Northwest Section Q3 Meeting

Course ID TBD

July 23rd, 2025

Location: Brightwater Community/Hearth Room including a tour at Brightwater

22505 State Route 9 S.E. Woodinville, WA 98072-6010

8:30-8:45am	**Welcome! General Section Business &** **NW Section Operator of the Year Award Presentation**
8:45-9:45am	**BNR at Chambers Creek** *Laurie Pierce- Operations Manager - Chamber Creek Sewer Division*
9:45-10:45am	**The Evolution of BNR at LOTT** *Paul Jue – LOTT WWTP*
10:45-11:45am	**The State of Nutrients in the Puget Sound** *Amanda McInnis – Jacobs*
11:45-12:45pm	**Panel Discussion & Lunch** *All speakers on panel* *****Lunch Served During Panel Discussion*****
1:00-3:00pm	**Tour Brightwater WWTP Facility**

The Northwest Section Officers are:

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Section website address: **http://nwwos.pncwa.org/**

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BNR at Chambers Creek

Speaker: *Laurie Pierce*

This presentation will address BRN optimization and side stream treatment efforts implemented at Chambers Creek WWTP.

The Evolution of BNR at LOTT

Speaker: *Paul Jue*

In the early 1990s, Budd Inlet was identified as an endangered waterbody, suffering from low dissolved oxygen levels caused by excessive nitrogen loading and algal growth. This challenge spurred LOTT to make a significant shift—from a pure oxygen treatment process focused on BOD and TSS removal to a full-scale nitrogen removal facility.

LOTT's journey has been one of continuous improvement. As we steadily enhanced effluent quality, our permit limits tightened—from 5 mg/L to 3 mg/L total inorganic nitrogen. And as we look ahead, we're preparing for even more stringent Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements in 2026, which will further limit both BOD and total inorganic nitrogen.

To meet these evolving challenges, LOTT has invested in state-of-the-art instrumentation, real-time monitoring systems, and advanced control algorithms to optimize nitrification and denitrification. These technologies have allowed us to fine-tune process control, improve treatment efficiency, and ensure compliance with tightening permit requirements—all while supporting the long-term health of Budd Inlet. Today, I'll walk you through LOTT's history, the technical strategies we've implemented, and how we're preparing for the future.

The State of Nutrients in the Puget Sound

Speaker: *Amanda McInnis*

Amanda will provide a brief history of Nutrient Regulation in Puget Sound, including the 2021 Puget Sound Nutrient permit. In addition, she will provide an overview of the Puget Sound Advanced Restoration Plan (set to be published in June) and possible next steps for both the 2025 Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit and dischargers seeking to comply with their individual permits.

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Speaker: *Laurie Pierce* & Kevin Randich
Planning and Public Works
Pierce County
laurie.pierce@piercecountywa.gov
kevin.randich@piercecountywa.gov

Kevin Randich has the distinction of being the youngest Operator to earn his Group IV in Washington State. He has worked for Pierce County for 6 years, the last two of which have been as an operations supervisor. Kevin started his wastewater career as a summer hire in Aberdeen where he became a certified operator, then he worked for the City of Wenatchee before coming to the county. Kevin and his wife Claire live in Tumwater with their 18-month-old son Jack (who consults on our Process Control Meetings when his schedule allows). Jack is a very busy guy!

Lauri Pierce is a group IV operator with over 30 years of experience in Biological Nutrient Removal, Reclaimed Water, Groundwater Recharge, Membrane Bioreactors and Utility/Facility & Personnel Management. She holds a bachelor's degree in business management. She is a Washington native and decedent of pioneers. In her spare time, Lauri enjoys cooking gardening, camping, spending time with her granddaughter and spending time on the water or beach with her friend and family.

Speaker: *Matt Linder & Paul Jue*
LOTT Clean Water Alliance
mattlinder@lottcleanwater.org
pauljue@lottcleanwater.org

Matt Linder serves as the Process Control Lead at LOTT Clean Water Alliance in Olympia, Washington. He began his career with LOTT as an Operator Apprentice in 2018 and has held his current role since 2021. In this capacity, Matt plays a key role in overseeing the biological nutrient removal (BNR) processes at the Budd Inlet Treatment Plant. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Health Science from the University of California, Irvine.

Paul Jue is the Process Control Supervisor at the LOTT Clean Water Alliance in Olympia, Washington. Since joining LOTT in 1992, Paul Jue has been instrumental in optimizing biological nutrient removal (BNR) processes in a four-stage Bardenpho system, focusing on enhancing nitrogen removal while managing operational challenges such as septage impacts, heavy metal inhibition, and seasonal process instability. Paul Jue holds a master's degree in environmental microbiology from the University of Oregon and is passionate about integrating innovative tools like BioWin and AI models with SCADA systems to improve real-time process control and data-driven decision-making in wastewater treatment.

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Speaker: Amanda McInnis P.E. (MT, WA)
Jacobs
Water Growth Strategies Leader
Missoula, MT
406-546-4806
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Amanda McInnis is a senior project manager at Jacobs. She was the project manager for the Association of Washington Cities' work on completing Nutrient Reduction Evaluations for 23 Puget Sound dischargers. She does primarily facilities planning and water quality work.