



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services

Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



November 6, 2023

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (Department) to pay calendar year 2024 membership dues to the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, (Vendor Code#173216-B001), Arlington, VA in the amount of \$9,615.00, effective upon Governor & Council approval. 100% Federal Funds.

Funding is available in the account as follows:

	<u>FY 2024</u>
03-44-44-441010-2010-026-500251	\$9,615.00
Dept Environmental Services, Safe Drinking Water Act PPG, Organizational Dues	

EXPLANATION

The New Hampshire Drinking Water Program has been a member of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) for more than two decades. ASDWA is a professional organization formed in 1984 to address a growing need for state drinking water program administrators to have national representation. ASDWA has co-regulator status with EPA.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Council organization dues and membership approval submissions:

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

ASDWA is a professional organization formed in 1984. ASDWA's principal activities include representing states on Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) implementation issues; keeping Congress informed on key issues related to drinking water, including appropriations, new legislation, contaminants of concern, and program efficiency and effectiveness; informing states about Federal and state drinking water activities; and providing technical training opportunities to the states. ASDWA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of a state program administrator from each of the 10 United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regions, the President, the President-Elect (who may also represent a region), and the Past President. The ASDWA Executive Director serves on the Board as an *ex officio* member. Staff, located in Arlington, VA, manage the daily activities of the Association. The New Hampshire Department of

Environmental Services (NHDES) has been a member for more than two decades. New Hampshire's administrator is a Past-President of ASDWA.

2. Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

There is no other organization for Safe Drinking Water Act Programs.

3. How many other state's belonging to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

NHDES is the only NH state agency that is a member of ASDWA. ASDWA members are the drinking water program administrators in the 50 states, territories, the Navajo Nation, and the District of Columbia.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)

State dues for ASDWA are based on a five tier state-by-state breakdown. This five tier breakdown is based on a blend of population and number of public water systems for each state. New Hampshire's membership fee for the 2024 calendar year is \$9,615.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

Membership provides New Hampshire with an avenue to learn about new developments and to have a voice discussion of important issues affecting the State's 2400+ public water systems. ASDWA has become a respected voice for state primacy agents with Congress, EPA, and other professional organizations. ASDWA's purpose is to support states in their efforts to protect public health through the provision of safe drinking water; collect and make accessible to all state program administrators information and data to assist them in fulfilling their duties; encourage the interchange of experience and information among state drinking water programs; promote responsible, reasonable, and feasible drinking water program requirements at the state and Federal levels; and provide advice, counsel, and expertise to organizations and entities having an interest in drinking water, including Congress, EPA, and other Federal, state, and local organizations.

6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

ASDWA has developed a number of publications of interest to the drinking water community. Most can be readily downloaded from the ASDWA website at www.asdwa.org. Some, however, are only available as a printed document for which there is a processing fee. ASDWA sponsors a variety of webinars each year on a variety of drinking water related topics. In addition, ASDWA has created several topic specific blogs to offer members and others in the drinking water community more immediate access to news and information from ASDWA.

- 7. Is the membership required to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.**

No.

- 8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.**

Membership does not require travel and the organization increasingly uses webinars to provide information to members. Typically, a staff person does attend the annual technical conference and the policy meeting, often presenting NH initiatives. When serving on the Board, as it does currently, NH is partially funded to attend Board meetings. ASDWA also offers training funds for specialty meetings that occur periodically on data management, security, small system compliance, and surface water treatment optimization.

- 9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)**

Brandon Kernen is the NHDES Drinking Water and Ground Water Bureau Administrator. He is a member of several numerous committees and chair of the PFAS working group. In addition, Johnna McKenna participates in the Security Committee.

- 10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.**

The greatest negative impact if NH were no longer a member would be the loss of early involvement in the development of federal drinking water initiatives and new regulations. Learning from and having working relationships with other state drinking water programs would also be lost.

We respectfully request your approval for this item.



for Robert R. Scott
Commissioner



FEIN# 87-0416731

Brandon Kernen
Administrator
New Hampshire Department of Environmental
Services
Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
29 Hazen Dr
Concord, NH 3302

Date: November 1, 2023
Due: January 1, 2024
Invoice #: B3234

DATE	CHARGES AND CREDITS	AMOUNT
November 1, 2023	2024 Membership Dues for the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators for the state of New Hampshire for the period Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2024.	\$9,615.00
		\$9,615.00

PLEASE RETURN A COPY OF THIS INVOICE WITH PAYMENT

Submit Payment to:

**Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
1300 Wilson Blvd, Suite 875
Arlington, VA 22209**

All major credit cards accepted