



Bright Future

This issue of *Clearwaters* is dedicated to the Hudson River because of its importance to the water environment, fish and wildlife, recreation, commerce, water supply and wastewater disposal. You will enjoy reading articles that cover a wide range of environmental concerns and programs to improve the water quality of the Hudson River. The future of the Hudson is bright, but at no small cost and effort on the part of industry and government. NYWEA commends

these efforts and we will continue to support our members with educational programs and discussions with regulatory agencies to promote the most effective programs for our water environment.

Commitments to NYWEA Strategic Planning

In February, at the close of our annual meeting, I made several commitments to the NYWEA membership based on our strategic planning process. At this time, I would like to report on our progress toward meeting these commitments:

- **Education:** At the April board meeting, the directors passed two resolutions, one to modify our policy to allow NYWEA chapters to set their own nonmember differential for training events, and the second, to establish the Member Education Committee with Ken Skibinski as Chair and Jim Cunningham as Vice Chair. I believe that our membership growth is a direct result of our educational programs at every level. Dave Barnes and President-Elect Bruce Munn are working on plans for the 2009 Spring Conference to be held in the Lower Hudson area. A task force completed its assessment of alternate locations for our annual meeting in New York City and, after much discussion, recommended continuation with the Marriott Marquis. We thank the many members who responded to the questionnaire – your input was an important factor in this decision.
- **Regulatory Relationships:** Our annual Regulatory Dialog took on new challenges this year by promoting NYWEA as a “voice” with

our regulatory agencies concerning new and existing regulations as well as with funding programs. We are serving in an advisory role for Sandra Allen, who was recently appointed NYSDEC Director of the Clean and Safe Water Infrastructure Funding Initiative.

- **WEF Involvement:** We are fortunate to have a New Yorker, Adam Zabinski, as the Water Environment Federation President and we have taken advantage of this opportunity to understand WEF’s relatively new governance structure and how we can have meaningful input. We have developed a dialog with President-Elect Rebecca West, and Vice President Paul Freedman and both have embraced our efforts to bring WEF and NYWEA closer together. NYWEA had excellent participation at the WEFMAX meeting in Philadelphia and this was a great opportunity for information exchange with other member associations and WEF representatives. Our WEF delegates have actively participated with WEF activities and routinely provide updates to the NYWEA Board of Directors.

- **Water and Wastewater Assistance Response Network (WARN):** We have a small number of volunteer water/wastewater agencies who are interested in WARN participation; however, we have much work to do to make this a viable network for agencies helping other agencies in times of emergency. Kevin Donnelly has volunteered to chair a new Emergency Preparedness Task Force and we will be working with him to make this program a success.

As we take on these initiatives, the day-to-day work of making NYWEA the best it can be continues with our dedicated members who volunteer on various committees, chapters and task forces and, as always, our executive office led by Patricia Cerro-Reehil continues to provide outstanding service dedicated to the success of NYWEA.

Robert J. Kukuinberger, PE, BCEE



ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Just!
One!
More!

Extended for One More Year!

Share your NYWEA experience with a friend or colleague through our “Just One More” Membership Campaign! Sign up a new Active Member, get a gift for yourself *and* the new member! See website for details: www.nywea.org.