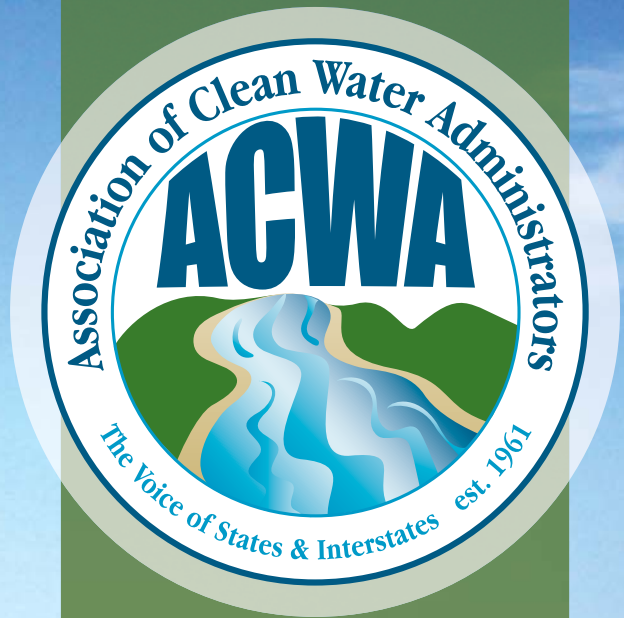
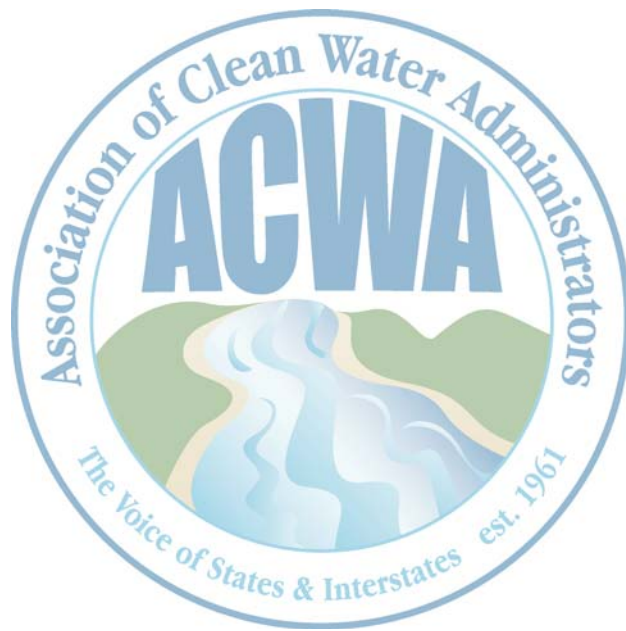


Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015







Annual Report Fiscal Year 2015

Table of Contents

Section 1: Association Overview

Letter from ACWA's President	2
Letter from ACWA's Executive Director and General Counsel	3
ACWA Membership	4
About ACWA, History, and Mission	5
ACWA Leadership and Staff	6
ACWA Subscribers and Sponsors	6

Section 2: Regulatory, Legislative, & Programmatic Accomplishments

Permitting and Compliance	7
Monitoring, Standards and Assessment	9
Watersheds and TMDLs	9
Nonpoint Source and § 319	10
Nutrients Policy	11
Water Resources Management and Legal Affairs	13
Funding and Congressional Affairs	14

Section 3: Awards

Awards	15
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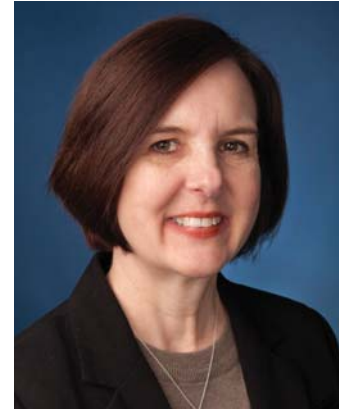
Section 4: Fiscal Snapshot

FY2015/FY2016 Revenue and Expenses Charts	16
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Letter to the Membership from President Martha Clark Mettler

Dear Colleagues:

I am still adjusting to my precipitous succession from vice president to president of the ACWA board in January. I thought I would have more time to learn the presidential role from Mike Fulton's fine example, but instead I learned from Mike to take advantage of opportunities as they come as he did in taking his position as Deputy Director of the Maricopa County, Arizona, Air Quality Department. I miss Mike, but wish him well in his new job (I am always encouraged when colleagues I admire go on to bigger and better things, whether it's a different job or retirement).



So that's the thing about participating in ACWA, we are offered so many opportunities that we would not get otherwise. We get to meet and know our counterparts from the other states and interstates. Likewise our staff are afforded that opportunity, albeit virtually, by participating in the various committee calls. I have learned so much from so many and appreciate the validation that when I am facing a challenge, one or more of you are facing the same challenge and will provide guidance.

We also get to build relationships with EPA Headquarters staff – up to and including the top brass. ACWA has, I believe, established a unique relationship with EPA as confirmed by their commitment to attend our meetings and participate on our calls. This is so valuable. We have built trust and are able to be open, honest and real without fear or judgement. One cool result for me is I now, on occasion, can say, with all confidence, "I know people at EPA, I'll give [insert awesome EPA staff name here] a call". This has sometimes proven to impress my staff and/or my bosses (other times I just get eye rolls).

As president, I have already received what many labeled a "bucket list" opportunity. On Tuesday, March 17, 2015, I testified before Congress at the Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee in a hearing on the "Waters of the U.S" rule proposal and its impact on rural America. It was truly a unique, albeit intimidating, experience. Thanks to ACWA's Executive Director, Julia Anastasio for shepherding me through the process.

2015 has turned out to be what I've dubbed "the year of WOTUS" for me and, I expect, many of you. I often say much of our work is about semantics and the debate over this definition has proven it. That is not to make light of this important rule making. ACWA is committed to facilitating conversations between EPA and the membership to work through the issues and next steps on the Clean Water Rule.

That brings me to one more opportunity I must mention. That is the privilege of working closely with the ACWA staff. I am continuously amazed at the quantity and quality of work produced by these five dedicated people. Can you believe the quick turnaround on providing us with the WOTUS comparison document? Thank you, Julia, Sean, Annette, Susan, and Melissa. I surely could not succeed in my role as president without you.

As we move forward into the next year (whether I remain as president or not), let's capitalize on the opportunities ACWA membership provides. Let's forge new relationships, strengthen existing bonds, and work to solve problems together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Clark Mettler".

Martha Clark Mettler
Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Office of Water Quality, Indiana Department of Environmental Management
ACWA President

Letter to the Membership from Executive Director & General Counsel Julia Anastasio

Dear Members:

As I look back on my first full year as ACWA's Executive Director, I am in awe of all that we have accomplished – from settling into new office space and instituting a new sustainable dues structure, to influencing revisions to the water quality standards rule, development of a comprehensive resource on water quality trading, and helping to shape the debate on the clean water rule. Programmatically, ACWA has been engaged on almost every national clean water program update developed this past year. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the steadfast commitment and dedication of each of you who make this association what it is today.



As an organization ACWA continues to be on solid footing and is well position to continue to influence and shape clean water policy. Since its beginning, ACWA membership dues have represented the most important revenue stream for the Association. In 2015, the Board of Directors made the difficult decision to increase dues to ensure the long term fiscal sustainability of the Association, provide sufficient resources for five (5) full time staff members and move into new office space. After extensive review and discussion, the Board of Directors approved a new dues structure that will be phased in over a three (3) year period beginning with Fiscal Year 2016 dues. This new dues structure will enable ACWA to meet the long term strategic goals of the Association and enable ACWA to continue to evolve and respond to meet state member needs.

Throughout the last year, ACWA members and staff continued to facilitate regular and meaningful discussions with EPA on key Clean Water Act policy and regulatory activities and to deliver on our commitments under our Cooperative Agreement with the Office of Water. For instance, ACWA, in partnership with the Environmental Council of the States and the Association of State Wetlands Managers, coordinated a series of outreach meetings to discuss the clean water rule proposal and this dialogue proved helpful to both ACWA's members and the Office of Water and the Army Corps of Engineers as they moved to finalize the proposal. Similarly, ACWA coordinated with several of its utility partners on convening a dialogue on the technical details and regulatory ramifications of the revised ammonia criteria. From the NPDES e-Reporting and Dental Amalgam ELG rules to §§ 303(d) & 305(b) Integrated Reporting activities and the CWA-SDWA Toolkit, ACWA continues to work collaboratively and cooperatively with our partners so that we can continue to create and realize a shared vision for clean water.

Finally, as I look back over the past year, I want to thank the Board of Directors, Committee/ Workgroup Chairs and ACWA staff for your support and encouragement in my first year as Executive Director. This support and encouragement has been invaluable to me.

I am excited about the future of ACWA and I look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis at the 2015 Annual Meeting!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julia Anastasio". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Julia Anastasio
Executive Director & General Counsel

State, Interstate, and Affiliate Members



Biloxi Beach, Mississippi.
Photo Courtesy of Janet Chapman,
Mississippi Dept. of
Environmental Quality.

Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Water Division
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division
Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Water Division
California State Water Resources Control Board
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, Water Quality Control Division
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
Delaware Department of Agriculture, Nutrient Management
Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control, Division of Water
Delaware River Basin Commission
District Department of the Environment, Water Quality Division
Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Resource Management
Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division
Hawaii Department of Health, Environmental Management Division, Clean Water Branch
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Surface Water Program
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water
Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Quality
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Interstate Environmental Commission
Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Water Quality Bureau
Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Bureau of Water
Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, Division of Water
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Assessment Division
Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land & Water Quality
Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Resource Protection
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Water Bureau
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Commissioner's Office for Water Policy
Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Pollution Control
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program
Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Water Protection Bureau
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Pollution Control
New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Division
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Water Quality
New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water
North Carolina Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality
North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Water Quality
Ohio Department of Agriculture, Livestock Environmental Permitting Program
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Surface Water
Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division
Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Water Quality Programs Division
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Standards & Facility Regulation
Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board, Water Quality Area
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Office of Water Resources
South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control, Bureau of Water
South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources, Surface Water Quality Program
Susquehanna River Basin Commission
Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation, Division of Water Resources
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of Water
Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Management Division
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Water Division
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program
West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water & Waste Management
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Watershed Management
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division

About ACWA, History, and Mission

ACWA is the independent, nonpartisan, national organization of state and interstate (hereinafter in this Report, state refers to both states and interstates) water program directors, responsible for the daily implementation of the Clean Water Act's (CWA) water quality programs. Originally established in 1961 as the Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA), in 2011 we became ACWA – the Association of Clean Water Administrators. ACWA is the only nationally recognized organization whose entire agenda and mission are set by a Board of Directors and Leadership composed entirely of state water quality program administrators and managers.

Long before the passing of the *Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972*, state and interstate professionals were working together to protect and improve water quality nationally through ACWA. For over half a century, ACWA has consistently provided the highest level of information, programming, technical support, and collaborative opportunities in order to increase state capacity and support the federal government in the implementation of the federal CWA and related water quality programs. The Association has led national co-regulator collaboration forums, orchestrated evaluation and enhancement of water quality programs, supported workshops, national meetings, webcasts, and conference calls, and identified and highlighted innovative state programs and practices. ACWA strives to assess and convey the shared



Salmon River, Idaho. Photo Courtesy of Don Essig, Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality.

perspectives of state water quality agencies at the national level. We facilitate a dialogue between state water quality agencies and many federal agencies as well as Congress and the Administration. We offer forums for the exchange of technical and program information and innovations among water quality professionals, and we promote public education on water quality issues. ACWA's work over the years has consistently furthered the specific interests of the federal/state partnership in

developing and implementing water quality protection programs. When the federal government – most importantly, the EPA – partners directly with states through ACWA, better regulations are drafted, superior policy is created, duplication is reduced, national consistency is improved, flexibility is gained, unintended consequences are avoided, greater certainty is realized, legal challenges are minimized, and, ultimately, the public is better served.

The growing complexity of water quality issues associated with modern chal-

lenges requires more collaboration than ever. Over our five decades, we have developed relationships with many organizations, including non-governmental organizations, industry trade associations, municipal and local governmental organizations, and other state regulator groups. ACWA's effectiveness through the years has been enhanced through collaboration, coordination, and innovation with these stakeholders.

Mission

As the national voice of state and interstate water programs, ACWA strives to protect and restore watersheds to achieve “clean water everywhere for everyone.” ACWA works to maintain a vibrant national organization that:

- serves membership needs and achieves a high level of participation;
- is the national voice for state and interstate clean water program concerns, interests, and priorities;
- facilitates technical and policy innovation among national and state water programs (best practices);
- fosters the collaboration needed for sound public policy; and
- carries out activities in an efficient, ethical, and fiscally sound manner.

ACWA LEADERSHIP

President

Martha Clark Mettler (IN)

Vice-President

Pete LaFlamme (VT)

Treasurer

Carlton Haywood (ICPRB)

Secretary

Andrew Gavin (SRBC)

Immediate Past President

Shellie Chard-McClary (OK)

Board Representatives

Region 1 Alicia Good (RI)

Region 2 Leslie McGeorge (NJ)

Region 3 Collin Burrell (DC)

Region 4 Drew Bartlett (FL)

Region 5 Rebecca Flood (MN)

Region 6 Kim Wilson (TX)

Region 7 Patrick Rice (NE)

Region 8 Kent Woodmansey (SD)

Region 9 David Gaskin (NV)

Region 10 Jennifer Wigal (OR)

Interstate Andrew Gavin (SRBC)

National Office Staff

Executive Director & General Counsel

Deputy Director

Director of Operations

Senior Environmental Program Manager

Environmental Program Manager

Julia Anastasio

Sean Rolland

Annette Ivey

Susan Kirsch

Melissa McCoy

Subscribers

AquaLaw PLC

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Clyde Wilber LLC

Crowell & Moring LLP

Geosyntec Consultants

Hach Company

Holland & Hart LLP

Hunton & Williams LLP

National Association of
Clean Water Agencies

Stantec, Inc.

Troutman Sanders LLP

United Water

Water Environment Federation

Sponsors

The Anastasio Family

Barnes & Thornburg, LLP

Garver USA

Ground Water Protection Council

Guernsey

Hach Company

National Association of Clean Water
Agencies

National Rural Water Association

Oklahoma Gas & Electric Energy
Corporation

Oklahoma Rural Water Association

Oklahoma Water Environment
Association

Public Service Company of Oklahoma

Tetra Tech, Inc.

U.S. Water Alliance

Diamond Sponsors

Adrienne Nemura

Ben Grumbles

Mike Fulton

Paul Davis

Sean Rolland

Shellie Chard-McClary

Permitting, Compliance & Enforcement

CO-CHAIRS: Melanie Davenport (VA), Janet Kieler (CO)

The Permitting & Compliance Committee (P&CC) remains one of the most active ACWA Committees. The P&CC has several substantive workgroups that focus on specific permitting and compliance program areas. These include the Enforcement Workgroup, the Municipal Workgroup, the Pretreatment Workgroup, and the Rural Workgroup. This committee and its respective workgroups were invited to participate on 53 calls this past year. The now bi-monthly § 316(b) cooling water intake structure calls are the newest edition to this call list.

The P&CC Workgroups took the lead in developing the following comment letters:

1. NPDES eReporting Rule Supplemental Notice
2. Preliminary 2014 Effluent Guidelines Program Plans
3. OECA and OW National Program Manager's Guidance
4. Dental Amalgam Effluent Limitations Guidelines
5. Efficient and Effective Oversight of State Permitting Programs



Cape Henlopen Beach, Delaware. Photo Courtesy of John W. Schneider, Delaware Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Control.



Ice Fishing in Warren County, Pennsylvania. Photo Courtesy of Lori Mohr, Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection.

Enforcement Workgroup

CHAIR: Vacant

The Enforcement Workgroup continues to focus on initiatives associated with the CWA Action Plan. Topical areas included electronic reporting, improving compliance rates, focusing resources on the most serious water pollution violations, and oversight of state compliance assurance programs. The Enforcement Workgroup invested significant resources in reviewing and commenting on the proposed NPDES eReporting Rule and the specific program reporting data elements found in Appendix A. Five states and ACWA staff also participated on the New Enforcement Framework Workgroup initiative, which is intended to direct enforcement resources at the most significant water quality violations. Other related call and discussion topics include the NPDES dashboards, CROMERR Shared Services, and four common issues identified by the State Review Framework (SRF) – penalty calculations, timely and appropriate enforcement, significant noncompliance, and data entry/reporting challenges.

Section 2: Regulatory, Legislative & Programmatic Accomplishments

Municipal Workgroup

CO-CHAIRS: Pete LaFlamme (VT), Mary Borg (VT)

This year the Stormwater Workgroup changed its name and broadened its focus. The new Municipal Workgroup focuses on all of the traditional municipal, construction, and industrial stormwater issues, along with any other municipal related programmatic areas including blending, bypass, combined sewer overflows, and integrated planning. Discussion topics this year included green infrastructure implementation, the proposed NPDES eReporting Rule, integrated planning success stories, the Financial Capability Assessment Framework, NOI review and approval, and public participation. ACWA continues to help promote and participate on EPA's Green Infrastructure webcast series. In January 2015, ACWA began planning the National Stormwater Roundtable for October 6-8, 2015, to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Pretreatment Workgroup

CO-CHAIRS: Grace Scott (MI), Jennifer Robinson (UT)

The Pretreatment Workgroup focuses on the pretreatment program and issues associated with effluent limitations guideline (ELG) development, implementation, and related policy. This year the Workgroup organized a state/EPA call to facilitate information sharing on the Draft Effluent Limitation Guidelines (ELG) for the Dental Category (hereinafter "Dental Amalgam ELG"). The Workgroup also spearheaded the Association's comments on the Dental Amalgam ELG, and provided valuable input that informed the final comments submitted by the Quicksilver Caucus, a coalition of state environmental associations in which ACWA participates. ACWA also gathered the Workgroup's feedback to inform the Association's November 2014 comments on EPA's Preliminary 2014 Effluent Guidelines Program Plans.

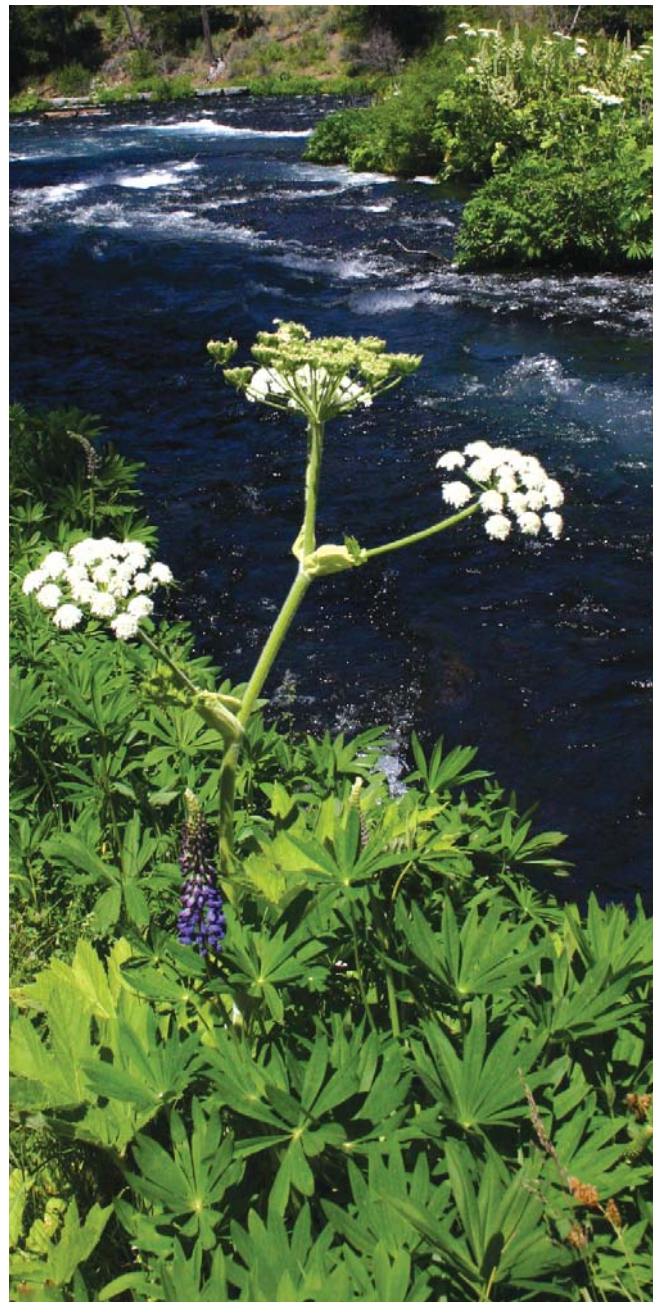
In February, the Workgroup reviewed and provided feedback on a draft EPA memo on zirconization, which sets forth its reasoning that this process falls under metal finishing regulations (40 CFR 433). The Workgroup's feedback ensured that the previous state/EPA dialogue and discussions on the rationale were adequately and clearly captured in the memo.

Rural Workgroup

CO-CHAIRS: Kent Woodmansey (SD), Bruce Yurdin (NM)

The Rural Workgroup focuses on the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) programs and the NPDES Pesticide Permitting program. The Workgroup held bimonthly calls where topics included: the Region 6 CAFO Permit, state permit renewals and updates, EPA's Pesticide Permit Annual Reports, Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy, and winter application of manure.

On October 7-9, 2014, ACWA and the State of Iowa hosted the 2014 National CAFO Roundtable. Over 100 attendees, including several federal representatives from USEPA, USDA, and USGS, gathered in Des Moines, Iowa to discuss animal agriculture program topics including: the economic drivers that affected how rural lands are utilized, emerging contaminants found in manure runoff, oversight and enforcement activities, the Conservation Innovation Grants program, biomass energy initiatives in Iowa, development of an agriculture BMP database, and how community collaboration can help achieve shared environmental goals.



Metolius River, Oregon. Photo Courtesy of Debra Sturdevant, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Monitoring, Standards & Assessment

CO-CHAIRS: Derek Smithee (OWRB), Jennifer Wigal (OR) (3/15), Martha Clark Mettler (IN) (until 3/15)

The Monitoring, Standards & Assessment (MSA) Committee continued to hold monthly Committee calls this year with agendas focusing on a variety of topics, including human health criteria (HHC) updates, recreational water quality criteria implementation issues, citizen science, the National Assessment Database and the National TMDL Tracking System (ATTAINS) redesign effort, and others. The Committee calls featured recurring participation by EPA Headquarters staff from the Office of Science & Technology and the Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds to discuss the latest efforts of these Offices and solicit state input. The Committee also increased efforts this fiscal year to engage other federal agency partners, including the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Going forward, the Committee is looking to identify future opportunities to create dialogue with other agencies within the federal family on the water quality monitoring components of their various projects.

In August, informed by the Committee's feedback, ACWA submitted formal comments on EPA's "Updated National Recommended Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health," wherein EPA provided updated recommended HHC for 94 chemicals. ACWA's comments largely focused on a number of areas where states desired more information and background on EPA's rationale for relying on specific tools and sources of information, as well as more information on the basis for the relative source contribution value selected. On a separate call with representatives from states that are currently updating or planning to update their HHC, EPA shared how the final criteria and related documents would address their comments.

The Committee continued to lend its support to joint association and stakeholder efforts aimed at funding for the USGS's Streamgage and National Water Quality Assessment programs. Committee members remained actively involved in the collaborative efforts of several State/EPA workgroups, including the Monitoring Assessment Partnership (MAP) and Water Quality Standards Managers Association (WQSMA).

ACWA continued to play an active role in coordinating and facilitating the work of the State/EPA Water Quality Standards (WQS) Forum, a venue for the development of tools and materials that will assist states and EPA with approaches to common technical issues and challenges in the arena of WQS. This year, the Forum tackled development of templates for narrative water quality standards for wetlands. These templates will soon be available on EPA's website, and states can choose among templates for designated uses, criteria and anti-degradation provisions. The MSA Committee will refer other issues as appropriate to the Forum.

TMDLs & Watersheds

CO-CHAIRS: Tom Stiles (KS), Traci Iott (CT)

The Watersheds Committee remained actively engaged this fiscal year in state/EPA efforts that continue to shape § 303(d) policy at the national level. The Committee continued to advance efforts under the EPA *Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection under the Clean Water Act Section § 303(d) Program* (the "Vision"), which was developed from an extensive state/EPA collaborative effort beginning in 2011. From July 2014 to March 2015, the Committee hosted goal-specific calls/webinars on the Prioritization, and Assessment Vision goals. The Committee also underscored the importance of cross-program priority-setting between § 303(d) program staff and their counterparts in the monitoring and nonpoint source programs by arranging joint Vision discussions with ACWA's Monitoring, Standards and Assessment Committee and § 319/Nonpoint Source Workgroup. Committee leadership developed and distributed online questionnaires to gather information and examples aimed at identifying cross-program coordination challenges and success stories. Information gathered via call discussions and questionnaires assisted EPA and states with preparation for the National TMDL & § 303(d) Listing Workshop held in April.

The Watersheds Committee also facilitated state/EPA discussions on the Draft Computational Guidance for the new § 303(d) program measures WQ-27 and WQ-28, which states will begin reporting on for the FY16 §§ 303(d)/305(b) integrating reporting cycle. The new measures are aimed at helping states better demonstrate interim progress toward achieving water quality goals with a TMDL or alternative approach.



Dawson County, Nebraska. Photo Courtesy of Dave Bubba, Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality.

ACWA coordinated a series of state/EPA engagement calls in September/October 2014 to discuss impacts of the *Definition of 'Waters of the United States' Under the Clean Water Act* (hereinafter “WOTUS rule”). These calls included states representatives from the ACWA, ECOS, and ASWM, as well as key officials from EPA OWOW. Call discussions were centered on identification of ephemeral waters, the extent/upper limits of tributaries, clarity for handling ditches and MS4 projects, the boundaries of subsurface flow, and what technical guidance states foresee as important. ACWA coordinated a small workgroup of state leaders to formulate the Association’s formal comments on the draft WOTUS rule. With the release of final rule, ACWA is currently in the process of coordinating with EPA and ASWM on co-regulator engagement and training to facilitate state implementation of the final rule.

§ 319 Nonpoint Source Workgroup

CHAIR: Jaime Gaggero (KS)

Early in FY15, the NPS Workgroup finalized and sent a letter to EPA and USDA/NRCS aimed at highlighting the National Water Quality Initiative’s (NWQI) early successes, and identifying areas for enhancements that will strengthen the initiative and state-federal NWQI partnerships moving forward. The Workgroup crafted the letter in late FY14 based on conference call discussions and responses to an online questionnaire circulated to Workgroup members to identify successes and current challenges for states working in NWQI watersheds. Subsequently, in early November, the Workgroup hosted an EPA/NRCS/state webinar to discuss the Workgroup’s feedback in the letter. Representatives from EPA and NRCS were on hand to share responses to the recommendations and discuss potential next steps to address challenge areas. Questions around data sharing dominated the discussion, and many expressed interest in a future training session on the “test” for what types and forms of NRCS data can be shared with states for NWQI purposes. The Workgroup anticipates future EPA/NRCS/state discussions on how to overcome data sharing barriers.

The NPS Workgroup also provided input this fiscal year on a number of draft EPA products that are aimed at communicating § 319 program successes, and interim progress in NWQI watersheds specifically. In late 2014 the Workgroup reviewed and provided feedback on a draft template that EPA developed to track state progress on NWQI implementation. EPA intends the template to collect information from states that will inform the development of a future progress report on NWQI Implementation. The Workgroup provided input to EPA on the timeline for submitting the tracking template, the level of detail required for submitted information, and any key additional areas



Fishing in Bass Lake, MN. Photo Courtesy of Paul Andre, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.



the final tool should cover. The feedback informed the final version which was shared with states in June.

Toward the end of the fiscal year ACWA circulated a topics poll to the Workgroup to gauge which topics and potential activities the Workgroup should pursue for calls / webinars and deliverables over the next year.

Nutrients Policy

CO-CHAIRS: Mike Tate (KS), Adam Schnieders (IA)

Following a path set forward at ACWA's 2014 Mid-Year Meeting, this fiscal year members of the State/EPA Nutrients Working Group (NWG) were recruited and began to address the NWG's mission to help states and EPA better understand the varied concerns and challenges around nutrient pollution, as well as the limitations, areas of flexibility, and potential solutions for making progress towards reducing nutrient pollution. The NWG also serves as a venue within which the EPA offices (OST, OWOW and OWM) can have a more coordinated interaction with states. After consideration by NWG members and feedback from states at ACWA's 2014 Annual Meeting, a list of potential priority areas for the working group was narrowed down to two initial projects for the group's first year. Those are 1) to develop an ACWA-administered progress tracking tool to complement EPA's current tools for assessing states' progress on nutrient load reduction; and 2) to establish a framework for making progress on NPDES permitting for nutrients. Members of the NWG each joined at least one of two subgroups dedicated to the individual projects. At ACWA's 2015 Mid-Year Meeting, Nutrients Policy Committee Co-chairs Tate and Schnieders received feedback on some initial potential measures for the progress tracker, and discussed facets of technology-based vs. WQBEL-based approaches to nutrient permitting within the context of a proposed staged framework, developed by the NWG subgroup, for fulfilling CWA requirements for permitting. Work continues on gathering more input from ACWA members on potential measures for the progress tracker, and to expand the permitting framework with additional options and examples.

In October, ACWA staff and state representatives from KS, UT, IA and IL participated in a workshop co-sponsored by NACWA, ACWA, WEF and WERF, where attendees discussed concerns and potential solutions for implementing EPA's 2013 recommended § 304(a) criteria for ammonia. Data gaps were identified as were strategies for implementation, including streamlining the use of CWA flexibilities such as multi-discharger variances and UAAs, developing a decision tree on presence / absence of mussels, use of stochastic permitting and integrated planning, modeling the fate of ammonia in receiving waters, and clarifying the use of mixing zones. Proceedings from the workshop have



Cave Run Lake, Kentucky. Photo Courtesy of Michelle Shane, Kentucky Dept. of Environmental Protection.

been released and ACWA hopes to continue these stakeholder discussions to generate potential deliverables.

This fiscal year the Nutrients Policy Committee hosted webinars on: 1) a review prepared for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) on EPA's methods for setting WQBELs for nutrients; 2) a report, entitled "Coming Together to Protect Mississippi River Watersheds: Agriculture and Water Sector Collaboration for Nutrient Progress," released by the agriculture, water and wastewater utility organizations, calling for development by regulators of "watershed protection utilities" that would facilitate nutrient reductions via watershed-based integrated permitting and water quality trading; and 3) the EPA Office of Research and Development's ongoing investment in research and tools to help states combat nutrient pollution, including their Nitrogen and Co-pollutant Roadmap, multimedia modeling for the Mississippi River Basin, and remote sensing tools.

Finally, ACWA has assisted the National Network on Water Quality Trading (NNWQT), of which ACWA is a member, in the development and launch of a document entitled *Building a Water Quality Trading Program: Options and Considerations*, the most comprehensive resource to date on best practices as well as challenges and issues that states can consider when building or improving a water quality trading program. In April, ACWA submitted a proposal to USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service for a Conservation Innovation Grant to build and use (with multiple states) a Water Quality Trading Toolkit geared specifically toward state water quality regulators, and based on the NNWQT's publication. ACWA anticipates a decision on the award will be made in September 2015.

Water Resources Management Committee

CHAIR: Jeff Manning (NC)

The Water Resources Management Committee launched in 2014 as an evolution of the Climate Adaptation Committee. This Committee focuses on water program issues associated with climate variability, mitigation, resiliency, adaptive management, as well as impacts to clean water programs associated with extreme weather events such as large storms, floods, droughts, etc. This Committee also works on water reuse and conservation. The Chair of this Committee also continues to participate on EPA's State Tribal Climate Change Council (STC3) and USGS's Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI) Climate Change Adaptation Workgroup. One major product for this Committee was a survey that helped ACWA and EPA better understanding how states are factoring climate variability and uncertainty into their water programs and activities.

Legal Affairs Committee

CO-CHAIRS: Carin Spreitzer (NY), Bob Brown (MA)

The Legal Affairs Committee (LAC) hosted quarterly calls again this year with an eye toward delivering robust agendas featuring presentations from a diverse group of attorneys across private, public, and non-profit sectors. Call agendas covered a wide range of legal topics, including the American Farm Bureau's suit against EPA over the FOIA release of CAFO owners' / operators' discharge permit applications containing personal identifying information (currently under appeal in the Eighth Circuit), *CARE v. Cow Palace* (holding that manure, in some applications, could constitute a "solid waste" under RCRA), and the split between the Fifth and Eight Circuits on whether a Clean Water Act jurisdictional determination constitutes "final agency action" and is thus subject to judicial review. Late in the fiscal year, Committee leadership engaged in dialogue with EPA's Office of General Counsel (OGC) to scope out opportunities for OGC presentations to the Committee during calls in coming year.



Mackinac Bridge, Michigan. Photo Courtesy of Grace Scott, Michigan Dept. of Environmental Quality.

Funding and Congressional Relations

CO-CHAIRS: Ron Poltak (NEIWPCC), Mike Beck (CO)

This year the Funding Committee changed its name to better reflect its broader portfolio of legislative issues. The newly renamed Funding and Congressional Relations Committee continued to track and inform the membership on federal budget developments. In December 2014 the Committee circulated an omnibus package summary to the ACWA Membership and Subscribers that provided a breakdown of the proposed funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) associated with the clean water programs. The Committee also tracked and shared information with the membership on major budget milestones, such as the President's FY16 Budget request, and water infrastructure financing developments, including the launch of EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center.

The Association worked in collaboration with our fellow state associations to send letters to Congressional leaders encouraging continued investment in clean water programs. In April 2015, ACWA joined with four other state associations in letters to House and Senate Appropriations leadership to provide recommendations concerning the President's FY16 budget request. The associations expressed concern with the Administration's proposed cuts to the Clean Water SRF, and cautioned that the proposed condition requiring 20 percent of FY16 funds go toward green infrastructure and resiliency projects may detract from a state's greatest needs to support water quality improvements. The group expressed support for increased funding for STAG programs, including the Section 106 and Section 319 programs, and encouraged congressional support of the \$13M requested to expand the technical assistance program for communities looking to develop and im-

plement integrated planning for municipal stormwater and wastewater management.

The passage of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) authorized EPA to develop a pilot Water Infrastructure Financing Innovations Act (WIFIA) pilot program. In response, ACWA joined fellow state associations in a December 2014 letter to OWM and OGWDW leadership to provide recommendations on key concepts the Agency should consider when designing the pilot program. The group encouraged a focus on the types of projects that would not otherwise be funded by the SRFs, and that states be given adequate time to determine which projects should be funded under SRFs other than WIFIA. The groups emphasized the importance of a "level playing field" for WIFIA and the SRFs relative to Buy American, Endangered Species Act, and other federal "cross-cutters."

Beyond appropriations issues, the Association continues to track and report on other federal legislative activities relevant to state water quality programs. When called upon, the Association also supported testimony on CWA issues.

In July 2014, Ron Poltak (NEIWPCC) testified on behalf of the Association before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment in support of EPA's Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach. In March 2015, ACWA President, Martha Clark Metter (IN), testified before the House Committee on Agriculture's Subcommittee on Conservation & Forestry on the "Waters of the U.S." proposed rule. ACWA also joined with ECOS and ASWM in submitting a joint written statement to the record for a February 2015 joint hearing of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on state and local government impacts of the "Water of the U.S." proposed rule.



Byers Wetland, Wisconsin. Photo Courtesy of Julia Riley, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources.

Awards

At ACWA's 53rd Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon, the membership recognized the best and brightest of our organization and profession with several awards.

Young Professionals Awards

The Young Professionals Awards are given to members selected by Association leadership for their contributions to the work of an ACWA Committee, Task Force and/or Workgroup and their demonstrated potential for future leadership in ACWA. The recipients of the Young Professionals Awards were **Michael Beck**, Unit Manager, Grants and Loans Unit, Water Quality Control Division, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), and **Jeff Berckes**, TMDL Program Coordinator, Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

President's Service Award

The President's Service Award, given annually to members selected for their exceptional service to ACWA over the last fiscal year, was presented to **Martha Clark Mettler**, Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Office of Water Quality, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and **Pete LaFlamme**, Director, Watersheds Management Division, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

Exceptional Service Award



Steve Gunderson



Peter Tennant

The Exceptional Service Award, recognizing retirees from state/interstate government who have demonstrated exceptional service to ACWA over the years, was presented to **Steve Gunderson**, who dedicated 25 years to environmental protection at CDPHE, with nearly a decade of service as the Director of its Water Quality Control Division. Gunderson dedicated his time to ACWA in numerous ways through his strong leadership on the Association's Board and Executive Committee, including service as President. The Association later recognized **Peter Tennant**, Executive Director, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), with this award at our March 2015 Mid-Year Meeting following announcement of Tennant's retirement

after 35 years of working tirelessly on water quality management and standards issues in the Ohio River Valley. Tennant served as a Co-Chair for the Monitoring, Standards and Assessment Committee, represented ACWA in numerous State/EPA workgroups, and testified on behalf of the Association before Congress at a March 2014 hearing on water quality trading.

Environmental Partnership Award

The Environmental Partnership award, honoring non-state partners who have demonstrated a true and consistent willingness to work cooperatively with the states and with various interested organizations to effect environmental improvement, was presented to **Mike Paque**, Executive Director, Ground Water Protection Council.

Environmental Statesman Award



Ron Poltak

The Association's highest honor, the Environmental Statesman Award, is presented to ACWA members who have demonstrated outstanding service to ACWA over a multi-year period. This year, the award was presented to **Ron Poltak**, who has served as the Executive Director of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEI-

WPCC) since 1983. Poltak has demonstrated tremendous dedication to ACWA and its mission over the years, and served in various leadership capacities, including a term as President. Poltak was unable to attend the 2014 Annual Meeting, and was instead honored during an awards ceremony held during ACWA's March 2015 Mid-Year Meeting in Washington, DC.

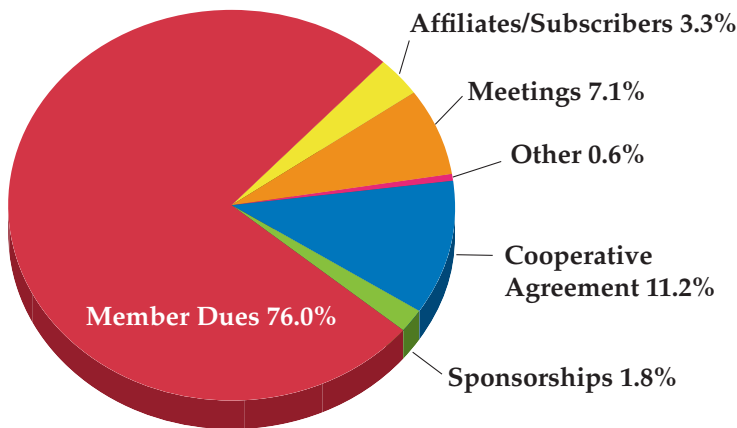


Rattlesnake Creek, Kansas. Photo Courtesy of Mike Tate, Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment.

Section 3: Fiscal Snapshot

Revenue Sources

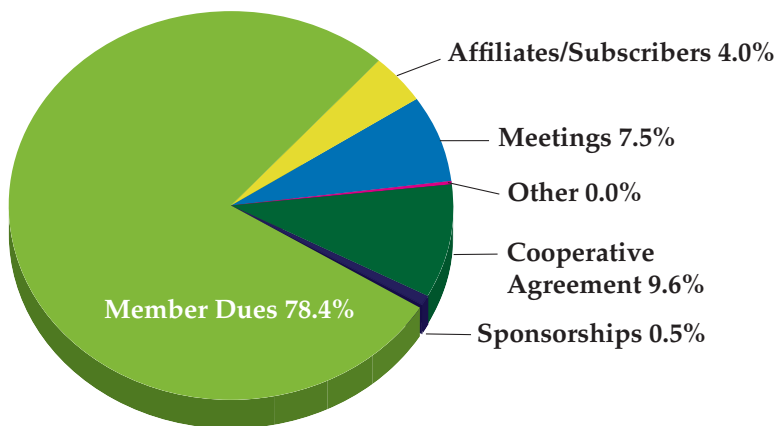
FY2015 Revenue Sources



Revenue Sources	FY2015 Actual Revenue
Member Dues	\$725,713
Cooperative Agreement	\$106,970
Meetings	\$68,082
Affiliates/Subscribers	\$31,462
Sponsorships	\$16,700
Other	\$5,351
Total	\$954,278

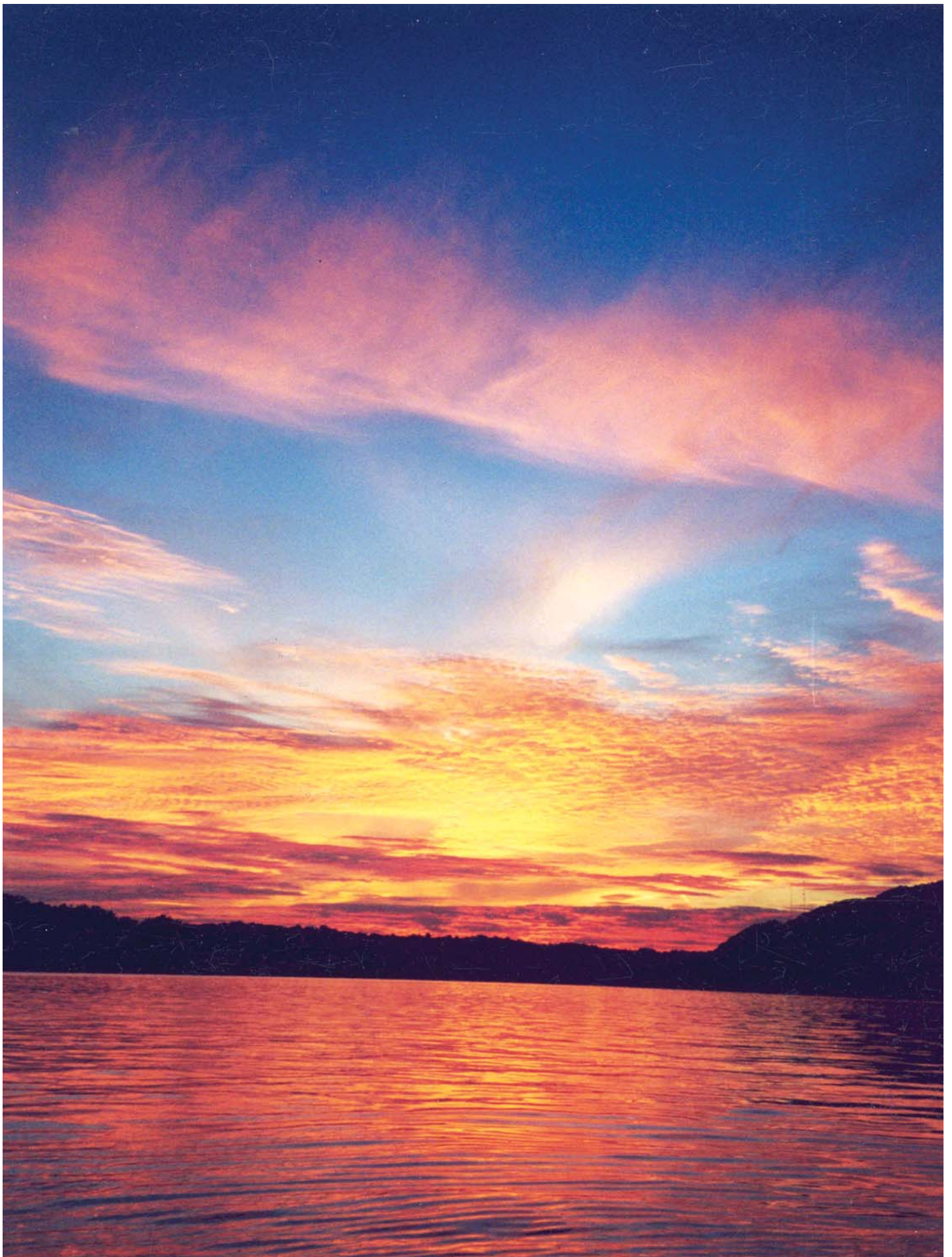
The Association's final FY2015 financial reports are not audited at the time this Annual Report goes to press. However, this section presents a good snapshot of ACWA's revenue streams for FY2015. In March of 2012 ACWA was awarded a cooperative agreement titled *Technical Assistance & Knowledge Transfer – Water Protection Agencies*, which remained an important revenue source in FY2015. State and Interstate Member Dues continue to represent the most important revenue source for the organization, and for FY2015 the Association has received approximately 95% of the invoiced dues.

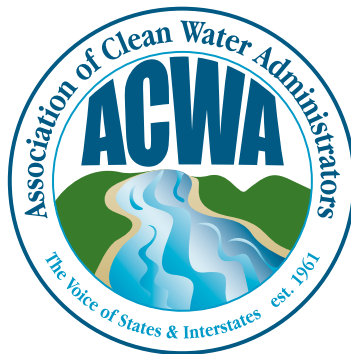
FY2016 Revenue Sources



Revenue Sources	FY2016 Budgeted Revenue
Member Dues	\$734,834
Cooperative Agreement	\$90,000
Meetings	\$70,000
Affiliates/Subscribers	\$37,580
Sponsorships	\$5,000
Other	\$200
Total	\$937,614

The FY2016 Budget provides the total expected revenue. In FY2016, ACWA instituted year 1 of 3 year phased in dues restructuring that will ensure the long term fiscal sustainability of ACWA. The current cooperative agreement with EPA has been extended for a fourth year and until February of 2016. ACWA projects it will collect approximately 94% of invoiced dues. Even with the continued federal support, our membership dues are critical to ensuring the financial health and stability of the organization. Thank you for your continued support of ACWA.





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