

2014 ASTSWMO President's Letter

February 25, 2014

Dear ASTSWMO Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of ASTSWMO, I would like to thank you for your commitment to and continued support of the organization. The hard work of our members over the last 40 years has made ASTSWMO the organization to be consulted nationally on issues related to materials management and site cleanup. Over the last year, ASTSWMO received requests to provide congressional testimony on several occasions and was engaged repeatedly when issues of national policy and legislation were being considered.

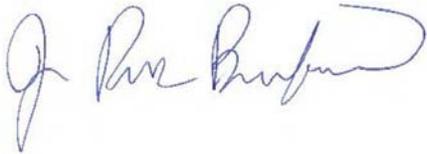
I would especially like to thank those individuals that serve on a Task Force, Subcommittee, or workgroup. I know that the time you spend on ASTSWMO projects are in addition to your normal duties and takes away from time you might otherwise spend at your job or in your personal life. I appreciate that you are willing to serve, and I hope you know how much we value your time and input. Due to your efforts, ASTSWMO completed many work products over the last year, and all of these items can be found on the ASTSWMO website. I would be remiss not to mention specifically the Hazardous Waste Subcommittee's work on Pharmaceutical Waste Management and E-manifest funding; the Materials Management Subcommittee's work on Post-Closure Care; the Federal Facilities Subcommittee's Policy Position Paper on Federal Facilities; the Tanks Subcommittee's Comments on the Draft US EPA "Guidance for Addressing Petroleum Vapor Intrusion at Leaking Underground Storage Tank Sites;" and the CERCLA and Brownfields Subcommittee's project on Sediment Remedy Effectiveness and Recontamination.

The last year was not without its significant challenges for the Association; it is a testament to the strength of the organization that we were still able to accomplish so much. During the last year, we have had to address the continued decrease of federal cooperative agreement support for the Association and go through the process of hiring a new Executive Director. The significant reduction in federal grant support has limited the Association's ability to fund member travel and hold training conferences, specifically in the Hazardous Waste, Materials Management, and Federal Facilities program areas. The Board of Directors continues to work to create a sustainable fiscal strategy to guide the Association, including reducing staff and overhead, when possible; exploring alternative funding opportunities; and ensuring that ASTSWMO work products, meetings, and conferences provide the highest value to our members. We ask for your continued support and understanding, and we hope you will continue to attend meetings and contribute to the work of the Association even when travel funding is not available.

This is an exciting and busy year for the Association. In addition to relocating the ASTSWMO headquarters and welcoming a new Executive Director, the Board of Directors is currently completing a new Strategic Plan for the Association to guide us through the next five years. The new Strategic Plan will be unveiled at the Annual Meeting and is based on all the great feedback we received from members over the last year. In addition, ASTSWMO continues to influence national policy and regulation including maintaining a strong working relationship with our partners at the U.S. EPA and Department of Defense. Some of the areas of focus for this coming year include continued work on the regulation of Coal Ash, the RCRA Subtitle C STAG reallocation process, PA/SI funding, 128a Brownfields funding, TENORM disposal, completion of a Tanks Core Report, and our upcoming Mid-Year Meeting focusing on Long-Term Management of Sites.

Lastly, you will not want to miss ASTSWMO's 40th Anniversary celebration at the Annual Meeting. It promises to be a great time honoring the long and successful history of the Association. I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan Benefield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "B".

Ryan Benefield, P.E.
ASTSWMO President