



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #647 July 27, 2018

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## PNWA briefs Lieutenant General Todd Semonite, Chief of Engineers

On July 26th, PNWA hosted a round table discussion for Lieutenant General Todd Semonite, the Chief of Engineers for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Representatives from the Washington Grain Commission, Columbia River Pilots, Shaver Transportation, Northwest Seaport Alliance, Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, Port of Grays Harbor and Port of Portland participated in the round table lunch to brief the general on our regional projects and issues. PNWA greatly appreciated the opportunity to spend time with the General and to highlight the value of our Northwest navigation infrastructure projects to the region and nation. We look forward to working with General Semonite and his teams in DC and the region in the future.



*PNWA hosts LTG Todd Semonite at the Port of Portland's PDX Conference Center*

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Photos by Tom Conning, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District



PNWA members Kayla Dunlap and Gary Nelson from the Port of Grays Harbor stand for a photo with LTG Semonite

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## PNWA provides navigation perspective on the Columbia River Treaty

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PNWA participated in two events this week to offer the [navigation perspective](#) on the Columbia River Treaty (CRT). On Tuesday, July 24th, PNWA arranged a tour for Jill Smail, Columbia River Treaty negotiator for the U.S. State Department of the Port of Vancouver USA and United Grain Corporation. This provided an opportunity to observe commercial activity in the harbor, and the intermodal impacts of any potential treaty modifications. PNWA staff was joined by representatives from United Grain, Port of Vancouver USA, the Columbia River Pilots, Tidewater Barge Lines, Shaver Transportation and the ILWU. We thank all of the attendees, and the Port of Vancouver and United Grain for hosting this event.



On July 25th, PNWA's Executive Director Kristin Meira was joined by Columbia River Pilot Capt. Paul Amos, Washington Association of Wheat Growers Executive Director Michelle Hennings, and Port of Whitman County Commissioner and IPNG Chair Tom Kammerzell on a CRT round table featured at the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) summit in Spokane, WA. The round table kicked off with remarks from both the U.S. and Canadian negotiators, and discussions focused on areas including transportation, ecosystems, tribal groups, utilities, tourism, agriculture, recreation, and more.



For additional information on PNWA's perspective on the Columbia River Treaty, or these events, please contact [Kristin Meira](#).

## Chairman Shuster releases draft infrastructure plan

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On July 23rd, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) released a [legislative discussion draft](#) highlighting ways to address America's failing infrastructure. The proposal reflects input from both Republican and Democratic Members of Congress, as well as the Administration and stakeholders. The draft is not in final bill form, but is meant to provide a framework for bipartisan infrastructure efforts in Congress.

The proposal highlights federal investment necessary to ensure efficient movement of goods on both land and water. It would establish a specific budgetary mechanism to allow Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) revenues to be appropriated for maintenance dredging needs across the U.S., and proposes reforms to the Highway Trust Fund. The proposal would also increase the gas tax, establish a new infrastructure investment program and extend FAST Act freight programs for an additional year.

PNWA appreciates Chairman Shuster's efforts to keep infrastructure at the forefront of discussions in Washington, DC, and we look forward to continuing to partner with our Northwest delegation on these issues going forward. To read Chairman Shuster's proposal with a section-by-section summary, click [here](#) and contact [Heather Stebbings](#) with any feedback.

## Evaluation of the Corps Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) process

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As authorized in WRRDA 2014, The National Academy of Public Administration (the Academy) is leading a comprehensive review of the Corps of Engineers Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) process. The evaluation will review the process for preparing, negotiating and approving PPAs and templates. The final report will provide the Corps with recommendations for promoting a

transparent and efficient PPA system that meets the expectation of officials and stakeholders.

For additional details, please click [here](#). If you would like to provide your feedback, contact Pamela Haze, Project Director, National Academy of Public Administration at 202-360-6652 or [phaze@napawash.org](mailto:phaze@napawash.org). We kindly request that interested PNWA members send any feedback to [Heather Stebbings](#) at PNWA as well, as our association may submit broader comments based on the feedback we receive from our membership.

## Port of Astoria job announcement - Senior Manager of Maintenance and Facilities

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The Port of Astoria has announced an opening for a Senior Manager of Maintenance and Facilities. The position will be responsible for working with Operations and Finance staff to develop and implement a Port-wide master maintenance plan. Other duties will include preparing and managing an annual maintenance budget, determining project scopes and managing maintenance staff. To apply, please forward a cover letter, resume and Port of Astoria job application to [operations@portofastoria.com](mailto:operations@portofastoria.com). An application and job description can be found on the [Port of Astoria's website](#).

## Port of Lewiston job announcement - part-time Communications and Office Assistant

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The Port of Lewiston has announced an opening for a part-time Communications and Office Assistant. The ideal candidate will have strong verbal and written communication skills, creative ability to develop and construct content for public outreach and education, knowledge of Word, PowerPoint, Publisher, Adobe Creative Suite, WordPress or website content management systems, Outlook and Excel. For a complete job description, please click [here](#). This part-time position is for 28 to 32 hours per week with a benefits package.

Hourly wage is based on experience. Submit a cover letter and resume to:

Port of Lewiston  
Attn: Manager  
1626 6th Ave North  
Lewiston, ID 83501

Contact the Port of Lewiston at (208) 743-5531 or visit the Port of Lewiston's [website](#) for additional information.

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Suite 1000, Portland, OR 97214

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