

Illinois Water Authority Association

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MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Board & Member Meeting Scheduled for March 5, 2026

The Association's Quarterly Board Meeting is scheduled for March 5 at Avanti's Restaurant in Bloomington. Dinner costs will be covered by the Association. Attorneys and members of all water authorities are also invited. The agenda for the evening is printed on page 5. Dinner begins at 5:00 pm and the business meeting begins at 6:00 pm.



From the Chair

Coming at groundwater from all sides

The Illinois Water Authority Association – your organization – is diligently monitoring legislation that directly affects groundwater supply and quality. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) has threatened to compromise water quality and now we are closely following legislation as it relates to groundwater supply with planned big data centers.

Data centers are known to depend on a large amount of water as a cooling resource. Counties and municipalities across Illinois are voting on resolutions that will slow down the development of data centers until appropriate water use studies have been conducted.

It is well known that the Mahomet Aquifer – a sole source water supply – has advocates on the ground and in Springfield working to protect it as a water resource in central Illinois. The Champaign County board recently adopted a resolution to put a moratorium on big data centers in the county for one year, to help assess what is good for water resources in that county.

What do you know about local efforts to stall data center developments in your area? Do they have a plan for water usage – such as recycling the water?

It's always good to be ahead of the curve as we face more efforts that may not be in the best interest of our groundwater resources.

Your help is needed. Don't wait. It's easy. [Ask your senator and representative to support and cosponsor SB 2842!](#) Just fill in the form, edit the letter if you like, and click submit to send. Senator Halpin is sponsoring the bill and Senator Sally Turner is a co-sponsor, signing on to the letter will let them know they are helping their constituents and we support their action.

Currently, no eminent domain protections or voluntary easement threshold requirements exist for landowners along planned CO₂ pipeline routes in any federal or state legislation. SB2842 removes the power of private companies to use eminent domain to gain easements for CO₂ pipelines and thus forces negotiations with each landowner.

Illinois Water Authority Association Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2025
(to be voted on and approved by the members attending December meeting)

Call to Order: Chairman Susan Adams called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call and guests: Chair Susan Adams, Jim Todd (Menard County), Gary and Ann Williams (Allin Township), Mike Funk (Mt. Hope/Funks Grove), Russell Benjamin (Southeast McLean County), Terri and Ryan Huber (Allin Township), Jeff Smith (Imperial Valley), Tom Cross (North Logan), Don Osborn (Imperial Valley), Wayne Deppert (Imperial Valley), Mary Auth, Executive Administrator.

Approval of Agenda: A motion to accept the agenda was made by Mike Funk and seconded by Don Osborn. Motion passed.

Minutes of September 4, 2025 meeting: Motion was made to accept the minutes by Jeff Smith and were seconded by Tom Cross. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report and third quarter financial statement and 2025 cash flow report was given by Don Osborn and Mary Auth. The balance of the Treasurer's report and a financial statement of as of December 1, 2025, was \$70,264.25. Motion was made by Jim Todd and seconded by Jeff Smith, to accept the report. Motion carried. Mary passed out the financial reports.

2026 Proposed Budget: A budget proposed with several changes. Mary Auth's hourly wage increased from \$30.00 /hour to \$40.00/hour, Attorney Mark McGrath's retainer increased from \$800.00 to \$840.00, membership dues decreased from \$1,200.00/year to \$1,100.00/year. A motion was made to accept the proposed budget by Jeff Smith and seconded by Mike Funk. Motion accepted.

Nominating Committee for Chairman, Treasurer, and Exec. Committee: Mike Funk, chairman of the nominating committee reported that the nominees are: for Chairman-Susan Adams, Treasurer- Don Osborn, and Executive Committee at large- no placement. A motion to close the nominations was made by Tom Cross and seconded by Jim Todd. Motion carried.

Election Of Chairman and Treasurer: Mike Funk made the motion to accept the nominations and Tom Cross seconded it. Motion passed unanimously.

Attorney's Report: Mark McGrath said the posting of the agendas should be 48 hours in advance of meetings, and no action should be taken on an item that is not on the agenda. No posting of the executive meeting is needed if no more than one from each water authority is present.

MAC Update and 104th General Assembly: The new director of ISWS, Dr. Jenna Shelton, will be put on the webpage news of the IWAA website. She also has a website concerning what's happening with ISWS and new data centers.

Legislative Review 104th General Assembly: Susan Adams is receiving updates from Creative Resources and watching for legislation that would affect water authorities or the Water Use Act of 1983. There are several bills which are being kept track of. Three bills are being worked on to ban CO2 storage and protecting the aquifer (HB3614, SB0182, and SB1723). On May 20th, SB1723 was passed by both houses. This bans carbon sequestration – the process of capturing and storing carbon by injecting it underground, within an area that overlies, underlies, or passes through a USEPA designated sole-source aquifer. The Mahomet Aquifer is the only

aquifer in Illinois with such a designation. The Governor signed into law SB1723, which banned CO2 from Sole Source Aquifer, but not recharge areas. As of now, the 104th General Assembly is on break for the holidays.

Consideration of bills: Attorney Mark McGrath (\$1,587.50), Mary Auth-Admin (\$809.20), Creative Resources (\$425.00) and Avantis (\$359.39). A motion was made by Jeff Smith to pay the bills, and it was seconded by Mike Funk. Motion carried.

Other Business: Mount Hope Funks Grove Township has sent a letter to McLean Co. Board to not accept what is called Project Review area, which included what we believed to be recharge zones that supply water into the aquifer. This change would exclude Bloomington/Normal and eastern portions of McLean Co. from the carbon sequestration protected area. Susan Adams shared information and work with Illinois People's Action in Bloomington. IPA and others attended the last McLean Co. board meeting to ask them to protect the Sole Source Mahomet Aquifer Recharge Area. The County Land Use Committee is working on language to protect CO2 from the aquifer recharge area.

Next Meeting: March 5th meeting will be at Avantis at 5:00 p.m. and the meeting at 6:00.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Tom Cross and seconded by Don Osborn to adjourn. Motion carried.

2026 Dates of Interest		
March 5	Avanti's Bloomington	Membership Meeting
March 24	Springfield State Capitol	Illinois Ag Legislative Day
May 7	Via phone conference	Executive Committee
May 15	Dues notices mailed	\$1100 per year
June 4	Avanti's Bloomington	Membership Meeting
August 6	Via phone conference	Executive Committee
August 13-23	Springfield	Illinois State Fair
September 3	Avanti's Bloomington	Membership Meeting
November 5	Via phone conference	Executive Committee
December 3	Avanti's Bloomington	Membership Meeting

Bloomington serves as a central point for most of the membership, thus Avanti's will continue to be used for the membership meeting. If anyone within the membership suggests an alternative location, it will be investigated. Avanti's Italian Restaurant is located at **3302 East Empire Street, Bloomington**

Zoom, Zoom Zoom. Again for the March meeting we are setting up a Zoom call. An electronic invitation will be going out to those who have an email address on file with IWAA. But in the meantime, here is the link to the March 5 meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89595992740?pwd=SbF2eh1ljd6CTjqtXHt5FzV9JEPJVp.1>

Meeting ID: 895 9599 2740

Passcode: 953534

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Updated financial statement will be available as a hard copy at the March 5 membership meeting.

Illinois Water Authority Association

Financial Report

**Period: December 1, 2025 - January 31
2026**

Checking account balance as of December 1 2025	\$	29,947.50
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Receipts

	\$	
12/31/2025	Deposit - Interest	4.88
1/31/2026	Deposit - Interest	4.62
	Total Receipts	\$ 9.50

Disbursements/Expenses

12/3/2025	Check 1349 - Mary Auth	442.50
12/4/2025	Check 1260 - Avantis	359.39
12/4/2025	Check 1351 - McGrath Law Office PC	1,587.50
12/29/2025	Check 1352 - Creative Resources	425.00
12/31/2025	Check 1353 - Mary Auth	269.20
	Total Disbursements	\$ 3,083.59

Checking account balance as of January 31, 2026	\$	26,873.41
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Assets (CDs)	BoP Minier #19517 15mo 3.55% 3/1/27	\$ 10,000.00
	Bop Miner #19233 15mo 3.5% 12/22/2026	10,000.00
	Alliance #423 18mo 3.40% 04/10/2027	10,085.95
	Alliance #297 18mo 3.75% 04/21/26	10,479.94
	Total CDs	\$ 40,565.89

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$	67,439.30
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**Illinois Water Authority Association
Quarterly Membership Meeting
March 5, 2026, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. CST
Avant's, 3302 East Empire Street, Bloomington, IL**

Registration -----4:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Dinner -----5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Business Meeting -----6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

<u>Current</u> <u>Membership</u>	* ALLIN TOWNSHIP WATER AUTH. * DANVERS TOWNSHIP WATER * IMPERIAL VALLEY WATER AUTH. * MACKINAW VALLEY WATER * MENARD COUNTY WATER * NORTHERN LOGAN CO. WATER	* MT HOPE/FUNKS GROVE WATER * RUSSELL ALLISON WATER AUTH. * SOUTH ROSS TOWNSHIP WATER * SUGAR GROVE WATER AUTH. * SUSAN J ADAMS – ASSOCIATE
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Trustees of the above listed member water authorities may be in attendance at this meeting

<u>Current</u> <u>Leadership</u>	SUSAN J. ADAMS - Chairman GARY WILLIAMS - Secretary MARY AUTH – Exec. Administrator.	MICHAEL FUNK - Vice Chairman DONALD OSBORN, JR. - Treasurer MARK J. McGRATH, Attorney
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MEMBERSHIP MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to order - Susan Adams
2. Approval of Agenda **<ACTION>**
3. Roll Call -
4. Minutes of December 4, 2025 Meeting - **<ACTION>**
5. Treasurer's Report - Donald Osborn
6. 2026 Year-to-Date Cash Flow
7. Select Water Authority to do Financial Review **<ACTION>**
8. Jenna Shelton – Updates from the Illinois State Water Survey
9. Report from Mark McGrath
10. Illinois Ag Legislative Day – March 24, 2026 at 8:00 a.m.
11. Sponsor - \$225 and directory update **<ACTION>**
12. Update on MAC & RWSPC - S J Adams
13. Update on 104th General Assembly & Legislation –
14. Consideration of Bills for Payment – Adams, McGrath, Mary Auth & others **<ACTION>**
15. Other Business
16. Next Quarterly Meeting – June 4, 2026 at Avanti's in Bloomington at 5:00 pm
17. Adjourn

Menu for dinner

Chicken Breast
Caesar Salad
Fudge brownie or cookie

Mostaccioli with original meat sauce
Chef Salad and Caesar Salad

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89595992740?pwd=SbF2eh1ld6CTjqtXHt5FzV9JEPJVp.1>

Meeting ID: 895 9599 2740

Passcode: 953534

What is the Illinois Water Authority Association?

The Illinois Water Authority Association (IWAA) is a non-profit, inter-governmental group of water authorities. The Association is dedicated to maintaining local Authority and management of groundwater resources. The Association pursues these objectives through the exchange of ideas on groundwater management and the development of groundwater management plans. Information is reviewed not only from IWAA members, but with other groundwater groups on a state, regional and national level. The Association is active in seeking the adoption of legislation to sustain and improve local groundwater management.

Water Authorities Act

- Regional water authorities
- Broad Powers
- Regulation

- 1 - Imperial Valley
- 2 - Menard County
- 3 - Mackinaw Valley
- 4 - Danvers Township
- 5 - Hudson Township
- 6 - Allin Township
- 7 - Mount Hope
- 8 - Mahomet Aquifer
- 9 - Mahomet Valley
- 10 - Blount Township
- 11 - South Ross Township
- 12 - Sugar Grove Township
- 13 - Effingham (near Effingham PWS)
- 14 - Russell-Allison (2+ Townships)
- 15 - SE McLean County (8 Townships)
- 16 - Shawnee/Gallatin Co. (3 Townships)
- 17 - Northern Logan Co. (8 Townships)

