



ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN
WATER AGENCIES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Leaders in Water



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 services more than 160 million people.

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,

This year reminded us that progress in the water sector, as in many fields, is rarely linear. Even amid uncertainty around key federal standards and reductions to federal funding for essential water programs, AMWA's work, and the work of our member utilities, did not slow. It strengthened. Across the country, **forward-looking systems** are demonstrating what it means to lead with resilience, innovation, and an unwavering commitment to public health.

AMWA's role in this moment is unmistakable. As the association **exclusively** representing the interests of the **nation's largest publicly owned drinking water systems**, anchor institutions in our communities, we bring together the executives responsible for ensuring reliable water access for more than **160 million people**. Our **advocacy** this year reflected that responsibility, with nearly **200 meetings** on Capitol Hill and sustained engagement with federal agencies to advance sound, practical legislation and regulation that support long-term investment in drinking water infrastructure.

Equally vital is the strength of our professional community. Through our **knowledge-sharing** efforts: conferences, webinars, and the launch of **Member-to-Member Live** at the 2025 **Executive Management Conference** in Austin, AMWA expanded the spaces where utility leaders learn from one another, share solutions, and elevate best practices. These peer-driven exchanges continue to demonstrate that our sector's greatest asset is its people.

Our **membership** continues to grow, our financial position remains strong, and our programs are evolving to meet the needs of **modern utilities**. The work ahead is significant, but so is the collective expertise and dedication of AMWA's members, and that gives me tremendous optimism for the opportunities before us.

It is my privilege to present **AMWA's 2025 Annual Report**, which reflects the progress we have made together and the momentum we carry into the year ahead. **Thank you** for being a part of this network.

Jeff Szabo

AMWA President

Chief Executive Officer

Suffolk County Water Authority

ADVOCACY



DEFENDING EPA FUNDING

In April, AMWA hosted its annual **Water Policy Conference**, bringing members together with House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee staff to discuss priorities for EPA's Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) appropriations bill. From robust funding for the **Drinking Water State Revolving Fund** and **WIFIA** to support for municipal bonds and supplemental **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** resources, AMWA conveyed the importance of sustained federal investment in drinking water infrastructure with key appropriators.

Over the course of 2025, AMWA has also held dozens of meetings with congressional staff to advocate for **water infrastructure funding** for two EPA programs. With the support of Steptoe, a government affairs consulting group, AMWA engaged member utilities in meetings with congressional staff about the **Reducing Lead in Drinking Water** grant program and the **Midsize and Large Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability** grant program. Amid EPA's FY26 four-percent budget cut, AMWA's advocacy helped secure level funding for both programs in the President's FY26 Budget Request for both programs, as well as in a compromise EPA spending bill agreed to by House and Senate negotiators. Following a meeting with AMWA and **Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority**, Senator Jon Ossoff (D-Ga.) introduced an amendment to increase funding for the Reducing Lead in Drinking Water program, which was later approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AMWA also partnered with other national organizations to amplify support for core financing programs, including the **Drinking Water and Clean Water SRFs**. The association played a leading role in organizing a joint letter to congressional appropriators signed by over **400** stakeholder organizations, individual water systems, and other public and private sector officials requesting funding for the SRFs, and other critical water infrastructure programs, in the FY26 appropriations bill. Over **20 AMWA utilities** sent individual letters to their members of Congress, generating outreach to **34 Representatives** and **26 Senators**. This advocacy helped prevent extreme cuts to the SRFs proposed by the Trump Administration and in the House of Representatives, resulting in maintaining level funding for both the SRFs and WIFIA programs.



15
bills endorsed
in the 119th
Congress

194
meetings with
congressional
staff



ADVOCACY

AMWA entered 2025 with a new presidential administration and a newly seated 119th Congress, which created challenges and opportunities for the water sector. Throughout the year, the association strengthened relationships with longtime allies while making connections with new policymakers. AMWA also expanded efforts to engage its utility members in support of its **advocacy efforts**, creating more opportunities for water system leaders to tell their stories directly to elected and federal officials.

LEGISLATIVE

AMWA presented during a **“Water 101” briefing on Capitol Hill** in February, introducing the association and key water policy issues to incoming members of Congress and staff. As the year progressed, the association helped organize additional congressional briefings to educate policymakers on **PFAS liability protection** needs and the importance of water infrastructure investment. In parallel, AMWA staff worked with members of Congress to reintroduce priority water policy legislation in the 119th Congress, ensuring that the needs of drinking water systems remained visible in federal legislative discussions.





AMWA members meet with congressional staff



SRF briefing on Capitol Hill



Water Power Resilience workshop

REGULATORY

Throughout 2025, AMWA closely monitored the Trump Administration’s **regulatory agenda** and provided timely input on proposed federal actions. The association submitted comment letters to **EPA** and other federal agencies on **perchlorate** regulation, **PFAS** standard revisions, and **heat-related injury prevention** rules for workers. AMWA also looked ahead to anticipated revisions to the **MDBP** rules, collaborating with sector partners to provide EPA with several key consensus recommendations for provisions that should be included in the proposed rule.

SUSTAINABILITY

Over the course of the year, AMWA continued to lead efforts that help water systems understand and advance priorities related to **infrastructure adaptation, operational resilience, and climate preparedness**. Association staff played essential roles in sector working groups focused on addressing vexing sustainability challenges. These efforts included contributing to development of a State Water Reuse Regulatory Guide, serving in national conversations on panels at the University of Pennsylvania’s Water Policy Forum and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory’s Cross-Sector Resilience Workshop, and continuing management of the **Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA)**.

PREPARING FOR MDBP RULE REVISIONS



In 2025, AMWA partnered with AWWA and **Corona Environmental Consulting** to conduct a nationwide analysis examining the relationship between ***Legionella*** levels in water samples from federally owned or leased buildings and the disinfectant residual levels reported by the water systems serving those facilities.

The study drew on the General Service Administration's baseline testing data for the buildings they own or lease, along with water quality data from a nationally representative sample of water systems. After extensive data cleaning and analysis, Corona researchers concluded that there was no clear relationship between water system

disinfectant residual levels and the percentage of buildings served with *Legionella* exceedances.

The researchers have submitted the manuscript for publication and have begun presenting study results at technical conferences. In December, AMWA, AWWA, and Corona met with EPA to discuss the study's outcomes, and the association anticipates that the findings will help guide EPA's development of revisions to the Microbial Disinfectant Byproducts (MDBP) Rule that is expected to be proposed in 2027.

IRA TAX CREDITS

Throughout 2025, AMWA diligently followed the fate of several **clean energy tax credits** established through the **Inflation Reduction Act of 2022**. Under that law, public water systems could receive financial incentives for projects like on-site solar, wind, micro-hydropower, biogas, and more. As congressional leaders pieced together a budget reconciliation package that proposed dialing back these tax credits, AMWA led a **coalition** of six water and municipal sector organizations in writing to congressional leaders in support of maintaining several of these clean energy tax incentives.

While the **One Big Beautiful Bill Act** ultimately reduced eligibility for some of these credits, many clean energy incentives, like the **Investment Tax Credit** or the **Production Tax Credit** for solar or wind projects put in place prior to the end of 2027, remain available. For all the other eligible clean energy technologies, including biogas, micro-, and inline hydropower, which drinking and wastewater systems are already implementing nationwide, water systems are able to access the credits at least through **2032**. This extended timeline provides public water systems more time to receive federal credits for investing in technologies that can improve utility power resilience, lower costs, and meet local mitigation goals.

To help water systems navigate these opportunities, AMWA is developing a comprehensive overview of the available tax credits and eligibility requirements. This document will be shared with AMWA members in 2026, as the **IRS** develops and releases related guidance on changes to federal requirements and tax processes.



WSSC GM/CEO Kishia Powell & CAW CEO Tad Bohannon



CPO Dan Hartnett, EPA's Jessica Kramer, & CEO Tom Dobbins



OCWD Executive Director, Water Quality & Technical Resources Jason Dadakis

WUCA ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2025, AMWA continued to provide leadership and administrative support to the **Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA)**, a coalition of water providers with a shared interest in **advancing utility resilience** issues and practices. WUCA, founded in 2008, aims to address the water sector's **climate challenges**, ranging from water supply uncertainty to more frequent and severe storms, heat, and drought, through shared science, shared learning, and shared leadership.

In 2025, WUCA kicked off the “**Planning Ahead for 20 Years of WUCA**” project to usher in a new decade and inform the **Strategic Plan for 2027-2031**. This project included a retrospective assessment of how collaboration has helped transform climate adaptation from an emerging concern into an enduring practice within **utility management**, and it distilled knowledge gained by WUCA since its founding to best position the Alliance to continue shaping approaches to water utility resilience. Findings from this project informed a roundtable discussion among WUCA general managers at a meeting following AMWA's Executive Management Conference in Austin.

In addition to the “20 Years of WUCA” project, the Alliance worked on many other exciting projects in 2025 designed to support utilities to turn climate insights into direct application. Projects such as **Climate-Resilient Engineering Design Guidance** and purpose-driven **Climate Data Case Studies** are helping utilities embed climate risk into design, planning, and workforce development. WUCA also continued collaboration on externally funded projects like Evaluating the Impact of Case Studies in Climate Adaptation Decision Support, and committees that advance understanding on topics such as **Tools & Technology, Climate Finance Risk, Water Equity, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions**.

WUCA Fall Staff Meeting in Austin (left) and WUCA Spring Staff Meeting in New York City (right)



MEMBER SERVICES

This year, AMWA was ready to help when a utility member needed help getting answers or assistance from federal agencies.

- In April, the **Fayetteville (North Carolina) Public Works Commission** needed answers on whether critically needed infrastructure funds were being held up by a federal government funding freeze. AMWA reached out directly to senior EPA staff, who then communicated with EPA Region 4 to clarify the status of Fayetteville’s funding. Within days of AMWA’s engagement, Fayetteville had heard from both EPA Region 4 and North Carolina DEQ, and the utility’s concern about the status of their funds had been resolved.
- **Pittsburgh Water** also contacted AMWA for assistance after waiting for months on a pair of waiver requests related to a project necessary to make critical improvements to the community’s water treatment infrastructure. AMWA connected with the chief of staff in EPA’s Office of Water, who was able to expedite the necessary paperwork to facilitate advancement of the waiver.
- In response to rapid growth, the **City of Corpus Christi** was planning for a desalination plant that would take water from the Gulf of Mexico and address future water supply needs. However, when permitting delays in EPA’s Region 6 office threatened Corpus Christi, the City sought help from AMWA, and association staff brought the issue to the attention of senior officials at EPA headquarters. EPA connected with Corpus Christi leadership and resolved the permitting issue, allowing the desalination project to move forward.



8

face-to-face meetings with members of Congress



23

meetings arranged between AMWA members and their federal elected officials



38

meetings with federal agency staff and Trump Administration appointees



23

comment letters submitted to federal agencies



15

bills endorsed over the course of the year



34

letters sent to members of Congress and congressional committees

KNOWLEDGE

SPONSORS





SHARING

WEBINARS

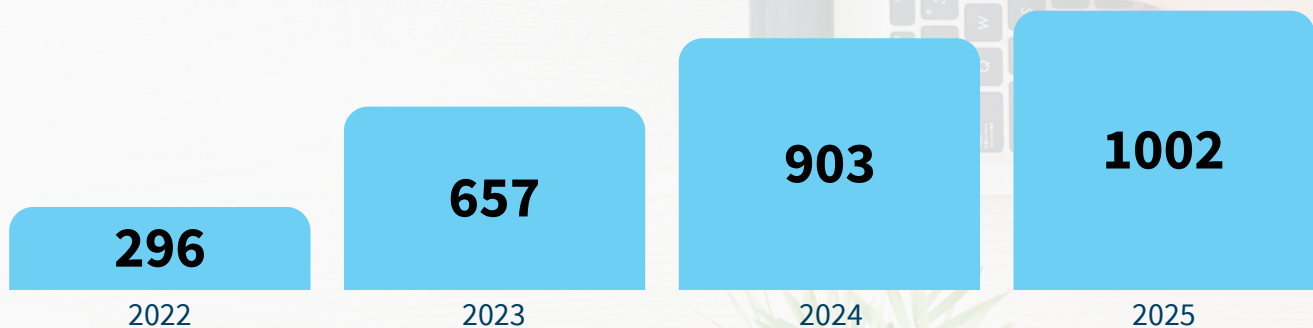
AMWA expanded its **knowledge-sharing initiatives** in 2025 through a series of webinars that provided drinking water leaders with timely insights into emerging risks, operational challenges, and innovative approaches shaping utility management.

What's Happening Next? Emerging Contaminants, New PFAS, and Beyond drew nearly **300 attendees** and featured leaders from **Dallas Water Utilities** and Central Lake County JAWA, alongside experts from **CDM Smith**. Speakers outlined treatment strategies, operational adjustments, and the need for early planning around emerging contaminants as regulatory expectations shift.

Mastering the Message: Strategies for Proactive Utility Communication, developed with **Raftelis**, featured communications leaders from **Austin Water, Charlotte Water, and Tucson Water**. Presenters outlined how their utilities structure **strategic communication** programs, set priorities, foster transparency, and strengthen public trust.

Experts from **Brown and Caldwell** examined the growing water demands associated with **data and AI technology centers** in the **Managing Water Impacts from Data/AI Tech Centers Growth** webinar. Presenters detailed supply, wastewater, and long-term planning challenges posed by rapid tech-sector expansion, while also identifying opportunities to build productive partnerships with private-sector developers.

1,000+ WEBINAR ATTENDEES IN 2025



View all past broadcasts at www.AMWA.net/webinars.

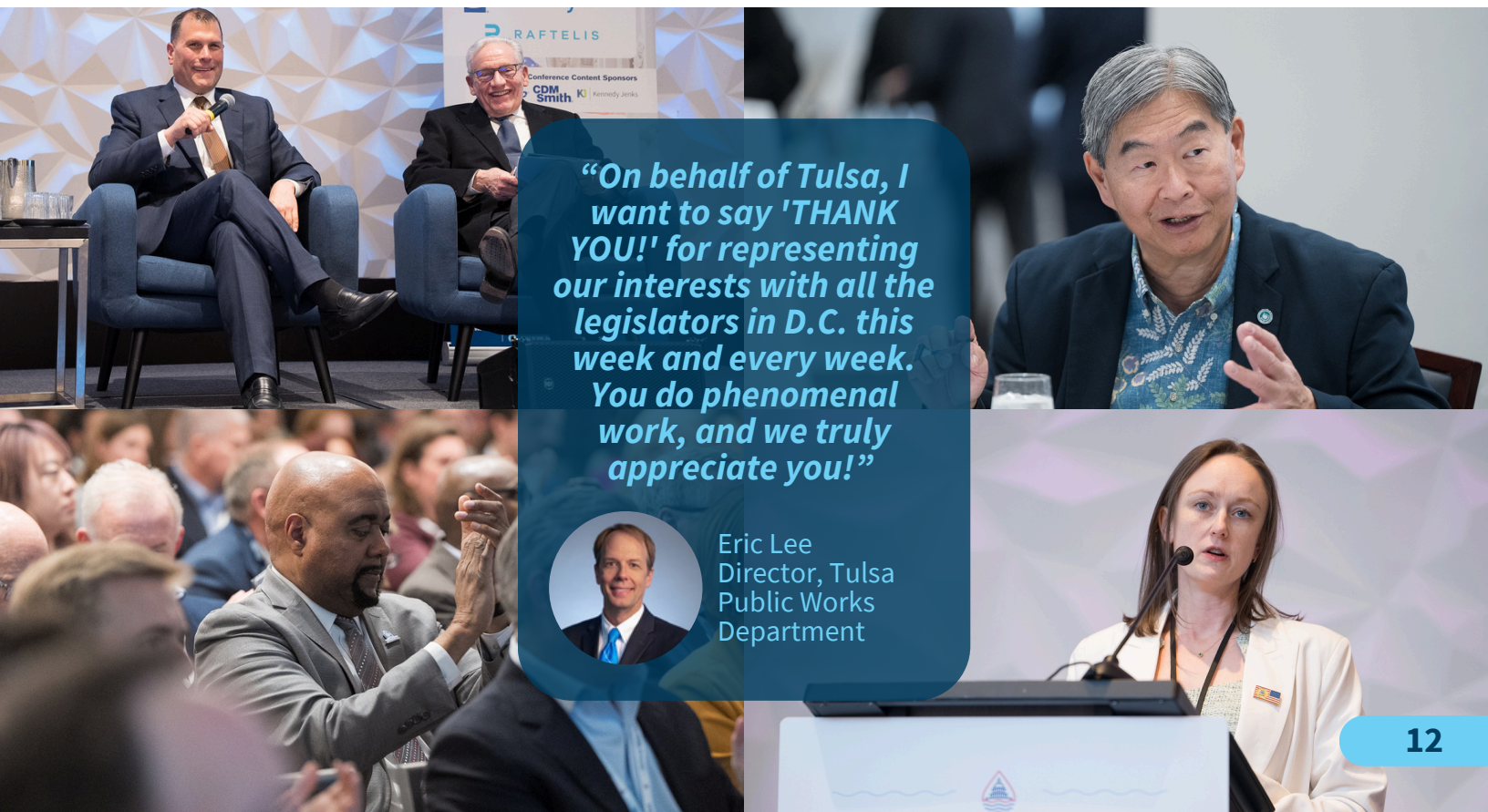
WATER POLICY CONFERENCE

AMWA's 2025 Water Policy Conference, the **most well-attended** in the association's history, brought water executives to Washington, D.C. for two days of high-impact dialogue on the sector's most pressing **legislative** and **regulatory** issues. For the first time, the conference was held in conjunction with the **National Water Policy Fly-In**, providing members with expanded opportunities to engage directly with federal policymakers.

Highlights included:

- A compelling keynote from renowned journalist **Bob Woodward**, offering historical context and insights into the current political landscape.
- **Policymaker perspectives on national drinking water priorities**, featuring insights from Rep. Paul Tonko (D-N.Y.) and Christi Harsha, Senior Counsel for the House Environment Subcommittee.
- Participation in the **National Water Policy Fly-In**, where members heard from EPA leaders, congressional staff, and federal agency partners.
- A **WaterISAC Threat Briefing** on emerging cybersecurity risks facing drinking water systems.
- **Capitol Hill visits** that enabled AMWA members to meet directly with lawmakers and elevate utility priorities.

(From L-R) Jeff Szabo and Bob Woodward, Ernie Lau, Randy Hayman, and EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Water Jessica Kramer



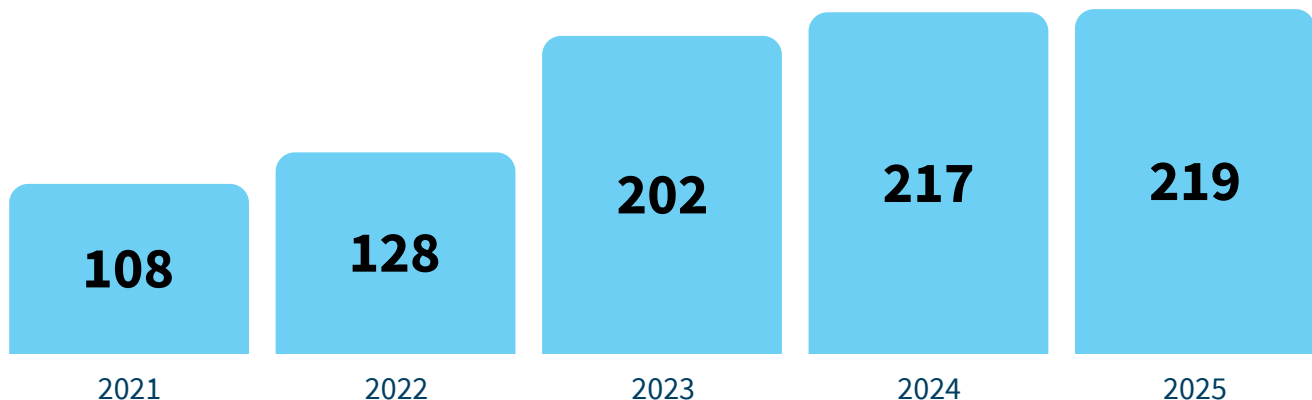
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE



2025 Award Winners

AMWA's 2025 Executive Management Conference (EMC) brought together over **200 utility leaders** to Austin, Texas, for a program tailored to drinking water executives. Attendees engaged in high-impact sessions on **workforce development**, capital planning, climate resilience, **utility report cards**, and **artificial intelligence** in utility operations. The EMC blended expert insights with practical strategies, offering leaders a space to examine long-term challenges, share innovative approaches, and strengthen peer networks. New **Member-to-Member Live** breakout sessions created space for candid **executive exchange**, while site visits to Austin Water facilities grounded the program in real-world practice. The strong participation and collaborative spirit throughout the **record-breaking** event underscored AMWA's commitment to equipping utilities with the knowledge, tools, and relationships needed to meet emerging **management** and **operational** demands.

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE BY-THE-NUMBERS





“The EMC this year was fantastic. I enjoyed all the different session topics, and I appreciate the cadence of the sessions. Perfect start times, adequate breaks, and the meals were excellent. I was able to participate in the New Member Dinner and sit in on the Board Meeting as well. The app was also very helpful.”

***Doa Ross, P.E.
Engineering Deputy
General Manager, Las
Vegas Valley Water District***



UTILITY MANAGEMENT

In 2025, AMWA advanced its utility management work through strategic partnerships and expanded peer to peer engagement, equipping executives with practical tools and insights to strengthen decision making. Highlights include:

Xavier University launched a Master of Science in Water Utilities Management, the nation's first graduate program designed specifically for current and emerging leaders of water systems. Developed with input from AMWA and other national water associations, the 16-month program combines business fundamentals with specialized coursework in utility finance, technology, communication, and resiliency.

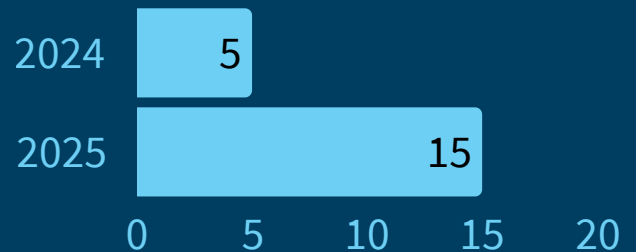


Former CAW GM Mac Underwood and PWW GM/CEO Calvin Farr

Through this partnership, AMWA members gain access to a new pathway for **leadership development** and a stronger **workforce pipeline**. **AMWA Treasurer and Northern Kentucky Water District President/CEO Lindsey Rehtin** represents AMWA on the program's **Advisory Board**, and AMWA Board Member and Interim City Manager of Cincinnati, **Cathy Bailey**, also serves on the leadership group.



M2M SURVEY PARTICIPATION TRIPLED



AMWA participated in EPA's Steering Group to support development of the voluntary **Customer Assistance Program Toolkit (CAPT)**. Early meetings with utility financial experts informed the toolkit's direction ahead of its anticipated 2026 release. AMWA is represented by staff from **Greater Cincinnati Water Works** and the **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission**.

“What I value most about AMWA is having (executive) spaces to discuss these big questions and share ideas.”

***Verna Arnette,
General Manager,
Beaufort-Jasper
Water Authority***



MEMBERSHIP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Building on a successful year of membership retention and recruitment in 2024, AMWA advanced its 2025 plan to sustain momentum. AMWA invested time and effort into understanding and delivering on its members' core value proposition, yielding a

96% retention rate

and welcoming

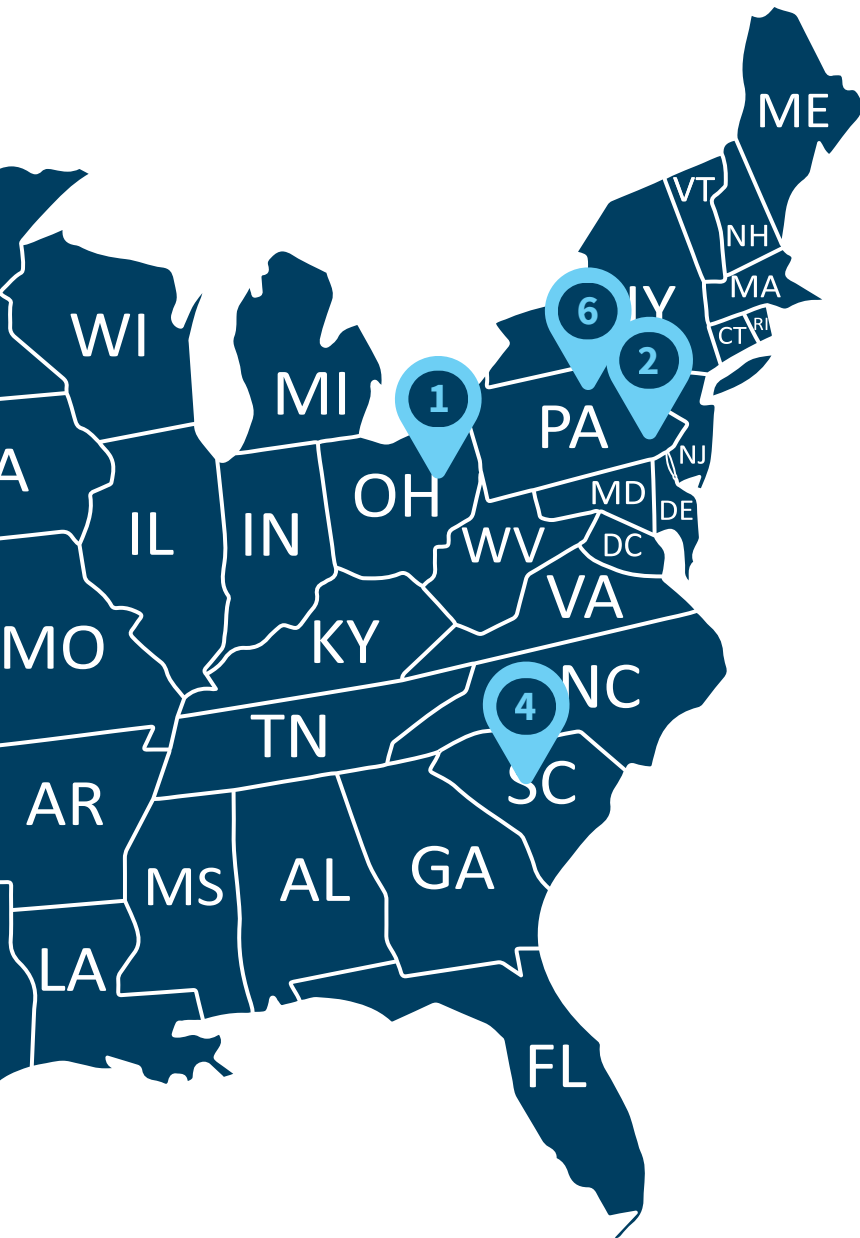
8 new utility members and 3 new subscriber members:

- Clark Hill PLC
- McWane Valve and Hydrant
- Metron

181 Utility Systems: Most in a decade!



CEO Tom Dobbins' visit to Upper Trinity Regional Water District's Lake Ralph Hall project in Texas



- 1 Canton Water, OH
- 2 Chester Water Authority, PA
- 3 City of San Marcos, TX
- 4 Columbia Water, SC
- 5 Denton Water Utilities, TX
- 6 Reading Area Water Authority, PA
- 7 Santa Clarita Water Agency, CA
- 8 Stockton East Water District, CA

ENGAGEMENT



Introduced a new membership management system to streamline operations and enable members and subscribers to update their information directly.



Strengthened member connection by hosting two Regional Member meetings to provide updates on AMWA initiatives and to hear directly from members about issues facing their utilities.



Increased participation in quarterly member briefings by 67% through the introduction of themed sessions.



Expanded AMWA's utility engagement by launching new groups focused on business operations.

AWARDS

AMWA honored **two** individuals for sector **leadership** and recognized **11** public drinking water systems for excellence in utility management in 2025. The association also celebrated **six** utilities with **25 or more years** of membership.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Angela Licata, Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, received AMWA's **2025 President's Award** for her leadership in advancing **sustainable water management, affordability, and climate resilience**. Her decades of public service, including as a recent AMWA President, board member, and advisor, has helped shape national dialogue on **utility leadership** and environmental stewardship.



DONALD R. BOYD AWARD

AMWA honored **Dr. Manny Teodoro**, Professor of Public Affairs at the La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, with its **2025 Donald R. Boyd Award** for his transformative research on **utility management, rate design, and public policy**. His work has equipped sector leaders with **data-driven insights** that center community needs and long-term sustainability.

A strong culture of leadership is reinforced by excellence at the utility level. AMWA's progressive awards program recognizes member utilities that demonstrate exceptional performance, continuous improvement, and a commitment to sustainable operations.



4

GOLD AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL UTILITY PERFORMANCE

- City of San Marcos Utilities
- Gulf Coast Water Authority
- Marin Municipal Water District
- South Coast Water District



2

PLATINUM AWARD FOR UTILITY EXCELLENCE

- Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
- Cobb County–Marietta Water Authority



5

SUSTAINABLE WATER UTILITY MANAGEMENT AWARD

- Austin Water
- Fort Wayne City Utilities
- OCWA – New York’s Central Water Authority
- Orange County Water District
- Valley Water

2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

AMWA concluded 2025 with another strong financial performance. High attendance at both the Water Policy Conference and the Executive Management Conference, continued investment growth, strong sponsorship support, and sustained membership renewals contributed to a healthy financial position. The association ended the year with net operating revenues reaching over **\$350,000**.

Program expenditures increased in 2025; however, AMWA's investments and cash reserves remain nearly **twice the level of annual expenditures**. This financial strength ensures the association is well-positioned to manage potential emergencies or broader economic challenges.

AMWA's financial resilience reflects the unwavering support of its members. The association remains committed to maximizing the return on members' investments through strengthened advocacy and robust programming for utilities across the sector.

FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

Disclaimer: Figures below are provided by management and are subject to auditor review.

CATEGORY	2024	2025
TOTAL CASH	\$1, 346, 784	\$1,679,591
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	\$3, 669, 472	\$2,650,358
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5, 404, 352	\$4,599,237
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$2, 208, 707	\$1,483,565
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$3, 195, 645	\$3,115,672
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$2, 995, 540	\$3,994,292
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$2, 501, 569	\$3,634,308
NET OPERATING REVENUE OVER OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$52, 728	\$359,984

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT



Jeff Szabo
Suffolk County Water Authority

VICE PRESIDENT



Calvin Farr
Prince William Water

TREASURER



Lindsey Rechtin
Northern Kentucky Water District

SECRETARY



Chris Browning
Oklahoma City Water Utilities Trust



Julie Anderson
Denver Water



Verna Arnette
Beaufort-Jasper Water and Sewer Authority



Cathy Bailey
City of Cincinnati



Tad Bohannon
Central Arkansas Water



Jeff Brown
Onondaga County Water Authority



Spencer Bruce
Louisville Water Company



Shane Chapman
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California



Alex Chen
Seattle Public Utilities



Randy E. Hayman
Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans



Matthew Jalbert
Trinity River Authority of Texas



Yann Le Gouellec
Newport News Waterworks



Angela Licata
New York City Department of Environmental Protection



Rachel Murphy
Contra Costa Water District



Craig Palmer
Erie Water Works



Will Pickering
Pittsburgh Water



Shaun Pietig
WaterOne



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



Todd Swingle
Toho Water Authority



Jeffrey Thompson
Central Alabama Water



Kenneth Waldroup
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority



AMWA STAFF

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Chief Executive Officer

Antoinette Barber

Director, Communications and Utility Management Programs

Wingel Caburian

Marketing and Events Coordinator

Eugenia Cadena

Director, Office Administration and Conferences

Jessica Evans

Director, Regulatory Affairs

Dan Hartnett

Chief Policy Officer

Liz Jordan

Manager, Sustainability and Resilience Policy

Hayden MacLachlan

Organizational Assistant

Erin Phillips

Government Affairs Associate

Mayya Saab

Director, Process Improvement Initiatives

Megan Seymour


Manager, Legislative Affairs


Heather Talbert

Director, Membership Programs

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SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 25-28



EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

EMC
SEATTLE 2026

Image by [Olya Adamovich](#) from [Pixabay](#)



**ASSOCIATION OF
METROPOLITAN WATER AGENCIES**

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