

## NWC POLICY PROCESS/COMMITTEES/CAUCUSES/WORK GROUPS

This document explains how NWC policy positions are formulated and the role of committees, caucuses, and work groups within NWC.

**ABOUT NWC.** The National Waterways Conference is the only national organization to advocate in favor of national policy and laws that recognize the vital importance of America's water resources infrastructure to our nation's well-being and quality of life. Our membership represents a full spectrum of water resources stakeholders, including navigation, inland and deep draft ports and waterways, flood control associations, levee boards, waterways shippers and carriers, industry and regional associations, shipyards, dredging contractors, regional water supply districts, hydropower producers, engineering consultants and state and local governments.

**LEGISLATIVE POLICY COMMITTEE (LPC).** The LPC is NWC's primary arbitrator on federal policy positions. The committee meets once a month on the *first Thursday of the month at 4pm ET* to discuss federal regulatory and legislative happenings and meets at NWC's Legislative Summit and Annual Meeting as needed. Format: someone gives a federal update; caucus chairs may give caucus updates; open the floor to general discussion and intel from membership. LPC is open to all interested NWC members.

**NWC CAUCUSES.** NWC caucuses play a prominent role in advising LPC on federal issue-specific positions the caucuses would like NWC to consider. The caucuses are tasked with drafting potential federal policy positions, fact sheets, and letters. The deliverables originate with the caucus or can be referred to the caucuses by LPC.

Additionally, the caucuses provide an opportunity for the membership to share best practices, network with peers, discuss relevant industry challenges and opportunities and develop thought leadership separate from federal policy discussions. While the caucuses may give status reports on LPC's calls, the caucuses have free-standing meetings separate from LPC.

There is no cost to belong to an NWC caucus (or multiple caucuses). Caucuses are an NWC member benefit and anyone from a member organization can join them.

The caucuses are as follows:

- **Navigation Caucus.** The NWC Navigation Caucus supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and all federal agencies whose authorizations, policies, and legislative mandates impact the navigation channels across the nation. Our goal is to facilitate the fluid movement of commerce by collaborating with federal agencies and industry to ensure the viability of the coastal and inland river navigation systems by working with Congress to secure funding for construction and ongoing operations and maintenance for USACE projects. *NWC's Navigation Caucus meets on a quarterly basis or as needed.*
  - Chair: Kristin Meira, American Cruise Lines
  - Vice Chair: (VACANT)

- **Flood Control Caucus.** The Flood Control and Management Caucus is charged with examining issues tied to flood management and flood control for waterways and levees nationally. Primary federal agencies of interest include but are not limited to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. *NWC's Navigation Caucus meets on a quarterly basis or as needed.*
  - Chair: Rick Johnson, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
- **Water Supply/Reuse Caucus.** The Water Supply/Reuse Caucus is tasked with studying issues that pertain to water supply storage and reuse issues. Primary federal agencies of interest include but are not limited to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Bureau of Reclamation. *NWC's Navigation Caucus meets on a quarterly basis or as needed.*
  - Vice Chair: Vincent Gin, Valley Water
- **Hydropower Caucus.** The Hydropower Caucus is responsible for considering issues surrounding dams and hydropower. Primary federal agencies of interest include but are not limited to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Bureau of Reclamation and National Marine Fisheries Service.

**How caucuses will function.** Each caucus will have a chair and vice chairs. Caucus chairs and vice chairs will be decided by NWC's Executive Committee. Chair and vice-chair terms will run from NWC Annual Meeting to Annual Meeting.

Each of the caucuses will determine its meeting schedules. These meetings will be member-run, by the chair and/or vice chair(s) and include discussion, speakers, or an alternative format. The caucuses may propose federal policy statements and/or draft letters on behalf of NWC, but do not have the authority to enact policy positions on NWC's behalf.

Additionally, caucus members are encouraged to share opportunities, challenges, and best practices and explore solutions to complex problems at the federal, regional, and local levels through face-to-face and virtual meetings, as well as information sharing between meetings.

**How caucuses work with LPC.** While caucuses are run separately from LPC, all matters relating to NWC's stance on federal laws and regulations must be vetted through LPC. During the LPC call, each of the caucuses may give a high-level overview of their current projects/focus.

On cross-cutting issues of jurisdiction, the caucuses are tasked with working with other NWC caucuses, to ensure that potential issues are addressed before being presented to LPC for review. Since NWC is a consensus-based organization, if there is a disagreement among the membership on a specific policy, it is the responsibility of the caucuses and the membership to examine and negotiate the issues of disagreement before LPC or NWC can weigh in.

If there are areas where consensus cannot be reached and/or are too controversial, NWC may abstain from weighing in on the issue.

**NWC WORK GROUPS.** NWC work groups may be formed on cross-cutting issues that do not easily fit into the LPC or caucus structure and are intended for issues that cut across caucuses. Currently, NWC has two working groups on Section 408 permissions and changes to Public Law 84-99.

**For more information or to join LPC, an NWC caucus or work group,** contact Julie Ufner, NWC President at [julie@waterways.org](mailto:julie@waterways.org) or 703.203.4795.