



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





# 2023-2024 PNWA Executive Board

## President

Tom Kammerzell  
Port of Whitman County, WA

## Vice President

Randy Hayden  
Port of Pasco, WA

## Treasurer

Paula Miranda  
Port of Newport, OR

## At Large

Augusto Bassanini  
United Grain Corporation  
Elvia Montoya  
Port of Portland, OR  
Jerry Klemm  
Port of Lewiston, ID  
Kate Mickelson  
Columbia River Steamship  
Operators Assoc. (CRSOA)  
Kayla Dunlap  
Port of Grays Harbor, WA  
Lisa Lefeber  
Port of Everett, WA  
Mark Wilson  
Port of Kalama, WA  
Ryan McFarland  
Northwest Seaport Alliance

## Past President

Dave Harlan  
Port of Toledo, OR

## Secretary

Neil Maunu  
Pacific Northwest Waterways  
Association (PNWA)

PNWA Restated and Amended Bylaws, 13 October 2023: Article VI and Article VII, Section 1: "The Executive Committee shall consist of eleven voting members: the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and eight members elected for one-year terms as prescribed in Article V, Section 10. The Immediate Past President of the Association and the Secretary/Executive Director shall also serve on the Executive Committee as non-voting ex-officio members." Section 2: "The Executive Committee shall exercise the authority of the Board of Trustees, including financial matters, personnel matters as related to the Executive Director and the adoption of Association programs and policies, between Board meetings, except that it may not amend the Bylaws nor create new permanent positions."

## PNWA President Message

In January 2023, PNWA completed its 5-year Strategic Plan in response to our members expressing a need for diverse and expanded services. We are actively taking steps to improve communication and engagement with our members, aiming to enhance the overall member experience.

I understand improving and transforming an already successful organization is a challenging endeavor. The significant tasks and time commitment ahead were truly overwhelming, but I am grateful for the members who stepped up to volunteer for various committees.

The strategic plan resulted in an action plan outlining initial steps. To update and modernize our governance policies, we established the Bylaws Committee. The newly revised bylaws received unanimous approval during the Annual Convention in October 2023.

A Dues Committee was formed to analyze the dues structure, aiming to ensure equitable member costs, strengthen PNWA's financial stability, and support strategic goals. The proposed Dues Structure will be presented for member approval at the Summer Conference in June 2024.

In August, we welcomed Neil Maunu as our new Executive Director and Mary Wiley as our new Communications Manager at the end of October. I am excited about these additions and confident they will continue the great legacy of PNWA.

I take pride in our achievements throughout 2023 and believe we are well-positioned to face future challenges. Thank you for your ongoing support as we embark on our 90th year and beyond.

Tom Kammerzell, PNWA President

Port of Whitman County

## PNWA Executive Director Message

Thank you so much for a successful 2023! It has been an amazing six months for me, and an extremely successful 89-years for the Association! I am lucky to be a part of such a great staff, supported by members who are involved, passionate, and cooperate toward our diverse, yet common goals.

PNWA is successful because of the dedication and continued support from our members – CEOs, Port Executive Directors, Commissioners, Business Development Experts, Government Affairs Professionals, Engineers, Environmental Professionals, the list goes on and on. Your expertise and willingness to be involved and put in the hard work ensures we continue to affect change in Washington, D.C. that can be seen and felt here at home.

Please continue to be involved, to bring us your issues, and to work with us as we advocate for our industry and our waterways.

Our team is here for you. Thank you!

Neil Maunu, PNWA Executive Director

# PNWA Represents Our Membership

PNWA continues to be the trusted source for information about the value of infrastructure, trade, and transportation in the Northwest. Our staff has been in the air and on the road, in front of Congressional and agency decision makers and at speaking engagements, providing data about our supported projects and highlighting the value of safe and efficient cargo movement for economic prosperity in our region.



**20 Presentations**



**12 Events/Tours**



**55+ News Mentions**

On December 12, Executive Director Neil Maunu testified before an oversight hearing held by the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries.

## 2023 KEY ISSUES

### Appropriations

Between Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations and funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, PNWA was pleased that many of our projects received funding. For FY2023, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding included \$8.66 billion and provides funding for:

- Investigations - \$172.5 million
- Construction - \$1.8 billion
- Operations and Maintenance - \$5.1 billion
- Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund - \$2.318 billion
- Donor and Energy Transfer Ports - Section 2106(c) \$56 million.
- Regulatory - \$218 million

### Spending Pots

PNWA was pleased to see the appropriations included general discretionary funding pots the Corps uses for work plan development in addition to Congressionally Directed Spending(earmarks). The additional discretionary funding included:

- Navigation - \$32 million
- Deep Draft Harbors & Channels - \$352.4 million
- Small, Remote, Subsistence Navigation - \$65 million
- Other Authorized Project Purposes - \$ 11.3 million

The Administration released the FY2024 budget proposal in March 2023 and it was significantly reduced from the previous year's enacted levels. Congress failed to enact FY2024 appropriations by the September 30, 2023 deadline. The FY2024 appropriations remain under Continuing Resolution through the beginning of March 2024.



Mc Nary Dam Tour



Chittenden Lock Tour





Join us  
in 2024,  
as we  
celebrate  
our  
**90<sup>th</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY

## WRDA & Regulatory

The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) is the legislative vehicle for authorizing U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) projects and changing Corps policy. In 2023, PNWA staff began working with our membership and the Corps to identify policies and project language to target for WRDA 2024.

There are always a number of regulatory challenges and issues related to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act, and Clean Water Act that confront our membership as they seek to balance their economic development and trade missions with waterway environmental stewardship. PNWA and our members continue to advocate for increased regulatory staffing capacity and work with NOAA Fisheries and the Corps to find alternatives for programmatic consultation and mitigation tools that work for ports and waterway users.

- For ESA consultation, long delays due to a lack of regulatory staffing capacity and NOAA Fisheries' new interpretation of environmental baseline and increased mitigation requirement for maintenance projects remain the biggest challenges. NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service proposed new rules for agency coordination on ESA consultation, expansion of critical habitat, and reinstating the 4(d) rule. PNWA and many others submitted comments by the August deadline. The rules are expected to be finalized in April 2024.
- Waters of the United States (WOTUS) remains challenging as 23 states are operating under the 2023 amended definition of WOTUS and 27 states are operating under the pre-2015 WOTUS regime consistent with the Supreme Court's Sackett ruling.
- Delays by state agencies in providing water quality certification (WQC) on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency to comply with the Clean Water Act are a growing area of concern on the regulatory front.

PNWA will continue to advocate to Members of Congress, their staff, and committee staff to address issues with timely, efficient, and predictable permitting with reasonable mitigation requirements, so as not to jeopardize state and federal grant funding and put the Pacific Northwest at a competitive disadvantage.

## Columbia River Treaty

The United States and Canada are renegotiating the Columbia River Treaty, an agreement established in 1964 focused on flood control and hydropower generation along the Columbia River. This collaborative effort aims at revising the treaty to better reflect the current needs and concerns of both nations. The U.S. negotiation team, led by Chief Negotiator Jill Smail, comprises



Representatives from multiple government bodies, including the Department of State, Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwestern Division, the Department of the Interior, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Recent discussions have included town halls and negotiation rounds in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, as part of an ongoing dialogue to modernize the treaty.

With the flood control provisions of the treaty set to expire in September 2024, there is a pressing need for a timely resolution to satisfy stakeholders and manage the river's flow effectively. Back in D.C., PNWA has consistently expressed the urgency of finalizing negotiations to avert potential disruptions to river operations and navigation, irrigation, etc.

At the end of 2023, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted several public information sessions, outlining contingency plans for real-time flood risk management should the negotiations extend beyond the current treaty's flood control expiration date. These sessions underscore the commitment to maintaining effective flood risk management as negotiations progress.

In 2024, PNWA will continue to express urgency to the U.S. negotiating team and congressional delegation to secure a flood control provision prior to its expiration later in 2024.

## Snake River Dams

In 2023 the Inland Ports and Navigation Group (IPNG), continued its participation in the federal government's mediation process led by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services and the White House's Council on Environmental Quality.

During the mediation, PNWA/IPNG submitted public comments, proposals, studies, and multiple letters to the mediation team and numerous government agencies, voicing concern for any dam breaching or fundamental alteration of the Columbia Snake River System.

At the end of this year, the mediation team announced a negotiated deal cut between the federal government and plaintiffs. This deal reaffirms Congress' sole authority to breach the dams and implements a series of commitments to the States of Oregon, and Washington, and the Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Yakama Tribal Nations, collectively known as the "Six Sovereigns."

Looking ahead to 2024, PNWA/IPNG will be working with our congressional delegation and partners in critical oversight of the implementation of these commitments to protect the interests of our membership and highlight this issue and its importance to the region and nation.





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## 2023 Events

### **Mission to Washington D.C.**

*Mayflower Hotel, DC*

79 members joined us for this five-day event. Highlights included meeting with Representatives from Oregon & Washington and OR, WA, & ID Senators.



### **Summer Conference**

*Hotel Indigo, Everett, WA*

102 members joined us for this three-day event. Highlights included luncheon keynote address by WA Lt. Gov. Denny Heck.



### **Annual Convention**

*Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA*

134 members joined us for this three-day event. Highlights included Transportation Today & Tomorrow Panel and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Panel discussions.



## 2024 Upcoming Events

### **Virtual Regional Meetings**

Lower Columbia River  
February 21 at 10:00am – 12:00pm

Inland Columbia River System  
February 21 at 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Oregon Coast  
February 22 at 10:00am – 12:00pm

Puget Sound and Washington Coast  
February 22 at 1:00pm – 3:00pm

### **2024 Mission to Washington D.C.**

March 3-7 at the Mayflower Hotel  
in Washington, D.C.

### **2024 Summer Conference**

June 4-6 at the Holiday Inn  
in Clarkston, WA

### **2024 Annual Convention**

October 1-3 at the Hilton Hotel  
in Vancouver, WA

