

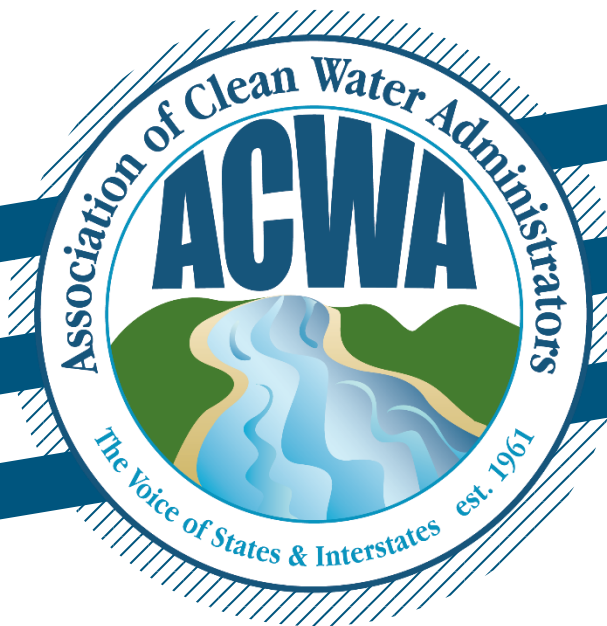
Association of Clean Water Administrators

2026 ACWA Fall Clean Water Act Regulators Summit 65th Annual Meeting

**The Eldorado Hotel and Spa
Santa Fe, New Mexico
August 5th – 7th, 2026**

The 65th Annual Meeting brings together surface water quality program directors and senior staff from state environmental agencies and EPA regional and headquarters offices for 2.5 days of structured policy exchange, problem-solving, and federal-state coordination.

The program is designed for state surface water quality program directors, NPDES permit writers, water quality standards coordinators, and their federal counterparts. Participants should expect substantive peer exchange with counterparts from other states and EPA regions, direct engagement with EPA Office of Water policy staff, and actionable takeaways applicable to their home programs. The program addresses the principal policy and operational challenges facing state CWA programs today. Sessions cover the full arc of CWA implementation — from permit issuance and water quality standards development through impaired waters assessment, TMDL development, and enforcement — with dedicated time for emerging issues including PFAS and other contaminants of emerging concern, climate resilience, and the evolving legal landscape following recent Supreme Court decisions affecting the Act's scope and state certification authority.



SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Annual Meeting Planning Committee Members: Susan A. Lucas Kamat (NM), Shelly Lemon (NM), Jennifer Zygmunt (WY), Jennifer Feltis (NJ), Lynette Guevara (NM), Heidi Henderson (NM), Kate Lacey-Younger (NM), Dana Vanderbosch (MN)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

ALL TIMES MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

This is a Closed Meeting – Open only to ACWA members, partner organizations, federal partners, tribal representatives and invited guests

12:00 – 5:00 PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

6:00 – 9:00 PM LEADERSHIP DINNER

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

ALL TIMES MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

This is a Closed Meeting – Open only to ACWA members, partner organizations, federal partners, tribal representatives and invited guests

7:30 – 8:30 AM REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

8:30 – 9:00 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

9:00 - 9:30 AM

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

9:30 – 10:30 AM

NEW MEXICO'S JOURNEY TO NPDES DELEGATION

Representatives from the New Mexico Environment Department will provide a presentation on the state's journey to NPDES delegation.

Shelly Lemon, Surface Water Quality Bureau Chief, New Mexico Environment Department

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Break

11:00 – 12:30 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.

12:30 – 2:00 PM

LUNCH PROVIDED FOR ATTENDEES

2:00 – 3:30 PM

PANEL DISCUSSION ON REGIONAL EFFORTS THAT COULD INFORM LARGER DIALOGUE ON PRIORITIZING NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION

The proposed panel would provide a discussion address the "third wave" of nutrient policy, focusing on the administrative shift from simple point-source fixes to complex, multi-sector accountability. Leaders from major watersheds (e.g., Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, Long Island Sound) will discuss high-level strategies for navigating "moving goalposts" caused by various nutrient management challenges, including legacy pollutants. By comparing diverse governance models, the session provides a strategic roadmap for administrators to balance infrastructure costs with the urgent need for verifiable, landscape-scale water quality outcomes.

3:30 – 3:45 PM

BREAK

3:45 – 5:00 PM

THE ROLE OF AN ADMINISTRATOR – THEN & NOW

This session brings together current and former state surface water quality program administrators for a candid, practitioner-to-practitioner conversation about what the role demands — the parts that show up in the job description and the parts that don't. It is not a policy panel. It is an honest reckoning with what it means to lead one of these programs across the arc of a career, and what the next generation of administrators needs to know going in.

Martha Clark Mettler, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Water Quality
Indiana Department of Environmental

Shellie Chard, Water Quality Division Director, Oklahoma Department of Environmental
Quality (Retired)

Melanie Davenport, Chief Strategy Officer, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Pete LaFlamme, Director, Watershed Management Division, Vermont Department of
Environmental Conservation (Retired)

Tom Stiles, Director, Bureau of Water, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
(Retired)

5:00 PM

DAY 1 CONCLUDES

6:00 – 8:00 PM

AWARDS CEREMONY AND RECEPTION FOR ATTENDEES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

ALL TIMES MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

This is a Closed Meeting – Open only to ACWA members, partner organizations, federal partners, tribal representatives and invited guests

8:00 – 9:00 AM

REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

9:00 – 1:30 PM

FIELD TRIP: TOUR OF THE UPPER SANTA FE WATERSHED

Attendees will travel to the Upper Santa Fe Watershed to see how the City is managing and protecting their source water. Transportation & lunch will be provided.

1:30 – 2:30 PM

EPA OFFICE DIRECTORS PRIORITIES & UPDATES

The Office Directors from the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds and the Office of Wastewater Management will join us to discuss their priorities for the coming year and highlight areas for collaboration and coordination with the states and interstates.

Stacey Jensen, Acting Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water

Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water

2:30 – 3:30 PM

USGS WATER SCIENCE CENTER – RESOURCES & PARTNERSHIP DATA, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE FUTURE OF WATER QUALITY MONITORING

- Real-time and remote sensing technologies
- Continuous monitoring networks vs. traditional sampling
- Data quality, comparability, and integration with EPA systems and predictive modeling in water quality management
- What states need to modernize monitoring infrastructure

3:00 – 3:30 PM

BREAK

3:45 PM – 4:15 PM

ACWA BUSINESS MEETING

4:15 PM – 5:30 PM

STATE WATER REUSE PROGRAMS: DRIVERS, OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

5:00 PM

DAY 2 CONCLUDES

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

ALL TIMES MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

This is a Closed Meeting – Open only to ACWA members, partner organizations, federal partners, tribal representatives and invited guests

8:00 – 8:30 AM

REGISTRATION / CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AVAILABLE

9:00 – 10:00 AM

EPA SUPPORT TO STATE CYBER PROGRAMS

EPA will provide an update on the cyber threat to water systems, current incidents and share how we are assisting state water programs in enhancing cybersecurity resilience for the utilities within their jurisdiction.

10:00 – 11:00 AM

CROSS-PROGRAM COORDINATION TO ADVANCE EFFECTIVE AND INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION TO ADDRESS PFAS CONTAMINATION

During this session, the speakers will focus on identifying opportunities to enhance understanding of effective and integrated approaches across CWA programs.

11:00 – 11:15 AM

BREAK

11:15 – 12:00 PM

HOW ARE STATES USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO ACHIEVE WATER QUALITY GOAL

12:00 PM

MEETING CONCLUDES