

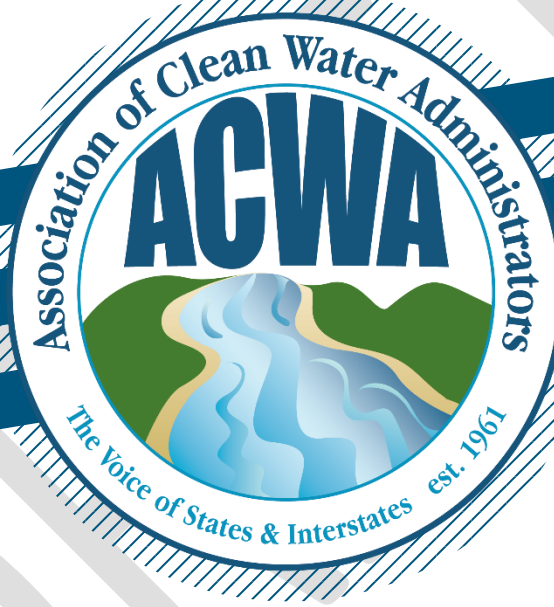
*Association of Clean Water Administrators*

# **64th ANNUAL MEETING**

**Stronger Together:**

**Advancing Water Quality Through Policy and Partnership**

**The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club  
Madison, WI  
August 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**



## **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee Members Amanda Vincent (LA); Jennifer Feltis (NJ); Trevor Baggione (AZ); and Jennifer Wigal (OR).

# TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

## ALL TIMES CENTRAL DAYLIGHT

12:00 – 5:00 PM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6:00 – 9:00 PM

LEADERSHIP DINNER

# WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

## ALL TIMES CENTRAL DAYLIGHT

This is a Closed Meeting – State/ Interstate Program Staff, Office of Water Partners and Other Invited Guests Only

7:30 – 8:30 AM

REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

8:30 – 9:30 AM

NEW MEMBER / FIRST TIME ATTENDEE BREAKFAST

New members and/or first-time attendees to the Annual Meeting are invited to join ACWA Board of Directors members for breakfast and learn more about the association and ways to get involved.

Sean Rolland, Deputy Director, Association of Clean Water Administrators

9:30 – 10:30 AM

**EDUCATING THE PUBLIC: AGENCY COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

Effective communication is at the heart of building public trust, promoting transparency, and driving informed action. Strategies for communicating with a public that is skeptical of science, data and government. In this session, we'll explore how agencies are developing and implementing impactful communication strategies that educate, engage, and empower the public and stakeholders.

John Hoke, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Jennifer Feltis, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Caleb Rennaker, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Trevor Baggiore, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 – 12:30 PM

**INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY: A DISCUSSION OF HOW STATES ARE LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE PROGRAMS**

States across the country are harnessing the power of technology to enhance program delivery, improve operational efficiency, and better serve constituents. In this session participants will learn about how states are prioritizing technology implementation, including utilizing AI, and lessons learned from these efforts.

12:30 – 2:00 PM

LUNCH PROVIDED FOR ATTENDEES

2:00 – 3:30 PM

**STATE LEVEL PERMIT STREAMLINING INITIATIVES: LESSONS LEARNED AND INNOVATION TO SHARE**

Streamlining permitting processes is a key strategy for improving efficiency, reducing delays, and supporting economic development—while maintaining rigorous standards. This session highlights state-level initiatives that have successfully modernized and simplified permitting systems across sectors. Learn from states that have implemented innovative policy reforms, integrated digital platforms, and fostered interagency collaboration to accelerate approvals and enhance transparency. Presenters will share practical lessons learned, challenges overcome, and tools developed to guide others pursuing similar efforts.

**3:30 – 3:45 PM**

**BREAK**

**3:45 – 5:00 PM**

**EXPLORATION OF STATE FUNDING MODELS**

This session offers a deep dive into the diverse funding models states use to allocate resources, support policy priorities, and drive innovation. Participants will learn about different approaches to funding their water quality programs. Speakers will highlight the benefits and tradeoffs of various models, share lessons learned from implementation.

**Jennifer Wigal**, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
**Dana Vanderbosch**, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
**John Hoke**, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

**5:00 PM**

**DAY 1 CONCLUDES**

**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**AWARDS CEREMONY AND RECEPTION FOR ATTENDEES**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 14**

**ALL TIMES CENTRAL DAYLIGHT**

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

**8:00 – 9:00 AM**

**REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE**

**9:00 – 10:30 AM**

**NAVIGATING SITE-SPECIFIC WATER QUALITY CRITERIA: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN ADOPTING EPA RECOMMENDATIONS**

This session will explore the technical, regulatory, and policy considerations surrounding the development and adoption of site-specific water quality criteria. While EPA provides recommendations and national criteria for protecting aquatic life and human health, states often face complex challenges in tailoring these standards to local environmental conditions and gaining EPA approval and public support. The session will also highlight case studies and best practices from states that have successfully implemented SSWQC, offering insights into effective collaboration with EPA and strategies for overcoming scientific uncertainty, resource limitations, and legal or administrative constraints.

**10:30 – 11:00 AM**

**BREAK**

**11:00 – 12:00 PM**

**WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN @ 5 YEARS**

When the EPA released the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) in five years ago, it marked the beginning of a collaborative initiative designed to address critical state and water sector needs to advance water reuse as a water quality management tool. Since then, the effort has grown from 37 actions to an impressive 73 action commitments. In this session, presenters will provide an update on the Action Plan, discuss opportunities for future collaboration and work and celebrate the anniversary of the Plan.

**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

**LUNCH FOR ATTENDEES**

**1:30 – 2:30 PM**

**ACWA BUSINESS MEETING**

**2:30 – 3:30 PM**

**CURRENT COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES**

OECA will provide short updates regarding the status of national initiatives including work on the NNCR, ICIS Modernization, updating SNC, the National Targeting Center, Offsite Compliance Monitoring research Projects, and efforts to better coordinate with states on enforcement actions. States will be asked to provide feedback on the value of these initiatives and whether other priorities may need to be communicated.

**3:30 – 4:00 PM**

**BREAK**

**3:30 – 5:00 PM**

**OPTIMIZING NUTRIENT REMOVAL IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS**

Several states have promoted WWTP optimization for nutrient reduction as a cost-effective tool to address nutrient loads from point source discharges. This session would consist of panelists from one or more states who would discuss their efforts relating to WWTP optimization through improved infrastructure and treatment processes. Case studies would cover challenges and successes at state and facility levels, as well as lessons learned for other states seeking to improve nutrient reductions while utilizing existing wastewater treatment facilities.

**5:00 PM**

**DAY 2 CONCLUDES**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 15**

**ALL TIMES CENTRAL DAYLIGHT**

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

**8:30 – 9:30 AM**

**REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE**

**9:30 – 10:30 AM**

**NPDES PROGRAM CHALLENGES**

ACWA will present results from a recent survey of the states regarding recent trends and challenges. Topics may include permit applications, permit renewals, permitting backlog, data collection and management, inspections and audits, violation identification and prioritization, compliance assistance, return to compliance, deterrence and enforcement. States will discuss resources needed and where EPA can be most helpful.

**10:45 – 11:00 AM**

**Break**

**11:00 – 12:00 PM**

**HOT TOPICS IN CLEAN WATER LAW: RECENT CASES SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE CWA**

This session will provide an in-depth look at recent and high-impact legal cases that are redefining the landscape of Clean Water Act (CWA) implementation and enforcement.

**12:00 PM**

**DAY 3 CONCLUDES**