



The State of New Hampshire
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

April 15, 2024

IF

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

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to pay Fiscal Year 2025 membership dues to the Association of Clean Water Administrators (VC# 175719-R001), Washington, DC, in the amount of \$15,022, effective as of July 1, 2024 upon Governor and Council approval. 100% Clean Water Revolving Loan Management Funds.

Funding is available in the following account.

	<u>FY 2025</u>
03-44-44-441018-4788-026-500251	\$15,022.00
Dept. Environmental Services, CWSRF Loan Management, Organizational Dues	

EXPLANATION

This request is to pay the bill for the state Fiscal Year 2025 dues which will cover the period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

NHDES has been a member of the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) for over 20 years. ACWA is a professional organization formed in 1984 to address a growing need for state clean water program administrators to have national representation. ACWA's principal activities include:

- Representing states on Clean Water Act (CWA) implementation and funding issues;
- Keeping Congress informed on key issues related to clean water, including appropriations, new legislation, contaminants of concern, and program efficiency and effectiveness;
- Informing states about federal and state clean water activities; and
- Providing technical training opportunities to the states.

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?** The organization was founded in 1961. NHDES has been a member since the organization was founded.

2. **Is there any other organization which provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?** No. This is the only national organization to which NHDES belongs that is dedicated to supporting and providing state input on national policy issues and funding under the federal Clean Water Act.
3. **How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?** Fifty states belong to this organization. NHDES is the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member.
4. **How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)** State dues consist of two factors: a base amount that all states pay and a supplemental amount based on population. There are three population tiers set up for states (population of less than 3 million, 3 to 8 million, and above 8 million) and a fourth flat rate tier created for Washington DC, the interstates, and the territories. Each decennial census, states are reevaluated to see if they have moved tiers. Annually, the Board of Directors will also determine if small dues increases are necessary to keep pace with current inflation (CPI-U) rates. Where an inflation-based increase is approved by the Board of Directors, all four tiers equally share in that increase, preserving the historical financial deltas between tiers. New Hampshire's small population keeps it in Tier 3, the lowest/smallest state population based tier.
5. **What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?** ACWA serves as a real-time conduit for important information on federal policy and budgets as well as a vehicle for all the states to compare programs and consider ways to improve. This organization provides opportunities for New Hampshire to directly affect federal water pollution control policy and funding and to leverage our positions with the other states. Several times per year, the NHDES Water Division Director is provided regular direct access to the most senior water program officials at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), other related federal agencies, and Congressional staff that work on these issues. ACWA participation has had a net positive impact for New Hampshire. For example, as a direct result of input provided by a former NHDES Water Division Director, needs based principal forgiveness was added as an option for all the states for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs, thus enabling reductions in net water infrastructure costs for certain New Hampshire communities.
6. **Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.** NHDES receives educational/research materials from ACWA, primarily through the association website, documents forwarded by e-mails or internet links, and conference calls on specific topics concerning national water policy, water quality, state program management and wastewater treatment issues. NHDES also receives real-time information on federal budgets and policy changes that may require comment to EPA, Congressional committees or New Hampshire's Congressional delegation that is important to ensure our comments are timely and New Hampshire's interests are fully considered. ACWA will also provide specific policy research to NHDES upon request. This is all part of the service provided for payment of the annual dues.
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.** No travel is included. However, as a member of the ACWA Board and leadership team,

previous NHDES Water Division Directors, occasionally traveled to high level meetings with EPA on national water policy and funding issues that were supported by ACWA or EPA through ACWA. Such meetings are to ensure that state issues are considered during the development of national water policy. ACWA also has annual meetings attended by one NHDES staff member. Funding for travel to these meetings is from federal program grants. These meetings provide an opportunity for NHDES to receive updates on national water policy and funding matters pertinent to New Hampshire and to give direct input to senior EPA officials and Congressional staff on national water policy that impacts New Hampshire.

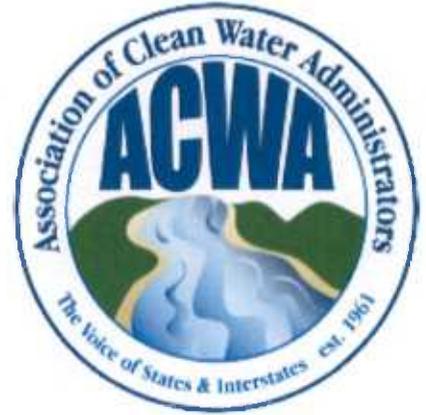
9. **Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)** The NHDES Water Division Director, or their designee, is a voting member of the Association. Other Water Division employees may be occasionally involved on national-level conference calls to discuss specific technical topics such as water quality monitoring and assessment methods, stormwater management, discharge permits and wastewater treatment funding requirements.
10. **Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.** NHDES would not be as fully informed on national water pollution control issues being considered by EPA and debated in Congress. We would also not have the ability to regularly provide direct input, in close coordination with other national leaders from the other 50 state water pollution control agencies, on national water policy, legislation proposed in Congress, and the impacts of federal budget decisions on New Hampshire water pollution control programs and the loan programs that support municipal wastewater infrastructure. Membership in ACWA has historically enabled NHDES to provide significant, timely input on national water policy and federal grant funding to EPA and Congress that has had positive effects (or helped avoid negative effects). The ability to provide state-specific input, and to leverage our impact through an association that represents all 50 states, on the decisions of Congress and EPA relative to complex Clean Water Act issues would be very substantially reduced, and this would be to the detriment of the State.

Membership provides New Hampshire with an avenue to learn about new developments and to provide significant input into important issues affecting federal funding of Clean Water Programs, the State's wastewater treatment facilities, and other clean water activities. These dues are a small investment for the value received from this organization in terms of our ability to both stay abreast of important clean water issues and enable us to provide the New Hampshire perspective on national environmental issues and policy.

We respectfully request your approval.



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



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INVOICE

Date Invoiced: 2024-04-11
Invoice #: INVOICE-2024-420
Member #: 942

Item	Quantity	Unit Fee	Fee
ACWA 2025 Member Dues Invoice Renewal - July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025	1	\$15,022.00	\$15,022.00
Total			\$15,022.00
Amount Paid			\$0.00
Amount Due			\$15,022.00

YOUR DUES AT WORK AND ACWA BOARD PRESIDENT MEMO IS ATTACHED TO THIS INVOICE

[CLICK HERE FOR DUES AT WORK](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S MEMO](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE MISSION OF THE ASSOCIATION

WE APPRECIATE YOU!!