

ASSOCIATION OF CLEAN WATER
ADMINISTRATORS

ANNUAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2021



Missouri River, Montana

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LETTER FROM ACWA'S PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues:

As I compose this letter, I am back in my office, and conforming to agency dress code by wearing my Jerry Garcia tie. And lately it occurs to me, what a long, strange trip it's been. This would have been our second run at a membership meeting in Memphis; hopefully, the third time is the charm next year. For most of us, it's going on two years since we saw one another in Austin. With another six months until we meet again at the Mid-Year Meeting in DC, yet we remain connected. While protecting ourselves, our families, and our staffs from Covid-19, administering the Clean Water Act (CWA) programs endured. Meanwhile, your Association continued to strive in making the states' voices heard within the Administration and on Capitol Hill.

Since the March 2020 Mid-Year Meeting, we have relied on virtual meetings, workshops, and webinars to advance membership engagements. Our skill at managing these discussions increased with each event and participation among state staffs was great. The Mid-Year Meeting this March had a provocative agenda and very

engaged exchanges with the new EPA leadership, Congressional staff and representatives from our fellow water and environmental organizations. I am hopeful this Annual Meeting provides a similar forum for coordination and collaboration.

States continue the business of restoring and protecting the waters of the Nation, reducing permit backlogs, developing TMDLs, adopting new water quality criteria, addressing pollutants unheard of in 1972, tackling wet weather issues, grappling with the socio-economic challenges of abating non-point sources, managing environmental data of increased size and complexity, and tracking the measures determining progress on those tasks. They say if you want to make God laugh, announce you have plans. This past year has seen numerous natural events with environmental repercussions. Beyond the upheaval of the pandemic there were wildfires scorching the watersheds of Colorado and California, hurricanes lashing the coast of Louisiana, a storms battering Texas, and a

deepening drought strangling the West and northern plains, winter derecho running roughshod over Nebraska and Iowa. Each event requires a response; each response diverts resources from the tasks at hand. And yet, the job of protecting water quality did not waver.

On top of all that, we had a tumultuous election and transition. In the aftermath, we have a new Administration, a new EPA, and new Federal priorities. From our conversation with Radhika Fox, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water, at our March meeting, four priorities jumped to the front burner: climate change, environmental justice and equity, PFAS, and infrastructure investment. These issues bring another layer of complexity to administering clean water programs and we are anxious to engage EPA on how to adapt to their emerging mission.

As intended, the CWA recognizes the diversity among the states: geography, ecology, hydrology, demographics, land use, etc. Thus, each state is tasked with establishing its benchmarks of good water quality through its own standards. This diversity among states (and interstates, territories, and tribes) makes consensus an

extremely challenging quest. One of the purposes of ACWA is to find the common ground and derive compromise among the members when establishing the non-federal position on issues, such as 401 certifications, Maui, WOTUS (again), PFAS, SNC/NCI, nutrient management, TMDL Vision, water reuse and policy and regulation initiatives affecting our 402 and 319 programs. The one principle all states rally behind is Cooperative Federalism; Congress designated the states as co-regulators of the CWA and we are on equal footing with EPA to administer the Act. The leadership and staff of ACWA have fostered a working relationship with EPA HQ that is as cooperative as we have seen in decades.

As cross-cutting issues emerge, the need for collaboration grows. This past year, we have strongly interacted with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, Environmental Council of States, the Association of State Wetland Managers, the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities, the Western States Water Council, the Environmental Law Institute, and even National Association of Clean Water Agencies and Natural Resources Defense Council. As a result, state and local messaging to

EPA and Congress on water and wastewater issues was consistently harmonious. With Congress willing to address water and wastewater challenges, the time is ripe with opportunity to see improved funding in the CWA 106, 319 and SRF programs. For those that have been with the Association for several years, you may have noticed the subtle sea change in our interactions, now emphasizing scientific and technical points, as well as our traditional policy and legal positions. The talent of our staff to tackle complex issues along multiple front cannot be overstated.

Fiscally, despite the uncertainty of pandemic impacts on funding, ACWA remains on sound footing. Under the Executive Director's hand, the Association used the Payroll Protection Program to secure funding and protect our assets. Our cooperative agreement grants with EPA have been extended one year because of Covid-19 complications in carrying out the promised tasks. Efforts are underway to secure the next five-year agreement with EPA next year. As we close the fiscal year, over 90% of state dues have been paid. Because of our fiscal management, the Association's reserve fund reached its strategic goal of \$1 million in deposits for

financial contingencies or opportune ventures in the future. I am especially pleased that we will not have a dues increase in 2022, providing some degree of financial certainty for our member states.

Finally, 2022 marks the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, and plans are afoot to display the successes the states have seen in water quality. However, ACWA (aka ASIWPCA) predates the Act by a decade, founded in 1961. I am honored to have served as ACWA's President, even with ruling in exile. As participants and members, you have contributed greatly to the accomplishments of those who preceded us. You have risen to the challenge of shaping a 1972 Federal law to address 21st Century issues. 2021 begins a year-long celebration of our successes while we still recognize that the road ahead remains lengthy. While this trip has been strange, there is no one I would have rather traveled with than you. Thank you, the pleasure has been mine.



TOM STILES

*Director, Bureau of Water
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
ACWA President*



LETTER FROM ACWA'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & GENERAL COUNSEL

Dear Members,

As we round the corner and begin to emerge from the Covid-19 Pandemic, and as we begin to understand the priorities of the new Biden Administration, ACWA is well-positioned to continue to serve our member states and interstates as you preserve and protect water quality. Since its inception in 1961, ACWA has grown, adapted, and continued to provide the highest quality programs and services for our members. The past year has proven no different and we

will take the lessons we have learned and incorporate them into our work going forward so that we can aid you, our members, in advancing water quality at home.

Just as in years past, ACWA staff continued to facilitate regular and meaningful discussions with EPA on key Clean Water Act regulatory and policy activities, and to deliver on our commitments under our Cooperative Agreements with EPA. ACWA staff continued to facilitate

these discussions throughout the transition from the Trump Administration to the Biden Administration. We have already established strong connections with the new Office of Water leadership team, and are well-positioned to ensure that state and interstate priorities are reflected in any regulatory and policy actions.

Again, as in year's past, ACWA joined our partners in drafting several comment letters on key priorities, such as the reissuance of the Nationwide Permits and PFAS activities, and in urging Congress to increase funding for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure that protects public health and the environment. ACWA will continue to work collaboratively and amplify our voice with our partner organizations so that we can continue to create and realize a shared vision for clean water.

This year we also continued to host several highly successful workshops on NPDES Permit Writing, Nutrients Permitting, Stormwater, Modeling, and Water Reuse. These workshops have provided your staff with great opportunities for in-person training, and we are incredibly thankful to EPA, the Office of Water, and the Office of Enforcement Compliance

Assurance for their financial support for these workshops. The success we have seen would not be possible without this financial support and we hope to be able to continue to provide these opportunities in the coming years.

Finally, ACWA remains in a strong financial position and is well-situated to continue to influence and shape clean water policy. ACWA members and staff, along with our leadership, are working to ensure that our operating budget is fiscally sound and reasonable. I want to personally thank all of you for your continued financial and personal support of ACWA as an organization. We would not be able to accomplish all that we do without it.

As we round the corner on this pandemic and begin the return to "normal," I am looking forward to the days when we can gather again in person. Until then, the staff and I will continue to serve as your voice with our partners in Washington, DC.



JULIA ANASTASIO

Executive Director & General Counsel
ACWA

ABOUT ACWA, HISTORY, AND MISSION



"CLEAN WATER EVERYWHERE FOR EVERYONE"

ACWA is the independent, nonpartisan, national organization of state, interstate, and territorial (hereafter referred to as "state") 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, ASIWPCA 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/interstate water quality program administrators and managers.

ACWA strives to convey the shared perspective of state/interstate/territorial water quality agencies at the national level. We facilitate a dialogue between water quality agencies, as well as Congress and the Administration.

We offer forums for the exchange of technical and innovative program information among water quality professionals, and we promote public education on water quality issues.

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 AND STAFF

ACWA Leadership

- President: Tom Stiles (KS)
- Vice President: Andrew Gavin (SRBC)
- Treasurer: Amanda Vincent (LA)
- Past-President: Melanie Davenport (VA)
- Secretary: Lee Currey (MD)

Board Representatives

- Region 1: Tracy Wood (NH)
- Region 2: Carol Lamb-LaFay (NY)
- Region 3: Lee Currey (MD)
- Region 4: Jennifer Dodd (TN)
- Region 5: Adrian Stocks (WI)
- Region 6: Shelly Lemon (NM)
- Region 7: Chris Wieberg (MO)
- Region 8: Karl Rockeman (ND)
- Region 9: Karen Mogus (CA)
- Region 10: Mary Anne Nelson (ID)
- Interstate: Evelyn Powers (IEC)

National Office Staff

- Executive Director & General Counsel: Julia Anastasio
- Deputy Director: Sean Rolland
- Director of Operations: Annette Ivey
- Environmental Program Manager: Jasper Hobbs
- Environmental Analyst: Jake Adler
- Member Services Associate: Kara McCauley

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP AND STAFF LIAISONS

Julia Anastasio

- Funding and Congressional Relations Committee
 - Chair: Richard Freisner (NEIWPCC)
- Legal Affairs Committee
 - Co-Chair: Carin Spreitzer (NY)
 - Co-Chair: Bob Brown (MA)
- WOTUS/Navigable Water Protection Rule Workgroup
 - Chair: Jean Coleman (MN)
- EPA Planning, Program Guidance, and Metrics Committee
 - Chair: Staff-led

Sean Rolland

- Permitting & Compliance Committee
 - Co-Chair: Melanie Davenport (VA)
 - Co-Chair: Jason Knutson (WI)
- Pretreatment Workgroup
 - Chair: Jen Robinson (UT)
- Rural Workgroup
 - Chair: Staff-led
- Stormwater Workgroup
 - Co-Chair: Rebecca Villalba (TX)
 - Co-Chair: Paul Hlavinka (MD)
- Compliance Assurance and Data Systems Workgroup
 - Chair: Staff-led

Jake Adler

- Monitoring, Standards, and Assessment Committee
 - Co-Chair: Lindsay Patterson (WY)
 - Co-Chair: Tish Robertson (VA)
- PFAS Subcommittee
 - Chair: Staff-led
- 304(a) Prioritization Workgroup
 - Chair: Staff-led
- Continuous Monitoring Workgroup
 - Chair: Tish Robertson (VA)
- Water Resources Management Committee
 - Co-Chair: Erica Gaddis (UT)
 - Co-Chair: Jeff Manning (NC)
- Technology, Innovation, & Sustainability Committee
 - Chair: Staff-led

Jasper Hobbs

- Nutrients Policy Committee
 - Co-Chair: Adam Schnieders (IA)
 - Co-Chair: Nicole Rowan (CO)
- Watersheds Committee
 - Co-Chair: Traci Iott (CT)
 - Co-Chair: Jeff Berckes (IA)
- 319/Nonpoint Source Workgroup
 - Chair: Staff-led
- TMDL Modeling Workgroup
 - Co-Chair: Craig Lott (VA)
 - Co-Chair: Pan Behm (NC)

ACWA MEMBERS AND AFFILIATES

2020-2021

- Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- DC District Department of Energy and Environment
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Hawaii Department of Health
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
- Interstate Environmental Commission
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Mexico Environment Department
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
- North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
- Ohio Department of Agriculture
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- South Carolina Department of Health & Environmental Control
- South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Washington Department of Agriculture
- Washington Department of Ecology
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality



Lake Erie, Pennsylvania

2020 AWARDS

For ACWA Members, this past year has been one of immense growth. The following awards recognize the best and brightest of our organization in leadership, service, and more.



ENVIRONMENTAL STATESMAN AWARD ALLISON WOODALL

The **Environmental Statesman Award** is the Association's highest honor, presented to Association members and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding service to ACWA over a multi-year period.

Allison Woodall has demonstrated a long-term dedication to ACWA's mission. Her service on the Board of Directors and as ACWA's President, Past-President, and Secretary, as well as her work at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, has earned her a reputation as a strong leader and hard worker.



ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD JOHN GOODIN

The **Environmental Partnership Award** is presented to those who have, throughout their careers, demonstrated a true and consistent willingness to work cooperatively with the states/interstates and with the various interested organizations to affect environmental improvement.

John Goodin, in his work at EPA, has gone above and beyond to be a consistent partner with ACWA and states. While leading efforts to define WOTUS, develop the cooperative TMDL Vision Statement, revise Section 401 water quality certification regulations, and much more, John has remained a strong ally for the association and its members.



EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD

LESLIE MCGEORGE

The **Exceptional Service Award** is presented to Association members who have demonstrated a strong commitment to ACWA before their retirement.

Leslie McGeorge, throughout her 40-year tenure at the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, had made invaluable contributions to the state's Science and Research and Monitoring and Standards programs. In partnering with ACWA, Leslie always showed a willingness to lead, volunteer, and work collaboratively.



PRESIDENT'S SERVICE AWARD

PETER GOODMAN

The **President's Service Award** is given annually to the member selected for their exceptional service to the Association over the last fiscal year.

Peter Goodman was an engaged and dedicated member of ACWA, serving as Kentucky's main representative, as Region 4's Board Representative, and as ACWA Secretary. Peter's efforts to enhance the Association's financial reporting to develop the creation of the CSO Workgroup perfectly encapsulated what it means to be an active and meaningful member of ACWA's board and membership.



EMERGING LEADER AWARD

KRISTA OSTERBERG

The **Emerging Leader Award** recognizes full-time employees of states/interstates/affiliates who have demonstrated notable leadership or contributions to the work of an ACWA committee, task force, and/or workgroup, and show potential for future leadership.

Krista Osterberg has represented EPA Region 9 on the Board of Directors for two terms, and has provided valuable guidance and leadership, especially on WOTUS efforts. Krista's dedication to water programs and policy, both in Arizona and across the nation, is commendable, and we look forward to seeing her grow as a leader in the future.

COMMITTEE AND WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES

Last year, ACWA's committees and workgroups were very active. Here is a sampling of some of those activities.



Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah

The **Legal Affairs Committee** continued to host quarterly calls on pertinent clean water related cases and issues, including the implications of the *County of Maui* Supreme Court decision, MS4 Litigation and Permits, CWA permit shields and the Surface Mining and Control Act, and CAFO litigation.

The **Monitoring, Standards, and Assessment Committee** focused on guidance development for 304(a) criteria—including complex metals and numeric nutrient criteria for lakes, as well as continued collaboration on multiple fronts with EPA's Office of Science and Technology. The MSA Committee also focused on addressing CEC and PFAS under CWA (for example, under forthcoming Effluent Limitations Guidelines) and other statutes. The Continuous Monitoring Workgroup continues work with states and EPA to advance the use of continuous data in state water quality programs.

The **Nutrients Policy Committee** worked to complete the second iteration of the Nutrient Reduction Progress Tracker. Responses were collected from 28 states, and a report analyzing the data and comparing it to the previous iteration is underway. This committee continued work on a variety of other nutrients-related issues including nutrients permitting workshops and informational webinars.

The **Watersheds Committee** completed a document of state recommendations for updating the 303(d) Vision, focusing on the 6 Vision goals, and identifying areas for improvement. The current Vision will be ending in 2022, and both states and EPA are interested in continuing this effort. This committee also held monthly webinars focusing on matters relating to the 303(d) program, stakeholder engagement, environmental justice, and climate change. ACWA also provided substantial support to ELI's National 303(d)/TMDL Training Workshop.

The **WOTUS/NWPR Workgroup** was established this year to serve as a state-to-state resource for members as they work to implement the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. Call topics have focused on TMDLs and Integrated Reporting, water quality standards, and permitting issues.

The **319/Nonpoint Source Workgroup** held informational webinars throughout the year, providing a forum of learning and information sharing between the states and EPA.

The **Modeling Workgroup** held a series of informational webinars and discussions to continue an open national dialogue. This workgroup also had a 2-day virtual Modeling 101 event with the intent of providing a base knowledge for new staff and others seeking a refresher on the basics of water quality modeling. Members of this workgroup have also been working on plans for upcoming modeling workshops.

The **Funding Congressional Relations Committee** provided comments and letters on multiple water related bills this year. Most notably, ACWA commented on the Build Back Better Infrastructure proposal, appropriations and the reintroduced Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act, and additionally provided testimony on PFAS regulation.

The **Water Resources Management Committee** focused on climate adaptation, water reuse, and resilience. ACWA, led by this Committee, has supported several state-priority actions under the National Water Reuse Action Plan and co-hosted a second Water Reuse State Regulator Summit (September 2020). The Committee is also assisting states and EPA in refocusing on climate adaptation and climate impacts to water resources.

The **Permitting & Compliance Committee** utilizes several workgroups to manage a number of NPDES program areas. Program topics that remain the purview of the committee include: *Maui* implementation, permitting oversight, administratively continued permits, peak flow management rule, CSO workgroup products and tools,

water reuse and program flexibility, anti backsliding, the NPDES Updates Rule, and the Permit Writers Clearinghouse.

The **Compliance Assurance and Data Systems Workgroup** is a new workgroup this year that focuses on ICIS Modernization, the NPDES eReporting Rule, the SNC National Compliance Initiative, the SmartTools Inspection Application, ECHO tool development, Data Quality & DMR Nonreceipt, and a new National Noncompliance Report.

The **Rural Workgroup** supported the 2020 National CAFO Roundtable, which was held virtually on September 22-24, 2020. This year's CAFO Roundtable had 308 participants representing 39 states, 8 EPA Regions, EPA HQ, local/regional NRCS, USDA HQ, 4 universities, and several agriculture groups.

The **Pretreatment Workgroup** supported the joint ACWA/NACWA pretreatment meeting (May 17-19), which was attended by 525 people and the ACWA state/EPA only meeting (May 20-21) was attended by 102 states and EPA staff. Meeting topics included PFAS Developments, Marijuana Industry and the Potential Impact on Pretreatment, FOG Strategies for Investigations and Lessons Learned, Breaking Down Barriers, local limit development, combined waste stream formula, regulating/permitting CIUs, electronic data reporting, the Permit Writers Clearinghouse, and a special session on audits and inspections during COVID.

The **Stormwater Workgroup** held several conference calls/webinars that focused on using NeTMSGP and reducing noncompliance, use of a Construction Stormwater Inspection Application, EPA's Multisector General Permit and Construction General Permit, the new *Trash Stormwater Permit Compendium*, and an overview of the EPA Stormwater-Solid Waste Dialogue. The workgroup also helped promote and participated in the March 2021 Integrated Planning Workshop.

The **EPA Planning, Program Guidance, and Metrics Committee** was established to focus on the development of EPA's Strategic Plan, National Program Managers Guidance and Metrics that impact state water quality programs. The Committee serves as a forum for state to state and state to EPA discussion and information sharing on the latest developments in EPA's strategic planning development, national program managers guidance and metrics for measuring results.

MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Beyond our two annual membership meetings, ACWA held several technical meetings, subsidized by three cooperative agreements from EPA, that provided additional learning and training opportunities for state program staff.

Water Reuse Regulator Summit 2

This year's virtual summit, cohosted by ACWA and ASDWA, occurred over several days in 2020, including September 3, 10, 17, and 24. Approximately 150 staff from 35 states registered to participate in the Summit. Facilitation was provided by PG Environmental, Ross Strategic, and staff from ACWA, ASDWA, ECOS, ASTHO, and GWPC. Topics for the meeting included reuse terminology, state updates on reuse projects, effective public health communications, fit-for-purpose specifications, the Water Reuse Action Plan, direct potable reuse, stormwater, and aquifer recharge.

2020 National CAFO Roundtable

On September 22-24, ACWA hosted the virtual 2020 National CAFO Roundtable. This year's CAFO Roundtable had 308 participants representing 39 states, 8 EPA Regions, EPA HQ, local/regional NRCS, USDA HQ, 4 universities, and several agriculture groups. Topics discussed included tile drains, minimizing nutrient transport, large storm impacts on animal feeding operations, compliance assistance tools, environmental justice implications, and impacts of Covid-19 on the animal agriculture industry. ACWA also hosted a discussion with several agriculture groups, including the National Pork Producers Council, the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, and the National Milk Producers Federation, with facilitation provided by the Bayard Ridge Group. Presentations and a copy of the final agenda are available on ACWA's website.

2020 Nutrients Permitting Workshops

On October 26-29, ACWA virtually hosted the *2020 Nutrients Permitting Workshop*. The workshop saw a total of 243 attendees and featured presentations and discussions from State and Federal partners. Topics included state and federal efforts to design flexibilities in permits and permit programs, point/nonpoint source trading, drivers, baseline, and crediting. Copies of the presentations can be found on ACWA's website.

2021 National Pretreatment Virtual Event

The joint ACWA/NACWA pretreatment meeting (May 17-19, 2021) was attended by 525 people. Meeting topics included PFAS Developments, Marijuana Industry and the Impact on Pretreatment, FOG Strategies for Investigations and Lessons Learned, and Breaking Down Barriers. The ACWA state/EPA only meeting (May 20-21, 2021) was attended by 102 states and EPA staff. Topics included local limits development, combined waste streams formula, regulating/permitting CIUs, electronic data reporting, the permit writers clearinghouse, and a special session on audits and inspections during COVID. Copies of the presentations can be found on ACWA's website.



LETTERS AND TESTIMONY

ACWA represents the interests of state and interstate members to government agencies and elected officials by writing letters explaining issues and advocating for better, smarter policies, and by testifying before Congress as requested. ACWA also signs on to letters developed in tandem with partner organizations such as ECOS, ASDWA, ASWM, and GWPC.

Over the last fiscal year, ACWA has written or joined letters on the following issues: infrastructure funding, flexibility, and administration; appropriations; the CWA criminal negligence standard; contaminants of emerging concern; *Maui* decision guidance regarding groundwater discharges; US Army Corps nationwide permits; stream gauges; Sec. 401 certification implementation; OW and OECA national program guidance; proposed ELG for PFAS; the National Emerging Contaminants Research Initiative; the amended TSCA state consultation process; proposed technical support materials for 304(a) recommended criteria; and CWA priorities for the new Biden Administration.

ACWA also submitted testimony to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on PFAS challenges faced by states. ACWA staff continued to educate Congressional staff on proposed legislative NPDES permit program revisions.



COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS



ACWA continued focusing on building and maintaining collaborative relationships with leadership at EPA on key agency priorities, such as the Water Reuse Action Plan, SNC NCI Compliance Initiative, and Integrated Reports. ACWA also continued to lead the Nutrients Working Group and participate in the Source Water Collaborative and Decentralized Systems MOU. Our EPA Office of Water partners worked closely with ACWA volunteers and staff in planning our face-to-face workshop opportunities again this year.

ACWA also continued to work with longstanding partners like ASDWA on PFAS and worked with the Western States Water Council on WOTUS rule implementation.

ACWA'S LEADERSHIP AND STAFF WILL KEEP EXPANDING, IMPROVING, AND STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION IN THE COMING YEARS.

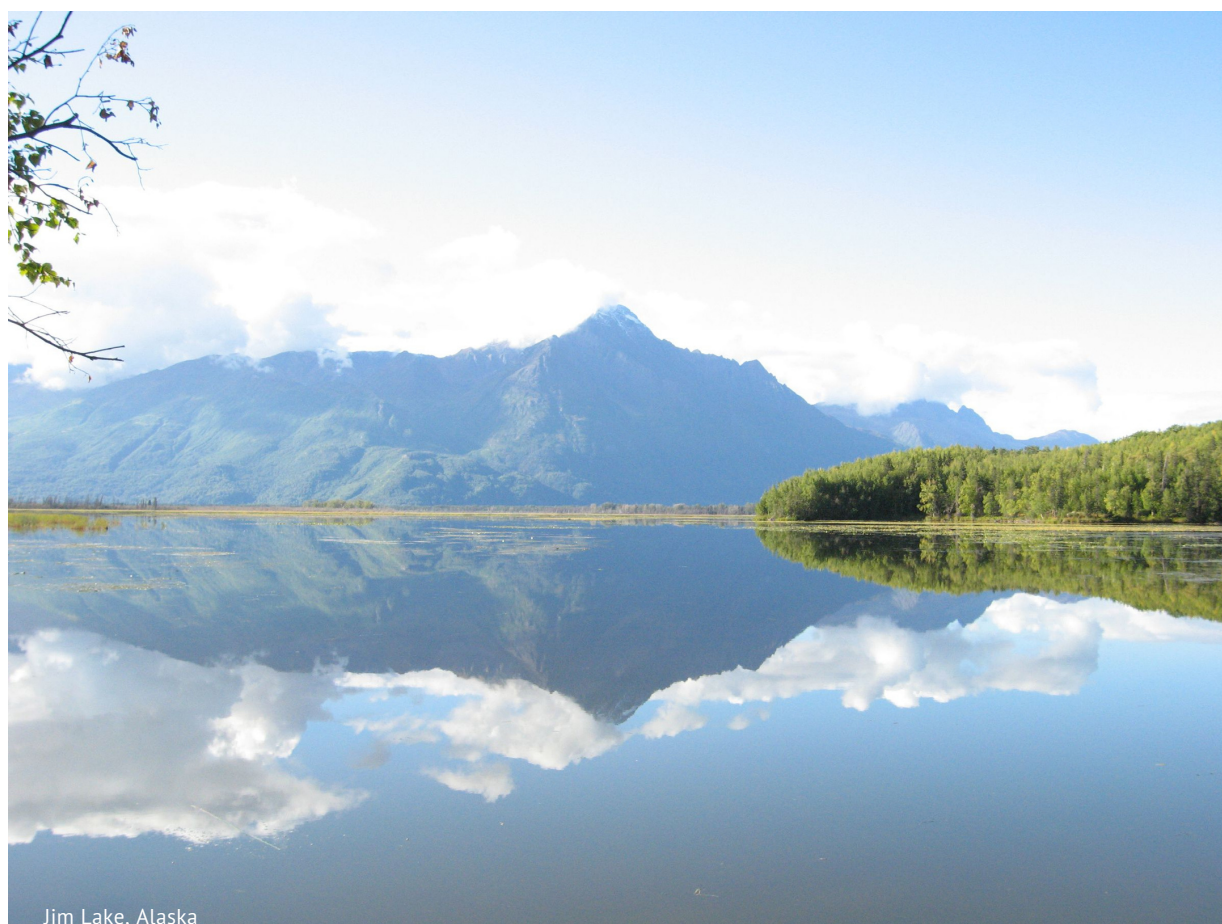
STRATEGIC PLAN FY2018-2022

ACTION ITEMS AND STATUS

ACWA's FY2018-2022 Strategic Plan continues to be implemented in FY2021. Over the past few years, ACWA Staff, Management, and Board of Directors developed, reviewed, approved, and implemented several new policies, tools, and reports. For a complete list of items and status, please review the table below and on the following page.

Action Item	Summary	Frequency	Product	Status
Action Item 1.1.1	Update Organizational Chart	As Appropriate	New Chart	Completed
Action Item 1.1.2	ACWA Priority Setting Process	Once	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 1.1.3	ACWA Services Alignment Process	Once	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 1.1.4	ACWA Resources Alignment Process	Once	Updated Policy	Completed
Action Item 1.1.5	Report on Priority Setting and Services/Resources Results	Annual	Updated Annual Report	Completed
Action Item 1.2.1	National Membership Meetings	Biannual	No Change	Completed
Action Item 1.2.2	Consider Options for Improved State to State Communication	Once	Workspaces	Completed
Action Item 1.2.3	Annual Survey Communications Tools	Annual	Updated Survey Tool	Completed
Action Item 1.2.4	Report on Annual Survey Communications Tools Results	Annual	Updated Annual Report	Completed
Action Item 1.3.1	Experts Identification	Annual	New Internal List	Completed
Action Item 1.3.2	Coordinate and Promote Use of Experts List	As Appropriate	New Directory	Completed
Action Item 1.3.3	Request Membership Input on Experts List	Once	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 2.1.1	Establish Process for Issue Escalation	Once	Update Policy	Completed
Action Item 2.1.2	Document Process for Position/Letter Development	Once	Update Policy	Completed
Action Item 2.1.3	Establish Process for Communicating Position/Letter	Once	Update Policy	Completed
Action Item 2.1.4	Annually Survey 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.3.	Annual	Updated Survey Tool	Completed
Action Item 2.2.1	Document Process for Identifying Federal Agencies	Once	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 2.2.2	Implement Plan for Working with Federal Agencies	Once	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 2.2.3	Report Work with Federal Agencies	Annual	Updated Report	Completed
Action Item 2.3.1	Document Process for Identifying Other Groups	Once	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 2.3.2	Implement Plan for Working with Other Groups	Annual	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 2.3.3	Report Work with Other Groups	Annual	Updated Annual Report	Completed
Action Item 3.1.1	Document Member Selection by State	Once	Updated Survey Tool	Completed

Action Item 3.2.1	Develop New Member Training	Once	New Tool	Completed
Action Item 3.2.2	Board Member Outreach Talking Points	Annual	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 3.2.3	Develop & Implement ACWA Mentor Plan	Annual	New Policy and Program	Completed
Action Item 3.2.4	Develop Alumni Program	Once	New Policy and Program	Completed
Action Item 4.1.1	Maximize Staff Retention	Once	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 4.1.2	Conduct Compensation Study	Once	New Report & New Policy	Completed
Action Item 4.1.3	Develop Staff Training Plan	Once	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 4.2.1	Ensure Adequate Continuing Education	Annual	New Policy	Completed
Action Item 4.2.2	Ensure Financial Audits are Completed	Annual	No Change	Completed
Action Item 4.3.1	Review vendor costs.	Biennial	No Change	Completed
Action Item 4.3.2	Review Infrastructure and Other Technologies	Annual	No Change	Completed
Action Item 4.4.1	Develop and Implement Budget	Annual	No Change	Completed
Action Item 4.4.2	Determine Appropriate 6 Month Reserve Goal	Biennial	New Report and New Policy	Completed
Action Item 4.5.1	Develop Performance Measures for Action Items	Once	New Report	Completed
Action Item 4.5.2	Publish States of Action Items in Annual Report	Annual	Updated Report	Completed





MEMBERSHIP SURVEY BY THE NUMBERS

42 States and Interstates are represented in the survey. There were 82 participants.

- 92.8% find topic specific workshops useful/very useful; 6.1% never used**
- 92.5% find conference calls/webinars useful/very useful; 3.7% never used**
- 81.7% find the Weekly Wrap useful/very useful; 3.7% never used**
- 81.1% find small workgroup meetings w/ EPA useful/very useful; 12.4% never used**
- 77.7% find membership emails useful/very useful**
- 74.1% find letters to EPA useful/very useful; 9.8% never used; 2.5% unaware**
- 51.2% find the website useful/very useful; 19.5% never used; 3.7% unaware**
- 45.6% find EPA rules chart useful/very useful; 21.1% never used; 29.6% unaware**
- 37.7% find EPA budget chart useful/very useful; 20.7% never used; 20.3% unaware**
- 35.1% find the annual report useful/very useful**

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY BY THE NUMBERS (CONT.)

98.7% believe ACWA has the right mix of committees and workgroups

- Suggestions for reporting out to membership
- Suggestion for eliminating if not active
- Suggestion for Water Reuse workgroup
- Suggestion for greater focus on ground water/stormwater interactions
- Suggestion for quicker response to new research (e.g. 6PPD/Tires)

92.7% indicated did not notice change in ACWA's service during Covid-19

- ACWA doing an amazing job
- Meeting format has changed, great level of service
- Miss face-to-face networking but nothing ACWA can fix
- Call and webinar notifications have improved during pandemic
- Excellent transition to new reality, more people participating at virtual events

Organizational Recommendations for Greater Involvement

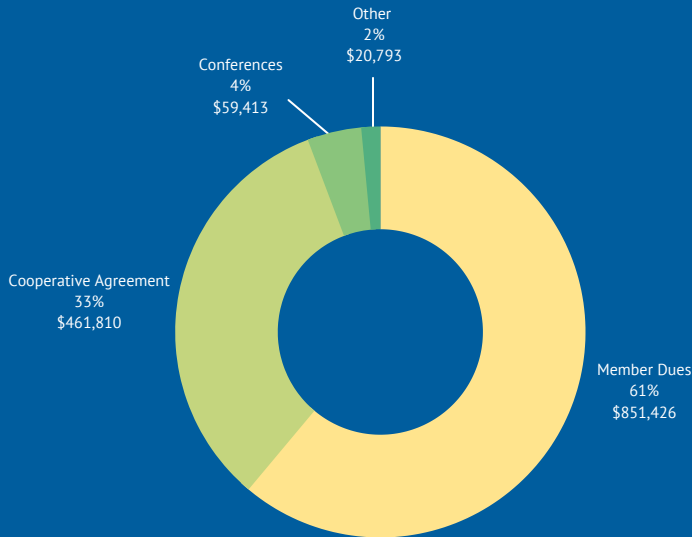
- Western States Water Council
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- Association of State Wetlands Managers

58 people responded positively to question regarding justification for ACWA membership

Top 6 Programmatic Issues Identified by States/Interstates

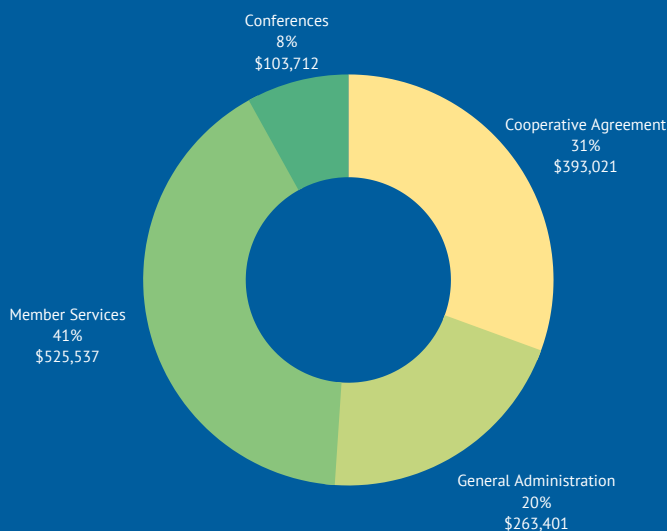
- Funding/hiring freezes/backlog of work
- Navigable Waters Protection Rule
- Nutrients/HABS
- TMDL development and revisions
- PFAS and other new chemicals of emerging concern
- Data systems and data quality

FISCAL SNAPSHOT



FY2020 REVENUE

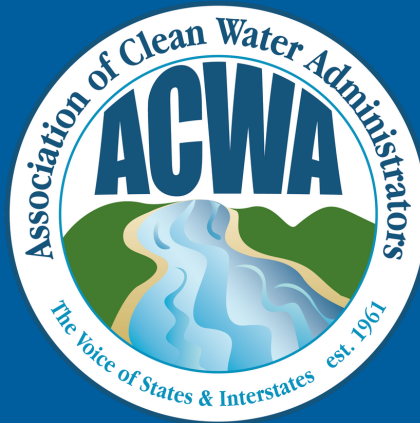
This revenue graph represents the Association's audited revenue for FY2020 ending at **\$1,393,442**. A significant percentage of ACWA's fiscal revenue is Member Dues and Cooperative Agreement support from EPA.



FY2020 EXPENSES

This expense graph represents the Association's audited expenses for FY2020 ending at **\$1,285,671**. The graph shows ACWA's continued commitment to serving the membership needs, facilitating important meetings and workshops, and providing capacity building opportunities for our members.

ACWA thanks you for another great year!



We invite you to stay in touch with us at:

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