



ASTSWMO, Providing Pathways to Our
Nation's Environmental Stewardship Since 1974

November 10, 2015

Dear ASTSWMO Members:

On behalf of the ASTSWMO Board of Directors and ASTSWMO Staff, I would like to thank you for your continued commitment to and support of this organization. We're now over 40 years old, and your hard work and expertise are why ASTSWMO continues to be **the** organization that is consulted on national issues concerning waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices and environmental restoration. I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our recent accomplishments and share with you what I hope to accomplish during my year as President of this excellent organization.

As this year begins, the Board and Subcommittees have just completed the tasks outlined in their first work plan and have drafted their second under the 2014 ASTSWMO Strategic Plan. Some I would like to highlight include: the Tanks Subcommittee had a very successful National Tanks Conference in Phoenix, Arizona; the Materials Management and Hazardous Waste Subcommittees also conducted a very successful Joint Hazardous Waste and Materials Management Training in Long Beach, California; the Federal Facilities Research Subcommittee met with U.S. EPA to review and provide comments on their new federal facilities site database; and the CERCLA and Brownfields Subcommittee coordinated with U.S. EPA to revise the model language on State Superfund Contracts. In addition, Mike Forbeck, Past-President, testified on the management of Coal Combustion Residuals and I testified on Federal Facility Cleanups – both before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy. This simple summary does not do justice to all the work that the dedicated individuals on the Board, our 5 Subcommittees, and our numerous Task Forces and Focus Groups have completed over this year. I encourage you to visit our website (<http://www.astswmo.org>) to see everything that we've done and what we plan to do in 2016. Also, the website is in the process of being redesigned and will continue to be improved over the next few months. We will also continue to promote ASTSWMO through Social Media. Follow ASTSWMO on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook!

Though we have accomplished a great deal, the Association still has a lot to do. The Board of Directors continues to focus on ensuring that the ASTSWMO work products, meetings and conferences are valuable to our members, even though federal grant support continues to limit the Association's ability to fund member travel. We also continue to explore other alternative funding strategies and to develop a sustainable fiscal plan for the Association, to ensure we can weather any potential funding cuts that may occur.

So what do I plan to accomplish this year as President? In addition to completing the tasks listed in ASTSWMO's Strategic Plan, there are two other major initiatives that I want to accomplish:

1. When I was Federal Facilities Research Subcommittee Chair, the Subcommittee went back through several of our position papers and polled the members on whether they were still relevant. I would like to see all the Subcommittees do this – especially any position paper that was finalized over 5 years ago. If the Subcommittee has not developed a position paper on an important topic, I'd like to see one drafted and proposed to the Board. I think position papers can be very helpful with our outreach efforts, especially with meeting with other associations on issues, preparing for presentations, and providing testimony during hearings. I also believe that position papers will also serve as a valuable resource for our members. For example, I have personally used several Federal Facility position papers when my management asked me about ASTSWMO's position on an issue we were having in Ohio.
2. Another challenge that I plan to address involves the transition of members into new responsibilities within ASTSWMO – be it a new member serving on a Focus Group or Task Force, a new member serving on the Board, or even from Vice-President to President to Past-President. Though we have the Members in Action policy and By-laws that discuss the roles and responsibilities of these various positions, it can be extremely intimidating for someone taking on a new role, especially if he/she has never been in a similar role before. With newer members getting involved in the Association, I believe that having a better transition plan will make them more comfortable with taking over new leadership roles. I will work with both the Board and the Subcommittees and Past-President Caucus to see how we can improve this process.

I'm looking forward to all that ASTSWMO, with your continued support and dedication, will accomplish in this coming year. As your new President, I also welcome any suggestions and ideas you may have to improve ASTSWMO. Please do not hesitate to contact me, Vice-President Mark de Bie (CA), Past-President Mike Forbeck (PA), Secretary-Treasurer Nancy Marker (DE), Regional Board Representatives, Subcommittee Chairs, the Executive Director or ASTSWMO Staff (<http://www.astswmo.org>).

Sincerely,



Bonnie B. Buthker (OH)
ASTSWMO President