



National Watershed Coalition  
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Lisa Knauf Owen, Chair  
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 Dr. Dan Sebert, Executive Director

# National Watershed Coalition

*The National Watershed Coalition is a nonprofit organization composed of national, regional, state, and local organizations, associations and individuals who advocate using watersheds as the planning and implementation unit when dealing with natural resource problems.*

January 2021

Dear Friends,

Your commitment to watershed work and the National Watershed Coalition is an important part of our continuing success. Each year we ask you to consider joining or renewing your NWC membership. The dues you pay make it possible for us to continue our efforts to support our watershed partners through education, advocacy and action. Your NWC membership is important to us and we work hard to produce significant results!



2020 has been a year that we would all like to see “put in the rearview mirror”. That said, with diligence and innovative action 2020 was a good year for the USDA Small Watershed Program and project sponsors across the Nation. As the NWC Chair I know that the success the Watershed Program partnership enjoyed was not a chance occurrence. The Coalition worked at many levels to create an environment for success. Whether in Washington, DC or out in the countryside both our ideas and actions made a difference. Examples include our time spent in Washington D. C. advocating for the Watershed Program and project sponsors as well as the informative educational webinar series we launched in response to restrictions on travel and in person meetings. More than 1200 people participated in our 2020 webinar sessions.

Please see our Website and Facebook page for additional information about our activities and successes this past year. You will also discover a host of resources for project sponsors there.

We also provided distanced assistance and consultation to our members, Watershed and RCPP project sponsors, our partner organizations and to our friends at USDA-NRCS. This aspect of our work has grown as both Federal funding and budgets for local, state and national agency efforts have improved. Our work with our partners has also helped address some of the challenges we all face as they relate to meeting Watershed Program responsibilities. Our Coalition staff along with the tremendous resource our members represent are always just a phone call or an email away. We are always willing to engage and give your needs our very best effort.

The NWC staff and membership continue to spend a growing amount of time and resources with our USDA-NRCS partners through year two of our Cooperative Contribution Agreement. The pandemic has required some changes to planned 2021 agreement activities. I am pleased to note our NRCS partners are working with us to modify plans for the 2021 agreement based activity. Whether we are producing educational materials, providing webinar training, promoting the benefits of watershed work done by our sponsor members or sharing management strategies for watershed work...we are proud of the work, the products and the benefits produced in cooperation with NRCS.

2021 holds great promise for the Coalition and watershed work. Our ability to achieve success in 2021 is tied directly to your participation, input and expertise. The strength of the Coalition is found in the ideas and actions of our members. Please consider joining or renewing your membership. The forms and instructions can be found in this mailing as well as on our website: [www.watershedcoalition.org](http://www.watershedcoalition.org). We're counting on you!

Lisa Knauf Owen, NWC Chair

## 2021 National Conservation and Watershed Conference

The National Watershed Coalition and the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) have scheduled their third joint Conservation Conference for October 2021 in Spokane, Washington. The conference, contingent on a vaccine and a subsiding pandemic, will feature a great mix of conservation and watershed leaders, excellent speakers and an opportunity for the exchange of ideas.

Watch our Facebook page and our website for the latest information on the next national conference.. Fall of 2021.

### With Your Support in 2021 the NWC Will:

- ❖ Continue working with sponsors to build partnerships with agencies and organizations that share common goals and objectives. Partnerships equal strength.
- ❖ Provide project sponsor driven consultation in the effort to streamline and modernize the Watershed Program.
- ❖ Work with NRCS to find ways to accelerate NRCS remedial and repair efforts.
- ❖ Continue to publish information materials about watershed dam rehabilitation. NWC will assist NRCS in updating the national watershed rehabilitation status report to highlight the accomplishments and the needs for rehabilitation of aging watershed dams.
- ❖ Continue to keep USDA-NRCS informed and educated concerning the technical assistance and program support needs of watershed project sponsors.
- ❖ Assist NRCS with training to improve watershed technical assistance delivery and customer service to watershed project sponsors.
- ❖ Build leadership capacity and volunteer opportunities for watershed project sponsors through NWC sponsored activities.
- ❖ Continue to provide individual direct assistance to state watershed coalitions as well as state and local governments.
- ❖ Continue outreach, guidance and consultation with watershed program partners.
- ❖ Work with our partners to find more ways to address operation and maintenance concerns across the nation.
- ❖ Continue to work with national leaders for approval of new projects and funding for existing projects and rehabilitation of aging dams.

