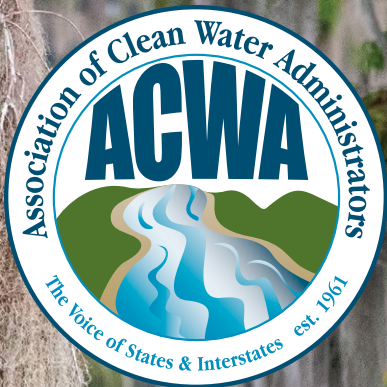




Annual Report

Association of Clean Water Administrators

August 2026

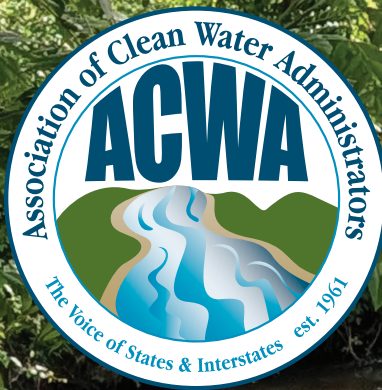


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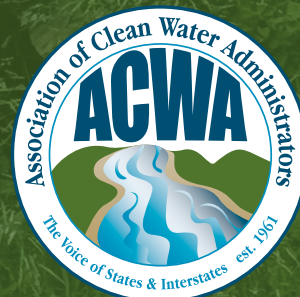
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Front cover photo: John Grosch, LA
Lake Martin, Breaux Bridge, LA

Letter from ACWA's President

Dear Colleagues,

I am excited to welcome you to Santa Fe, New Mexico for ACWA's 65th Annual Meeting! I hope that you take advantage of this meeting to share your perspective, triumphs, and challenges so that we can learn from one another. I also hope you find time to experience New Mexico's unique culture and climate, including some of these Santa Fe highlights: the Santa Fe Plaza, art (Canyon Road, Georgia O'Keeffe, SITE Santa Fe, Contemporary Native Arts, Meow Wolf, Museum Hill, and more), religion (St. Francis Basilica, Loretto Chapel, San Miguel Chapel), outdoors (Santa Fe River Walk, Farmer's Market/Railyard, Santa Fe Botanical Garden, and more), and food (Santa Fe Margarita Trail and really any restaurant... you can't go wrong just be prepared for spice if you choose New Mexican and our official state question, "Red or green?").

Each year, the ACWA President shares a reflection on the past year, and I am delighted to continue this tradition. This reflection is especially meaningful because it is marked by both our nation's 250th anniversary and ACWA's 65th Annual Meeting—two milestones that invite us to look back with gratitude and insight and to look forward with intention and determination.

Our country's 250th anniversary provides a powerful reminder of the enduring importance of our nation's waters to its history, identity, and future. Water has been central to the American story and its progress—from the Great Lakes in the north to the Rio Grande and the Gulf of Mexico in the south, from the Chesapeake Bay and Potomac, Susquehanna, and Delaware Rivers in the east to the San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound, and Columbia, Colorado, and Snake Rivers in the west, and let's not forget the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers and all of the other valued and cherished waters across the United States. Throughout our history, water has guided and influenced the direction of our country. Our waters represent American culture and possibility, and document our progress, spirit, and persistence. But, for much of America's history, water was viewed primarily as a tool for expansion and growth and taken for granted; nevertheless, we eventually learned that economic growth without water quality protection is counterproductive, and thus the Clean Water Act was realized.

Likewise, ACWA's 65th Annual Meeting offers an opportunity to celebrate the Association's collective achievements and our commitment to the vital work that lays ahead. This past year has been marked by significant milestones, achievements, and an exciting calendar of events, but it has also brought significant change and uncertainty and no shortage of adversity. Yet, time and again, ACWA has shown its ability to adapt, collaborate, and solve problems to ensure our waters are protected and enhanced. We continue to find innovative solutions, strengthen partnerships, and support one another, which is why I love ACWA. This year, as in past years, we want to highlight the innovative approaches states and territories are using to address emerging contaminants, modernize permitting, strengthen watershed partnerships, and integrate science and technology into regulatory practice and clean water policy.

As I reflected on the past year, I was reminded of the extraordinary value of the waters we work every day to protect. Across the country, rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands continue to define and sculpt our landscapes, support vibrant ecosystems, provide resilience against urbanization and a changing climate, and sustain the communities that depend on them. Regardless of where you live or work, these waters and aquatic ecosystems are restorative and essential to the health and wellbeing of every person and every place they touch. As we say in New Mexico, "*agua es vida* – water is life." Our waters continue to motivate and inspire me with their resilience, natural beauty, complexity, and potential.

I am equally inspired by you, the people who protect these waters. Across all states and territories, ACWA members remain steadfast in their commitment to our shared goals: safe and clean water for every community; fair and efficient permitting systems; and sustainable watershed stewardship and effective restoration. At its core, ACWA's work is strengthened by collaboration and grounded in science. We are committed to upholding a high standard of water quality protection while adapting to new and complex challenges. In the face of changing political and climatological conditions, new scientific tools and understanding, emerging contaminants and harmful algae blooms, evolving clean water policy at both the state and federal levels, increased public awareness and scrutiny, more aggressive cybersecurity threats, and ongoing personnel and financial resource challenges, you continue



Craig Nelson, ID
Priest Lake, ID



to move this work forward with professionalism, ingenuity, and grit. Communities large and small benefit from your efforts every single day. Because of your dedication, waters and aquatic ecosystems recover and thrive, lakes regain clarity, wetlands continue to filter and protect, and the national promise of fishable and swimmable waters endures because you uphold that promise.

Throughout the year, ACWA continued to elevate state voices, foster collaboration among members, strengthen relationships with partner organizations, and expand constructive engagement with our federal partners. Our committees and workgroups advanced key priorities from nutrient reduction strategies to water reuse frameworks and NPDES program modernization tactics to nonpoint source (§319) load reductions and watershed partnerships, while strengthening the professional community that makes this work possible. I am deeply grateful to every member who contributed time, expertise, and energy to support and advance these efforts.

I encourage everyone to celebrate our achievements presented in this year's annual report and continue to utilize ACWA's website to fully appreciate the variety of committees and activities supported through ACWA. I also encourage those of you who are new to the organization to attend and actively participate in ACWA's webinars, workshops, and meetings and fully embrace the collaborative and supportive possibilities that you discover—they provide just the right conditions to learn and support one another, explore synergies and opportunities for collaboration, and promote best practices in clean water administration. You will not be disappointed!

Over the years that I have been involved with ACWA, I have worked alongside many individuals from different backgrounds and different states, but I always find that my ACWA colleagues are curious, smart, dedicated, solution-oriented, supportive, and passionate—believe that it is the people that bring an association to life and you all are the lifeblood of this organization. The benefit of ACWA is the shared experience of its members working in clean water protection and a willingness to learn from and support one another. You remind me that I am not alone in this work, and that New Mexico's problems are not unique nor insurmountable. You provide confirmation and reassurance that we are moving in the right direction and protecting water quality across the country for our states, communities, and neighbors.

As we look ahead, the significance of this moment—at the intersection of a national commemoration and recognition of ACWA's organizational longevity—reminds us that our mission is both urgent and enduring. Clean water is foundational to public health, ecological integrity, economic vitality, and national wellbeing. The work we do together ensures that future generations will inherit waters that reflect our best efforts and highest aspirations.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank Julia and the entire ACWA staff for their guidance, leadership, and tenacity. They are the magic sauce that makes this association run proficiently, collaboratively, and productively to ensure our shared successes.

I have been honored to be ACWA President over the past year representing this amazing and committed group of professionals who come together to support and advance our unified mission: clean water. Your perseverance through evolving challenges and complex regulatory landscapes is a testament to your commitment. You adapt, innovate, and continue moving the work forward—often without recognition, but always with purpose.

Thank you for the opportunity to work alongside you. I am proud of all we have accomplished together over the past year, and I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to sustain and enrich the progress we have made.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Sincerely,

Shelly Lemon

President, Association of Clean Water Administrators

Surface Water Quality Bureau Chief, New Mexico Environment Department

Letter from ACWA's Executive Director and General Counsel

Dear ACWA Members,

As we close out the year, I am pleased to reflect on another productive year for ACWA. The accomplishments highlighted in the following pages are a testament to the strength of our membership, the dedication of our staff, and the enduring importance of our mission to advance clean water policy on behalf of the states, interstates, and territories.

This year was another standout year for ACWA's training and workshop programs. Supported by EPA's Office of Water, we delivered a full slate of highly successful workshops covering NPDES permit writing and program management, water quality standards, modeling, nutrient permitting and water reuse. These sessions provided invaluable in-person and virtual training opportunities for program staff, and we are deeply grateful to EPA for their continued financial support that makes them possible.

Our committees and workgroups remained active and influential, positioning ACWA to engage meaningfully on key Clean Water Act regulations and EPA initiatives throughout the year. Our Annual and Mid-Year Member Meetings drew strong participation and featured timely discussions on emerging federal priorities, infrastructure implementation, and workforce challenges facing state programs.

I am also pleased to report that ACWA remains in a strong financial position, well-situated to continue delivering valuable programs, services, and advocacy on behalf of our members. Thank you for your continued support of this organization. We would not be able to accomplish all that we do without it.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors, and the outstanding ACWA staff for their tireless commitment to ensuring clean water everywhere for everyone. I hope to see you all at an upcoming ACWA member meeting!

Sincerely,



Julia Anastasio
Executive Director and General Counsel
Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA)



Hawk Stone, ID
Juniper Creek



John Grosch, LA
Rock Stacks Cannon Beach | Cannon Beach, Oregon, OR

About ACWA

History, Vision, and Mission

ACWA is the independent, nonpartisan, national organization of state, interstate, and territorial (hereafter referred to as “state”) water program directors, responsible for the daily implementation of the Clean Water Act’s (CWA) water quality programs. ACWA is the only nationally recognized organization whose entire agenda and mission are set by a Board of Directors and Leadership composed entirely of state/interstate/territorial water quality program administrators and managers.

ACWA strives to convey the shared perspective of state, interstate, and territorial water quality agencies at the national level. We facilitate a dialogue between water quality agencies, as well as Congress and the Administration. We offer forums for the exchange of technical and innovative program information among water quality professionals, and we promote public education on water quality issues.

As the national voice of state, interstate, and territorial water programs, ACWA strives to protect and restore watersheds. ACWA works to maintain a vibrant national organization that:

- Serves membership needs and achieves a high level of participation; is the
- National voice for state and interstate clean water program concerns, interests, and priorities;
- Facilitates technical and policy innovation among national and state water programs (best practices);
- Fosters the collaboration needed for sound public policy; and
- Carries out activities in an efficient, ethical, and fiscally sound manner.

ACWA Vision: Achieve clean water everywhere for everyone through an engaged and trusted association where clean water administrators share, collaborate, educate, and advocate.

ACWA Mission: To serve as the national nonpartisan voice of state, interstate, and territorial administrators responsible for efficient and effective implementation of the Clean Water Act.





Marie Today, IA
Hidden Falls, Nerstrand State Park, MN

ACWA Leadership and Staff

ACWA Leadership

President

Shelly Lemon (NM)

Vice President

Jennifer Feltis (NJ)

Treasurer

Jennifer Zygmunt (WY)

Secretary

Lori McDaniel (IA)

Past-President

Adrian Stocks (WI)

Board Representatives

Region 1

Brian Kavanah (ME)

Region 2

Meredith Streeter (NY)

Region 3

Melanie Davenport (VA)

Region 4

Ann Clark (SC)

Region 5

Dana Vanderbosch (MN)

Region 6

Stacie Wassell (AR)

Region 7

Lori McDaniel (IA)

Region 8

Lindsey Krywaruchka (MT)

Region 9

Trevor Baggione (AZ)

Region 10

Mary Anne Nelson (ID)

Interstate

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh
(DRBC)

National Office Staff

Executive Director and General Counsel

Julia Anastasio

Deputy Director

Sean Rolland

Director of Operations

Annette Ivey

Environmental Program Manager II

Jasper Hobbs

Environmental Program Manager

Ward Scott

Environmental Analyst

Alexys Bailey



Committees and Workgroups

Environmental Justice – Jennifer Feltis Cortese (NJ)

Funding & Congressional Relations – Richard Friesner (NEIWPCC)

Legal Affairs – Carin Spreitzer (NY)

Monitoring & Standards Assessment – Connie Dou (OR), Nicole Newcomer (OK)

- **PFAS** – Staff-Led

Nutrients Policy – Nicole Rowan (CO), Adam Schneiders (IA)

Permitting & Compliance – Jason Knutson (WI), Marty Haroldson (ND)

- **Stormwater** – Paul Hlavinka (MD), Rebecca Villalba (TX)
- **Compliance Assurance & Data Systems** – Katherine McCrea (WY), Jessie Yates (MO)

Water Resources Management – Matt Rowe (MD)

Watersheds – Barbara Bennett (CO), Kevin Kirsch (WI)

- **319 & Nonpoint Source** – Staff-Led
- **Modeling** – Craig Lott (VA)

ACWA's committees and workgroups are the engine of the association and are key players in helping to develop comments and input on key EPA activities; as well as share best practices and knowledge with state peers. To maximize your ACWA membership, your staff should join relevant groups via Member365, our State/ Interstate member only web portal.

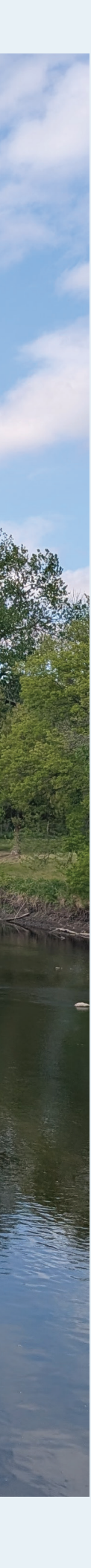
Contact Member Services for support at memberservices@acwa-us.org



John Grosch, LA
Lake Martin, Breaux Bridge, LA



Marie Todey, IA
Cannon River, MN



ACWA Members

- Alabama Department of Environmental Management
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
- Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- Arkansas Division of Environmental Quality
- California State Water Resources Control Board
- Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Control
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- DC District Department of Energy and Environment
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources
- Hawaii Department of Health
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
- Interstate Environmental Commission
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Maryland Department of the Environment
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality
- Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
- New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- New Mexico Environment Department
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
- North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
- Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
- Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission
- Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection
- Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- South Carolina Department of Environmental Services
- South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Washington Department of Ecology
- West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

2025 Awards

The Emerging Leader Award

recognizes full-time employees of States/Interstates who have demonstrated notable leadership or contributions to the work of an ACWA committee, task force, and/or workgroup, and show potential for future leadership.

EMERGING LEADER

Ashley Ward

Ohio Environmental Protection Agency



Ashley Ward serves as the Assistant Chief of the Division of Surface Water at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, where she has dedicated the past 13 years to advancing clean water initiatives.

Throughout her tenure, she has gained extensive experience across multiple programs, including NPDES permitting, wet weather, enforcement, pretreatment, permit-to-install (PTI), and rule development.

Ashley has been an active participant in ACWA's Nutrients Subcommittee and has contributed to the Association's mission through presentations at various workshops and meetings. Her professional efforts closely align with ACWA's goal of achieving "clean water everywhere for everyone," a vision that has guided her career from the beginning.

Currently, Ashley is leading two significant rulemaking initiatives in Ohio: the development of stream nutrient implementation rules aimed at regulating point source discharges of nutrients to impaired streams, and a streamlined wet weather use attainability analysis rule to support regulatory certainty for communities with reduced overflow events.

She holds two Bachelor of Science degrees from The Ohio State University—one in Environmental Science with a specialization in water, and another in Chemical Engineering.

Ashley is deeply committed to protecting water resources and supporting communities across the state. Her lifelong connection to water began in childhood, spending time swimming, boating, and kayaking, and ultimately inspired her career choice. She continues to bring that same passion and dedication to her work in environmental protection.



Marie Todey, IA
Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, MN

2025 Awards

The President's Service Award is given annually to the member selected for their exceptional service to the Association over the last fiscal year.

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE

Lori McDaniel

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



Lori McDaniel has spent 26 years with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, building a career around some of the state's most critical water issues. She began her work in water quality with a focus on Water Quality Standards, where she led her team in passing multiple rule packages that brought Iowa into compliance with the Clean Water Act.

After serving for 15 years as a supervisor for programs including water quality standards, wasteload allocations, floodplain management, and dam safety, Lori became the Water Quality Bureau Chief in 2020.

In her current role, she leads the DNR's Water Quality Bureau, overseeing efforts under the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, State Revolving Loan Programs and the State's Water Use Program.

Known for her commitment to personal accountability, continuous improvement, and kindness, Lori also believes in keeping things light, even when the work gets heavy. A recent highlight of her career was welcoming ACWA's national workshop on Water Quality Standards to Des Moines, where she got to make jokes using words like antidegradation and ceriodaphnia, and the crowd actually laughed.

Lori holds a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from the University of Northern Iowa and is a graduate of Drake University's Certified Public Manager Program. Outside of work, she's a soccer mom helping her only child transition from high school to college – wish her luck as she navigates the empty nest!

PRESIDENT'S SERVICE

Jennifer Zygmunt

Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality



Jennifer Zygmunt has been the Water Quality Division Administrator for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality since August 2021. She began her career with the DEQ after graduating from the University of Wyoming in 2003 with a B.S. in Botany and a concentration in Environment and Natural Resources. After serving an internship with the Land Quality Division, she transferred to the Water Quality Division where she worked as a permit writer for the WYPDES Program for nearly six years. She then managed the Nonpoint Source Program for eleven years, during which time she provided testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment

and Public Works. She then transitioned to supervising the Integrated Management Services section of the Water Quality Division, where she led initiatives related to efficiency, streamlining, and digital records management prior to assuming the role of administrator. A native of Casper, she grew up mostly in New Mexico before finding her way back to Wyoming, where she is privileged to work with her exceptional staff and people across the state to protect its water resources.

2025 Awards

The Exceptional Service Award is presented to Association members who have demonstrated a strong commitment to ACWA before their retirement.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Shellie Chard

Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality



Shellie Chard obtained her education in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology from the University of Oklahoma. She has been the Water Quality Division Director of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality since January 1, 2010 and has 33 years of experience in the

drinking water and wastewater profession. Today she oversees drinking water, wastewater, storm water, water reuse, biosolids, operator certification and training and infrastructure funding. In addition to her activities at DEQ she is a member of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, the Critical Infrastructure Partnership Advisory Council Water and Wastewater Sector Taskforce, and the University of Oklahoma Gallogly College of Engineering Board of Advisors. She holds or has held leadership positions in Association of Clean Water Administrators, Association of Safe Drinking Water Administrators, Ground Water Protection Council, Oklahoma Water Environment Association and Water Environment Federation.

EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE

Tom Stiles

Kansas Department of Health and Environment



Tom has recently retired after overseeing the Bureau of Water (BOW), administering the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act in Kansas, since May 2019. Prior to that, he was BOW Assistant Director for three years and was with KDHE since 1998 and Kansas government since 1982. He holds a B.S. in Watershed

Science from Colorado State University and a M.S. in Forest Hydrology from the University of Minnesota. He is a Past President of the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA), and the Interstate Council on Water Policy, as well as the vice-chairman for the Western States Water Council's Water Quality Committee

Environmental Partnership Award

is presented to those persons who have, throughout their careers, demonstrated a true and consistent willingness to work cooperatively with the States and with the various interested organizations to effect environmental improvement.

PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Andrew Sawyers

Office of Wastewater Management United States Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters



Andrew D. Sawyers is the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management. Prior to joining OWM, Andrew was the Deputy Director of the EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. Prior to joining EPA, Andrew was the

Program Administrator for the Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration, managing Maryland's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. Andrew has a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in Geography and Environmental Engineering.



Kevin Goodwin, MI
Little Rock, AR

2025 Awards

Environmental Statesman Award

is ACWA's highest award and is presented to those ACWA members who have demonstrated outstanding service to the organization over a multi-year period.

STATESMAN AWARD

Amanda Vincent

**Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Services
Louisiana Department of Environmental
Quality**



Amanda Vincent earned a bachelor of science degree (BS) and a master of science (MS) degree in biology from Southeastern Louisiana University; earned a master of business administration (MBA) degree in project management

from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; and a doctor of philosophy degree (PhD) in coastal sciences from The University of Southern Mississippi. She has worked at the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) since 2007. Amanda has held positions at LDEQ in programs for water quality standards and assessment, water permitting, and natural resource damage assessments. Since 2024, Amanda has served as the Assistant Secretary for LDEQ's Office of Environmental Services, where she oversees the permitting programs for air, waste, and water in Louisiana.

The Staff Achievement Award is

presented by ACWA to recognize staff members who have demonstrated outstanding service to the membership and the organization over a sustained, multi-year period. You have demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to ACWA and its members and have played a key role in ACWA's success.

STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

Sean Rolland

Association of Clean Water Administrators



Sean Rolland is the Deputy Director for ACWA and provides direct support to the Executive Director and the Board of Directors. He also supports several ACWA Committees and Workgroups, serving as a liaison to managers and staff at the federal agencies. Sean drafts letters, position statements,

and testimony to be presented to Congress and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Having worked with the Association for over 20 years, his duties also include grants management, budget development, vendor negotiations, and contract review. He also keeps the membership informed on new and/or revised Clean Water Act related guidance, regulations, legislation, and recent case law. Sean initially joined ACWA in 2002 as a Legal & Policy Analyst. Prior to working for ACWA he was employed with the states of New Jersey and Louisiana. He has a law degree from Stetson University College of Law and has undergraduate degrees in both Marine Biology and Environmental Studies from Stockton University. In his free time Sean enjoys spending time on the water along Florida's coastline and at the theme parks in Orlando.



John Grosch, LA
Land to Sea | Blumenthal Falls, Oswald West State Park, OR



Committee and Workgroup Activities

In the last year, ACWA's committees and workgroups have been very active. Here is a sampling of some of the topics and activities covered.

PROGRAM AREA • Highlights

WATERSHEDS

- Assisted EPA and States on successful implementation of the CWA 303(d) Vision
- Provided comments on topics for a draft Integrated Reporting Memo
- Held monthly committee calls for ACWA Members
- Planned and held the 2025 Water Quality Modeling Workshop
- Represented ACWA's positions at national meetings and training workshops
- Assisted with the National 303(d)/TMDL Training Workshop
- Organized monthly-bimonthly check-ins with EPA staff

MONITORING, STANDARDS, AND ASSESSMENT

- Held the 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop
- Provided comments on a suite of policy and criteria recommendations
- Held monthly committee calls for ACWA Members
- Participated on monthly Monitoring and Assessment Partnership Calls
- Participated in bi-monthly WQSMA calls and improved partnerships with EPA
- Provided assistance for state participation in the National Monitoring Conference
- Tracked policy and implementation efforts related to PFAS

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

- Planned and facilitated the 2026 State Summit on Water Reuse
- Assisted EPA in state outreach regarding data population of the REUSExplorer tool
- Hosted two ACWA-EPA webinars on current issues surrounding states' advancement of water reuse, including discussions
- Continued participation in EPA WRAP Action Leaders

NUTRIENTS

- Hosted states-only webinar on EPA National Nutrient Inventory Explorer and other tools
- Assisted EPA in the updates of the Nutrients Story Map tool
- Supported EPA implementation of "Regional Engagement with States to Accelerate Nutrient Pollution in the Nation's Water" memo
- Re-established the ACWA Nutrients Policy Workgroup

LEGAL AFFAIRS

- Quarterly meetings to discuss recent CWA legal opinions and their impacts on state CWA programs

WOTUS

- Submitted comments to EPA/USACE in response to the agencies' proposed rule, "Updated Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"
- Submitted request for extension of comment period for proposed rule, "Updated Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"

CWA SECTION 401

- Hosted states-only call to gather state feedback regarding EPA's proposed rule "Updating the Water Quality Certification Regulations."
- Submitted comments to EPA in response to the proposed rule, "Updating the Water Quality Certification Regulations"

PERMITTING, COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT, DATA

- Facilitated 2026 National Industrial Permitting Workshop
- Assisted EPA and CISA on outreach related to water cybersecurity initiatives
- Organized bimonthly joint State/EPA Stormwater and Animal Agriculture calls
- Hosted EPA calls on latest updates to their Multi-Sector General Permit, Construction General Permit, Steam Electric ELG
- Hosted state calls on reducing permit backlog and use of AI in permitting programs
- Participated on bimonthly national pretreatment coordinators calls
- Represented ACWA's positions with outside groups and at other national meetings
- Participated on bimonthly NPDES Noncompliance Report update calls
- Participated on monthly ICIS Modernization calls

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Continued to monitor changes in environmental justice policies following the new administration's stance on environmental justice and stayed informed on how environmental justice policy changes could impact state water agencies and sharing information with our members

Meeting Summaries

ACWA generally holds two face-to-face member meetings a year to allow our members to meet with their peers, facilitate conversations with EPA Headquarters and Regions, recognize achievements, and to collaborate with organizations with similar and differing water quality goals. We also hold several programmatic workshops supported by EPA cooperative agreement funds. Mark your calendars and join us!

Beyond our two annual membership meetings, ACWA held technical workshops, subsidized by two cooperative agreements from EPA, that provided additional learning and training opportunities for state program staff.

2025 Water Quality Modeling Workshop
ACWA held the 2025 Water Quality Modeling Workshop, in partnership with EPA's modeling workgroup. This workshop took place the week of September 15th, in Atlanta, GA, at EPA's R4 offices. This year's event had trainings on LSPC and EFDC, as well as a reprisal of in-depth Modeling 201 track, which featured practical exercises, case studies, and collaborative discussions. Overall, this year's workshop brought together state program managers and staff involved in water quality modeling, with representatives from 26 states from all 10 EPA regions in attendance.

2026 State Summit on Water Reuse
ACWA staff led a coalition, including EPA, state association partners (Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, Environmental Council of States, Groundwater Protection Council, and Association of State and Territorial Health Officials), and the WaterReuse Association to plan and host the 2026 State Summit on Water Reuse on March 11, in Los Angeles, CA and was once again held in conjunction with WRA's annual WaterReuse Symposium. The 2026 Summit had 90 participants (in-person and virtually) – the highest number of our seven Summits, thus far – including state regulators from 25 states and Washington, DC, as well as ten officials from EPA. 2026 Summit sessions focused on a variety of current topics of importance related to water reuse, including: (i) Development of the WaterReuse Association's Water Reuse State Regulatory Guide; (ii) Potable Reuse; (iii) Experiences with Permitting Water Reuse; (iv) Data Centers – Water-Energy Nexus, Water Availability and Reuse; and (v) Roadmaps to Regulatory Development.

2026 National Industrial Permitting Workshop
ACWA facilitated the 2026 National Industrial Permitting Workshop, which was held April 7-9, 2026 in Washington, DC. This year's permitting workshop had 267 participants, of which 75 participated in person and 196 participated virtually. Participants represented 42 states, the District of Columbia, all 10 EPA Regions, and several from EPA HQs. Topics discussed included: permit renewal and immediate noncompliance; an overview of the *Permit Writer's Clearinghouse*; drafting complex permits, successful implementation of mixing zones; reasonable potential analysis; cooling water intake structures; Best Practicable Control Technology vs Best Available Technology Economically Achievable; Battery Plants and Data Centers; PFAS TBELs and monitoring; antibacksliding provisions; using human health criteria – fish tissue; thermal pollution industries; and whole effluent toxicity testing. Presentations and meeting materials can be found [here](#).

2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop
ACWA held the 2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop the week of April 21st, in Little Rock, AR. This year's event had sessions on cyanotoxins, CECs, human health criteria, chloride, and the triennial review process; as well as discussions and panel sessions on stakeholder engagement and a legal update. Overall, this year's workshop brought together state program managers and staff involved in water quality standards, with representatives from 30+ states with over 100 registered to attend.

Cooperative Agreement Funded Workshops			
EPA Grant Funded Workshop	# Participants (# states represented)	# Travel Support Requests	\$ of Travel Support Allocated Per State
2025 Water Quality Modeling Workshop	65 participants, 25 states represented	17	\$1,000
2026 State Summit on Water Reuse	75 participants, 25 states represented	12	\$1,500
2026 National Industrial Permitting Workshop	118 participants, 26 states represented	26	\$1,300
2026 Water Quality Standards Workshop	104 participants, 38 states, 1 territory represented	25	\$1,000– \$1,500

For federally supported ACWA workshops, we are able to provide limited travel support to ACWA members participating in the workshop. The availability of and process for securing funds will be communicated to in-person attendees through email by ACWA staff.

Partnerships and Collaborations

ACWA continues to maintain and further build collaborative relationships with leadership at EPA on key agency priorities such as the Water Quality Standards and Criteria development, TMDL Visioning, PFAS, NPDES Program Improvements, monitoring and reporting, inspection priorities, compliance assistance, ICIS modernization, and promotion of water reuse. ACWA also continued to lead the Nutrients Working Group and participate in the Source Water Collaborative and Decentralized Systems MOU.

Additionally, ACWA continued to work with longstanding state water partners like ASDWA, NAWM, CIFA, GWPC, and ECOS. We also regularly communicate with municipal groups such as NACWA, NAFSMA, and NMSA and other state media associations like ASTWMO, NACAA, and APCAA.

Communication With Our Members

Our top priority is communicating with our members. We strive to develop quality communications and timely updates, as well as to offer insight and guidance. In addition to the Committee and Workgroup work, some of the ways we reach out to our members include:

- Our website, www.acwa-us.org
- Friday e-newsletter, *The Weekly Wrap*
- E-mails to our Members, Committees, Work Groups, containing the latest information from EPA and other sources
- Our Member Only Web Portal, Member365
 - Members-only workspaces where state staff share ideas and documents
- Regulatory and legislative alerts and updates
- Surveys and reports on important topics
- Federal Funding Table
- ACWA live-streamed several of its meetings and workshops

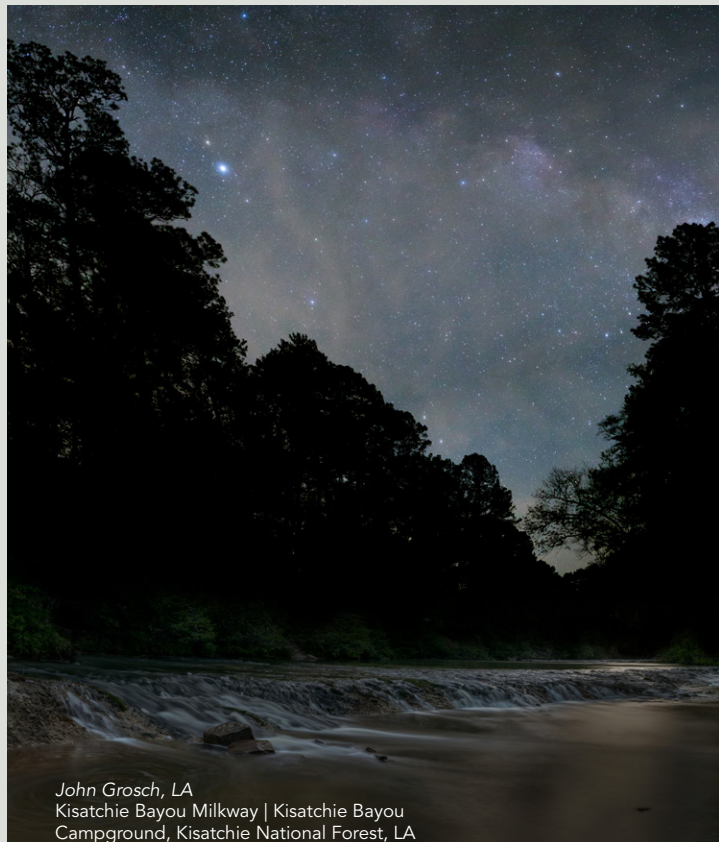
To maximize your ACWA membership, your staff should join relevant groups via, Member365, our State/Interstate/Territorial – Only Web Portal. Or contact Member Services for assistance.



Hawk Stone, ID • Hyndman Peak, ID



Hawk Stone, ID • Dickshooter Creek, ID



John Grosch, LA
Kisatchie Bayou Milkway | Kisatchie Bayou
Campground, Kisatchie National Forest, LA

Strategic Plan

FY 2023 – FY 2027

For the current FY 2023–FY 2027 Strategic Plan, the ACWA Board of Directors supported building on the successes of the last two plans and maintaining similar goals and objectives, while integrating new priorities as appropriate. Identification of activities and action items under the plan objectives are approved by the ACWA Board of Directors. For example, this year's Annual Membership Survey results provide feedback on existing services, operations, communication tools, priorities, and membership engagement. The Fiscal Audit report highlights financial integrity, while the end of year balance shows status of the reserve and provides one indicator of future financial sustainability, along with ACWA's planning and use of cooperative agreements and grants.



GOALS

1

Voice of State, Interstate, and Territorial Clean Water Administrators

- **Evaluate Existing Services and Operations**
Regularly evaluate services and organizational operations in the regulatory, policy, legislative, legal and technical areas to endure alignment with membership priorities.
- **Identify Ways to Improve Communication**
Regularly evaluate options to improve communication, participation, and information sharing among members.
- **Ensure Positions Represent Membership**
Ensure ACWA's positions and communications to congress, EPA, and others represent membership perspectives.
- **Strengthen Relationships**
Establish, expand, and enhance strategic collaborative relationships with appropriate federal agencies, non federal groups, and tribes.

2

Expand Membership Engagement and Enhance Leadership Development

- **Foster Understanding of Membership Value**
Identify ways to enhance each member's understanding of members benefits, responsibilities, and participation value and opportunities.
- **Foster Membership Engagement**
Identify ways to increase member staff engagement and service in leadership positions.
- **Invite Territorial Participation**
Develop a plan for encouraging US Territory participation with ACWA.

3

Promote a Culture of Organizational Excellence

- **Recruit, Develop, and Retain Professional Staff**
Create a culture of equity and inclusion to build and support a diverse staff to assure delivery of high-quality professional services.
- **Ensure Efficient and Effective Use of Organizational Resources**
Make informed decisions on use of funds, staffing, services, technology, and other assets.
- **Ensure Financial Integrity and Sustainability**
Make prudent investment decisions with board oversight and approval and utilize Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) in financial operations.
- **Grant Strategy and Management**
Pursue, secure, and leverage grant opportunities that support and advance the mission and organizational priorities.

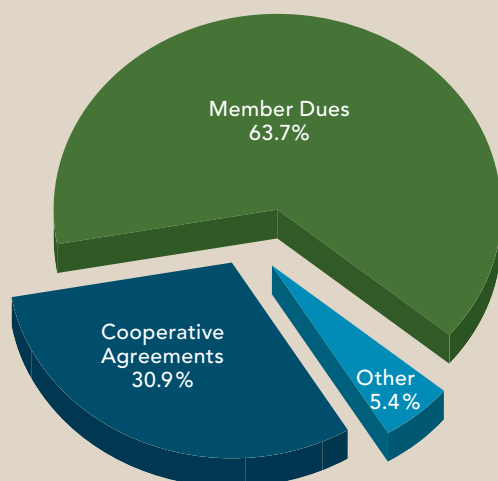


Marie Todey, IA
Cleary Lake, MN

Fiscal Snapshot FY2025

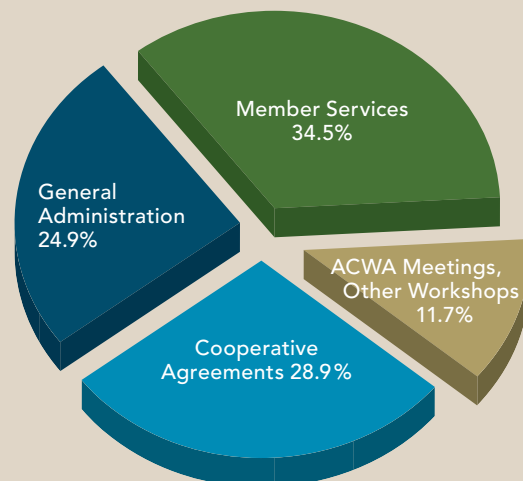
FY2025 Revenue

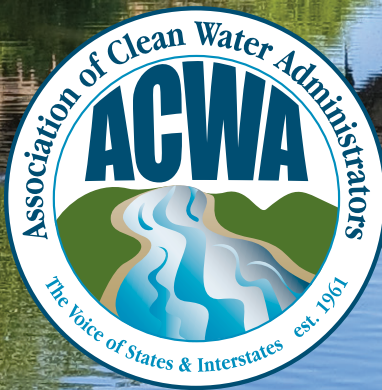
This revenue graph represents the Association's audited revenue for FY2025 totaling \$1,538,148. This section presents a snapshot of ACWA's different revenue streams. A significant percentage of ACWA's fiscal revenue is Member Dues and Cooperative Agreement support from EPA.



FY2025 Expenses

This expense graph represents the Association's audited expenses for FY2025 totaling \$1,453,361. The graph also shows ACWA's continued commitment to serving the membership needs, facilitating important meetings and workshops, and providing capacity building opportunities for our members.





"Clean water everywhere for everyone"

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The Voice of States & Interstates

Marie Todey, IA
The Old Mill | North Little Rock, AR