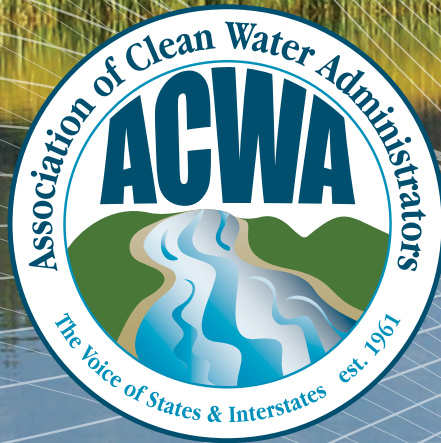


ANNUAL REPORT

Association of Clean Water
Administrators

FISCAL YEAR 2023



Front cover: Wetlands associated with the Ancient Lake Bonneville, near Wendover, Utah
Inside cover: Hosmer Lake, Oregon

Association of Clean Water Administrators

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Letter from ACWA's President

Dear colleagues,

It has been my honor to serve this last year as the ACWA President. I'm very excited to welcome you all to Boise, Idaho for our 62nd Annual Meeting and look forward to everyone enjoying a wonderful opportunity to gather and learn from each other. ACWA's members embody the best of public service, striving every day to ensure our most precious natural resource, clean water, is protected. I am so appreciative of the solidarity and support that ACWA's members show for each other and this organization.

This past year has been marked by significant milestones, achievements, and a vibrant calendar of events. I encourage everyone to not only look through this year's annual report but stroll through ACWA's website to see the varied and various committees and activities being supported. There is quite a bit going on, so I would like to highlight some key accomplishments and developments achieved over the last year.

First and foremost, throughout the year, ACWA staff and members worked diligently on special events and activities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act, including a story map highlighting specific clean water advancements and improvements submitted by member states. ACWA spearheaded a social media campaign and photo contest aimed at honoring the legacy of this groundbreaking legislation, raising awareness about its importance and highlighting the progress we have made in improving water quality nationwide. From educational campaigns to public forums, ACWA members engaged stakeholders and the public to reflect on the Act's impact and envision its future implications.

Recognizing the importance of direct engagement and collaboration, we successfully transitioned from virtual meetings back to in-person gatherings. Throughout the pandemic, ACWA continued to foster an environment conducive to knowledge exchange, networking, and sharing best practices. The return to in-person meetings has allowed us to renew and strengthen our relationships, amplify the impact of our collective efforts, provide a venue for sharing insights, collaborate effectively, and collectively chart a course for the next phase of clean water administration. Over this last year ACWA staff successfully organized a full slate of in-person meetings including the Water Quality Modeling Workshop in September 2022, National Stormwater Roundtable in October 2022, the National

NPDES Permitting meeting in February 2023, and in May 2023 the Nutrients Permitting Workshop, Clean Water Cross-Program Workshop, and National Pretreatment Coordinator's Workshop.

ACWA members and staff continue to advance the principle of cooperative federalism, which remains essential for effective clean water governance. ACWA staff continue to advocate to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters on behalf of member states and provide a conduit for us all to reach out to EPA and be heard. ACWA also advocated on EPA proposals such as the Tribal Reserved Treaty Rights Rule, the Tribal Baseline Water Quality Standards Rule, Clean Water SRF Funding, and a response to EPA's memo "Accelerating Nutrient Pollution Reductions in the Nation's Waters." The Mid-Year meeting was also a successful example where we were able to bring heads of the Office of Wastewater Management, Science and Technology, Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, and Enforcement and Compliance Assurance to speak to our members and they could hear from us as well. By facilitating regular dialogues, sharing best practices, and promoting effective communication channels, we enhance the spirit of partnership and leverage the power of collective decision-making.

Looking to the year ahead, ACWA has initiated a new cross-program workshop series to foster cross-collaboration and better integrate our core Clean Water Act programs. This opportunity brings together experienced staff from different programs to explore synergies, identify opportunities for collaboration, and promote best practices in clean water administration. In conjunction with the workgroup, we have successfully organized a series of workshops over the life of the award. These workshops will facilitate skill development, share innovative approaches, and strengthen the professional capabilities of our members.

I am pleased to report that the association is in healthy financial standing and delighted to announce that ACWA staff have successfully completed the application and approval process for a new 6-year award. This cooperative agreement will provide substantial support for the work of our association, enabling us to continue providing members with excellent opportunities for networking and workshops and enhancing our advocacy efforts to amplify our impact. Our collaboration with the EPA through these cooperative agreements has

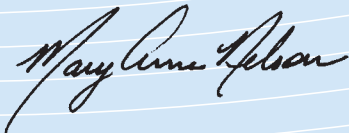
been highly successful. Staff has worked diligently to ensure that federal funds are expended efficiently and effectively, minimizing turnback and maximizing impact. By adhering to strict financial protocols, monitoring expenditures closely, and engaging in regular communication with the EPA, ACWA has established a track record of responsible and transparent grant and cooperative agreement management.

ACWA is blessed to have devoted members and to also have such talented and experienced staff working continually, often behind the scenes, to ensure that the goals and mission of the association are met. I want to thank each one. The service you give and the work you do in managing committees, organizing meetings, providing insight and review on topics of national importance, and generally just keeping ahead of the myriad of issues is outstanding and appreciated.

Over the last decade, I have been fortunate to participate and serve in different roles within ACWA, as well as gain several new friends. The benefit of ACWA is the shared experiences of its members working in clean water protection and a willingness to support each other. I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for devoting their time and energy to advancing the work of the association. I greatly appreciate each and every member of the association for your support, dedication, and expertise. The association's healthy financial standing, successful grant management, and the launch of new initiatives are a testament to your hard work and commitment. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and I am confident that with our continued collaboration and strategic focus, we will drive even greater progress in the years to come.

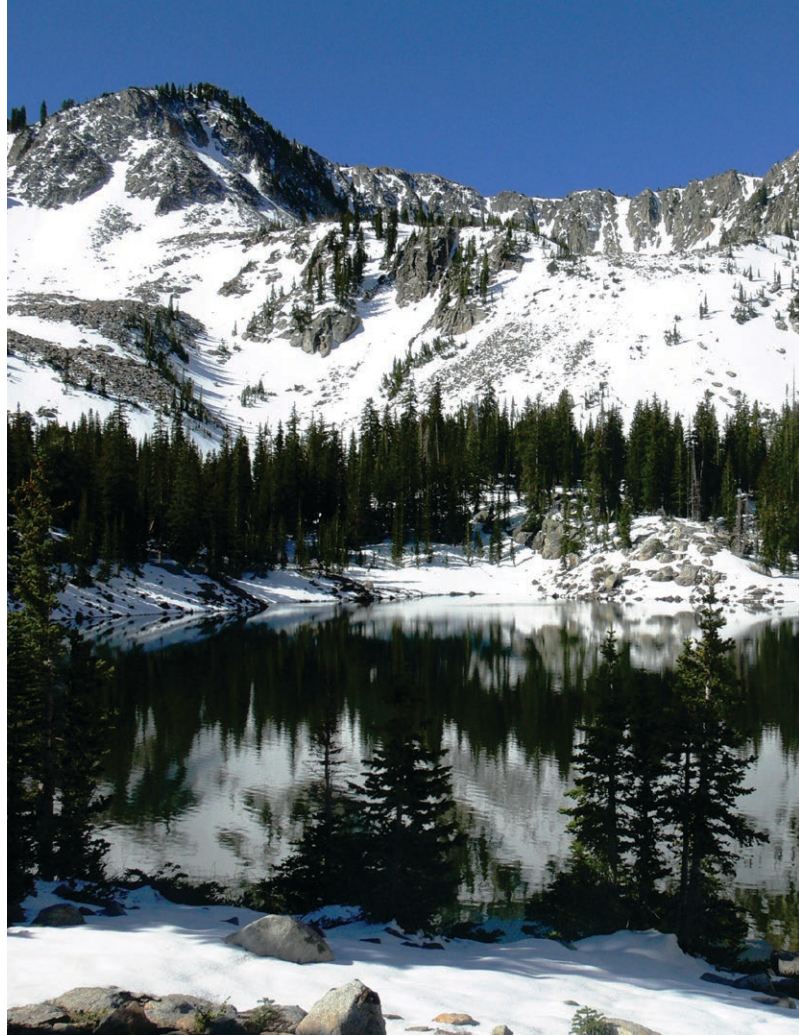
Thank you all for your unwavering support.

Mary Anne Nelson



Administrator, Water Quality Division
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
and ACWA President

Top: Twin Lakes Brighton, Utah
Bottom: Judith Landing, Montana



Letter from ACWA's Executive Director and General Counsel

Dear Members:

It is hard to believe that another year has passed. As I sit and reflect upon the past year for the Association, there are many activities and accomplishments that the members, Board of Directors, Chairs, and staff can be very proud of. We emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic focused and with a clear sense of purpose to carry forward the voice of the states and interstates on priority Clean Water Act issues. In the following pages, you will see how the members and staff of ACWA worked collaboratively with our federal partners to address the water quality and regulatory challenges facing the nation's waters. I remain proud to represent the Association as its Executive Director and General Counsel, and passionate about our mission. I thank ACWA's Board of Directors, leadership, and our entire membership for your contributions to our accomplishments.

A few pivotal moments are worthy of highlight in this letter.

First, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Clean Water Act (CWA). For a half-century, this landmark law has defined how you do your work to protect and restore the nation's waters. ACWA used our 2022 Annual Member Meeting to kick off a celebration of the Act and showcase how the States/Interstates have used the CWA to protect and restore their waters. We achieved tremendous success with the Photo Contest we ran jointly with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water and the award-winning Story Map of Success Stories that we created. Over the past 50 years, tremendous progress has been made. ACWA and you, our members, will also be at the forefront as we confront future water quality challenges.

Second, we continued to deliver on our commitments under our Cooperative Agreements with EPA and this year we continued to host several highly successful workshops related to stormwater management, pretreatment programs,

general NPDES program management and permit writing, nutrients permit writing, modeling, and water reuse. These workshops have been very successful opportunities for in-person training and discussion, and we are incredibly thankful to EPA, the Office of Water, and the Office of Enforcement Compliance Assurance for their financial support. Moreover, ACWA's dynamic committees/workgroups positioned the Association to respond to EPA initiatives to ensure that the States'/Interstates' priorities are considered. As I look to the coming year, I expect that our committees/workgroups will continue to serve as ACWA's technical experts helping to shape key CWA regulations and policies.

Third, ACWA remains in a strong financial position and is well-situated to continue to influence and shape clean water policy nationally. ACWA members and staff, along with our leadership, are working to ensure the Association has the resources to continue providing valuable services to our members and to ensure that our operating budget is fiscally sound and reasonable. I want to 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 always, I owe a debt of gratitude to the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors for their steadfast leadership and commitment to ACWA, and the amazing ACWA staff. Each of us works tirelessly to ensure that there is clean water everywhere for everyone! I hope to see you all at one of ACWA's member meetings this year!

Sincerely,



Julia Anastasio
ACWA Executive Director and
General Counsel



About ACWA

History, Vision, and Mission

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, 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/interstate water quality program administrators and managers.

ACWA strives to convey the shared perspective of state, interstate, and 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.

“Clean water everywhere for everyone”

As the national voice of state and interstate water programs, ACWA strives to protect and restore watersheds. 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 Vision: Achieve clean water everywhere for everyone through an engaged and trusted association where clean water administrators share, collaborate, educate, and advocate.

ACWA Mission: To serve as the national nonpartisan voice of state, interstate, and territorial administrators responsible for efficient and effective implementation of the Clean Water Act.



Big Spring, Kentucky

ACWA Leadership and Staff

ACWA Leadership

President

Mary Ann Nelson (ID)

Vice President

Amanda Vincent (LA)

Treasurer

Chris Weiberg (MO)

Andrew Gavin (SRBC)

Past-President

Andrew Gavin (SRBC)

Secretary

Karen Mogus (CA)

National Office Staff

Executive Director and General Counsel

Julia Anastasio

Deputy Director

Sean Rolland

Director of Operations

Annette Ivey

Environmental Analyst

Jake Adler

Environmental Program Manager

Jasper Hobbs

Member Services Associate

Alexys Bailey



Board Representatives

Region 1

Tracy Wood (NH)

Region 2

Jennifer Feltis (NJ)

Region 3

Jeff Seltzer (DC)

Region 4

Jennifer Dodd (TN)

Region 5

Adrian Stocks (WI)

Region 6

Shelly Lemon (NM)

Region 7

Lori McDaniel (IA)

Region 8

Jennifer Zygumt (WY)

Region 9

Karen Mogus (CA)

Region 10

Randy Bates (AK)

Interstate

Evelyn Powers (IEC)

Committee Leadership and Staff Liaisons

Julia Anastasio

- Legal Affairs / Bob Brown (MA) and Carin Spreitzer (NY)
- WOTUS / Navigable Waters Protection Rule Workgroup: Staff-led
- Environmental Protection Agency Planning, Program Guidance, and Metrics / Trevor Baggorie (AZ)
- Funding and Congressional Relations / Richard Friesner (NEIWPC)

Jake Adler

- Monitoring & Standards Assessment / Rebecca Diehl (DC) and Lindsay Patterson (WY)
- PFAS / Staff-Led
- Water Resources Management / Matt Rowe (MD)

Sean Rolland

- Permitting & Compliance / Jason Knutson (WI) and Scott Morris (VA)
- Stormwater / Paul Hlavinka (MD) and Rebecca Villalba (TX)
- Compliance Assurance and Data Systems / Katherine McCrea (WY), Jon Wendel (AK), and Jessie Yates (MO)

Jasper Hobbs

- Nutrients Policy / Nicole Rowan (CO) and Adam Schneiders (IA)
- Watersheds / Traci Iott (CT)
- 319/Nonpoint Source / Staff-Led
- Modeling / Craig Lott (VA)
- Environmental Justice / Melanie Davenport (VA)



Coastal sound, North Carolina

ACWA Members and Affiliates 2022–2023

- 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 and Environmental Control
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- DC District Department of Energy & 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 and 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 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 Ecology
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

2022 Awards

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATESMAN

Jean Coleman



Jean Coleman is a senior managing attorney at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency primarily advising agency water programs. Her work includes permitting and enforcement for municipal wastewater and mining, as well as advising on water quality trading, legislative initiatives, water quality standards rulemaking, TMDLs, and Tribal law. Jean's entire career has been devoted to natural resource protection, having worked for land conservation organizations in the Northeast and Midwest, and helping local governments incorporate natural resource protection into local plans and regulations. Jean says that ACWA has created an invaluable community in which she learns from other states about the leading water issues of the day and is able to share her experience with others.

ENVIRONMENTAL STATESMAN

Adam Schnieders



Adam Schnieders has worked in various roles for water quality programs within the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for the past 21 years, including a role coordinating the state's water quality standards efforts, and serving as the NPDES program supervisor. Adam was a leader in the development of Iowa's Nutrient Reduction Strategy that brings the point and nonpoint source sectors together in a common statewide plan to reduce nutrients in Iowa's waters and those of its downstream neighbors. Schnieders now serves as Water Quality Resource Coordinator, which is responsible for the management and coordination of water quality policies and partnership programs for the DNR. Adam plays an active role in a number of workgroups, including the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force, the Water Quality Executive Committee for the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association, and has been serving as Co-Chair of the Association of Clean Water Administrators Nutrients Policy Committee since 2014.

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

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE

Nicole Rowan



Nicole Rowan serves as Division Director for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Water Quality Control Division. In this capacity, she oversees the implementation of the federal Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Colorado's Water Quality Control Act. Ms. Rowan has over 25 years of experience as an environmental engineer working for the state of Colorado and in private industry. She has a bachelor's degree in Biological Systems Engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado at Denver.

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 shown potential for future leadership.

EMERGING LEADER

Lindsay Patterson



Lindsay oversees the development of Wyoming's Surface Water Quality Standards at the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ). In this role, Lindsay also coordinates Wyoming's efforts to address nutrient pollution and helps ensure that projects protect water quality by providing feedback on analyses such as those required under the National Environmental Policy Act. To support her work at WDEQ, Lindsay participates in many of the Association of Clean Water Administrators' committees and has served as the Association of Clean Water Administrators' Monitoring, Standards, and Assessment co-chair since August 2021. Outside work, Lindsay enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband, six-year-old twin boys, and ten-year-old daughter.

EMERGING LEADER

Richard Friesner



Dr. Friesner is an experienced environmental science and policy professional with more than fifteen years of experience in nonprofit, private sector, state, and federal governmental organizations. This includes running a small consulting engineers office for several years, working on water quality sampling and analysis projects at the U.S. Geological Survey, and leading environmental education programs at George Mason University. He joined NEIWPCC in 2016 as the Division Director for Water Quality Programs, where he advises NEIWPCC's executive director on water quality and environmental policy matters. He works with state and federal staff to reach consensus on technical aspects of complex problems and the implementation of the Clean Water Act. Dr. Friesner directs staff on numerous programs, including: water quality standards, wetlands, total maximum daily loads, harmful algal blooms, aquatic nuisance species, citizen science monitoring, nutrient management, and policy matters.

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE

Tom Stiles



Tom Stiles started his career in water in Kansas in 1982 at the Kansas Water Office, working as a hydrologist, water resource manager and Assistant Director. During his 16 years with KWO, he established the state instream flow program, the water assurance program for cities to use Corps of Engineer storage for water supply and the beginnings of strategic planning in the State Water Plan. He left KWO in 1998 to join the Kansas Department of Health & Environment to initiate the Total Maximum Daily Load program in Kansas. Over time he added water quality standards, Integrated Reporting, monitoring and managing Harmful Algal Blooms to the task of interpreting the TMDLs for guiding NPDES permits. In 2017, he became Assistant Director of the Bureau of Water and two years later took his current position as Bureau Director, overseeing both Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act implementation in Kansas. Stiles has been the President of the Interstate Council on Water Policy, chairman of Western States Water Council's water quality committee and in 2020-2021, was President of ACWA.

2022 Awards continued

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

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Erica Gaddis



Erica Brown Gaddis was the Director of the Utah Division of Water Quality from 2017 to 2022 after serving as Assistant Director for 2 years. Prior to joining UDEQ, Erica worked as a consultant with expertise in water resources and water quality. Erica holds a B.S. in Biology and Environmental Science from Willamette University in Oregon; a MS from Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Vermont, Gund Institute for Ecological Economics. Erica was born and raised in Utah and enjoys living and working in Salt Lake City with her husband and three sons.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Robert Brown



Bob is currently the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources at the Massachusetts Department of Water Resources and is a co-chair of ACWA's Legal Affairs Committee. He has been with the department for over thirty years serving in several capacities in the Office of General Counsel, including the Chief Regional Counsel for the department's Central Regional Office and the Commissioner's Legal Counsel for Administrative Appeals. Before joining the department, Bob served as an enforcement attorney with the Arizona Department of Water Resources and as a staff attorney with the Pinal & Gila Counties Legal Aid Society. Bob is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst (B.A.) and the Vermont Law School (J.D., M.S.E.L.).

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.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERSHIP

Deidre Finn



Deirdre Finn is Executive Director of the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA), which represents the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), the nation's premier programs for funding water infrastructure that protects public health and the environment. For more than 30 years, she has worked as a public policy advocate, with a focus on water, environmental protection, education and emergency management. Deirdre earned a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from St. Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana.



Top: Falls of Makahiku, Palikea Stream, Haleakala National Park, Hawaii
Bottom: Utah Lake, Utah

Committee and Workgroup Activities

In the last year, ACWA's committees and workgroups have been very active. Here is a sampling of some of the topics and activities covered.

The 319/Nonpoint Source Workgroup held informational webinars throughout the year, providing a forum of learning and information sharing between the states and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This workgroup also worked with EPA on reviewing the 319 grant guideline process.

The Compliance Assurance and Data Systems Workgroup focused efforts on the ICIS modernization, the NPDES eReporting Rule, the SNC national compliance initiative, noncompliance communication, priority National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives, the SmartTools inspection application, ECHO tool development, the National Targeting Center, the State Review Framework, small municipality compliance, and the new National Noncompliance Report.

The Environmental Justice Committee formed this year and has continued to gain members as plans are made on how best to move this group forward. Throughout the year, this committee was joined by EPA and state staff to learn about and discuss various EJ-related initiatives and resources.

The Environmental Protection Agency 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.

The Funding Congressional Relations Committee provided comments and letters on multiple pieces of legislation including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA appropriations with a focus on funding needs for state programs.

The Legal Affairs Committee continued to host quarterly calls on pertinent clean water related cases and issues. This year the LAC held calls on issues such as the ongoing WOTUS/ Sackett litigation, tribal water rights, citizen suits and diligent prosecution cases, and 404 veto authority.

The Modeling Workgroup held informational calls throughout the year to promote information sharing and

modeling resources to its members. ACWA also held an in-person modeling workshop in September, 2022. This workshop was held at the EPA R5 offices in Chicago, IL and included trainings on Qual2K and SWAT, plus a track designed for managers who work with modeling staff and contractors. There were 93 attendees, including 15 virtual as part of the managers track. Overall, this was a very successful meeting with great partnership with ACWA members and EPA's modeling workgroup. Post-workshop feedback was positive and shows a continued desire for annual workshops.

The Monitoring, Standards, and Assessment Committee focused on supporting state WQS programs, implementation of nationally-recommended criteria, and updates to the WQS Regulation to address Tribal WQS. MSA also continued collaborations with EPA's Office of Science and Technology. A priority focus was addressing CEC and PFAS under CWA, TSCA, and various data reporting programs. MSA's PFAS Subcommittee regularly reviewed state and federal developments and helped prioritize national activities, and providing planning support for the National Cross-Program PFAS Workshop with partners ASDWA, ASTSWMO, EPA, and DOD.

The Nutrients Policy Committee held a workshop in Denver, CO. This workshop brought together state members and EPA to discuss ideas and needs in an effort to work towards state nutrients policy recommendations, while also sharing efforts, successes, and lessons learned on nutrient permitting and reduction strategies. This Committee also engaged in much discussion with EPA regarding a few nutrients related memos. These comments focused on the need for continued state engagement from EPA on nutrient issues.

The Permitting & Compliance Committee covered a number of program areas including *Maui* guidance and implementation, permitting oversight, permit backlog and administratively continued permits, peak flow management rule, CSO workgroup products and tools, water reuse, integrated planning, market-based approaches, cybersecurity, the 2023 National NPDES Permitting Meeting, the 2023 National Pretreatment Coordinators Workshop, and helping promote and support the 2022 Small Municipalities Symposium.

The Pretreatment Workgroup was sunset in August 2022 and will shift pretreatment work over to the full Permitting & Compliance Committee.

The Stormwater Workgroup held several conference calls/webinars that focused on prioritizing updates to EPA's 26 Industrial Stormwater Factsheets. ACWA also provided feedback on EPA's proposed rule to clarify its Stormwater Phase II regulations confirming the urbanized area designation criteria will remain at a population of 50,000 people, in light of recent changes made by the Census Bureau to eliminate the definition of "urbanized areas." The workgroup also supported the 2022 National Stormwater Roundtable.

The Water Resources Management Committee focused on climate adaptation, water reuse, and resilience. The Committee has led ACWA's efforts to collaborate on EPA's climate actions and climate/resilience strategic plans, and focused on assisting states that seek further integrate climate adaptation and water resources management into clean water programs. The Committee also supported several state-priority actions under the National Water Reuse Action Plan, including the REUSExplorer Tool, and supported the cross-organization Water Reuse Regulators Summit in March 2023.

The Watersheds Committee worked with members and EPA on the second iteration of the Section 303(d) Vision. ACWA staff and committee chairs participated in the drafting process. ACWA also compiled comments on behalf of its members on the 2024 Integrated Reporting Memo. This committee also held monthly webinars focusing on discussion on matters relating to the 303(d) program, stakeholder engagement, environmental justice, and climate change. ACWA also provided support to ELI's National 303(d)/TMDL Training Workshop.

The WOTUS Workgroup focused this year on the Administration's plans to rewrite the 2020 WOTUS rule and draft a durable, science-based rule that is informed by recent Supreme Court cases. The workgroup also coordinated with our partners with the National Association of Wetlands Managers (NAWM) on developing a series of implementation webinars with the EPA and the Army Corps to answer state/interstate questions.



Top: Chimney Point, Vermont
Bottom: Cumberland Falls, Kentucky

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.

2022 National Stormwater Roundtable

With Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) support, ACWA facilitated the 2022 National Stormwater Roundtable, which was held in Boston, Massachusetts. This year's roundtable had 159 participants, of which 66 participated in person and 93 participated virtually. Participants represented 43 states, 1 Interstate, the District of Columbia, 7 EPA Regions, EPA HQs, and several invited presenter organizations. Topics discussed included an overview of the VT, MA and the City of Boston's municipal stormwater programs, perspective of the National Home Builders Association, Stormwater Testing and Evaluation of Products and Practices (STEPP), the New England Stormwater Retrofit Manual, WEF's Stormwater Needs Assessment, EPA's Clean Water Needs Survey, BIL funding, integrated planning, urban areas, new/emerging contaminants, treating stormwater as a resource, advancing stormwater resiliency, StreamStats, Smart Tools Inspection Software, and a discussion of the Texas ePermitting/eReporting system. Presentations can be found at <https://www.acwa-us.org/documents/2022-national-stormwater-roundtable-presentations/>.

2022 Cross-Program PFAS Workshop

ACWA, in partnership with ASDWA and ASTSWMO, conducted a Cross-Program PFAS Workshop in late September 2022 in Washington, DC. The workshop included presentations from experts in the respective programs and key federal counterparts, including Department of Defense, and a states-only discussion on paths forward. Major themes of conversation included available lab capacity, fish tissue advisories and management, multi-entity litigation, risk communication among the programs, biosolids solutions and approaches, insufficient disposal capacity at scale,

and how historic pollutant issues provide lessons for approaching PFAS. The meeting agenda and presentations are located at <https://astswmo.org/2022-pfas-workshop-presentations/>.

2022 Modeling Workshop

The Modeling workgroup held an in-person meeting in September 2022. This workshop was held at the EPA R5 offices in Chicago, IL and included trainings on Qual2K and SWAT, plus a track designed for managers who work with modeling staff and contractors. There were 93 attendees, including 15 virtual as part of the managers track. Overall, this was a very successful meeting with great partnership with ACWA members and EPA's modeling workgroup. Post-workshop feedback was positive and shows a continued desire for annual workshops. A copy of the agenda can be found at <https://www.acwa-us.org/documents/2022-modeling-workshop-agenda/>.

2023 National NPDES Permitting Meeting

ACWA hosted the 2023 National NPDES Permitting Meeting February 28 – March 2, 2023. In person attendance included 95 people with representatives from EPA headquarters, 38 states, and 7 EPA Regional offices. There were 88 people that virtually participated throughout the meeting. Topics for meeting included PFAS permitting and best practices, using technology to improve permitting pace and quality, streamlining the permitting process, climate change, innovative clauses and approaches, backlog root cause analysis, effluent data trends, Maui groundwater discharges, EPA oversight tools, inspector training needs, and different ways EPA and states can better partner. Presentations can be found at <https://www.acwa-us.org/documents/2023-national-npdes-permitting-meeting-presentations/>.



Scenic river, North Dakota

2023 State Summit on Water Reuse

In March 2023, ACWA led a regulators' meeting on water reuse with partner organizations ASDWA, ASTHO, EPA, and WateReuse Association. The "2023 State Summit on Water Reuse" in Atlanta, GA on March 5th was co-located with the WateReuse Symposium, the largest recurring technical conference on water reuse and recycling in the US. Approximately 50 attendees, mostly states but several from EPA and CDC, attended the workshop training in person, where participants discussed technical and policy aspects related to water reuse authorities under state law as well as the Safe and Clean Water Acts, including topics like risk communication, emerging contaminants management, workforce attrition among regulated and regulating agencies, EJ, and aquifer storage. Some state attendees also participated in a state regulators panel discussion before the regulated community during the WateReuse Symposium. Meeting notes can be found here <https://www.acwa-us.org/documents/state-summits-on-water-reuse-materials/>.

2023 National Pretreatment Coordinators Workshop

With EPA support, ACWA facilitated the 2023 National Pretreatment Coordinators Workshop, which was held in Boise, Idaho on May 15 and 16, 2023. This year's workshop had 102 participants, 53 which participated in person. Participants represented 32 states, 8 EPA Regions, EPA HQs, and ACWA. Topics discussed included NPDES pretreatment language, electronic reporting, data management and use, inspection targeting, new ELGs, compliance assistance, approval authority, 10(e) states, enforcement response plans, enforcement case studies, inspection training, succession planning, mini pretreatment programs, tools and training, the nexus between audits and inspections, state and

federal PFAS updates, and local limits approval authority vs control authority. Presentations can be found here <https://www.acwa-us.org/documents/2023-national-pretreatment-coordinators-workshop-presentations/>.

2023 Clean Water Cross-Program Workshop

Workshop #1 under this award, which seeks to convene and integrate the core CWA programs, occurred on May 4-5, 2023, co-located with the 2023 Nutrients Permitting Workshop in Denver, CO. The first workshop in a series of six, the agenda focused on supporting states attempting to promulgate multiple, difficult WQS at once. Workshop discussions and presentations focused on identifying challenges and solutions for two varieties of difficult criteria: those with sources outside programs' control, and those with legacy contributions and long-term compliance schedules (i.e., selenium, mercury, arsenic, nutrients, etc.).

2023 Nutrients Permitting Workshop

ACWA held a nutrients permitting workshop May 1-3 in Denver, Co. This was the eighth and final workshop under this grant. The meeting brought together over 60 state and EPA representatives, and focused on state successes and lessons learned on a variety of topics relating to nutrient reduction strategies. A portion of the meeting also looked ahead at what the States feel is the future of nutrients permitting and reduction, with many discussions identifying challenges and successes. Moving forward, ACWA plans to work with its members on the key issues identified at the workshop. Presentations can be found here <https://www.acwa-us.org/documents/2023-nutrients-permitting-workshop-presentations/>.



Letters

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 often signs on to letters developed in tandem with partner organizations such as ECOS, ASDWA, CIFA, NAWM, and GWPC.

Over the last fiscal year, ACWA has written or joined letters on the following issues: infrastructure funding, nutrients management, appropriations, Small MS4 Urbanized Areas, CW and DW SRFs, USGS Stream Gages, integrated reporting and listing decisions, PFAS reporting requirements, WQS revisions to protect tribal reserved rights, and OECA's National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives for 2024 – 2027.

Partnerships and Collaborations

ACWA continues to maintain and further build collaborative relationships with leadership at the Environmental Protection Agency on key agency priorities such as the SNC National Compliance Initiative, Environmental Justice, Climate Change, BIL Funding, the Water Reuse Action Plan, TMDL Visioning, and Integrated Reports. ACWA also continued to lead the Nutrients Working Group and participate in the Source Water Collaborative and Decentralized Systems MOU.

EPA Office of Water partners worked closely with ACW volunteers and staffing planning our conferences, meetings, and workshops. ACWA also continued to work with longstanding partners like ECOS, ASDWA and CIFA on PFAS and funding.



Left: Virgin River, Zion National Park, Utah
Top: Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island
Bottom: Volga River, Iowa

50th Anniversary of The Clean Water Act



First Place: Yellowstone River. Taken In Yellowstone Park by Joseph Hamner. Yellowstone River. ©Joseph Hamner



Second Place: Mississippi River Life. Taken in Bettendorf, Iowa by Dale Fehr. Mississippi River Life. ©Dale Fehr



Third Place: Great Egrets in Sync. Taken in Baton Rouge, Louisiana by Esther Fleming. Great Egrets in Sync. ©Esther Fleming

This fiscal year we marked the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act. As part of the celebration the Board of Directors authorized several activities to honor the occasion including: charging no registration fee for the 2022 Annual Meeting, a robust travel scholarship program for members to attend the Annual Meeting, a robust debate on the future of the Act during the meeting, collection of resolutions and proclamations from member states and interstates, photo contest that generated almost 300 entries and the development of an award winning story map highlighting state/ interstate successes over the past 50 years.



Beaver Pond, Connecticut

Strategic Plan FY 2023 – 2027

For the new FY 2023 – FY 2027 Strategic Plan, the AWCA Board of Directors supported building on the successes of the last two plans and maintaining similar goals and objectives, while integrating new priorities as appropriate. The new streamlined draft strategic plan was reviewed by the membership in April/May 2022 and approved by the Board of Directors in June 2022. Identification of activities and action items under the plan objectives will be approved by the ACWA Board of Directors and reported on annually.

VISION

Achieve clean water everywhere for everyone through an engaged and trusted association where clean water administrators share, collaborate, educate, and advocate.

MISSION

To serve as the national nonpartisan voice of state, interstate, and territorial administrators responsible for efficient and effective implementation of the Clean Water Act.

GOALS

1 Voice of State, Interstate, and Territorial Clean Water Administrators

- **Evaluate Existing Services and Operations**
Regularly evaluate services and organizational operations in the regulatory, policy, legislative, legal and technical areas to endure alignment with membership priorities.
- **Identify Ways to Improve Communication**
Regularly evaluate options to improve communication, participation, and information sharing among members.
- **Ensure Positions Represent Membership**
Ensure ACWA's positions and communications to congress, EPA, and others represent membership perspectives.
- **Strengthen Relationships**
Establish, expand, and enhance strategic collaborative relationships with appropriate federal agencies, non federal groups, and tribes.

2 Expand Membership Engagement and Enhance Leadership Development

- **Foster Understanding of Membership Value**
Identify ways to enhance each member's understanding of members benefits, responsibilities, and participation value and opportunities.
- **Foster Membership Engagement**
Identify ways to increase member staff engagement and service in leadership positions.
- **Invite Territorial Participation**
Develop a plan for encouraging US Territory participation with ACWA.

3 Promote a Culture of Organizational Excellence

- **Recruit, Develop, and Retain Professional Staff**
Create a culture of equity and inclusion to build and support a diverse staff to assure delivery of high-quality professional services.
- **Ensure Efficient and Effective Use of Organizational Resources**
Make informed decisions on use of funds, staffing, services, technology, and other assets.
- **Ensure Financial Integrity and Sustainability**
Make prudent investment decisions with board oversight and approval and utilize Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in financial operations.
- **Grant Strategy and Management**
Pursue, secure, and leverage grant opportunities that support and advance the mission and organizational priorities.



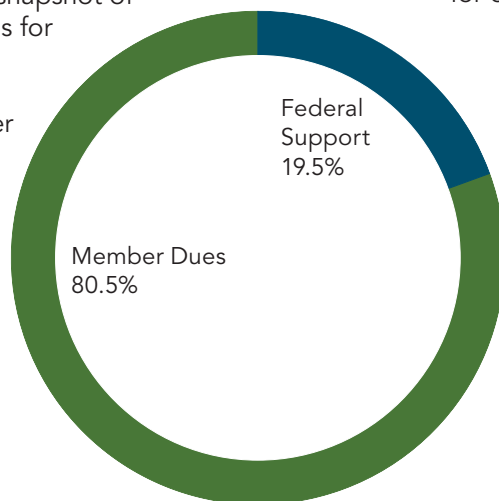


Wild Goose Island, Montana

Fiscal Snapshot FY 2023

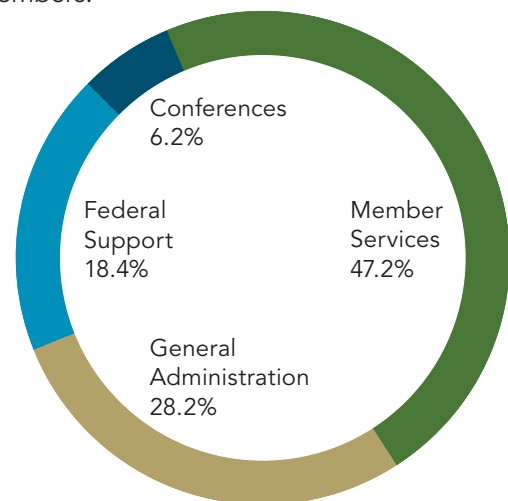
FY2023 Revenue

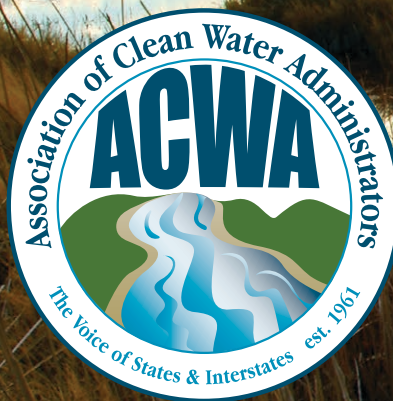
This revenue graph represents the Association’s audited revenue for FY2023 totaling \$993,835. This section presents a snapshot of ACWA’s revenue streams for FY2023. A significant percentage of ACWA’s fiscal revenue is Member Dues and Cooperative Agreement support from EPA.



FY2023 Expenses

This expense graph represents the Association’s audited expenses for FY2023 totaling \$758,931. The graph also shows ACWA’s continued commitment to serving the membership needs, facilitating important meetings and workshops, and providing capacity building opportunities for our members.





"Clean water everywhere for everyone"

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The Voice of States & Interstates