to assist the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), federally recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Tribes, and associated tribal communities and tribal organizations, with research and information for decision-making regarding water issues and water-related concerns that impact Indian and Alaska Native tribal members in 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 conference 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. Furthermore, the Council undertakes other activities, collaborative efforts, and information exchange. Below is a highlight.

- **Policy Responses**

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

- **Information Exchange and Outreach**

Works to enhance involvement and collaboration in national, regional, and work group meetings; 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
- Nancy Schuldt, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Celeste Hockings, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
- Yolanda Barney, Navajo Nation
- Scott Hauser, Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation
- Eric Morrison, Salamatof Tribe
- Ann Wyatt, Klawock Cooperative Association/ Tribe
- Mary Verner, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- *Vacant: Region 6 and Region 7*

 [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.



Works to increase outreach efforts to Indian Country through NTWC's website, monthly newsletter, and presentations at various water forums and meetings to promote tribal water program issues and priorities.

Publishes a "Tribal Water Priorities" document that identifies Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) priorities of the Council and tribes. This document helps to better 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 provides water-related information on Council activities, consultation opportunities, training events, webinars, and grant opportunities.

• **Water Topics**

Water topics addressed by the Council include the list below. This list is not exhaustive and additional concerns or emerging issues are added as they arise.

- ◇ Water - Drinking, Ground, Surface and Reuse
- ◇ Nutrient Strategies
- ◇ Indigenous Cultural Values and Water
- ◇ Indian Country and Climate Change Impacts
- ◇ Infrastructure Development Concerns
- ◇ Other Challenges in Indian Country

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 conference calls. The priorities of the Working Group include:

- Continue to identify tribes and coordinate with tribes that are currently impacted by PFAS;
- Continue to develop and identify PFAS tools and resources;
- Enhance and promote the Tribal PFAS Working Group's webpage with current information;
- Advocate for rulemaking, research, and education actions;
- Develop and host tribal webinars/workshops on PFAS issues; and
- Expand the scope of the working group to explore and research emerging contaminants and their impacts on various environmental media.

More information on the Tribal PFAS Working Group may be found 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.

> www.nau.edu/ntwc



CONTACT INFORMATION

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