



Citizen activism is strong among the members of **Min River Waterkeeper**, who recently led [another exploration](#) of local riverbanks!

October 2, 2017 | The Waterkeeper Weekly is the weekly internal newsletter of Waterkeeper Alliance, aimed at keeping Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates around the world connected to each other's great work and activities.

General Updates

Waterkeeper Alliance is Hiring!

Waterkeeper Alliance is hiring for an Organizer in the North Atlantic & Chesapeake Regions. The Organizer is responsible for ensuring the needs of Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates are met, uniting them as a powerful force, and organizing their collective action. As a liaison for Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates in the North Atlantic/Chesapeake regions, the Organizer coordinates and promotes the work of all of Waterkeeper Alliance's grassroots advocates. [View the job posting here.](#)

Do You Have A Waterkeeper Training & Resource Library Card?

The [Waterkeeper Training & Resource Library](#) is an online service for Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates around the globe, giving you the opportunity to view, download and share templates, links, videos, and images. [Request your library card here.](#)

Upcoming Webinars

The Art of Hearing

October 3, 2017 | 11am PT/2pm ET

Presenter: Fred Tutman, [Patuxent Riverkeeper](#)

Does your watershed organization serve the full spectrum of diverse communities in the watershed, or does it just preach to them from a perspective that normalizes the usual demographics of a white, funded and class-driven conservation movement? We will explore how to best weave the needs of the grassroots, underserved and the under-represented into our organizational values and in all of the watershed work that we do. [Click here to register.](#)

How to Turn Your Media Interview into Messaging

October 10, 2017 | 11am PST/2pm EST

Presenter: Jamie Hampton, [Mixte Communications](#)

We're sorry to say, but relying on your vast environmental and legal knowledge isn't going to prepare you to deliver your best messaging through a media interview. Every interview is an opportunity to prepare, practice, and perform, and that takes time and planning to get right. But where do you start? Learn the five essential steps to build your confidence and turn your media interview into a messaging success. [Click here to register.](#)

Campaign Updates

Clean and Safe Energy

ELG Rule

Waterkeeper Alliance and partners [filed a lawsuit against](#) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for withholding critical information about the Trump administration's swift attempt to roll back safeguards against America's leading source of toxic water pollution: coal power plants. Coal plants all over the country dump toxic chemicals into rivers, lakes, and streams that millions of Americans use for drinking water and recreation, yet [EPA is illegally refusing to provide the public with key information](#) on why it's scrapping new safeguards to protect public health from water contamination. To find out why the agency would take an action so contrary to the public's interest, we filed a FOIA request in April asking EPA to provide the documents that led to the decision to allow more toxic coal waste dumping in America's waterways. Four months later, despite acknowledging that it has hundreds, if not thousands, of documents that are responsive to the request, the EPA has produced only one document — and much of that document was inked out before releasing.

Coal Export

We're celebrating a big coal export victory! The Washington Department of Ecology [denied a key permit](#) needed for Millennium Bulk Terminals to build what would have been the largest coal export terminal in North America. The decision, which effectively halts the project, cited multiple environmental and health care concerns. Big congratulations to **Columbia Riverkeeper**, **Waterkeepers Washington** and the Power Past Coal coalition for this enormous victory!

Clean Water Defense

Democracy Initiative

Waterkeeper Alliance joined the [Democracy Initiative](#), a coalition of groups fighting for a better, more inclusive democratic process in the United States. As part of this coalition, we seek to make government actually serve the people – not just the wealthy and powerful. Supporting voting rights and getting big money out of politics go hand in hand with fighting for drinkable, fishable, and swimmable water. The only way to truly hold polluters accountable and protect our waterways is through a government that actually reflects the will of **“We the People.”**

WOTUS Comments

Waterkeeper Alliance, **115 Waterkeeper Organizations and Affiliates**, and partners [submitted comments](#) to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers urging the agencies to withdraw their Proposed Rule and meaningfully engage the public and states in any future process to review, rescind or revise the definition of **“waters of the United States”** (WOTUS). The Proposed Rule violates the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Administrative Procedure Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, and clearly ignores Congress’s intent for the CWA to fully protect the nation’s waters and aquatic ecosystems.

Pure Farms, Pure Waters

Senior Attorney **Kelly Hunter Foster** spoke this week at the [19th National Environmental Conference at Tar Creek](#), co-organized **Tar Creekkeeper** and **Grand Riverkeeper**. She presented on impacts to water quality from national nutrient pollution and industrial livestock production. **Savannah Riverkeeper** Tonya Bonitatibus also spoke at the conference, giving a presentation on pipeline resistance.

Waterkeepers Around The World

- **Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper** is giving locals a hands-on, feet-wet opportunity to do [citizen science](#).
- Saving rivers from Bangladesh to the U.S. — on September 24th, community members of Jackson Heights, NY participated in a [human chain](#) organized by **Surma River Waterkeeper** of Sylhet, Bangladesh.
- While **St. Johns Riverkeeper’s** lawsuit against dredging the river is [pending](#), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$22.8 million contract for the first phase of harbor deepening to begin in December.
- **Boulder Creek, a Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate** participated in a [Code for America National Day of Civic Hacking](#) event guiding the design of a **“Water Everywhere,”** an application that will be developed locally and made available nationally to provide smartphone and website functionality for watershed education, community water issue management and personal water consumption details.
- Sewage plants in Alabama will now have to meet [tighter limits for E. coli](#) bacteria in order to make it safer to swim and fish in creeks across the state. Several nonprofit water advocacy organizations, including **Black Warrior Riverkeeper, Coosa Riverkeeper, Cahaba Riverkeeper, Choctawhatchee Riverkeeper, Hurricane Creekkeeper, Little River Waterkeeper, Mobile Baykeeper** and **Tennessee Riverkeeper**, successfully compelled the state’s government to improve the rules.
- **O’ahu Waterkeeper** gave **Qiantang River Waterkeeper** students a [crash course](#) in water issues on Maui — including the closing of the last sugar plantation in Hawai’i.
- Congratulations to **Qiantang River Waterkeeper** Hao Xin for [winning](#) the China Youth May Fourth Medal and the China Ecological Civilization Award!
- **San Francisco Baykeeper** and others sued the [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) to challenge the legality of a state permit that would allow the controversial Delta tunnels project to kill endangered salmon.
- **Mahanadi River Waterkeeper** Ranjan Panda [discusses the dangers](#) of the Hirakud Dam, Asia’s longest earthen dam, in the face of climate change.
- An [unknown black substance](#) was found flowing in Brampton Creek, where **Lake Ontario Waterkeeper** has been working to save the Redside Dace, an endangered minnow.

- **Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper's** living shoreline is early in its formation, but already has a group of [red-eared slider turtles](#) gearing up for move in!

Legislative Updates (U.S.)

Budget Update:

We could see the text of the Senate EPA budget bill this week, so we will likely be adding more information and materials to the [EPA Budget toolkit](#) in the coming weeks and reaching out about actions.

NEPA:

Both Congress and the Administration are [taking aim at NEPA](#), seeking to limit and fast-track environmental review. Federal agencies, including the Council on Environmental Quality, are acting on President Trump's infrastructure Executive Order, and are starting to rewrite NEPA regulations and guidance. At the same time, many infrastructure bills in Congress also seek to exclude or fast-track environmental review. We are keeping a close eye on these developments, and in the meantime urge you all to watch out for agencies cutting corners while doing their environmental reviews under NEPA.

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