



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 130 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, where she worked for U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Senator Bill Bradley. Her political experience also includes work as a legislative assistant for a N.J. State Assemblyman, briefing aide to N.J. Governor Jim Florio, 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.



Heather Stebbings, Government Relations Director

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Heather Stebbings joined the PNWA team in 2006, and currently serves as the association's Government Relations Director. She is PNWA's primary liaison to federal agency and Congressional staff, and is responsible for navigation policy & appropriations. This includes our broad suite of projects on the Columbia Snake River System, in Puget Sound, and along the Oregon and Washington coasts, and policy work on the Water Resources Development Act. Heather currently serves on the Board of Directors for the National Waterways Conference and on the Managing Board of the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee.

Heather graduated in 2000 from the University of Connecticut where she studied Applied Mathematics. Prior to working at PNWA, she planned and managed events in the Pacific Northwest and worked in television programming and promotions in Portland, Maine. Heather makes her home in Portland, Oregon with her husband Paul, son Charlie and daughter Sylvie.



Tereza Edwards, Communications & Membership Manager

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Tereza Edwards joined PNWA in 2014. Tereza assists PNWA membership and staff, plans PNWA events and prepares communications materials.

Tereza graduated from Northern Arizona University, where she received a BA in English. Prior to working at PNWA, she worked in development at several other organizations in Portland. Tereza lives in Portland, Oregon.



Randi Besser, Office Manager

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Randi Besser joined PNWA in 2019 as the association's Office Manager. Randi assists the PNWA membership and staff, plans PNWA events, and manages 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.