



Nor'wester newsletter

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[PNWA Website](#)

[About PNWA](#)

[Action Agenda](#)

[PNWA Events](#)

[Contact Us](#)

PNWA welcomes Randi Besser, new Office Manager

PNWA is pleased to announce Randi Besser has joined our team as the association's Office Manager. Randi's role will be to assist the PNWA membership and staff, plan PNWA events, and manage bookkeeping. She has extensive administrative and event planning experience.

Randi graduated from the University of Illinois with a BS in Elementary Education. She is the proud mom of two sons and makes her home in Portland, Oregon.

We look forward to introducing you to Randi at future meetings. In the meantime, you can reach her at (503) 234-8550 or randi.besser@pnwa.net.

U.S. DOT names Port of Everett a Federal Maritime Highway Project

The Port of Everett received designation as a Federal Maritime Administration Marine Highway Project for the Puget Sound Container on Barge Service. The Port will now be eligible for future grant funding for infrastructure improvements or equipment to enhance the Port's ability to expand barge service along the Puget Sound corridor.

In This Issue

PNWA welcomes Randi Besser, new Office Manager

U.S. DOT names Port of Everett a Federal Maritime Highway Project

Kurt Miller named new Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners

Merchants Exchange of Portland now accepting applications for scholarships

[PNWA](#)
[Fact sheets](#)

The Port is the only marine project on the West Coast to receive the designation.

This new designation will allow the port to ship non-aerospace containerized freight via the marine highway from Everett to the Ports of Seattle and Tacoma, removing up to 300 containers per month from the I-5 corridor. Once the modernization of the South Terminal is completed next year, the Port will be prepared for post-Panamax vessels.

"This service highlights the importance of expanding waterborne options that can relieve congestion on local roads and rail networks while introducing additional resiliency that is vital to our Nation's transportation system," said Catherine Simons, Legislative Affairs Specialist in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration. "With anticipated regional growth specifically, and in our nation broadly, there is expected to be significant growth in freight volumes, requiring transportation alternatives for shippers. Our nation's vast network of inland waterways and coastal routes has substantial excess capacity that can absorb growth."

Upcoming Events

Kurt Miller named new Executive Director of Northwest RiverPartners

The Board of Directors of Northwest RiverPartners is pleased to announce the appointment of Kurt Miller to serve as the group's new Executive Director. Miller is currently the Organizational Change Manager for the Integrated Operations Center project at Portland General Electric.

Kevin Nordt, President of NWRP, said: "I am pleased to announce the appointment of Kurt Miller as Executive Director of NWRP. Kurt brings a wealth of experience and energy to the position, which will enable NWRP to build upon its strong history of championing the Northwest hydroelectric system. NWRP seeks to expand its partnerships and advocacy around recognizing the

important contributions of hydropower to our region and the clean energy future we seek."

Kurt Miller said: "I am truly honored for this opportunity to partner with Northwest stakeholders as we work together for a clean energy future. We have such a powerful story to share-one that is pro- salmon and pro-community. I'm excited to get that message out there, but also to listen as we meet with our members, elected officials, and other stakeholder groups. I want to hear their perspectives and collaborate on solutions."

Miller has more than 25 years of Northwest utility experience in both the public and private sectors. Most notably, since 2014, he served as an Organizational Change Manager over a variety of projects and initiatives at PGE. This includes building internal and external corporate consensus and messaging around issues critical to the multi-faceted operations of the utility. In addition to his work in the private sector, Miller began his career at the Bonneville Power Administration ("BPA") as an economist where he developed BPA's surplus marketing strategy and worked closely with the agency's trading floor.

Miller is a graduate of Willamette University where he received the distinction of Magna Cum Laude. Miller also successfully completed the University of Idaho's Utility Executive Course and Willamette University's Utility Management Certificate program. Miller serves on the Advisory Board of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs.

Miller will start with Northwest RiverPartners in mid-March 2019. Jim Litchfield will continue to serve as the interim-Executive Director until that time. PNWA congratulates Kurt, and looks forward to working with him in his new role.

Merchants Exchange of Portland now accepting applications for scholarships

The Merchants Exchange Scholarship Fund is now accepting applications for students who wish to begin or advance a career in the maritime industries. The scholarship is open to students at 2-

year and 4-year programs, graduate programs, and programs approved by the US Coast Guard. The mission of the Merchant Exchange Scholarship Fund is to support the educational goals of students seeking careers in Maritime Affairs and/or International Trade, in order to ensure the future prosperity of the Maritime industry. Please visit the [Merchants Exchange website](#) for additional information.

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