MAKE THE CASE TO ATTEND

NAWM 2027 Annual Meeting Attendance Justification Toolkit

WHY ATTEND?

A National Meeting Focused on Practical Wetland Management

The National Association of Wetland Managers' (NAWM's) Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting brings together wetland professionals from state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofits, academia, and the private sector to share successes, examine emerging challenges, and identify practical strategies for strengthening wetland programs and advancing wetland conservation.

The 2027 theme, **Wetlands Are Water Security,** highlights the essential role wetlands play in protecting clean water, reducing flooding, supporting resilience, and strengthening communities. NAWM's annual meetings address practical issues facing wetland practitioners, including wetland protections and regulations, restoration, nature-based solutions, resiliency, geospatial tools and technology, partnerships, communication and outreach, and state and tribal wetland program development.

What Will I Gain?

Practical knowledge
Learn about approaches, tools, case studies, and lessons that can be applied to wetland protection, restoration, stewardship, and program implementation.

Solutions from peers
Hear how other states, tribes, agencies, organizations, and practitioners are addressing challenges similar to those facing your program.

Professional development
Build knowledge through presentations, panel discussions, field experiences, and conversations with wetland professionals from across the country. NAWM's meeting format includes presentations, panels, a field trip, and informal networking opportunities.

A national peer network
Build relationships with wetland practitioners, technical experts, program managers, and partners you can turn to long after the meeting ends.

MAKE YOUR CASE

Connect the Meeting to Your Work. Complete the statements below and include them with your travel or professional-development request.

My primary responsibilities include:

The meeting topics or sessions most directly relevant to my work are:

A specific challenge, project, or question I hope to learn more about is:

How I expect what I learn at the meeting to help our organization:

Extend the Value to Your Team

After the meeting, consider sharing what you learned with colleagues.

I will:

☐ Provide a short briefing to my team or colleagues
☐ Prepare a one-page summary of key takeaways
☐ Share useful presentations, tools, and resources
☐ Identify practices or approaches we could consider implementing
☐ Share relevant contacts and partnership opportunities
☐ Other: _____

Estimate Your Investment

Expense	Estimated Cost
Meeting registration	$_____
Transportation	$_____
Lodging	$_____
Meals/per diem	$_____
Other	$_____
Estimated total	**$**_____

Tip: Get approval early. Early-bird registration for the 2027 meeting is available through **December 31, 2026,** followed by standard registration rates beginning January 1, 2027.

READY-TO-USE REQUEST TO YOUR SUPERVISOR

Subject: Professional Development Request: NAWM 2027 Annual Meeting

I'd like to request approval to attend the National Association of Wetland Managers' 2027 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting, **April 26-29, 2027, at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.**

The meeting brings together wetland professionals from state, tribal, and federal agencies and other organizations to exchange practical approaches to wetland protection, restoration, stewardship, and program implementation.

The meeting's focus on **[TOPICS/SESSIONS]** is particularly relevant to my work on **[PROJECT, PROGRAM, OR RESPONSIBILITY].** I expect to gain information and practical examples that will help me **[EXPECTED BENEFIT],** while also learning how other wetland programs are addressing similar challenges.

The meeting will also give me an opportunity to connect directly with peers and subject-matter experts from across the country. These relationships can be valuable resources for our organization when future questions, challenges, and partnership opportunities arise.

Following the meeting, I will share key takeaways, resources, and relevant examples with **[TEAM/PROGRAM]** so that the benefits of attending extend beyond my individual participation.

My estimated total cost is **$**_____, including registration, travel, lodging, and meals.

Thank you for considering my request to attend.