

Thursday, April 2, 2026

Dear ACWA Members,

I am excited to share a big step forward for Agriculture's Clean Water Alliance that was approved at the last board meeting. We are modernizing our governance to make sure ACWA remains a leader in solutions that reduce nutrient loss, build healthier soils, and improve water quality.

Below is a summary of changes, a transition timeline, and what we need from you to continue our success.

**Key Bylaw Enhancements:**

- **CEO-Led Governance:** The Board of Directors will now be composed of five to seven senior-level decision-makers (CEOs or equivalent) from our Regular Member companies.
- **A New Fiscal Year:** We are shifting our fiscal year to run from September 1 to August 31. This aligns our planning more effectively with the natural cycles of our industry.
- **Staggered Terms:** Directors will serve staggered three-year terms. This prevents total board turnover and preserves institutional knowledge.

**Why it matters:** The core philosophy behind these changes is simple: The board governs, staff manages, and workgroups do the work. By separating governance from operations, we allow the Board to focus on strategy policy, and budget approval.

**What's next:** The changes need to be navigated with the right tools and support, so we have built a strategic implementation plan. Below are some key milestones.

- **Happening now** - The current Executive Committee is soliciting board and officer nominations
- **By July** - We will finalize a slate of candidates
- **August** - Members will vote to approve the incoming CEO-led board
- **September 1** - Board and officer transition and new FY begins

**Here's what we need from you to continue the great work ACWA is known for:**

- **Recruitment support:** Membership Chair, Dave Schwartz has requested your help. We have recently lost two members, and membership dues are critical to our project budgets. Reach out to Dave at [dave.schwartz@vlsci.com](mailto:dave.schwartz@vlsci.com).

- **Communications involvement:** Please ask your company's communications representatives to get involved in the Communications Working Group.
- **Programs & projects:** With the loss of Syngenta, we are looking for new members who are passionate about building impactful projects. This is ACWA's bread and butter. I promise you the work will be rewarding.
- **Board positions:** Those who are CEO or equivalent, please reach out if you are interested in joining the board.

By separating governance from operations, we set the stage to be more focused than ever on our mission. This structure also creates a clear reporting flow: Workgroups update staff, who then provide consolidated reports to the Board for informed decision-making.

As current president of the board, General Manager of NEW Coop., and longtime advocate for water quality, I am confident in these changes. ACWA has an incredible 26-year history, and this is the beginning of many more impactful years.

Sincerely,

Dan Dix

ACWA Board President