



"Dedicated to the betterment of Texas water district operation and management through education, unification, and advocacy."

June 14, 2025

Dear members,

The AWBD Emerging Leaders Subcommittee is excited to kick off enrollment for the Emerging Leaders Class of 2026. Our goal is to enroll a class of 18-20 AWBD member district directors and industry members to participate. Applicants should have five to fifteen years of experience on a water district board or in a related industry. We will give preference to applicants who have been active in AWBD and are involved in AWBD events and programs.

This leadership program will be an excellent investment in the participant's professional and personal growth. Participants who will benefit the most from the Emerging Leaders Program are those who demonstrate the following characteristics:

- A sincere commitment, motivation, and interest to participate in and better serve their communities;
- Have demonstrated leadership in past activities or intend to seek future leadership roles within the water industry;
- Individuals who understand leadership is a mindset, not just a title or position, and strive to reach their maximum potential; and
- People who enjoy learning about others and expanding their knowledge of the water industry and state and local government.

Applicants should show how they demonstrate these characteristics in their application answers.

Our Mission for the AWBD Emerging Leaders Program focuses on and develops our current and next-generation leaders of Water Board Directors and Consultants. Program leaders will help foster professional relationships and personal and professional growth within AWBD.

AWBD values the involvement and ideas of its members and sees its emerging leaders as the future of the organization. Participants will receive professional and leadership development opportunities, community service, advocacy, and social and professional networking.

Program tuition will be \$425.00. We will also provide sponsorship opportunities at \$750.00 per sponsorship per industry discipline. Sponsors will receive benefits, including branded recognition on the AWBD website, in the AWBD Journal, on Program printed materials, and at events, including graduation at the Annual Conference.

Attached is the application for the applicant to complete and submit to the AWBD Emerging Leaders Subcommittee by Monday, September 22nd. For more information regarding the program, please get in touch with AWBD at (281) 350-7090.

Sincerely,

Kaci Schlachter, P.E.
Chair

Chris Townsend
Co-Vice Chair

Teague Harris, P.E.
Co-Vice Chair

Rick Ellis
ED of AWBD-TX





"Dedicated to the betterment of Texas water district operation and management through education, unification, and advocacy."

Requirements for Participation:

1. Must be a Water District Director or Consultant with an active AWBD membership, with preference given to enthusiastic participation in the AWBD organization, building strong relationships to grow and advance the industry effectively.
2. Applicants should have five to fifteen years of experience on a water district board or in a related industry.
3. Must have taken AWBD Director's 101 or 201 Class OR have basic water district operation and management knowledge.
4. Must be sponsored by an executive within your water board or company via the attachment in the application form.
5. Always act with fairness, honesty, integrity, and openness; respect the opinions of others and treat all program participants, AWBD staff, volunteers, or community leaders associated with AWBD Emerging Leaders with equality and dignity without regard to gender, race, color, creed, ancestry, political beliefs, religion, marital status, disability, age or sexual orientation.
6. Do not engage in activities that endanger the life, safety, health, or well-being of yourself, program participants, AWBD staff, volunteers, or community leaders associated with AWBD Emerging Leaders while on any local sessions or conference events.

Requirements for Graduation:

1. Each Participant cannot miss more than 12 hours, with no exceptions.
2. Each Participant cannot miss the opening (12/2/25) and closing events (6/25/26).





"Dedicated to the betterment of Texas water district operation and management through education, unification, and advocacy."

AWBD Emerging Leaders Schedule Class of 2026

Monday, October 20, 2025	Class of 2026 Announcements (by email)
Thursday, November 13, 2025	Happy Hour & Alumni Reception
Tuesday, December 2, 2025	Opening Session
Thursday, January 29, 2026	Creation & Evolution of MUDs
Wednesday, February 25, 2026	The Agencies that Regulate & Influence MUDs
Monday, March 30, 2026	AWBD: The Mission
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	MUDs & Sustainability
Thursday, May 28, 2026	Principles of Advocacy
Thursday, June 18, 2026	Closing Retreat & Graduation at Annual Conference

2026 SPONSORS





"Dedicated to the betterment of Texas water district operation and management through education, unification, and advocacy."

AWBD EMERGING LEADERS PARTICIPANT APPLICATION

Please complete each section fully and attach your resume. Applications must be signed by both applicant and the water board sponsor/employer. Applicants should have five to fifteen years of experience on a water district board or in a related industry.

Please include a professional headshot with your application.

– Section A –

Name _____

MUD Board or Organization _____ No. of Years: _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Home Email _____ Work Email _____

Birth Mo/Day _____ Spouse's Name (Optional) _____

Shirt Size (Polo) _____

Favorite Hobbies & Activities _____

– Section B (Complete if you ALSO have a secondary Industry Affiliation.) –

Employer _____

Business Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Employer Email _____

Your Title/Position _____

Type of Business _____

– Section C –

Business/Professional Associations (do not use acronyms) _____

Why are you interested in the program? _____

What do you expect to gain from the program? _____





"Dedicated to the betterment of Texas water district operation and management through education, unification, and advocacy."

How did you hear about the program? _____

Provide experience with AWBD and what programs you have attended in the past 5 years.

What other organizations or leadership programs have you participated in?

Describe one unique thing about yourself. _____

APPLICATION AGREEMENT

I have completely answered each of the application questions, and to the best of my knowledge, the answers to the preceding questions are true and correct. I understand that attendance at all the events during the seven-month program is expected to graduate the program. I also understand that this is a professional continuing education program and should be taken seriously. I further understand that the program encourages continued AWBD involvement following graduation.

Applicant's Printed Name _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

The applicant has the approval of the Board of Directors or organization, and the applicant has our full support, which includes the time requested for participation as detailed in the "Applicant Agreement" stated above. The organization also understands the program fees for the applicant to participate.

Sponsor Board Member Signature or Employer's Signature

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Applications are due by Monday, September 22, 2025, by 4:30 pm. Submit your completed application via mail, fax, email: info@awbd-tx.org or dropped off at the AWBD office.

