



# **ACWA 2017 Annual Meeting**

## **August 20-23, 2017**

### **Hilton Burlington Hotel**

### **Burlington, VT**

***Building Bridges for Water Quality***

#### **Sunday August 20, 2017**

Board of Directors Meeting  
*Lake Champlain Salon*  
Board of Directors/ Committee Leadership Social Activity  
Coach Barn @ Shelburne Farms

#### **Monday August 21, 2017**

***Open Sessions - ACWA Members, Federal Partners,  
Stakeholder Groups, and Invited Guests Welcome***

7:00 - 8:00 AM  
*North Pre-function*

**Registration**

*Adirondack C&D*

Continental Breakfast Available

8:00 - 8:15 AM  
*Adirondack A&B*

**Welcome**  
Pete LaFlamme, ACWA President

8:15 - 8:30 AM

**Keynote Presentation**  
Governor of Vermont

The Honorable Phil Scott

8:30 – 10:00 AM

**Innovations in Water Infrastructure Funding & Financing**

The CWSRF is an extremely successful federal-state-local partnership. Projects supported by the SRF deliver significant environmental, economic, and public health benefits nationwide. This session will highlight innovative CWSRF projects that show that the CWSRF is flexible, effective, and able to meet the complex and diverse water quality needs of communities of all sizes and levels of sophistication. A discussion on strengthening collaboration and coordination among water quality programs and state financing authorities will also occur.

Speakers:

**Jay Manning P.E.**, Office of Water Resources, Rhode Island  
Department of Environmental Management

**Shellie Chard**, Division Director, Water Quality Division, Oklahoma  
Department of Environmental Quality

**Raffael Stein**, Director, Water Infrastructure Division, Office of  
Wastewater Management, U.S. EPA

**Amanda Waters**, General Counsel, National Association of Clean  
Water Agencies

10:00 AM

**BREAK**

10:30 – 12:00 PM

**Integrated Planning & Permitting: The role of the states**

In June 2012, EPA issued a framework promoting an integrated planning approach for wastewater and stormwater. The CWA, implementing regulations, and associated guidance provide flexibility to implement an integrated planning process, yet there are also still significant challenges associated with developing and approving an integrated plan/permit. Presenters will provide an overview of their experiences developing integrated plans or permits and the role state regulators played in the process.

Speakers:

**Gene Forbes**, Director, Water Division, New Hampshire  
Department of Environmental Services

**Megan Moir**, *Water Resources Division Head*, Department of  
Public Works, Burlington, VT

**Karen McGuire**, Office of Environmental Stewardship, US EPA, Region 1

**Fred Andes, Esq.**, Partner, Barnes & Thornburg LLP

12:00 - 1:30 PM  
*Adirondack C&D*

Lunch Provided for Attendees  
Awards Ceremony

1:30 - 2:30 PM

**Water Quality & Farm Bill Reauthorization**

Created by the 2014 Farm Bill, RCPP investments have already driven 199 partner-led projects by leveraging local leadership to establish partnerships that can include private companies, local and tribal governments, universities, non-profits and other non-government partners to work with farmers, ranchers and forest landowners on landscape- and watershed-scale conservation solutions that work best for their region. As Congress begins debating reauthorization of the Farm Bill, panelists will address strengths and weakness and opportunities for the next iteration of the program.

Speakers:

**Britt Aasmundstad**, Manager of Public Policy, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture

**Amanda Waters**, General Counsel, National Association of Clean Water Agencies

**Marli Rupe**, Assistant Manager, Clean Water Initiative Program, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

**Mark Patrick McGuire**, Environmental Program Manager, Association of Clean Water Administrators

2:30 PM

**BREAK**

**Partial Solar Eclipse Viewing Opportunity**

Here in Vermont, The Great American Eclipse will cause 65% solar coverage. Pick up your solar eclipse glasses at the registration desk and enjoy the show!

3:00 - 4:00 PM

**Results of Assumable Waters Federal Advisory Committee**

In a 2014 letter to U.S. EPA, three state associations requested the EPA to provide clarity on the question of over which waters a state or tribe may assume Clean Water Act section 404 permitting authority. In response, and for the purpose of making recommendations to EPA on how the agency might provide such

clarity, EPA established the Assumable Waters Subcommittee under NACEPT and in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). In June 2016, The Assumable Waters Subcommittee to the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) official submitted their final report to Administrator Pruitt for consideration. The Subcommittee came to a majority and minority set of recommendations, with all members but the USACE agreeing to the majority recommendations.

Speakers:

**John Goodin**, Acting Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Collis Adams**, Wetlands Bureau Administrator, New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services

**Julian Gonzalez**, Environmental Program Manager, ACWA

4:00 PM

**ADJOURN**

6:00 - 9:00 PM

**Reception**

Sunset Cruise on Lake Champlain

**\*\*RSVP Required at the time of registration\*\***

**Presenter:** John Krueger, Chair, Lake Champlain Basin Program Heritage Area Partnership Advisory Committee, and member of the Lake Champlain Steering Committee

## **Tuesday August 22, 2017**

***Closed Sessions - Open ONLY to States and Invited Federal Partners***

7:00 - 8:00 AM

*North Pre-function*

**Registration**

*Adirondack C&D*

Continental Breakfast Available

8:00 - 9:00 AM

*Adirondack A&B*

**Review of ACWA & Administration Priorities Identified during 2017 Mid-Year Meeting**

At the 2017 ACWA Mid-Year meeting, attendees were asked to identify ACWA's top priorities for engagement with EPA and our other federal partners, including Congress. We will revisit these priorities to set up the discussions for the remainder of the meeting. The Office of Water will also provide updates on the

Office's top priorities for working with the states. Office of Water Leadership will join us to provide an update on these priorities now that it has been six months since Administrator Pruitt was appointed and announced the *Back to Basics Agenda*.

Speakers:

**Jennifer Wigal**, ACWA Incoming President, Water Quality Program Manager, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
**Benita Best-Wong**, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water

9:00 - 10:00 AM

**Assessment & Decision-making: How do we create more robust Integrated Reports?**

This session will explore the challenges and obstacles surrounding how states and EPA can build more robust integrated reports. Existing policies and methodologies may need updating based upon new information and/or technologies to ensure that states have adequate information for decision-making and that the policies are not dis-incentivizing data collection.

Speakers:

**Jeff Manning**, Chief of Classifications, Standards & Rules Review Branch, Water Planning Section, Division of Water Resources, North Carolina Dept. of Environment & Natural Resources  
**Jennifer Wigal**, Water Quality Program Manager, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality  
**Betsy Behl**, Director, Health and Ecological Criteria Division, US EPA  
**Tom Wall**, Director, Watershed Restoration, Assessment and Protection Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, US EPA

10:00 AM

**BREAK**

10:30 – 12:00 PM

**Nutrients, HABs & Water Quality: Activities Update from the Office of Water**

Representatives from the Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Science and Technology and Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds will provide updates on how the Office of Water is working to address nutrient pollution and discuss opportunities for partnering with states.

Speakers:

**Connie Brower**, Water Quality Standards Coordinator, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

**Betsy Behl**, Director, Health and Ecological Criteria Division, US EPA

**Sara Hisel-McCoy**, Director, Standards and Health Protection Division, Office of Science and Technology, US EPA

**Deborah Nagle**, Director, Water Permits Division, Office of Wastewater Management, US EPA

**Tom Wall**, Director, Watershed Restoration, Assessment and Protection Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, US EPA

**Mark Patrick McGuire**, Environmental Program Manager, Association of Clean Water Administrators

12:00 – 1:30 PM  
*Adirondack C&D*

Lunch – Provided for attendees

Tables will be reserved for Regions and Interstates to sit together during lunch to discuss issues impacting the regions.

1:30 – 3:00 PM

**ACWA Nutrients Policy Committee Updates: Nutrients Progress Tracker V.1; POTW Optimization Survey**

A joint state/EPA workgroup has been working over the past several years on providing a forum to help states and EPA better understand varied challenges, limitations, areas for flexibility, and potential solutions for making more progress towards reducing nutrient pollution. As a result of this coordination, the workgroup has pursued several efforts including developing a Nutrients Progress Tracker and ACWA's role in EPA's National Study of Nutrient Removal and Secondary Technologies. This session will provide an overview and update on these efforts.

Speakers:

**Adam Schnieders**, Water Quality Resource Coordinator, Iowa Dept. Natural Resources

**Trisha Oeth**, Administrator, Water Quality Control Commission Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board, Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment

**Tom Wall**, Director, Watershed Restoration, Assessment and Protection Division, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, US EPA

**Robert K. Wood**, Director, Engineering and Analysis Division, Office of Water, US EPA

3:00 – 4:00 PM

**Data Advances for WQ: implications and status of WQF, Water Quality Portal and ATTAINS advances for state and federal monitoring and assessment**

This session will cover continued advances in the Water Quality Framework, including how the newly released ATTAINS will improve electronic reporting of water quality assessments, impaired waters decisions, and TMDLs. There will be additional discussion on both state and EPA advances in developing automated, open-source tools to perform water quality analyses leveraging the Water Quality Portal. Lastly, there will be a discussion on effectively communicating the water quality story to the public and efforts under the Water Quality Framework to accomplish this.

Speakers:

**Dwane Young**, Chief, Water Data Integration Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Leslie McGeorge**, New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection  
**Julian Gonzalez**, Environmental Program Manager, ACWA

4:00 – 5:30 PM

**Proposed NPDES Updates Rule - Next Steps**

ACWA has been working closely with the Office of Wastewater Management as the agency considers updates to the NPDES program. Representatives from the ACWA state technical workgroup and EPA will discuss the status of the proposed rule, options EPA is considering based on state feedback, state implementation challenges, and state recommendations associated with process and next steps.

Speakers:

**Deborah Nagle**, Director, Water Permits Division, Office of Wastewater Management, US EPA

**Sharmin Syed**, Water Permits Division, Office of Wastewater Management, US EPA

**Peter Goodmann**, Director, Division of Water, Kentucky Department of Environmental Protection

**Pete LaFlamme**, Director, Watershed Management Division, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

**Sean Rolland**, Deputy Director, ACWA

5:30 PM

**Closing Remarks**

6:00 - 8:00 PM  
*Seasons on the Lake*

**Reception: White Elephant**

The tradition continues! Bring an item (~≤ \$10) that represents your home state and if it has to do with water even better for our Annual Wild & Crazy White Elephant Swap!

Host:

**Martha Clark Mettler**, ACWA Past President, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

## **Wednesday August 23, 2017**

*Closed Sessions - Open ONLY to States and Invited Federal Partners*

### **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING & MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP**

7:00 - 8:00 AM  
*North Pre-Function*

**Registration**

*Adirondack C&D*

Continental Breakfast Available

8:00 - 8:30 AM  
*Adirondack A&B*

**Introduction to New ACWA Website and Member Portal**

8:30 - 9:00 AM

**Teller's Report, Welcome of New Officers & Board Members**

**Martha Clark Mettler**, ACWA Past President, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

9:00 - 9:15 AM

**Executive Director's Report**

**Julia Anastasio**, ACWA Executive Director & General Counsel

9:15 - 9:40 AM

**Treasurer's Report**

**Carlton Haywood**, ACWA Treasurer, Executive Director, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin

9:40 - 10:15 AM

**President's Report & Remarks**



**Pete LaFlamme**, ACWA President, Director, Watershed Management Division, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

10:15 - 10:30 AM

**Closing Remarks**

**Jennifer Wigal**, ACWA Incoming President, Water Quality Program Manager, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

10:30 AM

**BREAK**

10:45 - 12:00 PM

**Waters of the U. S.: State Input Session**

On February 28, 2017 to direct federal agencies to roll back and replace the Obama Administration’s Clean Water Rule – also known as the “Waters of the U.S.” or WOTUS. To meet the objectives of the executive order, federal agencies are following a two-step process that will provide as much certainty as possible, as quickly as possible, to the regulated community and the public during the development of the replacement rule. ACWA has been working with the Office of Water and trying to provide guidance and advice on development of a new rule.

Speakers:

**John Goodin**, Acting Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**Collis Adams**, Wetlands Bureau Administrator, New Hampshire

**Martha Clark Mettler**, ACWA Past President, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

**Jon Tack**, Water Quality Bureau Chief, Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources

12:00 PM

**Annual Meeting Adjourns**

*Thanks for joining us at the 56th Annual Meeting!  
Safe travels home and save the date for upcoming meetings & workshops!*

**ACWA Variance Workshop**  
November 16 - 17, 2017  
Morrison and Clark Historic Inn

Washington, DC

**2017 National NPDES**

***Program Managers Meeting***  
*October 31 – November 2, 2017*

*Tommy Douglas Conference Center*  
*Silver Spring, MD*

***2018 National Stormwater Roundtable***  
*February 21 - 22, 2018*  
*Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott*  
*Atlanta, GA*

***2018 Mid-Year Meeting***  
*March 18 - 21, 2018*  
*Hilton Garden Inn, US Capitol Hill*

Thank you to our Annual Meeting Planning Committee for their guidance and assistance in putting the agenda together for the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting: Pete LaFlamme (VT); Jennifer Wigal (OR); Gene Forbes (NH); Mick Khuns (ME); Bob Brown (MA); and Jeff Manning (NC).