

# 2026 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS WORKSHOP

April 21 - 23  
Little Rock, AR

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Association of Clean Water  
Administrators

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Association of Clean Water Administrators*

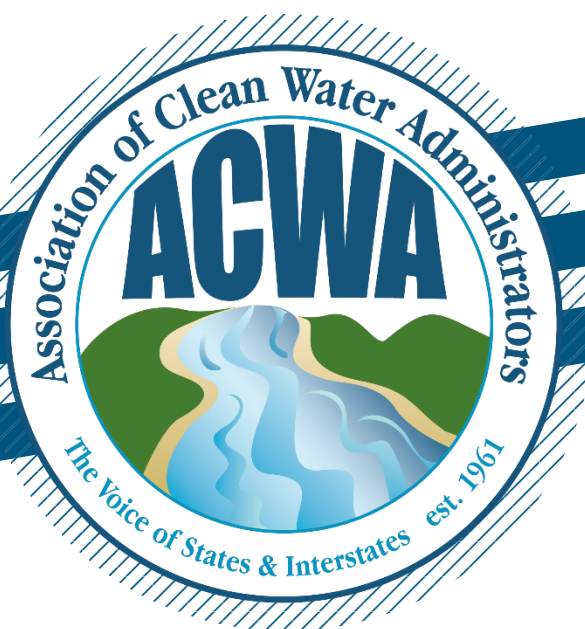
## **2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop**

**Little Rock, AR  
April 21-23, 2026**

ACWA will be holding the 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop in Little Rock, AR, April 21-23, 2026.

This workshop is a national meeting organized by ACWA for state staff involved in state water quality standards programs, as well as for both Regional and Headquarters-based U.S. Environmental Protection Agency managers and staff.

The workshop will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Little Rock. More information can be found on ACWA's [events page](#).



### **SPECIAL THANKS TO**

United States Environmental Protection Agency and the members of the Workshop Planning Committee

# TUESDAY, APRIL 21

8:30 – 9:00 AM CT

SIGN-IN

9:00 – 9:30 AM CT

WELCOME

Bailey Taylor, Director, Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality

9:30 – 10:45 AM CT

EPA PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES/DISCUSSION OF EPA-STATE COLLABORATION

10:45 – 11:00 AM CT

BREAK

11:00 – 12:00 PM CT

ANTIDegradation

**Presentations:** *Missouri Antidegradation Implementation Procedure and Proposed Revisions* - Cailie Carlile, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (virtual)  
*Maryland's Tier I / Tier II Antidegradation Policy* - Melinda Cutler, Maryland Department of the Environment

12:00 – 1:30 PM CT

LUNCH BREAK (On Your Own)

1:30 – 3:00 PM CT

STATE CASE STUDIES

**Presentations:** *Inland Lake Chloride Study* - Kevin Goodwin, Water Resources Division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
*Natural Background Site-Specific Chloride Criteria in Nebraska's Salt Creek Basin* – Kate Bird, Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment  
*Lake Alum Treatments* - Meagan Sims, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

3:00 – 3:15 PM CT

BREAK

3:15 – 5:00 PM CT

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PANEL

**Presentations:** *Public Information Access: Mapping, Documents, and Water Quality Data* - Jamie Phillippe, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
*Bridging the Stream: A Collaborative Pathway to MD's Freshwater Ammonia Criteria Adoption* – Matt Stover, Maryland Department of the Environment  
*Making Data Accessible Through Interactive Web Apps* - Tanner Senti & Eddy Wild, Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality  
*Chloride Monitoring Partners* - Kevin Goodwin, Water Resources Division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

► **Discussion Topics:** - Do you have any tools/tips for interacting with stakeholder groups?  
- What are some ways for successful communication with the general public?

6:00 PM CT

Optional Networking Happy Hour

Fassler Hall, 311 E Capitol Ave, Little Rock, AR 72202

## WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

8:30 – 9:00 AM CT

SIGN-IN

9:00 – 10:30 AM CT

EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

**Presentations:** *Microplastics in Michigan* - Eddie Kostelnik, Water Resources Division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (virtual)  
*Designing and Implementing Trash TMDLs in Maryland* - Anna Kasko, Maryland Department of the Environment (virtual)  
*An Introduction to Critical Minerals and Rare Earth Elements* - Victoria Bushan, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (virtual)

10:30 – 10:45 AM CT

BREAK

10:45 – 12:00 PM CT

HUMAN HEALTH CRITERIA

**Discussion Topics:**

- Is your state adopting the criteria? Why/why not?
- What considerations are going into it/any modifications?
- Are fish consumption rates changing?
- What Cancer Risk Rates are you using?
- What Relative Source Contributions are you using?

12:00 – 1:30 PM CT

LUNCH BREAK (On Your Own)

1:30 – 3:00 PM CT

CYANOTOXINS

*Overview of Harmful Algal Blooms in Arkansas: From Monitoring to Advisories* – Felicia Osburn, Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality  
*Cyanotoxins in South Carolina* – Drew Edwards, South Carolina Department of Environmental Services  
*Algal Blooms: Coordinating Satellite Imagery Data with Field Sampling* – Jamie Phillippe, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
*EPA HAB Updates*

3:00 – 3:30 PM CT

BREAK

3:30 – 5:00 PM CT

LEGAL UPDATES

*Update on EPA vs SF and Other Relevant Cases* - Basil Hicks, Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality

## THURSDAY, APRIL 23

8:30 – 9:00 AM CT

SIGN-IN

9:00 – 10:30 AM CT

TRIENNIAL REVIEW

**Panel Discussion + Short Presentations**

- Mary Barnett, Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality
- Marie Today, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Nicole Newcomer, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality

- Jamie Phillippe, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

**10:30 – 11:00 AM CT**

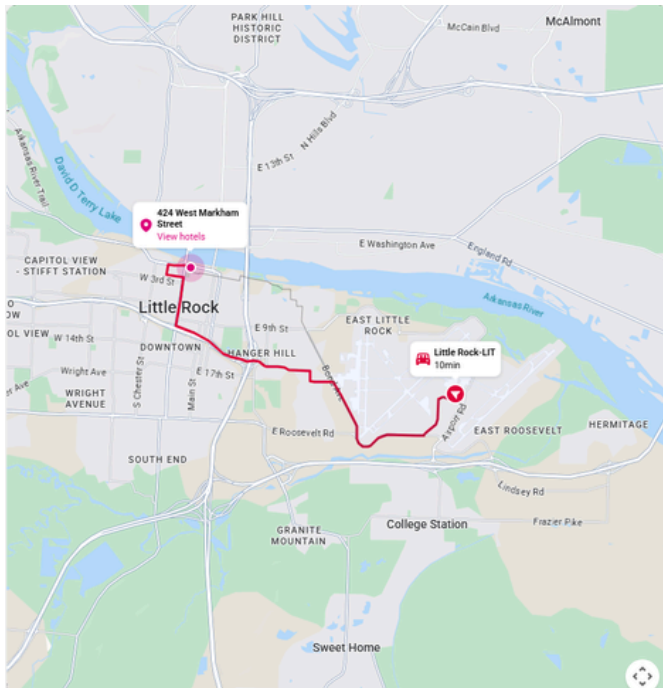
**BREAK/CHECK OUT OF HOTEL**

**11:00 – 12:00 PM CT**

**WRAP-UP and NEXT STEPS**

# TRAVEL LOGISTICS

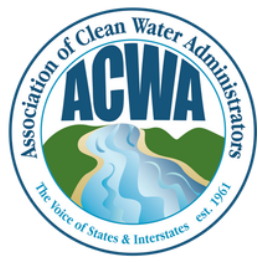
## FROM LIT AIRPORT TO DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL LITTLE ROCK:



**Free airport shuttle from Little Rock Airport to DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Little Rock: Complimentary, 4 am - 11 pm every 30 min, +1 501-372-4371**

## WEATHER FORECAST

Mon 20	78° / 61°	☁ Showers	◊ 35%	↗ 10 mph
Tue 21	83° / 64°	☀ AM Showers	◊ 40%	↗ 11 mph
Wed 22	84° / 62°	☁ Scattered Thunderstorms	◊ 46%	↗ 11 mph
Thu 23	79° / 59°	☁ Showers	◊ 55%	↗ 10 mph
Fri 24	80° / 59°	☀ AM Showers	◊ 42%	↗ 10 mph



# 2026 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS WORKSHOP RESTAURANT GUIDE

LITTLE ROCK, AR

**Buenos Aires Grill & Cafe** - 0.6 mi

**Maryam's Grill Mediterranean Restaurant** - 0.3 mi

**Samantha's Tap Room & Wood Grill** - 0.4 mi

**Big Bad Breakfast - Downtown Little Rock** - 0.4 mi

**Doe's Eat Place** - 0.5 mi (Opens at 5 pm)

**Back Home BBQ** - 0.3 mi

**Copper Grill** - 0.5 mi

**Fassler Hall** - 0.6 mi

**Dizzy's Gypsy Bistro** - 0.6 mi

**Ottenheimer Market Hall** - 0.4 mi (This has multiple options from thai, middle eastern, Japanese)

**Flying Fish** - 0.5 mi

**R & M Coffee Bar & Café — Coffee Bar** - 0.1 mi

**Nexus Coffee Roasters** - 0.3 mi

**Fidel & Co Downtown** - 0.6 mi

**The Coffee Coop - Little Rock** - 0.5 mi

**@ the Corner** - 0.3 mi

**Three Fold Noodles + Dumpling Co.** - 0.3 mi

**Flying Saucer** - 0.4 mi

**Skinny J's Argenta** - 1 mi (take trolley over river or use the Junction Bridge walk-bridge)

**Blackberry Market Argenta** - 1 mi (take trolley over river or use the Junction Bridge walk-bridge)

**Brood and Barley** - 1 mi (take trolley over river or use the Junction Bridge walk-bridge)

**Draft + Table** - 0.9 mi (take trolley over river or use the Junction Bridge walk-bridge)

THANK YOU TO STACIE WASSELL (ARKANSAS DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY) FOR THIS GUIDE!

## Things to do Near Double Tree by Hilton Little Rock

### After 5:00 pm Options

- Arkansas River Trail (0.1 mile)
- Vogel Schwartz Sculpture Garden (0.6 mile)
- Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts (1.2 miles)  
Hours: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm  
Admission: Free  
501 E 9th St, Little Rock, AR 72202
- Perks & Re-creation Indoor Disc Golf (0.4 miles)  
Hours: 11:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Admission: \$5  
229 W Capitol Ave Suite A  
Little Rock, AR 72201
- Arkansas Travelers Double-A Baseball (0.7 mile)  
Dickey-Stephens Park  
400 W. Broadway  
North Little Rock, AR 72114  
Hours: 6:35 pm  
Admission: \$10 -\$19
- Wednesday Jazz in the Park – Electric Soul (0.4 mile)  
Hours: 11:00 am - 9:00 pm  
Admission: Free  
River Market Pavilions, 400 President Clinton Ave, Little Rock, AR 72201
- Wednesday Flyway Fun Run – Little Rock Road Runners (0.9 mile)  
Hours: 6:00  
Admission: Free  
2, 3, & 5 mile routes – all paces welcome  
314 Maple Street, North Little Rock 72114

### Have Time Before or After the Workshop

- Old State House Museum (350 ft)  
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Admission: Free  
300 W Markham St, Little Rock, AR 72201
- Historic Arkansas Museum (0.4 miles)  
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Admission: Free  
200 E 3rd St, Little Rock, AR 72201
- Arkansas State Capitol (1.1 miles)  
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Admission: Free  
500 Woodlane St, Little Rock, AR 72201
- Museum of Discovery (0.5 miles)  
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Admission: \$15  
500 President Clinton Ave Ste. 150, Little Rock, AR 72201
- Witt Stephens Jr. Nature Center (0.6 miles)  
Hours: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
Admission: Free  
602 President Clinton Ave, Little Rock, AR 72201
- William J. Clinton Library and Museum (0.9 miles)  
Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Admission: \$12  
1200 President Clinton Ave, Little Rock, AR 72201
- Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site (2.2 miles)  
Hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Admission: Free  
2120 W Daisy L Gatson Bates Dr, Little Rock, AR 72202

Thank you to Mary Barnett (Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality) for this guide!

## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization Name	Email
Yetunde	Agbesola	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency	Yetunde.Agbesola@Illinois.gov
Katie	Anderson	Arizona Department of Environmental Quality	anderson.katie@azdeq.gov
Alexys	Bailey	Association of Clean Water Administrators	ABailey@acwa-us.org
Stephanie	Baker	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	stephanie.baker@state.co.us
Mary	Barnett	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	mary.barnett@arkansas.gov
Joshua	Barth	Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control	joshua.barth@delaware.gov
Gillian	Batson	Georgia Department of Natural Resources	gillian.wason@dnr.ga.gov
Andrew	Birch	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	andrew.birch@state.co.us
Kate	Bird	Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment	kate.bird@nebraska.gov
Ryan	Brice	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	Ryan.Brice@ks.gov
Geneva	Brion	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	geneva.brion@state.co.us
Rich	Budnik	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	richard.budnik@epa.ohio.gov

\*Updated as of 4/14/2026

## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

Zachary	Carroll	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	zachary.carroll@arkansas.gov
Stephani	Clark Barkalow	New Mexico Environment Department	stephani.clark-barkalow@env.nm.gov
Martha	Clark Mettler	Indiana Department of Environmental Management	mclark@idem.in.gov
Melinda	Cutler	Maryland Department of the Environment	melinda.cutler@maryland.gov
Grace	Davenport	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	grace.davenport@arkansas.gov
Jasmin	Diaz Lopez	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6	diazlopez.jasmin@epa.gov
Andrew	Edwards	South Carolina Department of Environmental Services	Andrew.Edwards@des.sc.gov
Kenneth	Edwardson	New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services	Kenneth.J.Edwardson@des.nh.gov
Jason	Fagel	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	jason.fagel@dec.ny.gov
Andrea	Fredenburg	Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection	andrea.fredenburg@ky.gov
Michael	Gallo	Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control	Michael.Gallo@delaware.gov
Allie	Gates	Indiana Department of Environmental Management	agates1@idem.in.gov

\*Updated as of 4/14/2026

## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

Ariel	Gillen	Oklahoma Department of Agriculture Food & Forestry	ariel.gillen02@ag.ok .gov
Kevin	Goodwin	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy	GOODWINK@michi gan.gov
Ellie	Green	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	ellie.green@arkansa s.gov
Scot	Halko	South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources	scot.halko@state.s d.us
Eric	Hargett	Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality	eric.hargett@wyo.g ov
Melinda	Harris	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	melinda.harris@epa .ohio.gov
Allison	Hay	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	allison.hay@arkans as.gov
Reilley	Hedrick	Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality	reilley.hedrick@deq. ok.gov
Sunshyne	Hendrix	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	sunshyne.hendrix@t ceq.texas.gov
Basil	Hicks	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	Basil.hicks@arkans as.gov
Jasper	Hobbs	Association of Clean Water Administrators	jhobbs@acwa- us.org
Holly	Holwager	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	hholwager@ndep.n v.gov
Mariah	Hood	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	mariah.hood@epa. ohio.gov

\*Updated as of 4/14/2026

## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

Mariah	Hood	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	10117778@id.ohio.gov
Britini	Jacobs	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	Britini.Jacobs@ks.gov
Anna	Jacobson	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7	jacobson.anna@epa.gov
Leon	Katona	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	leon.katona@state.co.us
Jim	Keating	United States Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters	keating.jim@epa.gov
Karen	Kesler	United States Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters	Kesler.Karen@epa.gov
Marla	Koberstein	Washington Department of Ecology	marla.koberstein@ecy.wa.gov
Edward	Kostelnik	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy	KostelnikE@Michigan.gov
Elizabeth	Kountis	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources	elizabeth.kountis@deq.nc.gov
Tate	Libunao	North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality	tlibunao@nd.gov
Terry	Liu	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	terry.liu@arkansas.gov
Terri	Lomax	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	terri.lomax@alaska.gov

\*Updated as of 4/14/2026

## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

Joe	Long	Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality	Joe.Long@deq.ok.gov
Brianna	Lusk	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	brie.lusk@arkansas.gov
Beth	Malcolm	New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission	BMalcolm@NEIWP CC.org
Joe	Martin	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	joe.m.martin@arkansas.gov
Rodney	McAllister	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	romcallist@pa.gov
Shannon	McClellan	Washington Department of Ecology	shannon.mcclellan@ecy.wa.gov
Nicole	McKenna	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	nicole.mckenna@arkansas.gov
Katie	McKone	Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection	Katie.McKone@ky.gov
Seth	McWhorter	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4	mcwhorter.seth@epa.gov
Katherine	McWilliams	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	katherine.mcwilliams@arkansas.gov
Colin	Millar	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management	colin.millar@dem.ri.gov
Ryan	Minor	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection	ryan.minor@dep.nj.gov

\*Updated as of 4/14/2026

## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

Becky	Monahan	Maryland Department of the Environment	Becky.Monahan@m aryland.gov
Danielle	Mucciarone	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	Danielle.Mucciaron e@mass.gov
Nicole	Newcomer	Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality	Nicole.Newcomer@ deq.ok.gov
Rachel	Newell	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	rachel.newell@alas ka.gov
Khanh Nghi	Ngo	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	nghi.ngo@arkansas. gov
Josie	Nusz	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	josie.nusz@state.co .us
Jeffrey	O'Connell	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	jeff.oconnell@ndep. nv.gov
Felicia	Osburn	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	felicia.osburn@arka nsas.gov
Katerina	Ozment	Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality	katerina.ozment@d eq.ok.gov
Jamie	Phillippe	Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality	Jamie.phillippe@la. gov
Andrew	Pressly	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6	pressly.andrew@ep a.gov
Rama	Pulicharla	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	rama.pulicharla@m ass.gov

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## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

Nicholas	Reif	Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection	nicholas.reif@ky.gov
Daniel	Riddle	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	driddle@ndep.nv.gov
Bruna	Rossi dos Santos	Kansas Department of Health and Environment	bruna.rossi@kdhe.ks.gov
Dawn	Roush	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy	roushd@michigan.gov
Relsey	Ruehling	Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment	kelsey.ruehling@state.co.us
Candace	Schermerhorn	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	candace.schermerhorn@dec.ny.gov
Kristen	Schlauderaff	Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection	kschlauder@pa.gov
Jessica	Sears	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	jessica.sears@arkansas.gov
Tanner	Senti	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	Tanner.Senti@arkansas.gov
Supriya	Sharma	Washington Department of Ecology	sush461@ecy.wa.gov
Jennifer	Sheehan	National Association of Wetland Managers	jennifer.sheehan@nawm.org
Kenneth	Shimer	Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality	kenneth.shimer@deq.ok.gov

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## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

Meagan	Sims	Maine Department of Environmental Protection	Meagan.Sims@maine.gov
Beth	Spelsberg	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality	elizabeth.spelsberg@deq.idaho.gov
Matthew	Stover	Maryland Department of the Environment	matthew.stover@maryland.gov
Marie	Todey	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	marie.todey@dnr.iowa.gov
Connor	Tolly	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	connor.tolly@arkansas.gov
Jewel	Tuiasosopo	American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency	jewel.tuiasosopo@epa.as.gov
Andrew	Turner	United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6	Turner.Andrew@epa.gov
Dahlia	Tympanick	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection	dahlia.tympanick@mass.gov
Jake	VanderLaan	Utah Division of Water Quality	jvander@utah.gov
Christopher	Ventaloro	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality	christopher.ventaloro@deq.nc.gov
Stacie	Wassell	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	stacie.wassell@arkansas.gov
Sarah	Whitley	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Sarah.Whitley@Tceq.Texas.Gov
Lars	Wilcut	United States Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters	wilcut.lars@epa.gov

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## 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop – Participant List

Edward	Wild	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	edward.wild@arkansas.gov
Elaine	Wild	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources	elaine.wild@deq.nc.gov
Ian	Willard	Iowa Department of Natural Resources	ian.willard@dnr.iowa.gov
Jim	Wise	Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality	jim.wise@adeq.state.ar.us

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## SPECIAL THANKS TO

United States Environmental Protection Agency and the members of the Workshop Planning Committee

### Upcoming ACWA Meetings:

- 2026 Clean Water Act Cross Program Workshop, Date and Location TBA
- 2026 ACWA Annual Meeting, August 5-7 in Santa Fe, NM
- 2026 Water Quality Modeling Workshop, Date and Location TBA
- 2026 National NPDES Program Managers Workshop, Date and Location TBA

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## CONTACT

Association of Clean Water Administrators

1725 I St NW  
Suite 225  
Washington, DC  
20006

(202) 756-0605  
[www.acwa-us.org](http://www.acwa-us.org)