



Nor'wester newsletter

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Thank you new Summer Conference sponsor

Thank you to our newest [PNWA 2021 Summer Conference](#) sponsors for their generous support:

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Additional sponsorships are available. Increase your organization's visibility to our members, partners and friends while supporting PNWA's advocacy efforts. [Bronze](#), [Silver](#), [Gold](#) and [Platinum levels](#) are available. Sign up online when you register for the conference or [contact Randi Besser](#).

Port of Skagit Executive Director Patsy Martin to retire

After nearly three decades at the Port of Skagit, including 14 years at the helm, Executive Director Patsy Martin will be retiring at the end of September.

Patsy served as the elected President of PNWA from 2011-2013. During this time, Patsy led the association through a transition to a new executive director, and also grew its membership by 25%. Patsy took countless trips to Washington DC with PNWA, and became a recognized national leader and voice for the small port community. Patsy met with numerous Members



of Congress, OMB, Corps leadership, and even represented the Northwest before a Congressional roundtable on WRDA. PNWA presented Patsy with our Distinguished Service Award in 2016, in recognition of her accomplishments and dedication to the association.

Sara Young, the Port's Director of Planning and Facilities, was officially named as Patsy's successor and will formally assume Executive Director duties on Sept. 1. PNWA's staff and members have been pleased to work with Sara for years now, and we heartily congratulate Sara on her new leadership role.

Patsy has been a great friend and supporter of PNWA, and we wish her the very best as she sets sail for new adventures.

Read the [Port of Skagit's press release](#) for full details.





EPA, Corps announce plans to revise WOTUS definition

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Army are announcing their intent to revise the definition of “waters of the United States” to better protect our nation’s vital water resources that support public health, environmental protection, agricultural activity, and economic growth.



As described in an EPA declaration requesting remand of the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, a broad array of stakeholders—including states, Tribes, local governments, scientists, and non-governmental organizations—are seeing destructive impacts to critical water bodies under the 2020 rule.

As a result of these findings, the Department of Justice is filing a motion requesting remand of the rule. Today’s action reflects the agencies’ intent to initiate a new rulemaking process that restores the protections in place prior to the 2015 WOTUS implementation, and anticipates developing a new rule that defines WOTUS and is informed by a robust engagement process as well as the experience of implementing the pre-2015 rule, the Obama-era Clean Water Rule, and the Trump-era Navigable Waters Protection Rule.

The agencies’ new regulatory effort will be guided by the following considerations:

- Protecting water resources and our communities consistent with the Clean Water Act.
- The latest science and the effects of climate change on our waters.
- Emphasizing a rule with a practical implementation approach for state and Tribal partners.
- Reflecting the experience of and input received from landowners, the agricultural community that fuels and feeds the world, states, Tribes, local governments, community organizations, environmental groups, and disadvantaged communities with environmental justice concerns.

The agencies are committed to meaningful stakeholder engagement to ensure that a revised definition of WOTUS considers essential clean water protections, as well as how the use of water supports key economic sectors. Further details of the agencies' plans, including opportunity for public participation, will be conveyed in a forthcoming action. To learn more about the definition of waters of the United States, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wotus>.

PNWA NEXT STEPS

PNWA is seeking a small group of Environment Committee members who would be willing to assist with tracking this issue, helping provide summaries and status updates, and assisting with drafting comments and talking points as needed. If you are interested in this issue and want to get involved, please [contact Dena Horton](#) at your convenience.

PNWA's virtual DC Hill visits



Capitol Hill offices are slowly beginning to reopen. However, while many staff have resumed working partial or full office hours, many are still not taking in-person meetings.

More offices are planning to reopen for in-person visits after Congress' August recess. We look forward to resuming travel to Washington, DC this fall to meet with Congressional and agency staff, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters, and the Office of Management and Budget.

In the meantime, PNWA will continue to conduct virtual Hill visits. Our next "trip" is planned for July 20-21. If you attend, we ask that you block your calendar for participation in all of the virtual meetings from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days. There will be time for breaks and lunch built into the schedule. We will hold a coordination meeting in advance of the trip in order to review the meeting schedule, speaking roles and talking points, and to answer questions.

In order to keep these meetings manageable, there are limited "seats" available. Please [let Dena Horton know](#) as soon as possible if you are interested in attending the July virtual Hill visit, and if you have specific issues you would like to highlight.

Federal agencies offer grant opportunities

Federal agencies have recently advertised a variety of grant opportunities of interest to PNWA members:

[Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Grants](#)

Applications Due: July 9

[Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(WIFIA\) Program](#)
Letter of Interest due: July 23

[Department of the Interior
Outdoor Recreation Legacy
Partnership Grant Program](#)
Application due: September 24

[Department of the Interior and
Fish and Wildlife Service Coastal
Program](#)
Applications due: September 30

[Grants for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production](#)
Applications due: July 30



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