

Association of Clean Water Administrators

64th ANNUAL MEETING

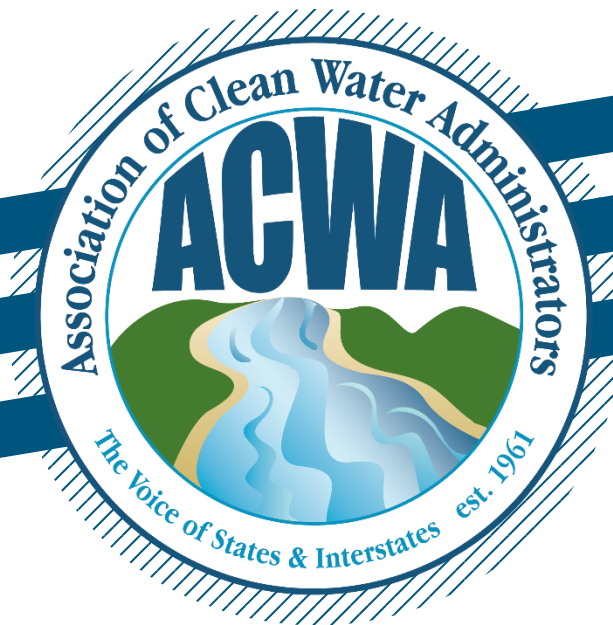
Stronger Together:

Advancing Water Quality Through Policy and Partnership

The Madison Concourse Hotel and Governor's Club

Madison, WI

August 13th – 15th, 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

University AB – 2nd Floor

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

Madison Room – 2nd Floor

7:30 – 8:30 AM

REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

Madison Room Foyer

8:30 – 9:15 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

Lexy Bailey, Environmental Analyst, Association of Clean Water Administrators

9:15 - 9:30 AM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

Adrian Stocks, ACWA President, Director, Bureau of Water Quality, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Joe Van Rossum, Deputy Division Administrator – Environmental Management, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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.

Ashley Grupe, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Jennifer Feltis, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Caleb Rennaker, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

Trevor Baggione, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Break

Madison Room Foyer

11:00 – 12:30 PM

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.

Kevin Kirsch, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Nicole Rowan, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Amanda Vincent, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

Martha Clark Mettler, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

12:30 – 2:00 PM

LUNCH PROVIDED FOR ATTENDEES

Madison Room Foyer

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 modernized and simplified permitting programs across sectors in different ways. Presenters will share practical lessons learned, challenges to overcome, and tools developed to guide others pursuing similar efforts.

Ashley Grupe, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Jason Knutson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Marty Haroldson, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

Trevor Baggione, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

3:30 – 3:45 PM

BREAK

Madison Room Foyer

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

Ashley Grupe, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

5:00 PM

DAY 1 CONCLUDES

6:00 – 8:00 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY AND RECEPTION FOR ATTENDEES

Assembly/Caucus Room – 1st Floor

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

Madison Room – 2nd Floor

8:00 – 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

Madison Room Foyer

9:00 – 10:15 AM

EPA OFFICE OF WATER DIRECTORS' UPDATES

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

Brian Frazer, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water
Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water
Tanya Hodge Mottley, Deputy Director (Acting Office Director), Office of Science and Technology

10:15 – 10:45 AM

BREAK

Madison Room Foyer

10:45 – 12:00 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.

Jennifer Wigal, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Barbara Bennett, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Aaron Fisch, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

12:00– 1:30 PM

LUNCH FOR ATTENDEES

Madison Room Foyer

1:30 – 5:00 PM

FIELD TRIP: MADISON METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

Join us for an informative and engaging afternoon field trip to the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and the Middleton Community Digester. Participants will tour the Nine Springs Wastewater Treatment Plant, explore the history and operations of MMSD, and learn about its leadership in innovative watershed management.

Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District was established by Dane County Court on February 8, 1930, making it one of the oldest regional sewer utilities in the United States. Today, the District provides wastewater services to approximately 435,000 residents across 24 communities in the Madison area, spanning nearly 190 square miles. With 150 miles of pipe and 18 regional pumping stations, MMSD conveys around 37 million gallons of wastewater daily to the Nine Springs facility for treatment.

As part of the visit, participants will learn about the Yahara Watershed Improvement Network (Yahara WINS), a nationally recognized, collaborative effort led by MMSD. This long-term initiative uses adaptive watershed management to meet phosphorus reduction goals by coordinating efforts among all sources of phosphorus within the Yahara Watershed. Launched as a pilot in 2012 and expanded in 2017, the Yahara WINS program is a 20-year effort aimed at improving water quality and meeting state standards.

Transportation will be provided from the hotel after lunch. Pre-registration is required so we can coordinate transportation and ensure a smooth experience for all participants. Transportation will be provided back to the hotel at the end of the field trip.

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

Madison Room – 2nd Floor

8:00 – 8:30 AM

REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

Madison Room Foyer

8:30 – 10:00 AM

TOOLS AND PARTNERSHIPS AIMED AT ADDRESSING NUTRIENT POLLUTION

This session will explore ways in which states have addressed nutrient management through comprehensive tools and partnerships. Speakers will discuss recent innovations in wastewater treatment plant optimization for nutrient removal, partnerships with the agricultural sector, and creative utilization of CWA programs, including water quality trading.

Matt Claucherty, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Lauren Lurkins, Agricultural Nutrient Policy Council

Grant Weaver, Grant Tech Solutions

10:00 – 10:30 AM

BREAK

Madison Room Foyer

10:30 – 11:00 AM

ACWA BUSINESS MEETING

11:00 – 12:00 PM

WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN @ 5 YEARS

When the EPA released the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) 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 updates on recent efforts to promote water reuse, reflect on successes in the first five years of the Action Plan, and discuss opportunities for future collaboration.

Tanya Mottley, U.S. EPA Office of Science and Technology

Trevor Baggiore, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Nicole Rowan, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Ashley Ward, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

12:00 PM

DAY 3 CONCLUDES