

**National Tribal Water Council and EPA Monthly Conference Call**  
**Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024**  
**2:00 – 3:30 P.M. ET**

**SUMMARY NOTES**

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

**NTWC:** Ken Norton (Chair, R9); Chauncey Means (R8, Vice Chair); Dan Kusnierz (R1); Brian Patterson (R2); Rainee Tetreault (R4); Shaun Livermore (At large, R4); Nancy Schuldt (R5); Celeste Hockings (At large, R5); Yolanda Barney (Navajo Nation, R9); Mary Verner (R10); Scott Hauser (At large, R10); Eric Morrison (Alaska, R10)

**EPA:** Holly Galavotti, Nizanna Bathersfield, Daniel Consigli, Robyn Delehanty, Rachel Gonsenhauser, Samar Khoury, Gabriella Neusner, Grace Persico, James Ray, Manjali Vlcan, Amy Weber, Jacob Adler, Edward Dunne, Margot Buckelew, Julian Oliver

**ITEP:** Nikki Cooley, Elaine Wilson, Elaina Doral

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

• **Future Outlook & Initiatives**

NTWC discussed strategies to focus on, such as infrastructure, operations and maintenance, and PFAS. NTWC will continue to coordinate with the National Tribal Caucus and other tribal entities, including the United Southern and Eastern Tribes, Inc., Native American Rights Fund, and the National Congress of American Indians, to provide outreach and coordinated tribal voice.

• **NTWC Region 3 Representative**

Council members voted to confirm the appointment of Andi Greene, Upper Mattaponi Tribe, as the new Region 3 representative to the NTWC.

• **2025 NTWC & EPA In-Person Spring Meeting**

Council members voted to select the week of May 19<sup>th</sup> to schedule the 2025 spring meeting in Washington, DC.

• **NTWC's Participation on the Federal Infrastructure Task Force**

An invitation for the NTWC to participate on the Federal Infrastructure Task Force still stands. Chair Norton participated on a webinar with NARF and other organizations to strategize on strengthening capacity building for drinking water operations and maintenance.

**III. CWA Section 106 Water Pollution Control Grants, Program Review** (Robyn Delehanty and Dan Consigli, Office of Wastewater Management)

Robyn Delehanty provided an update on the project to conduct a review of CWA Section 106 program Tribal workplans. EPA has a contract with Cadmus to support the initial development of the workplan review. This project is one of the priorities of the NTWC and has the support of the National Tribal Caucus. This work could inform a future CWA 106 program needs assessment. Robyn Delehanty and Chair Norton discussed the needed information for the review. The first stage is to review the information available from the CWA 106 program Tribal work plans. EPA requested a small sample of work plans from the regions. In the next step, the contractor will use the information to develop a tool and develop a process to randomly select 50-70 tribal work plans. EPA regional coordinators will contact the individual tribes that were selected to notify them that their

work plan has been selected for this review and ensure that there are no Tribal concerns or questions. The information will include a full representation of work plans, including Tribes with TAS for water quality standards, Tribes in ATTAINS, and tribes that use WQX.

It's anticipated the individual tribes will be contacted in early 2025. The matrix or framework should be ready in January 2025.

### Questions/Comments

For the quantitative portion, Chair Norton would like an emphasis on tribal participation in the regulatory process and determine the staffing needs. The review of tribal participation in the regulatory process addresses a goal in the EPA OW Tribal Action Plan. It also meets the goals of the NTWC and NTC.

Elaine Wilson asked if the tribal work plan will include a budget narrative to obtain information on personnel and salaries as part of the assessment. Robyn Delehanty replied that the EPA will request for the work plan to include the budget narrative.

## IV. Consultation Opportunities

- **Tribal Consultation: Proposed Revisions to National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts**

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.

The consultation period for this action extends from November 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024. The EPA will hold two listening sessions via webinar for Tribal leaders and staff:

- November 12, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET  
To register for this webinar date, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-tribal-webinar-on-development-of-proposed-revisions-to-mdbp-npdwrs-tickets-1045000102437>
- November 13, 2024, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm ET  
To register for this webinar date, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/national-tribal-webinar-on-development-of-proposed-revisions-to-mdbp-npdwrs-tickets-1045057744847>

Comment letters should be submitted via email to: [MDBPRevisions@epa.gov](mailto:MDBPRevisions@epa.gov). You may submit any questions and requests for individual government-to-government consultation to Rachel Gonsenhauser by email at [gonsenhauser.rachel@epa.gov](mailto:gonsenhauser.rachel@epa.gov). Rachel Gonsenhauser can also be reached by phone at 202-564-3256. Additional information and current activities related to the proposed revisions to the Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts National Primary Drinking Water Regulations can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsixyearreview/potential-revisions-microbial-and-disinfection-byproducts-rules>.

- **Draft 2026 Integrated Reporting and Listing Decisions Memo;** Review by November 27, 2024  
EPA invites you to review its draft document, INFORMATION CONCERNING 2026 CLEAN WATER ACT SECTIONS 303(d), 305(b), AND 314 INTEGRATED REPORTING AND LISTING DECISIONS, otherwise referred to as the 2026 IR memo. The 2026 IR memo, targeted for release in January 2025, would not constitute regulation or new mandates, but would provide additional context,

detail, and/or clarity on a selection of topics that are timely and relevant for the 2026 reporting cycle. The draft memo is comprised of six sections:

1. Defining Segments (Assessment Units)
2. Use of Advisories in Section 303(d) Water Quality Attainment Decisions
3. CWA Section 303(d) Assessment/Listing for Public Water Supply Use Impairments
4. Antidegradation and Protection of Existing Uses
5. Priority Ranking for Waters on CWA 303(d) List
6. Use of Water Quality Impairment Data Reported under CWA Section 305(b) in Fiscal Year 2026 to Update the Variable Portion of the Fiscal Year 2027 CWA Section 106 Grant Allocation Formula (40 CFR 35.162)

You may notice that certain key requirements are repeated in several sections of the document; this is because EPA's experience is that users may jump to particular topics when using IR memos, and we'd like to make sure key information is addressed in each section. EPA is requesting review of this draft, specifically feedback regarding any significant gaps, inconsistencies, or specific concerns about content.

Please reach out with any questions and provide comments to Emily Cira ([cira.emily@epa.gov](mailto:cira.emily@epa.gov)) and Chris Lewicki ([lewicki.chris@epa.gov](mailto:lewicki.chris@epa.gov)).

## V. Announcements/Upcoming Meetings

- For review by Nov. 27: Draft 2026 Integrated Reporting and Listing Decisions Memo, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds
- **Open Applications for FY2025 Tribal Nonpoint Source Management (319) Grants**  
The EPA issued the [FY2025 Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act Section 319](#) on September 23, 2024. Federally recognized Tribes with treatment-as-a-state approval under Clean Water Act Section 319 are eligible to apply; eligibility information and additional information on this competition is available on the [EPA Tribal NPS website](#). As in past years, the funding available through this funding opportunity is to support Tribal projects focused on implementing on-the-ground best management practices that will help protect or restore waters from nonpoint sources of pollution. Applicants may request up to \$125,000 in federal 319 funds through this solicitation. As part of the EPA's effort to increase equity within the NPS program, a portion of competitive grant funding will be reserved for Tribal competitive grant applicants that have not been awarded a competitive grant under this solicitation in the past 5 years. Applications are due December 11, 2024.

Key Dates:

- **October 15, 2024:** Informational webinar #2. This webinar was recorded and has been posted to [YouTube](#).
- Slides for the Informational Webinars can be accessed here: [FY25 319 Tribal Competitive Grant Info Webinar Slides \(pdf\)](#) (1.67 MB)
- **November 26, 2024:** Deadline for questions from prospective Tribal applicants about the FY2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity. Questions may be submitted to [tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov).

- **December 11, 2024: \*Application Deadline\*** Applications must be submitted electronically to the EPA through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 11:59pm EST in order to be considered for funding. Late applications will not be considered for funding.
- **February/March 2025:** The EPA anticipates announcing final selections under this competition in late winter 2025.
  - Answers to [frequency asked questions](#) for this grant are available on the [EPA's Tribal NPS website](#); additional questions may be submitted to [tribal319grants@epa.gov](mailto:tribal319grants@epa.gov)
- **Climate Resilience Training for the Northern Great Plains Water Sector**  
The EPA Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative is providing a series of two FREE webinars on November 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater utility owners and operators, as well as other water sector stakeholders in Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, and several Tribal Nations. These webinars focus on building resilience to impacts from drought, wildfires, and flooding, as well as identifying and implementing adaptation options, and utility infrastructure financing.  
Register by November 12, 2024:  
[https://gdit.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltde6urDgiGovdhhXMHigr13q\\_5sTtSdg?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery#/registration](https://gdit.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltde6urDgiGovdhhXMHigr13q_5sTtSdg?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery#/registration)

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

**VII. The NTWC's next monthly call is scheduled for December 11, 2024**