



PNWA STAFF



Kristin Meira, Executive Director
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As PNWA's Executive Director, Kristin Meira leads the association's work with Congress, federal agencies and regional decision makers on transportation, trade, energy and environmental policies and projects. PNWA's membership includes over 150 public ports, transportation providers, agriculture and forest products producers, public utilities, manufacturers, labor groups and others in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Meira joined the PNWA team in 2002.

Meira moved to Portland in 2000 after spending five years on Capitol Hill in Washington DC working for two United States Senators. Her political experience also includes work as a legislative assistant for a New Jersey State Assemblyman, briefing aide for a New Jersey Governor, and work on several campaigns around the nation. Meira has a BA with a dual major in Political Science/History and a double major in English from Rutgers University. She makes her home outside Portland, Oregon.



Dena Horton, Government Relations Director
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Dena Horton joined the PNWA team in September 2019. She brings significant federal and regional experience and a deep knowledge of the issues and projects in PNWA's portfolio, having served as Senator Maria Cantwell's Southwest Washington Outreach Director for over five years. Horton was also a project manager for over seven years for PNWA member Normandeau Associates, and served as a district representative for former Congressman Brian Baird for over four years. Horton earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Gonzaga University, and completed master's degree coursework in Public Affairs at Washington State University - Vancouver. She is also a General George C. Marshall Public Leadership Award Recipient, graduate of Leadership Clark County, and has a long record of volunteer service in her community. Horton lives in Vancouver, Wash. She enjoys traveling, wine tasting, and cooking and she is a proud cat mom and Packers fan!



Scott Clemans, Communications Director
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Scott Clemans joined PNWA in August 2019 to lead the planning and implementation of communication efforts for and with PNWA members, and work to increase relationships and communication with the news media and broader public. He brings over 15 years of professional communications experience to PNWA, including as a public affairs specialist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Reserve, as well as telecommunications and software companies. Clemans earned a master's degree in Communications from Portland State University, a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Willamette University, and certification as an Army journalist and public affairs specialist from the Department of Defense's Information School. Scott lives in Vancouver, Wash., with his wife and two daughters.



Randi Besser, Office Manager
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Randi Besser joined PNWA in January 2019. She assists the PNWA membership and staff, plans PNWA events, and manages bookkeeping. She has extensive administrative and event planning experience. Besser 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, Ore.