Association of Clean Water Administrators

2027 Spring Clean Water Act Regulators Summit

March 24-25, 2027

The Association of Clean Water Administrators brings together state and interstate surface water quality program directors and staff with senior EPA leadership for two days of policy dialogue focused on aligning federal and state priorities for the year ahead. Through candid discussion, panel sessions, and dedicated states-only time, the meeting gives state and interstate programs a direct line to EPA decision-makers and a forum to shape the federal-state relationship on Clean Water Act implementation.

Why attend:

- **Direct access to EPA leadership.** Hear firsthand from EPA Office Directors on their priorities for the coming year and engage directly on issues affecting your program.
- **Stay ahead of legal and regulatory developments.** Get briefed on significant Clean Water Act litigation and emerging federal policy changes before they reshape your day-to-day work.
- **Compare notes with your peers.** The summit offers a chance to talk candidly with other state and interstate programs about shared challenges, strategies, and resources.
- **Connect with the broader water sector.** Stakeholder panels bring perspectives from national associations and other partners, surfacing opportunities for collaboration you won't find elsewhere.
- **Shape ACWA's policy positions.** Your input during these sessions directly informs the policy positions ACWA carries forward to Congress and EPA on your behalf.

If your work touches state Clean Water Act implementation, this is the meeting where the federal-state conversation actually happens.

CLOSED SESSION FOR STATES/INTERSTATE REPRESENTATIVES ONLY

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

12:00 – 5:00 PM ET	**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**
6:00 – 9 :00 PM ET	**BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND LEADERSHIP DINNER**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24

THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING – STATE/ INTERSTATE PROGRAM STAFF, OFFICE OF WATER PARTNERS AND OTHER INVITED GUESTS ONLY

8:00 – 9:00 AM — **REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**

9:00 – 9:30 AM — **WELCOME & KEYNOTE**

ACWA leadership will open the meeting with a look at the year ahead for state and interstate clean water programs. Our keynote speaker will then set the stage for two days of discussion on the challenges and opportunities facing our members.

Jessica Kramer, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water (invited)

9:30 – 10:15 AM — **EPA OFFICE DIRECTOR UPDATES**

EPA Office Directors from OWM, 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.

Stacey Jensen, Acting Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency (invited)
Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water, Environmental Protection Agency (invited)
David Travers, Director, Office of Water Emergency Response and Cybersecurity, Environmental Protection Agency (invited)

10:15– 10:45 AM — **BREAK**

10:45 – 12:00 PM — **STATE MEDIA PARTNER ORGANIZATION UPDATES**

Representatives from ACWA's state partner organizations will join in a moderated panel discussion focusing on key issues and areas ripe for collaboration.

12:00 – 2:00 PM — **LUNCH FOR ALL ATTENDEES**

2:00 – 3:30 PM — **SPECIAL SCREENING: UNLESS SOMETHING GOES TERRIBLY WRONG**

As America's aging wastewater systems begin to fail, one plant and its motley crew of unlikely heroes do all they can to stay afloat.

Wastewater plants across the country are in need of resuscitation. Half a century after the Clean Water Act radically improved how we handle our

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sewage, our once modern facilities have aged beyond their intended lifespans. Pipes are cracking and growing populations push plants to their limits. The threats are mounting but the infrastructure hasn't changed. And, just when it seems things couldn't get any worse, a cancer causing-contaminant (PFAS) enters the scene and threatens to collapse the entire house of cards. In response, one plant that can't afford to ever shut down, must find clever solutions to an ever-growing mountain of problems.

Over the course of one calendar year, we follow the day-to-day operations of one wastewater facility and the funny, close-knit, and inventive individuals working to keep it all running. There's Dustin, Gollum impersonator and self-professed nerd, who heads the place. With a quick wit he keeps the crew smiling as the plant chugs along. There's Zac – artist and tattooed gentle giant, Dustin's best friend and number two in charge who over the course of the year absorbs the mounting pressures faced by the plant. And lastly Jimmy, the youngest member of the team. Under Dustin's guidance, Jimmy hopes to overcome test anxiety and pass his entry level operators exam. On a daily basis, the team laughs and struggles in a plant that looks like a movie set with labyrinths of pipes and blinking panels.

Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong is a buddy comedy about poop and the thankless pursuit of making a better world.

3:30 – 4:00 PM **BREAK**

4:00 – 5:00 PM **DISCUSSION WITH FILM MAKERS**

Join the filmmakers behind Unless Something Goes Terribly Wrong for a conversation about the making of the film, what they learned inside a working wastewater plant, and how stories like this one can help the public understand and value the people and infrastructure that keep our waters clean.

Kaitlyn Schwalje, Director & Writer (invited)
Alex Wolf Lewis, Director & Director of Photography

5:00 PM **ADJOURN**

Enjoy an evening with your colleagues and explore Old Town Alexandria!

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

THIS IS A CLOSED MEETING – STATE/ INTERSTATE PROGRAM STAFF, OFFICE OF WATER PARTNERS AND OTHER INVITED GUESTS ONLY

8:30 – 9:30 AM **REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**

9:30– 10:30 AM **UPDATE FROM ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE) & THE USDA NATIONAL CONSERVATION RESEARCH SERVICE (NRCS)**

Representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will share their current priorities and recent

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	program developments. They'll also point to opportunities to strengthen coordination with state and interstate water quality programs on permitting, nonpoint source, and watershed efforts.
10:30 – 11:00 AM	**BREAK**
11:00 – 12:00 PM	**A VIEW FROM THE HILL** What lies ahead in the new congress? Will water make the short list? Will we see CWA amendments? A new infrastructure fund? How will the budget look for EPA? This panel will touch on the prospects for these and other important issues.
12:00 PM	**ADJOURN**

SAFE TRAVELS HOME & WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE 2027 ACWA FALL CLEAN WATER ACT REGULATORS SUMMIT!

CHECK WWW.ACWA-US.ORG FOR MEETING UPDATES

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