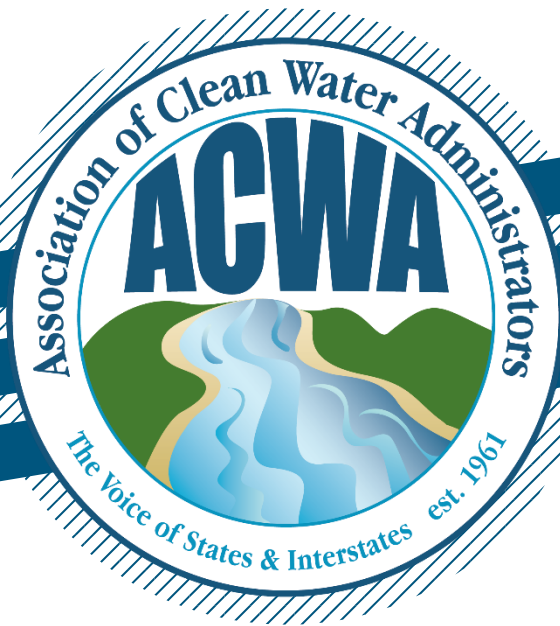


*Association of Clean Water Administrators*

# 2024 Mid-Year Meeting

March 25-27, 2024

**Theme: From Now to Next: Collaborating on CWA Legislative & Regulatory Developments**



# MONDAY, MARCH 25

*The Capitol Hill Room – 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*

**1:00 – 5:00 PM ET**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**6:00 PM ET**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP DINNER**

# TUESDAY, MARCH 26

## **This is a Closed Meeting – State/ Interstate program staff, Office of Water Partners and Other Invited Guests Only**

*Junior Ballroom – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**7:30 – 9:00 AM**

**Breakfast**

Buffet breakfast will be served in the foyer area of the Junior Ballroom – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**9:00 – 9:45 AM**

**WELCOME & KEYNOTE**

**Amanda Vincent**, ACWA President, Environmental Scientist Manager, LA DEQ  
**Mae Wu**, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water

**9:45 – 10:15 AM**

**ONE WATER PRESENTATION**

The US Water Alliance advances policies and programs to secure a sustainable water future for all. Established in 2008, the Alliance is a nonprofit organization that educates the nation on the true value of water and water equity, accelerates the adoption of One Water principles and solutions, and celebrates innovation in water management. Scott Berry, Director of Policy and Government Affairs of the US Water Alliance, will join us to provide an overview of the *Hallmarks of a One Water Approach* and identify pathways for states/interstates to incorporate these concepts into their programs.

**Scott Berry**, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, US Water Alliance

**10:15– 10:45 AM**

**OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE ON SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES (SSWR) RESEARCH PROGRAM**

EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) Research Program provides robust research and scientific analyses to innovatively and economically support safe and adequate supplies of water—protecting people's health and livelihood while restoring and maintaining watersheds and aquatic ecosystems. Representatives from ORD will join ACWA to discuss research priorities, specific projects and opportunities for engagement and collaboration with states.

**Suzanne van Drunick**, National Program Director, Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program, US EPA Office of Research and Development

**10:45 – 11:00 AM**

**BREAK**

**11:00 – 11:30 PM**

**NRCS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR WATER QUALITY PARTNERSHIPS**

NRCS offers technical and financial assistance to help producers plan and implement conservation practices that improve water quality and conserve its use. This session will highlight key NRCS water quality programs and identify areas for further collaboration with the states/interstates.

**Martin Lowenfish**, Branch Chief, Areawide Planning, USDA

**11:30 – 12:00 PM**

**USGS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION**

The USGS Water Resources Mission Area works with states to monitor, assess, conduct targeted research, and deliver information on a wide range of water resources and conditions including streamflow, groundwater, water quality, and water use and availability. This session will highlight the Mission Area's priorities and identify areas for collaboration with the states/interstates.

**Joshua Joseph**, Acting Associate Director for Water Resources, USGS

**12:00 – 12:30 PM**

**USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION**

The USDA RDA program works to support rural communities by investing in modern infrastructure including water and wastewater systems. Closing America's Wastewater Access Gap is a pilot program between the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to provide targeted technical assistance to support and identify resources to 11 participating areas in the United States.

**Michele Brooks**, Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs, USDA Rural Development

**Steve Polacek**, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs, USDA Rural Development

**12:30 – 2:00 PM**

**LUNCH**

Buffet lunch will be served in the foyer area of the Junior Ballroom – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**2:00 – 3:45 PM**

**OFFICE OF WATER, OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND EXTERNAL CIVIL RIGHTS & OFFICE OF ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE OFFICE DIRECTORS UPDATES**

The Office Directors from OWM, OST, OWOW, EJECR and OECA will join us to discuss their priorities for the coming year and highlight areas for collaboration and coordination with the states and interstates.

**Andrew Sawyers**, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water  
**Deborah Nagle**, Director, Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water  
**Brian Frazer**, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water

**Barbara VanTil**, Chief, Water Branch, Office of Compliance, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

**Laura Ebbert**, Deputy Assistant Administrator Environmental Justice, Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights

**3:45—4:00 PM**

**BREAK**

**4:00 – 5:00 PM**

**A VIEW FROM CAPITOL HILL**

What lies ahead in the new congress? Will water make the short list? Will we see CWA amendments? A new infrastructure fund? How will the budget look for EPA? This panel will touch on the prospects for these and other important issues.

**Ryan Hambleton**, Staff Director, Water Resources and the Environment, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee (*invited*)

**Logan Ferree**, Professional Staff Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

**Joe Brown**, Professional Staff Member, Ranking Member Shelley Moore Capito, U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

**5:00 PM**

**WRAP UP AND ADJOURN**

**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**RECEPTION FOR ATTENDEES**

*Junior Ballroom Foyer Area – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27**

### **This Is a Closed Meeting – State/ Interstate program staff, Office of Water Partners and Other Invited Guests Only**

*Junior Ballroom – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**7:30 – 9:00 AM**

**Breakfast**

Buffet breakfast will be served in the foyer area of the Junior Ballroom – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**8:30 – 10:00 AM**

**Partners Update**

Representatives from ACWA's state partner organizations – The Association of Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), the National Association Wetland Managers (NAWM), Western States Water Council (WSWC) and the Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA) will join in a moderated panel discussion focusing on key issues and areas ripe for collaboration.

**Alan Roberson**, Executive Director, ASDWA

**Deirdre Finn**, Executive Director, CIFA

**Marla Stelk**, Executive Director, NAWM

**Tony Willardson**, Executive Director, WSWC

**10:00 – 10:30 AM**

**BREAK**

10:30 – 12:00 PM

**TOP CLEAN WATER ACT LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS**

The session will focus on the latest legal developments and challenges in the field of clean water law. The session will cover a range of topics, such as responding to the *County of Maui* case and guidance, continuing WOTUS and Sec. 401 litigation, and water quality standards and endangered species act consultations.

**Jeffrey S. Longworth**, Partner, Earth & Water Law

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

12:00 PM

**ADJOURN**

**SAFE TRAVELS HOME & WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN New Orleans, Louisiana, in AUGUST 2024 at the  
2024 ACWA ANNUAL MEETING!**

**CHECK [WWW.ACWA-US.ORG](http://WWW.ACWA-US.ORG) FOR MEETING UPDATES**