



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

June 12, 2025

Dear Members,

The AWBD Emerging Leaders Subcommittee is excited to kick off enrollment for the Emerging Leaders Class of 2026. We are seeking a class of 18–20 AWBD member district directors and industry professionals who are eager to deepen their knowledge and grow as future leaders of the water industry.

Ideal applicants will have 5 to 15 years of experience serving on a water district board or working in a related field. Preference will be given to those who have demonstrated active involvement in AWBD through participation in events, programs, or committee work.

The AWBD Emerging Leaders Program provides participants with fundamental knowledge of the water industry and a deeper understanding of AWBD's mission, structure, history, and impact. This Program will provide participants with the foundation to work within their own districts, local communities, and AWBD statewide to support and advocate for AWBD's Mission and approach into the future.

Participants who will benefit most from the program are those who demonstrate:

- A sincere commitment to serving their communities through informed leadership;
- A desire to build a strong foundational understanding of the water industry and AWBD for future leadership roles;
- A mindset centered on continuous learning, growth, and contribution — not just holding a title;
- A curiosity for learning about others and expanding their knowledge of the water industry and related governance.

Applicants should show how they reflect these qualities in their responses.

The program's mission is to cultivate the next generation of Water Board Directors and Consultants by:

- Delivering essential industry and AWBD knowledge;
- Encouraging meaningful engagement through site visits to high-impact districts;
- Creating opportunities for growth and leadership development;
- Building lasting relationships among peers and mentors.

This experience will empower participants to lead with insight, confidence, and vision in support of the evolving needs of the water industry and AWBD.

Program tuition is \$425. AWBD appreciates the corporate sponsors of the 2026 Program listed on the attached schedule and notes that their contributions help keep the tuition cost at a reasonable level.

The application is attached and must be submitted to the AWBD Emerging Leaders Subcommittee by **Monday, September 22nd**. For more information, contact 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





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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 (6/18/26).





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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





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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? _____





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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.

