

Association of Clean Water Administrators

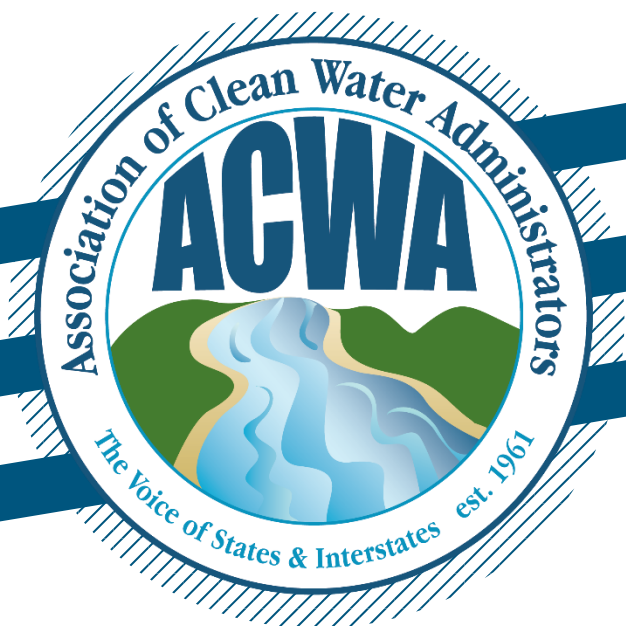
2026 ACWA Fall Clean Water Act Regulators Summit

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-Young (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**
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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**
Anasazi Concourse

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, Association of Clean Water Administrators
Lexy Bailey, Association of Clean Water Administrators

9:00 - 9:30 AM **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

9:30 – 10:45 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, New Mexico Environment Department
Brecken Scott, New Mexico Environment Department
Susan Lucas Kamat, New Mexico Environment Department

10:45 – 11:00 AM **Break**

11:00 – 12:30 PM **NPDES PERMIT PROGRAM EFFICIENCY: LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS**
Focusing on NPDES Program Efficiency is a key strategy for improving efficacy, reducing delays, and supporting economic development. This session highlights state-level initiatives that have successfully modernized and/or simplified permitting systems or requirements. Presenters will share practical lessons learned, challenges overcome, and tools developed that may assist others pursuing similar efforts.

Facilitator:

Marty Haroldson, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

Nicole Blasing, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Jennifer Wigal, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Jennifer Feltis, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Candice Hasenyager, Utah Department of Environmental Quality

12:30 – 2:00 PM

LUNCH PROVIDED FOR ATTENDEES

Anasazi Ballroom

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

Anasazi Concourse

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.

The City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe Watershed Association will provide a tour of the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed, closed to the public since 1932. This 4.5-mile hiking tour of the watershed includes views of the Nichols Reservoir, city drinking water infrastructure, and the Santa Fe River. The City of Santa Fe and Santa Fe National Forest have partnered to complete many source water protection and wildfire mitigation treatments throughout the watershed. The Santa Fe Watershed Association has championed education and outreach in partnership with the City of Santa Fe to teach watershed science, water conservation, and water quality topics for over 15,000 students in the 5th grade as part of the “My Water, My Watershed” program.

This tour does start at an elevation of about 7,500 ft and will have an elevation gain of approximately 500 ft. The hike will be up a closed dirt road for approximately 4.5-miles. As a note, it is monsoon season in Santa Fe, meaning that we typically have cloud build-up and sporadic, intense thunderstorms throughout the afternoon. The timing of this hike should be fine from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm, but we will encourage attendees to bring layers. Participants are encouraged to bring good walking shoes, a water bottle, a hat, wear sunscreen, a light raincoat, and potentially a light jacket as temperatures can shift quickly from hot to chilly.

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, Environmental Protection Agency

Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency

2:30 – 3:30 PM

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

Staff from the USGS Water Science Center will present on a range of resources, including real-time and remote sensing technologies, continuous monitoring networks vs. traditional sampling, data quality, comparability, and predictive modeling in water quality management.

We will hear about projects local to New Mexico and the region and discuss what states need to modernize monitoring infrastructure.

Justin Nichols, research hydrologist, New Mexico Water Science Center, USGS

Kim Beisner, research hydrologist, New Mexico Water Science Center, USGS

3:00 – 3:15 PM

BREAK

3:15 PM – 4:00 PM

ACWA BUSINESS MEETING

4:00 PM – 5:00 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

Anasazi Concourse

9:00 – 10:00 AM

THE DIGITAL AGE AND CLEAN WATER

New technology is reshaping how regulators protect water quality. Artificial intelligence can help states and utilities use data, detect contamination, predict harmful algal blooms, and improve treatment. At the same time, data centers, semiconductor manufacturing, and battery production/recycling can increase water demand and create wastewater and pollution risks. Cybersecurity is also essential as treatment plants and monitoring systems rely more on connected controls. This session will highlight some examples and discuss how ACWA can best support its members in these evolving areas.

Facilitator:

Sean Rolland, Association of Clean Water Administrators

Artificial Intelligence, **Ashley Ward**, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Cybersecurity, **Meredith Streeter**, New York Department of Environmental Conservation
Data Centers, **Ward Scott**, Association of Clean Water Administrators

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.

Dana Vanderbosch, Assistant Commissioner for Water Policy and Agriculture, MPCA
Adrian Stocks, Director, Bureau of Water Quality, Wisconsin DNR

11:00 – 11:30 AM

BREAK

11:30 – 12:30 PM

SPECIAL SESSION: ACWA COMMITTEE TOPIC UPDATES

ACWA staff will share with members updates on substantive topics the ACWA Staff and Committees/Workgroups are currently dealing with or will deal with in the near future. Member feedback would be greatly appreciated.

Effluent Limit Guidelines, **Sean Rolland**, Association of Clean Water Administrators
401 Certification, **Ward Scott**, Association of Clean Water Administrators
Clean Water SRFs, **Julia Anastasio**, Association of Clean Water Administrators

12:30 PM

MEETING CONCLUDES