

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES





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The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) is an organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water systems in the United States, and its membership serves more than 160 million customers.

AMWA thrives in creating a community of water sector leaders to advance policies to protect public health and economic vitality via safe, affordable, and sustainable drinking water.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Colleagues,

As the outgoing President of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) Board of Directors, I am proud to present AMWA's 2022 Annual Report.

AMWA experienced a CEO transition and other significant changes over the past year. During the process, the Board and staff worked together to continue to provide members with first-class advocacy, excellent customer service, and high-quality programs.

The Board's search for a new leader to guide the association concluded with hiring Tom Dobbins, CAE, the right leader for this moment. Tom brings extensive association experience, advocacy and member engagement expertise, and high-level energy and enthusiasm to AMWA and the sector; the Board is thrilled about AMWA's future under his leadership.

AMWA's accomplishments over the past year include, among others:

- Advocating on behalf of our members at the national level on key policy issues, including working with Congress to get the first-ever funding to the **Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program** appropriated.
- Providing comments to EPA on **PFAS, Lead and Copper Rule Improvements**, and other pertinent regulations affecting AMWA members.
- Convening stellar **Water Policy and Executive Management Conferences** to provide members with training and networking opportunities.
- Launching the eighth iteration of the **INSIGHT** utility financial management survey.
- Implementing a **first members needs assessment** to better gauge member needs for future program development.

Looking ahead, I am confident our new CEO, together with our dedicated staff and Board, will continue to build on these successes and lead AMWA to even more prominent achievements in the years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing participation in this organization. The AMWA team looks forward to continuing to serve you as you work to provide safe, quality, and reliable clean water to communities.

Sincerely,



Angela Licata
AMWA President
Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability
New York City Department of Environmental Protection

LEADERSHIP

*“A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way,
and shows the way.”*

-John C. Maxwell, Noted Author and Speaker



TOP: AMWA President Angela Licata, Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability, NYC DEP

BOTTOM LEFT: AMWA Board Member Scott Dewhirst, Tacoma Water Superintendent center and other AMWA members

BOTTOM RIGHT: Scott Potter, Director, Metro Nashville and AMWA CEO Tom Dobbins



AMWA CEO Tom Dobbins, CAE

New CEO

Tom Dobbins, CAE, stepped into the role as AMWA's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in June 2022. An experienced association executive, Dobbins previously served as CEO of the Aluminum Association and the American Composites Manufacturers Association. He also led the government affairs program at the American Council of Engineering Companies. In addition, he held senior roles on Capitol Hill and in the executive branch. At prior associations, Dobbins has been instrumental in driving organizational growth and working with Congress to pass several infrastructure laws.

"It is an honor to join such a prestigious organization," Dobbins stated. "There is nothing more fundamental to public health than water. I remain committed to AMWA's mission to advocate for policies that make drinking water abundant, safe, and affordable to all Americans."

After taking the helm of the association, Dobbins wasted no time communicating and charting a clear path for AMWA's future by collaborating with the Board and other members, the AMWA team, leaders at water sector associations, and others in various industries. His desire is to ensure AMWA and partners elevate the value of water across the country.

AMWA President Angela Licata stated, "This is an important time for the association and its members, who face many challenges including cyber security, resilience in the face of climate change, stringent lead and copper rules and increasing concern for emerging contaminants, and renewing aging equipment and delivery systems. With Tom on the team, the AMWA staff will continue to represent the best interests of the communities we represent with policymakers and provide the members with the information and tools needed to serve our customers."

ADVOCACY

Resilience and Preparedness

AMWA influences legislative and regulatory policy decisions that impact the water sector, including advocating for funding for water infrastructure, promoting sustainable and secure water management practices, and supporting sound scientific regulations that enhance the quality and safety of the drinking water supply.

- Culminating more than a decade of work, AMWA notched a victory in December when Congress appropriated the first-ever funding to the **Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Program**, a new EPA program intended to help drinking water systems prepare their infrastructure to withstand the effects of climate change, extreme weather, and cyber attacks. AMWA originally conceived of the program in 2009, and since that time worked tirelessly with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to make it a reality. The program was formally authorized as part of the **Infrastructure Investment**

and **Jobs Act of 2021** and received its first appropriation – \$5 million – as part of Congress’ FY23 omnibus spending legislation.

- Seeking to expand water systems’ access to **WaterISAC**, AMWA successfully persuaded Sen. Ed Markey to agree to sponsor legislation that would establish a new EPA program that would promote utility participation in the information sharing network, including by subsidizing the membership costs of some water systems. Working with Sen. Markey’s staff, AMWA developed a draft of the **Water System Threat Preparedness and Resilience Act**. As of the end of 2022 AMWA was in talks with a Senate Republican office about serving as the lead cosponsor, with the goal of introducing the bill early in 2023.

AMWA Chief Advocacy Officer Dan Hartnett, former EPA Managing Director for Infrastructure Implementation Karen Dettmer, and Buffalo Sewer Authority General Manager O.J. McFoy attend EPA’s Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act.



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Over letters to Congress to share the association's perspective on timely policy issues like infrastructure funding, PFAS regulation, and maintaining the availability of critical water treatment chemicals.

- AMWA worked to highlight the need for further investments and improved federal coordination to aid the water sector’s ability to address **climate change** and its effects on water systems. AMWA reviewed the EPA Office of Water (OW) climate adaptation implementation plan and used its response as a springboard to have a direct discussion between AMWA members and key OW staff. During this roundtable, AMWA members reiterated the importance of integrating climate considerations into the **Safe Drinking Water Act** and **Clean**

Water Act actions and programs and encouraged EPA OW staff to consider a holistic, long-term assessment of potential tradeoffs involved in climate mitigation and adaptation and statutory obligations under the laws.

Lead Service Line Replacement

- In response to an issue raised by **Denver Water**, AMWA developed legislation to help water systems more efficiently finance full **lead service line replacement** projects using tax-exempt bonds. The association

DC Water professionals remove lead service lines.



successfully recruited Rep. Dan Kildee and Sen. Michael Bennet to introduce the **Financing Lead Out of Water (FLOW) Act** in the House and Senate, respectively, with Rep. Kildee announcing the bill during a speaking engagement at AMWA's 2022 Water Policy Conference. By the end of the year the bill had attracted 13 cosponsors in the House and 6 in the Senate and was well-positioned for inclusion in a future tax legislative vehicle.

AMWA staff consulted with the association's **Regulatory Committee** to provide EPA with feedback on its draft "**Guidance for Developing and Maintaining a Service Line Inventory**" intended to help utilities comply with requirements of the **Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) Revisions**. In December, EPA invited AMWA to participate in a Federalism Consultation on potential revisions to the LCR, also known as **LCR Improvements (LCRI)**. AMWA submitted comments with input from the Regulatory Committee and anticipates a proposed rule in September 2023.

PFAS Regulations

- AMWA remained united with other water sector organizations in providing comments to EPA after the release of its proposed rule to designate **PFOA** and **PFOS** as hazardous substances under **CERCLA**. AMWA joined others in expressing concerns over the lack of liability protections given to drinking and wastewater utilities as passive receivers.
- In cooperation with other water and wastewater sector organizations, AMWA contributed to the development of marker legislation to demonstrate how a narrowly tailored revision to the CERCLA statute could protect drinking water and wastewater systems from incurring cleanup liability related to **PFAS** removed from water supplies. AMWA continuously briefed lawmakers and staff about the need for these liability protections, and intends to continue these efforts when Congress turns its attention to PFAS legislation in 2023.



Metals Section at Fairfax Water's Water Quality Laboratory at the Corbalis Water Treatment Plant

- In anticipation of the upcoming **National Primary Drinking Water Regulation of PFOA and PFOS**, AMWA staff met with EPA on numerous occasions to discuss potential elements of the rulemaking. In April, AMWA provided EPA with input as part of a Federalism Consultation on implementation and compliance challenges as well as environmental justice considerations.

MDBP Rule Revisions

- AMWA staff actively supported Rosemary Menard, Director of the City of Santa Cruz Water Department, in her participation on the **National Drinking Water Advisory Committee (NDWAC) Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts (MDBP) Rule Revisions Working Group**. The group is charged with providing the NDWAC, and ultimately EPA, “with advice and recommendations on key issues related to potential revisions to MDBP rules.” At the end of 2022, AMWA recommended Laura Cummings, Executive Director at Southeast Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority and AMWA Regulatory Committee chair, give a presentation in early 2023 to the Working Group giving the large system perspective on rule implementation and compliance issues.

Cybersecurity

- In response to increasing chatter in Washington about potential federal regulations governing water system cybersecurity practices, AMWA proactively drafted a proposal that would set targets for water system cyber preparedness and award funding opportunities to systems working in good faith to hit those targets. AMWA has begun to circulate this “**Water Resilience Accreditation Commission**” concept on Capitol Hill to influence any congressional action on water system cybersecurity in 2023 or beyond.



Orange County Water District addressed PFAS in the groundwater basin, including launching the nation’s largest pilot project to test 14 different types of treatment media and identify reliable and cost-effective treatment technologies.

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comment letters submitted on issues affecting the water sector, including Waters of the United States definition, Build America Buy America Waivers, Risk Management Program revisions, Consumer Confidence Report requirements, and many more.



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statements submitted for the records of House and Senate hearings and an advocacy packet of drinking water policy priorities developed for circulation on Capitol Hill during the 2022 Water Policy Conference.

Environmental Justice and Equity

- Responding to the administration’s interest in advancing environmental justice, AMWA continuously tracked and responded to environmental justice initiatives produced by the **Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**. Furthermore, AMWA began networking with federal agencies to highlight a key discrepancy between federal intentions of the Justice40 initiative, which aims to provide 40 percent of federal funds

in certain programs to disadvantaged communities, and the reality that many AMWA members are excluded from receiving **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund** dollars targeted to disadvantaged communities through state policies. AMWA highlighted this discrepancy in comment letters and other communications to CEQ and began discussions across federal agencies to ensure that disadvantaged communities in metropolitan areas are prioritized for targeted federal investment.



Colorado city water supply at Lake Standley reservoir for cities of Westminster, Northglenn, and Thornton in Colorado drying up from drought

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Over the past year, AMWA members remained actively engaged in the organization. Members attended conferences and webinars and led association initiatives by participating on committees and work groups. This activity level is a testament to the dedication of members, the Board, and staff. AMWA has increased member engagement over the past year by:

- Convening a stellar Water Policy Conference highlighting **infrastructure funding**, **environmental justice**, **lead service line replacements**, and more.
- Providing a first-class program addressing organizational **leadership**, **cybersecurity**, and **affordability** at the Executive Management Conference.
- Partnering with CDM Smith on a webinar to help members address concerns about **PFAS treatment** methods, **utility liability**, and potential **regulatory impacts**.

AMWA also encouraged member participation by:

- Visiting utilities to learn more about their management and operations.
- Enhancing communications by streamlining newsletters and increasing social media posts.

TOP: Anselmo Collins, Sr. Asst General Manager of the Water System, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

BOTTOM: Lucy Liu, Deputy Director, City of Bellevue



“The first day of the Executive Management Conference was fantastic! AMWA did a great job with the sessions, food, and networking. Everything was great.”

— Sean Chambers, Director of Water, Greeley Water Department



Over

90% member
satisfaction with conferences

Over

1000%
increase in content shared
on LinkedIn

Over

700 people connected
to educational opportunities

PRESS ENGAGEMENT

Numerous media outlets featured AMWA advocacy efforts and quotes in 2022. Some of the highlights of AMWA's press coverage over the past year include:

- Feature articles in national publications, including the *Wall Street Journal*, *Bloomberg*, and *CNN*, and in several sector publications highlighting our advocacy efforts, programs, and thought leadership.
- Speaking engagements at sector conferences and events and podcast interviews to share expertise and insights.

- Press releases and media alerts throughout the year to announce new legislation, such as the Financing Lead Out of Water Act, positions on public health events like the rail strike aversion, the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Clean Water Act, and other significant developments.



TOP: AMWA Board Member Calvin Farr, Jr., General Mgr/CEO, Prince William County Service Authority and AMWA CEO Tom Dobbins at the One Water Summit

BOTTOM: AMWA Chief Policy and Strategy Officer Erica Brown center and other presenters at the One Water Summit



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Press Placements

100%

increase in the national press

Quoted in nearly

50

articles

STRATEGIC PLANNING

“The AMWA team has a growth mindset. Each person is important, and the sum is greater than its parts.”

-AMWA CEO Tom Dobbins, CAE

With the Board’s approval - AMWA began undertaking a **strategic planning process** in 2022. In addition to helping AMWA use resources more efficiently and effectively, a well-defined strategic plan will enable AMWA to:

- Chart a clear **path**.
- Define **success**.
- Bring members and subscribers more dynamic **programs and services**.

Strategic plan development also will help the association identify potential threats and opportunities to address before they are imminent.

Member Needs Assessment

As a part of the process, AMWA began implementing its **first-ever comprehensive member survey** in November. AMWA enlisted the aid of an outside consultant to conduct thorough interviews of internal and external stakeholders to get valuable member feedback.

Key takeaways from initial survey results include:

- AMWA has incredibly strong relationships with its current members. The 2022 Engagement Profile is better than “Best in Class.”
- Advocacy is a key driver of the AMWA member experience.
- Subscribers value their relationships with AMWA and indicate top value in many areas, including the association’s reputation, its resources, events, and advocacy efforts.

Staff Input

AMWA staff also took part in sessions on and offsite to brainstorm, outline, and create a plan, which included objectives, goals, and strategies to reach a desired future. Activities included:

- Revisiting **mission, vision, and values**.
- Identifying **strategic issues** to address.
- Clarifying **roles and expectations**.
- Defining a **unique value proposition**.

NEXT PAGE: AMWA staff brainstorming during an offsite session at The Old Brick Inn, St. Michaels, MD.

MEMBER NEEDS SURVEY

176

Current Member Survey Invitations Sent

20

Subscriber Survey Invitations Sent

226

Prospective Utility Member Survey
Invitations Sent

UTILITY MANAGEMENT



Donovan Burton, Angela Licata, Wylie Harper, Steve Pettit, Donna Starling, Todd Reck, John McLean, Beth Eckert, Mike Markus, Kara Shuror, John Entsminger, Mary Gugliuzza, and Robert Cheng

AMWA honored public drinking water systems with its top utility management awards at its 2022 Executive Management Conference in Savannah, Ga. The **Sustainable Water Utility Management Award** recognizes water utilities committed to management that achieves a balance of innovation and success in economic, social, and environmental endeavors. The **Platinum and Gold Awards** recognize outstanding achievement in implementing

the nationally recognized Attributes of Effective Utility Management.

The AMWA Nominations Committee selected Carrie Lewis, a longtime member of AMWA's Board, Audit Committee member, and National Drinking Water Advisory Council Chair as the recipient of the 2022 AMWA **President's Award** for her outstanding contributions to the improvement of water supply management.



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Sustainable Water Utility Management Award winners

- Coachella Valley Water District
- Fort Wayne City Utilities
- Fort Worth Water
- San Antonio Water System

2

Platinum Award for Utility Excellence winners

- Orange County Water District
- Seattle Public Utilities

2

Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance winners

- Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
- City of Irving Water Utilities

“At Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), we strive for continuous improvement. It is our mission to foster healthy people, environment, and economy by partnering with our community to equitably manage water and wastewater resources for today and future generations,” said Alex Chen SPU Deputy Director of Drinking Water and Shared Services. *“We know there are many challenges ahead, and we are looking forward to addressing them by collaborating with our community. Thanks to AMWA for their continued efforts to help utilities work together and collectively improve.”*



INSIGHT

162 Comparable Metrics

22 Data Categories

8 Datasets

“Utilities can use INSIGHT in different ways. They can access the dashboard to check trends, which provide useful data. Rates, reserves, and other information can be compared to peers across the country.”

–Rocky Craley, Vice President, Raftelis

AMWA, in partnership with Raftelis, conducted the eighth biennial INSIGHT survey in the fall to update the utility financial information resource. AMWA designed the program to capture timely, relevant, and authoritative data on the current water utility financial environment from participating member utilities and deliver that data in an Excel spreadsheet and via a user-friendly online dashboard.

The INSIGHT database provides useful, comparable financial information that utility executives, CFOs, and others can apply to their financial planning and communicating with key constituencies on pertinent issues. Members can use the dashboard and spreadsheet to compare their data to other utilities in affordability programs, capital assets, CIP budgets, debt, expense categories, rate structures, revenue sources, and more.

Former Director of Phoenix Water Kathryn Sorensen used INSIGHT to demonstrate that the utility’s rates were affordable. “We didn’t prepare slides...we brought up the Dashboard live with the Rates Advisory Committee and analyzed a few key metrics in real-time...to get the committee to acknowledge that the rates are affordable. It was a key step in the discussion.”

The database contains information gathered from comprehensive questions, capturing a treasure-trove of data from AMWA member utilities. It provides all the data from all previous surveys and over a decade of information to support trending analyses. The data reflects input only from metropolitan drinking water systems, allowing uniquely meaningful comparisons.



LEFT: Attendees at 2022 Executive Management Conference

RIGHT: Hari Kurup, Chief Information & Technology Officer, Prince William County Service Authority

The image features the AMWA logo at the top center, which includes a water drop icon and the text "ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN WATER AGENCIES". Below the logo are four circular icons: a blue circle with a network diagram, a yellow circle with a document and dollar sign, a purple circle with two hands holding a lightning bolt, and a purple circle with a group of people. The background is a blurred image of a person's hands holding a tablet.

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10 Surveys Executed **12** Topics Covered
100 Responses

Member To Member Inquiries

One of the greatest values of being an AMWA member is the ability to connect with peers on a broad range of topics and discussions. AMWA provides a forum for utility members to collaborate with

each other across the country on various aspects of utility operations. Peers share rich, actionable information within this diverse community through deep dive committee discussions, shared experiences at association events, and member to member surveys.

“The Member to Member Inquiry program is one of the most useful benefits of being a member of AMWA. There is an incredible wealth of knowledge, experience, and ideas throughout AMWA’s membership, and being able to tap into that with an inquiry has helped us advance our mission at the Suffolk County Water Authority. Conversely, it is a pleasure to be able to share our expertise with others. If we can help other water providers succeed, the entire industry is better for it.”

—Jeffrey Szabo, CEO, Suffolk County Water Authority

AMWA BY THE NUMBERS

The AMWA Finance Committee played an active role in the development and execution of the association's 2022 budget. Despite a slow start, the staff worked hard to renew members, which is an overwhelming source of revenue. The association was also adept at watching expenses. The combination led to a healthy surplus, which leadership put into a Management Fund, allowing funding for 2023 initiatives.

The association has healthy reserves, far exceeding its annual budget. They can assist AMWA in launching new programs and continuing association operations during a financial crisis.

AMWA's financial standing as of December 31, 2022:

Total cash:	\$2,148,557
Total investments:	\$2,236,687
Total assets:	\$4,965,313
Total liabilities:	\$1,935,386
Total net assets:	\$3,029,927
Total operating revenues:	\$2,473,260
Total operating expenditures:	\$2,217,047
Net Operating Revenue over Operating Expenditures:	\$256,213

**AMWA will make detailed financials available upon request.*



AMWA 2022 BOARD AND STAFF

PRESIDENT



Angela Licata
New York City Department
of Environmental
Protection

VICE PRESIDENT



John Entsminger
Las Vegas Valley Water
District

TREASURER



Yvonne Forrest
Houston Water

SECRETARY



Jeffrey Szabo
Suffolk County Water
Authority



Mike Armstrong
WaterOne



Cathy Bailey
Greater Cincinnati Water
Works



Tad Bohannon
Central Arkansas Water



Edward Campbell
Portland Water Bureau



Shane Chapman
Metropolitan
Water District of
Southern California



Andrea Cheng
Chicago Department of
Water Management



Scott Dewhirst
Tacoma Water



Calvin Farr, Jr.
Prince William County
Service Authority



Randy Hayman
Philadelphia Water
Department



Ghassan Korban
Sewerage and Water
Board of New Orleans



Yann Le Gouellec
Newport News
Waterworks



Carrie Lewis
Portland Water District



James S. Lochhead
Denver Water



Ron Lovan
Northern Kentucky Water
District



Joe Mantua
Beaufort Jasper Water &
Sewer Authority



Lindsey Rehtin
Northern Kentucky Water
District



Holly Rosenthal
Phoenix Water Services
Department



John P. Sullivan, Jr.
Boston Water and Sewer
Commission



Todd Swingle
Toho Water



Timothy Thomure
City of Tucson



Paul Vojtek
Erie Water Works

AMWA would like to acknowledge the passing of Rob Hunter, General Manager of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MDOW) on January 30, 2023. Rob was a longtime AMWA board member during his tenure at MWDOC and when he led the City of Atlanta Department of Watershed Management.

AMWA Staff

Tom Dobbins

Chief Executive Officer

Antoinette Barber

*Director, Communications and Utility
Management Programs*

Erica Brown

Chief Policy and Strategy Officer

Wingel Caburian

Marketing and Events Coordinator

Eugenia Cadena

*Senior Manager, Office Administration
and Conferences*

Tim DeVenney

Manager, Website and Office Support

Jessica Evans

Manager, Government Affairs and Sustainability Policy

Dan Hartnett

Chief Advocacy Officer

Brian Redder

Manager, Regulatory and Scientific Affairs

Bebe Schaefer

Legislative Associate

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