

February 11, 2011

Dear ASTSWMO Member,

“Building Leadership & Enhancing Relationships” – that is the vision for ASTSWMO in the coming year that I share with the other Officers of the ASTSWMO Board of Directors, Vice President Ed Thamke (MT), Secretary Treasurer Cheryl Coleman (SC) and Past President Gary Baughman (CO). We’ll pursue this theme through three specific initiatives.

Leadership Development

Subcommittee, Task Force and Focus Group Chairs; the backbone of ASTSWMO – The Chairs direct the vital work of ASTSWMO’s dedicated volunteers. Over the last couple of years, a number of individuals have emerged as the organization’s new leaders in these roles. This emergence of new leaders is the result of both the maturation and retirement from State service of many long-serving ASTSWMO leaders, as well as the intentional continuing development of organizational leadership and depth through Members-in-Action. The [ASTSWMO Board of Directors](#) is dedicated to providing our new leaders the support and resources they need for success. Both the Board and the Chairs are actively engaged in mentoring the next generation of leaders. Leadership development is important not only for ASTSWMO’s success, but for our members to bring their new skills back to the States and Territories. In order to facilitate communication and idea sharing among State colleagues, ASTSWMO will post on the website contact information for active Task Force and Focus Group members. This is one of several initiatives that ASTSWMO will be taking this year to expand networking and education opportunities for the ASTSWMO membership.

Strengthening Relationships

Building, improving, and maintaining productive working relationships with EPA and sister organizations – There have been significant changes in [EPA’s leadership](#) over the past year. As co-regulators, both EPA and ASTSWMO’s members recognize that it is vital that we work together. While many of our long time EPA partners have moved on, we have already begun to forge strong relationships with their successors. ASTSWMO worked closely with ECOS this year on two major initiatives: 1) gaining ECOS support for a [Resolution](#) to manage PCB waste under RCRA and CERCLA to help eliminate the costly redundancy under TSCA; and, 2) providing [support on the technical aspects](#) of EPA’s coal combustion residuals rule (CCR). Regulation of CCR has such far-reaching impacts that it provided ASTSWMO an opportunity to collaborate and develop relationships with a number of other organizations including: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL); National League of Cities (NLC); American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO); Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA); National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and the National Governors Association (NGA). As we go forward into this year, we will continue to foster these relationships with EPA, ECOS and other organizations that are critical to our success in implementing the programs with which we are charged to protect human health and the environment, even as we face unprecedented fiscal challenges at the State/Territorial and National levels.

Rejuvenating the Organization's Structure

Evaluation and amendment of the [ASTSWMO Bylaws](#) – ASTSWMO has a long, rich history. The organization was formed in 1974 before CERCLA and RCRA were enacted. The statutes and regulations that define the work of our members have evolved tremendously over the years. Yet ASTSWMO's foundational document, the Bylaws, is stagnant and outdated. The Bylaws define the organization. Just as the various Chairs form the backbone of the organization's work, the Bylaws form the backbone of the organization's identity and operations. Anyone who has ever taken on the task of revising an organization's Bylaws knows that it is a daunting task. However, the ASTSWMO Board is committed to taking on this responsibility. The Board will keep the membership informed and seek input as this initiative proceeds.

This year's slate of meetings promises to continue providing valuable opportunities for members to keep abreast of the ever changing regulatory landscape and to confer with your counterparts in the 50 States, 5 Territories and the District of Columbia. The [meeting schedule](#) includes:

March 1-2, 2011: UST Compliance and Prevention Workshop in Dallas, TX.

April 3-5, 2011: Brownfields 2011 in Philadelphia, PA. Registration is open.

April 20-21, 2011: Mid-Year Meeting in Denver, CO. Registration is open.

June 14-16, 2011: Hazardous Waste Training Conference in Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL.

August 9-11, 2011: Solid Waste Managers Conference in Kansas City, MO.

October 26-27, 2011: Annual Meeting in Bethesda, MD.

ASTSWMO Subcommittees and staff will continue to inform and solicit comment of the many new initiatives and policies that EPA is developing such as: the [Community Engagement Initiative](#); [Integrated Cleanup Initiative](#); [Dioxin Guidance](#) and the recent proposal to add vapor intrusion to the Hazard Ranking System ([76 FR 5370](#); comments due April 16, 2011). If you would like more information about these or other topics, [ASTSWMO staff](#) is always ready to serve our members.

As ASTSWMO's President, I can attest that the [Board of Directors](#) is dedicated to the organization and all of you. If you do not already know, you should identify your Regional Representative on the Board. The list of Regional Representatives can be found in the *Who We Are* section of the [ASTSWMO website](#).

The Officers and Regional Representatives of the Board, Chairs and members of Subcommittees, Task Forces and Focus Groups and ASTSWMO staff are here to represent your interests and to keep you informed. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of us. We want to hear from you and provide the best service we can.

Sincerely,



Stephen A. Cobb (AL)
ASTSWMO President