



National Watershed Coalition
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NWC Officers

Tina Hendon, TX, Chair
 Gene Saurborn, WV, Interim Executive Director
 Lisa Knauf Owen, OK, Immediate Past Chair
 Barb Oltjen, KS, Secretary Treasurer
 Dr. Dan Sebert, OK, Senior Policy Advisor

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 2025

As we've said many times before 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. Your contributions make it possible to continue our efforts in support of watershed partnerships through education, advocacy, and action. Your NWC membership is important to us and we work hard to produce significant results!

As we speed toward 2025, we are encouraged about the future. Our staff and leadership have been busy meeting with folks in multiple states and we are looking forward to attending events held by our Watershed Program partners. Planning is also underway for a joint national meeting with our NASCA partners in 2025. Texas will play an important role as they host the 2025 national meeting. We will also return to Decatur, TX in late April/early May 2025 for an in person, hands on training session featuring land rights and easements, O&M and a watershed program field operations session. Your energy, diligence and innovative actions in 2024 leave us with the feeling 2024 was a good year for the USDA Small Watershed Program and project sponsors across the Nation.

As NWC Chair I know 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, our collective ideas and actions made a difference. Examples include time spent in Washington DC advocating for the Watershed Program and project sponsors as well as securing a new cooperative agreement with USDA NRCS to support our efforts to improve program delivery and assist both project sponsors and NRCS partners with meeting their responsibilities.

I am also excited about the opportunities that NWC staff and leadership changes will bring in 2025! We will enter 2025 with fresh perspective, new energy, and an experienced team at the helm. We are expecting great things to happen on several fronts. Among those is a new Farm Bill on the horizon and the content we have seen is a plus for the program and project sponsors.

We continue to upgrade and improve our redesigned Website and Facebook page as an easily accessible source for Watershed Sponsor resources and educational materials. A host of resources for project sponsors and several Program success stories with information about how the sponsors found project success continue to be added there.

So please consider joining or renewing your membership. Join us in improving and shaping both the Program and our Nation's landscape. Our members are our most important resource! **As you've requested, membership dues can now be paid by credit card online!**
www.watershedcoalition.org

We look forward to hearing from you!

Tina Hendon *H.C.S.*



NWC Leadership Changes for 2025

The National Watershed Coalition Executive Committee announces several staffing and leadership changes for 2025. Long-time NWC Executive Director Dan Sebert will transition to the position of NWC Senior Policy Advisor in January.

Gene Saurborn-WV, current NWC Vice-Chair, will step forward as Interim Executive Director. Tina Hendon-TX, NWC Chair, will assume added responsibilities as the Special Projects Coordinator for Administration, Agreements and Financial Management.

With Your Support in 2025 the NWC Will:

- ❖ Conduct workshops and webinars on Operation and Maintenance of Dams, Land Rights, Easement Management, PFIR Development, EWP and other areas of watershed project management and sponsor responsibilities.
- ❖ Continue working with sponsors to build partnerships with agencies and organizations that share common goals and objectives. Partnerships equal strength.
- ❖ Work with NRCS to find ways to accelerate NRCS remedial and repair efforts.
- ❖ Continue to publish information materials about watershed dam rehabilitation
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ We will provide individual direct assistance to state watershed coalitions as well as state and local governments.

