

From the CWWA President



CWWA – From Fall Conference to Legislative Planning

More than 150 water industry professionals attended this year's CWWA/CTAWWA Fall Conference at MountainRidge in Wallingford, CT – a testament to how vibrant

our organizations are in representing the water industry. This year's Fall Conference featured several dynamic speakers on a wide range of topics. Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director of the Alliance for Water Efficiency kicked off the conference with a thoughtful discussion on water conservation, "Avoiding Revenue Erosion with Water Conservation – Is it Even Possible?" Mary Ann has risen to a position of national prominence and we were very fortunate to have her share her insights with us.

From across the Atlantic, Simon Stringer, Chief Executive and Managing Director of Becatech, Ltd., a firm specializing in security solutions and technologies based in the United Kingdom, joined us to discuss terrorism threats and how protective, layered security must be part of an integrated, holistic approach to protecting water infrastructure. Simon's dry wit and knowledge of terrorism and security issues was very well received by attendees.

David Radka of Connecticut Water, John Hudak of RWA, Roger Dann of Wallingford Water & Sewer and Lori Mathieu of the state Department of Public Health joined forces to provide us with a timely update of the state Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's (DEEP) proposed stream flow regulations, which are expected to be voted on in November. CWWA's "Stream Team" of Radka, Hudak, Dann and George Adair of Wallingford Public Utilities and Peter Galant of Tighe & Bond deserve our deepest appreciation for negotiating critical changes to the regulations that will help protect Connecticut's public water supplies.

Setting the stage for CWWA's 2012 Legislative Planning efforts, DEEP Commissioner Daniel Esty talked about the new mission of the agency and his plans for connecting water, energy and environmental policies to better serve customers and businesses.

Sen. Joan V. Hartley (D-15) and Rep. Vincent Candelora (R-86), CWWA's Legislators of the Year, were on hand to provide insight on the upcoming legislative session and chat with members about issues affecting the water industry.

Carlene Kulisch of Kulisch Consulting, LLC and Maureen Westbrook of Connecticut Water Company, our seasoned Legislative Chairs, discussed emerging legislative & regulatory issues that may be on the table in 2012, such as changes in ratemaking and Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) oversight of municipal water rates. Clearly, CWWA is facing another busy year when the state legislature convenes in February 2012.

To develop our 2012 Government Affairs Agenda, CWWA held a Legislative Planning Workshop on November 9 at the Wallingford Town Hall. CWWA members and CTAWWA committee chairs and officers contributed valuable input. We encourage all members to play an active role in helping us shape public policies affecting water resources. Working together, we have been successful in developing thoughtful positions on issues affecting the water industry and in initiating legislation to assist the industry in meeting the needs of its customers and operating more efficiently.

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And finally, in this season of giving thanks, let me take this opportunity to thank our CWWA members and supporters who are committed to supporting our mission. We appreciate the time that you devote to our organization to make us strong and successful in representing the water industry at the state Capitol and before state agencies. Enjoy the season!

Ted Norris
President, CWWA