



Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Monday, March 24, 2025



AEA Congratulates EPDA Cohort 2024 and Wave Award Honorees

A commissioner, three current and former AEA board members, and staff from Western Monmouth Utilities Authority and Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority were honored at the annual AEA spring Recognition Luncheon in Atlantic City.

Commissioner Robert McCray earned an Outstanding Commissioner Wave Award for his dedication to the Township of

Hillsborough MUA.

Richard Brand, Pam Carolan, and Stephen Specht were recipients of Life Member designations. This honor recognizes leaders who have made significant impact within AEA over many years.

Scott Di Benedetto and Michael Kane, both of Western Monmouth UA, were each honored with individual awards. Di Benedetto received an Up and Comer award, which recognizes early and mid-career individuals who show dedication to AEA. Kane was recognized for his work on the WMUA confined space rescue program.

Harry Ladisheff, of Bayshore RSA, was honored for major contributions to the authority, including extraordinary efforts in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy.

AEA member organizations Atlantic County UA, Bayshore RSA, Passaic Valley SC, Somerset Raritan Valley SA, and the Township of Stafford were

Wave Award recipients as well.

The ninth cohort to complete the Environmental Professional Development Academy (EPDA) received certificates to demonstrate their successful participation in and completion of the four-track, 100-hour management training program.

For a complete list of the 22 EPDA graduates and a complete description of the Wave Awards, [follow this link](#).

\$67.2 Million in NJ Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Projects was Lost in the CR Vote

Water lost big in the vote on the Continuing Resolution (CR) last week. About \$67.2 million cut by a vote of the U.S. Congress last Friday was to have paid for various water-related projects.

The total lost to New Jersey was \$217 million, including other projects unrelated to water and sewer.

Water-related projects accounted for about 30 percent of the funding, which was secured by members of both parties last year. The lost funding would have paid for drinking water infrastructure, stormwater detention basin and flooding reduction, river and stream work, sewer main and pump station projects, lead pipe abatement, PFAS treatment, combine sewer overflow remediation, coastal flooding, water storage, work on wells, sludge dewatering and more.

Apart from the \$67.2 million cut, another \$5.2 million was cut for recycling and other environmental projects.

Congress Member Mikie Sherril (D-11th), a Democrat, was quoted in a [NJ Spotlight article](#) as saying that losing funding to combat intense flooding and storms was a "significant blow."

The NJS article said "members of both parties were frustrated last week when they learned earmarks had been cut."

Congressman Chris Smith (R-4th) was quoted as saying he would "work to put them back next year." The New Jersey Congressional delegation voted along party lines on the CR.

Wet Weather Partnership to Discuss Potential Regulatory Developments in D.C. at its April Conference

The Wet Weather Partnership Conference will be held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

April 23 to 25, when it will share news about possible regulatory and statutory changes that could benefit public water and sewer utilities in the coming months and years.

Attendees will learn about ways to take full advantage of coming opportunities. Mike Witt of Passaic Valley SC and Paul Calamita of AquaLaw, both from AEA member organizations, will be among the speakers.

Other topics include integrated planning, a CSO sewer tunnel project in Virginia, green solutions, CSO and SSO mitigation, and more. [Info about registration and Omni William Penn Hotel information](#). The hotel room workshop rate is \$170. Room block cutoff date is March 31.

For further information, please contact Meghan Morel (MMorel@aqualaw.com).

Call for Articles, Posts, or Videos: Share Good News About your Work!



AEA welcomes articles (of 1,000 words or fewer), videos (of up to five minutes), or links to posts that tell the story of capital work, employee accomplishments, promotions, new commissioners, or new hires, innovative designs and solutions to challenges or any other newsworthy activities.

We welcome submissions from authorities, municipal utilities, and associate members.

Have a great topic but no time to write it up? No problem. Email Peggy and we will help you get it done.

Photos or videos to illustrate articles are especially welcomed. We have various platforms for sharing these stories-- *Authority View*, our newsletter, Medium, social media, and our [AEA website blog](#). Contact Karen or Peggy for more information.

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