



"Broken windows and an abandoned facility" was how the Village of Boonville's wastewater treatment plant in the mid-1950s was described to me by Robert D. Hennigan. He shared this story with me when he learned I was from that small village in the foothills of the Adirondacks.

Bob Hennigan was performing a statewide water pollution control study on a section of the Lake Ontario watershed for the New York State Department of Health when he paid a visit to the wastewater treat-

ment facility in Boonville. "The doors were locked and the grass was tall. The village's board had decided they needed to save money on operation and maintenance costs and simply stopped using the treatment plant. Raw sewage was diverted to Mill Creek."

The Village of Boonville's plant was built in the 1930s with federal money. How could it be that just 20 years later it would be abandoned, with its original mission disregarded?

Taking into consideration the timeframe, this of course, was not an entirely uncommon occurrence during the post-World War II era. Priorities were in other places. Thankfully, we are living in a different time. As evidenced by the article written by Bob Andrews, the Village of Boonville certainly has made some significant strides on the efficiency of their wastewater treatment plant.

All people who enjoy the privilege of water and sewer infrastructure should understand its value. It is our responsibility to continually educate elected officials on the importance of this topic. Communities that need to upgrade their infrastructure need to be proactive and convey a clear message to stakeholders that there are ongoing and continual costs associated with these services.

It is our hope that the articles in this issue of *Clearwaters* will serve as tools to help us better understand the responsibility for the continuing upkeep of municipal infrastructure.

Many thanks to Sandy Lizlovs for her assistance with the compilation of this issue.



NYWEA Board Action Items

The following action items were approved at the November 17 board meeting.

Resolution 2004-15A

Approval of the Emmeline Moore Award

Resolution 2004-15B

Establishment of an Environmental Engineer Award

Resolution 2004-17

Election of Vice President-Elect, Mark Koester

Resolution 2004-18

Establishment of a Spring Meeting Conference Management Committee, Dave Barnes to Serve as Chair

Resolution 2004-19

Approval of 2006 Joint NYWEA/NEWEA Spring Meeting

Resolution 2004-20

Approval of Awards:

Public Education Award – Richard J. Lyons

Charles Agar Memorial Award – Toby Siegman

Industrial Achievement Award – Eastman Kodak and Xerox Corporation

Beneficial Use of Biosolids Award – Schenectady WPCF

John Chester Brigham Award – Maurice Osman

Frank E. VanLare Award – County Executive Nicholas J. Pirro

Resolution 2004-21

Establishment of Memorial Scholarship Program



Economic Development and Environmental Responsibility Go Hand in Hand.



Upcoming Meetings

77th Annual Meeting

February 6–9, 2005, New York City

Spring Technical Conference & Exhibition

June 5–8, 2005, Grand Island

Joint Tift Symposium (NYSAWWA/NYWEA)

November 15–16, 2005, Syracuse

78th Annual Meeting

February 5–8, 2006, New York City

Joint NYWEA/NEWEA 2006 Spring Technical Conference & Exhibition

June 4–7, 2006, Mystic, CT