



2021 Membership Survey Takeaways

1. ACWA received 82 responses from 43 states, interstates, and affiliates. Here are the responses broken down:
 - a. 29 Primary Members
 - b. 48 Associate Members (State staff)
 - c. 5 Affiliate Members
2. The highest-ranked ACWA services in terms of usefulness were:
 - a. Topic Specific Workshops/Trainings (Weighted average: 4.48)
 - b. Conference Calls & Webinars (Weighted average: 4.42)
 - c. Weekly Wrap (Weighted average: 4.29)
3. The lowest-ranked ACWA services in terms of usefulness were:
 - a. LEADS (Weighted average: 1.88)
 - b. New Experts Directory (Weighted average: 2.34)
 - c. Member365 (Weighted average: 2.42)
4. Other suggested services ACWA could provide included:
 - a. ACWA Committee Directory ([Committees | Association of Clean Water Administrators](#))
 - b. Permit Writers' Clearinghouse ([NPDES Permit Writers' Clearinghouse \(epa.gov\)](#))
 - c. Better understanding and management of communications
 - d. New member/user guide to familiarize first-time ACWA participants with the full depth and breadth of the Association's work
 - e. Legislation tracking
 - f. Clearinghouse of EPA-approved Water Quality Standards Variances, Site-specific criteria, and reclassification approvals
 - g. Permit writing support (by permit type to discuss issues and innovations, like at a SW Roundtable)
 - h. Weekly Wrap suggestion: one response indicated that all updates should be given in the Weekly Wrap rather than through numerous emails during the week
 - i. A compendium of related issues and how agencies/organizations have addressed them (ideally searchable by keywords)
 - j. More groundwater and GW/SW-interaction related items
5. One respondent indicated that ACWA's Committees, Workgroups, and Task Forces do not adequately address the issues facing states/interstates. Suggestions for updates:
 - a. Workgroup focused on wastewater reuse issues/ Water Reuse Action Plan
 - b. GW/SW interaction workgroup –bridging the programmatic divide
 - c. Tire wear – toxic chemical 6PPD-Quinone just identified as a cause of urban runoff mortality in Coho salmon with possible impacts to other species

- d. Periodically update contacts/managers in emails to ensure the most current leadership are represented
 - e. “I didn’t know some of these committees even existed. Maybe there is a way of reporting progress our outcomes of these committees in an easy-to-digest manner?” (Annual Report Page)
6. 15 respondents offered suggestions for other organizations and stakeholders with which ACWA should be **more** involved. Suggestions included ASDWA, ASWM, AWRA, ECOS, ITRC, NASDA, NACWA, WEF, WQSMA, WRF, and WSWC.
7. The top 6 CWA programmatic issues members identified:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waters of the U.S., Navigable Water Protection Rule NPDES Program Implementation and Permit Updates Nutrients Issues Across all Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TMDL Development, Prioritization, Implementation, and Legal Challenges eReporting, SNC, and ICIS Modernization WQS, Criteria, Variances, and Associated Litigation |
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8. 6 respondents (7.32%) indicated that they had noticed a change in ACWA’s services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. The following statements were given in response to a prompt regarding the value of their organization’s membership with ACWA:
- a. “Being a member and participating in ACWA provides invaluable connections with other state sister agencies and personnel and federal partners.”
 - b. “ACWA provides a forum to share information and ideas to discuss important and relevant issues in our states and bring back innovations and solutions to implement CWA programs at home.”
 - c. “I value the relationships that I have built through ACWA. It has not only enriched my professional career but has also provided critical resources and tools to protect clean water in my state.”
 - d. “Participation in ACWA provides member states a wealth of resources to help in implementing Clean Water Act programs as well as a voice to be heard with policy makers at EPA and in Congress.”
 - e. “The collective states’ voice speaks louder than any individual state.”
 - f. “Having access to managers in other states has been invaluable in preparing proposals for statewide regulations and permits. My board always wants to know what other states are doing on issues that staff bring before them.”
 - g. “ACWA is more valuable to me than any other organization I deal with (including EPA)”
 - h. “As a manager of a NPDES-delegated program (402) as it relates to compliance, enforcement and data tracking, I believe ACWA's services are essential to the success of a State that is carrying out USEPA's role.”
10. When asked if there are any other operational or member services opportunities they’d like to introduce, respondents said the following:
- a. A little more hand holding. Need help identifying issues ACWA staff think we need to pay **close** attention. There is a lot of “noise”. An email blast can work many times, maybe a call, text, or individual email that says, "Pay close attention!!”
 - b. Having ACWA support federal trainings like the Water Quality Standards Academy (or TMDL Training Academy) may further support members in the future.