



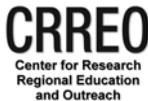
Conference & Dialogue on Water Resources & the Regional Economy

PROGRAM BROCHURE

December 13, 2010

SUNY New Paltz, NY

NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation – Hudson River Estuary Program



Cosponsored by:

**SUNY New Paltz Center for Research, Regional Education & Outreach
NYS Water Resources Institute of Cornell University
Hudson River Watershed Alliance**

Audubon New York; Barton & Loguidice; Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; Central Hudson; Chazen Companies; Clearwater; Council of Industry; Dutchess County Water and Waste Water Authority; Environmental Consortium of Hudson Valley Colleges and Universities; Fuss & O'Neill; Greene Business Alliance; Groundwater Guardian; GroundWork Foundation; GroundWork Hudson Valley; Historic Hudson River Towns; Hudson River Boat & Yacht Club Association; Hudson River Environmental Society; Hudson River Foundation; Hudson Valley Economic Development; Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress; Hudson Valley Regional Council; Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University; McLaren Engineering Group; New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission; NYC Department of Environmental Protection; NYS Empire State Development; NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation; Open Space Institute; Orange County Employment & Training Admin.; Orange County Water Authority; Ramapo River Watershed Intermunicipal Council; Restaino Design Landscape Architects; Riverkeeper; Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District; Rockland County Water Quality Committee; Rockland Economic Development Corporation; Scenic Hudson; The Nature Conservancy; Ulster County Development Corporation; US Geological Survey; US Green Building Council – New York Upstate Chapter, Hudson Valley Branch; Watershed Agricultural Council



Purpose

This conference seeks to create a shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities confronting the Hudson Valley as we manage our water resources. We seek to foster a dialogue among the many partners whose engagement can help us move forward in a positive direction for the benefit of the region, its watershed, and its people. Together, we will look for opportunities to both support the economy and conserve the environment, recognizing the many ways that water contributes to human well-being.

As background for this conference, we will refer to a *Discussion Brief* published by the SUNY New Paltz Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO), entitled *Hudson Valley Water: Opportunities and Challenges* (Fall 2010) authored by Scott Cuppett and Russell Urban Mead. The *Discussion Brief* makes two key assertions:

- our abundance of water is one of our region’s most important current and future resources; and
- there is an urgent need for regional water resource planning and protection to ensure the Hudson Valley’s future.

The authors encourage watershed planning and management initiatives that integrate best preservation practices with water resource uses, while encouraging economic growth. They recommend approaches and strategies that capitalize on our ecosystem’s ability to provide clean and abundant water through better land use decisions. Such strategies include: taking a holistic watershed approach to water management; protecting forests, floodplains, and wetlands; promoting groundwater recharge to ensure groundwater is replenished; replacing failing waste water treatment facilities; balancing competing human and wildlife water needs; developing responses for occasional droughts; minimizing cumulative impacts from land use change on water quality and quantity; and identifying “water-ready” sites. Copies of the *Discussion Brief* will be provided to today’s participants and are also available at www.newpaltz.edu/crreo.

The conference will focus on the following key questions:

1. How can our water assets and infrastructure be part of a strategy for economic prosperity and quality of life in the Valley?
2. What actions do we need to take to safeguard our unique water assets so they are sustained and not damaged or depleted?
3. What can the Hudson River Estuary Program do to help?

The Hudson River Estuary Program

protects and improves the rich natural and scenic heritage of the Hudson River watershed for all its residents. The program was created in 1987 and extends from the Troy dam to the Verrazano Narrows. Its core mission is to ensure clean water, protect and restore fish and wildlife habitats, provide recreation in and on the water, adapt to climate change, and conserve the scenic landscape. The program is guided by an Action Agenda – a forward-looking plan developed through significant community participation up and down the river. The Hudson River Estuary Program is carried out through extensive outreach, coordination with state and federal agencies, and public-private partnerships including grants, restoration projects, education, research, training, natural resource conservation and protection, and community planning assistance.

Find us on the web at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html.

Conference Planning Committee

Sandi Allen	NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
Bridget Barclay	Dutchess County Water Authority
Jerry Benjamin	SUNY New Paltz/CRREO
Paul Beyer	NYS Department of State
Dave Church	Orange County Planning Department
John Crews	Hudson Valley Regional Council
Scott Cuppett	NYSDEC/Hudson River Estuary Program/Cornell University
Gina D'Agrosa	Westchester County Planning Department
Karen DeJarnette	Empire State Development
Jonathan Drapkin	Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress
Fran Dunwell	NYSDEC/Hudson River Estuary Program
Paul Gallay	Riverkeeper
Simon Gruber	Hudson Valley Regional Council
Ron Hicks	Rockland Economic Development Corporation
Susan Jaffe	NYS Empire State Development
Willie Janeway	NYSDEC/Region 3
Sean Mahar	Audubon New York
Lance Matteson	Ulster County Development Corporation
Barney Molloy	Historic Hudson River Towns
Michael Oates	Hudson Valley Economic Development
Suzanna Randall	NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
Jeff Rumpf	Clearwater
George Schuler	The Nature Conservancy
Sacha Spector	Scenic Hudson
Dennis Suszkowski	Hudson River Foundation
KT Tobin Flusser	SUNY New Paltz/CRREO
David VanLuven	Hudson River Estuary Program Associate
Rene VanSchaack	Greene Business Alliance

Agenda

8:30 Conference Registration and Networking

9:30 Welcome and Overview

Introduction

Mike Hein, Ulster County Executive

Jim Tierney, Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources, NYSDEC

Dennis Suszkowski, Chr. Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee

Issue overview

Fran Dunwell, Hudson River Estuary Program Coordinator, NYSDEC

Why this is important

Business perspective: Scott Olin, General Operations Manager, Empire Merchants North

Municipal perspectives: Steve Finkle, Director of Economic Development, City of Kingston

Cas Holloway, Commissioner, New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Rapid Problem Statements (15 minutes each)

“The importance of water infrastructure and water access for waterfront revitalization”

The Honorable Phillip Amicone, Mayor, City of Yonkers

“The importance of water availability as a regional economic asset”

Brian McMahan, Executive Director, NYS Economic Development Council

“The importance of watershed protection for ensuring clean and abundant water”

James Tierney, Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources, NYSDEC

“Aligning water, land use, and economic development policies: examples from other states”

Elizabeth Schilling, Policy and Research Program Manager, Smart Growth America

12:00 Lunch

Introduction: “Hudson Valley Water: Opportunities and Challenges”

Gerald Benjamin, SUNY New Paltz with Scott Cuppett (NYSDEC Hudson River

Estuary Program/Cornell University) and Russell Urban Mead (Chazen Companies)

Keynote

The Honorable Maurice Hinchey, US Representative, 22nd Congressional District

1:30 Breakout Sessions

- 1. Paying for water, sewer, and green infrastructure: how can we get creative?*
- 2. Adopting green infrastructure strategies: how can we innovate?*
- 3. Managing our water assets regionally: how can we organize ourselves to better conserve our water, provide for sustainable growth, and achieve efficiencies?*
- 4. Aligning land use with water and economic goals: how will the new NYS Smart Growth and Infrastructure Act affect our approaches?*
- 5. Water access and waterfront revitalization as an economic strategy: how can we improve?*
- 6. Green cities, clear waters: how do we work together to create synergies for jobs, housing, and water?*

3:00 Breakout Report Backs

Next Steps: “How can we speak with one voice for the region?”

Facilitator – Willie Janeway, Region 3 Director, NYSDEC

State and federal elected officials and their representatives invited

4:00 Adjourn and Networking

Break Out Topics

Our afternoon breakout sessions will help us consider the key conference questions:

- How can our water assets and infrastructure be part of a strategy for economic prosperity and quality of life in the Valley?
- What actions do we need to take to safeguard our unique water assets so they are sustained and not damaged or depleted?
- What can the Hudson River Estuary Program do to help?

1. Paying for water, sewer, and green infrastructure: how can we get creative?

Hudson Valley communities face more than \$2.3 billion in investment needs for wastewater infrastructure improvements over the next 20 years, and much more if drinking water infrastructure is considered. The figure for New York City is even larger. Much of this cost will be to upgrade aging pipes and facilities that are not adequate to meet today's standards and needs, in most cases because they are closing in on or have already exceeded their design life. What state and federal funding sources can we tap other than the NYS Environmental Protection Fund and the State Revolving Loan program? Are there other funding mechanisms and alternative approaches to ensure the most efficient use of resources and bring other financing options to bear? What savings might we see if municipalities adopt tax incentives for water conservation and adopt green infrastructure techniques?

Co-chairs:

Sandi Allen, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation
Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning Department
Ron Hicks, Rockland Economic Development Corporation
Sandy Mathes, Greene Business Alliance
Mal McLaren, McLaren Engineering
Note Taker: Rich Schiafo

Questions for the Group:

What are the opportunities?
What are the challenges?
What can the Hudson River Estuary Program do to help?

2. Adopting green infrastructure strategies: how can we innovate?

“Gray infrastructure” uses pipes and facilities to convey and treat drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater. “Green infrastructure” (GI) includes a wide array of practices at multiple scales to capture and slow stormwater. In a watershed, GI is the use of natural landscape features, such as forests and wetlands, to increase groundwater recharge. In a neighborhood, GI is the use of practices such as trees, green roofs, permeable pavement, and cisterns to reduce runoff. Buffalo, Syracuse, New York City, Philadelphia, Chicago and other communities across the country are expanding the use of these techniques to increase recharge, reduce the amount of wastewater treated, and provide other benefits, such as protection of habitat and scenery, urban greening, reduced heat island effects, and lower energy costs. What GI strategies could be used in Hudson

Valley cities? Which GI techniques are most important for towns and rural areas? What additional benefits might communities get if they promote and adopt GI techniques?

Co-chairs:

Simon Gruber, Hudson Valley Regional Council

Julie Barrett O'Neill, Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper

Paul Gallay, Riverkeeper

Shohreh Karimipour, NYSDEC Division of Water

Dennis Lucas, Town of Hunter

Suzanna Randall, NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation

Rene VanSchaack, Greene Business Alliance

Note Taker: Beth Roessler

Questions for the Group:

What are the opportunities?

What are the challenges?

What can the Hudson River Estuary Program do to help?

3. Managing our water assets regionally: how can we organize ourselves to better conserve our water, provide for sustainable growth, and achieve efficiencies?

Water flows and moves without regard to political boundaries. Often the quality and volume of water in one community is influenced by growth patterns, land uses, and water uses in upstream communities, which means that municipalities are not able to ensure clean drinking water and manage flooding on their own. In addition, people who plan for water uses are often not meaningfully working together to solve these cross-boundary water challenges. Decisions made within and outside the Hudson Valley affect us too. How can we manage water resources at the county, watershed, regional, and larger levels? What can be done to foster inter-municipal collaboration?

Co-chairs:

Dave Church, Orange County Planning Department and HREMAC member

Gina D'Agrosa, Westchester County Water Agency and HREMAC member

Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning Department

Todd Ehrling, Columbia-Hudson Partnership

Willie Janeway, NYSDEC/Region 3

George Schuler, The Nature Conservancy and HREMAC member

Note Taker: Steve Stanne

Questions for the Group:

What are the opportunities?

What are the challenges?

What can the Hudson River Estuary Program do to help?

4. Aligning land use with water and economic goals: how will the new NYS Smart Growth Infrastructure Act affect our approaches?

Given the many interests and demands at play, how can we guide water and land-use decisions toward smart-growth solutions that yield the greatest economic, social, and environmental benefits? What does the new state smart growth law mean for the Hudson Valley? How can clean water investments in cities, towns, and villages spur revitalization of our 21st century infrastructure, enhance quality of life, connect citizens to water resources, and create good jobs, including in the construction, engineering, and agricultural fields while ensuring that land use patterns do not damage our water quantity and quality?

Co-chairs:

Susan Jaffe, NYS Empire State Development

Paul Beyer, NYS Department of State

Andy Bicking, Scenic Hudson and HREMAC member

Lance Matteson, Ulster County Development Corporation

Anne Reynolds, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Note Taker: Emilie Hauser

Questions for the Group:

What are the opportunities?

What are the challenges?

What can the Hudson River Estuary Program do to help?

5. Water access and waterfront revitalization as an economic strategy: how can we improve?

How can decision-makers, businesses, conservation advocates, and landowners work together in a non-confrontational manner to foster waterfront development and open space protection that bolsters local economies, serves public needs, and minimizes conflicts between waterfront users? How can investments in water transportation, river access, and river recreation create opportunities for small businesses? How can we ensure that our waterfront assets are resilient to sea level rise and flooding from powerful storms?

Co-chairs:

Barney Molloy, Historic Hudson River Towns and HREMAC member

Jonathan Drapkin, Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress

Bob Elliot, NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway Board

Mark Castiglione, NYS Hudson River Valley Greenway and HREMAC *ex-officio*

Kristin Marcell, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program

Note Taker: Suzanne Beyeler

Questions for the Group:

What are the opportunities?

What are the challenges?

What can the Hudson River Estuary Program do to help?

6. Green cities, clear waters: how do we work together to create synergies for jobs, housing and water?

We have learned that community involvement, education, and organization needs to be established before successful green infrastructure (GI) and watershed solutions can begin in the cities. Municipal planning, community development, and education are all key factors in applying sustainable watershed principles. What groups and government agencies need to be brought in to launch GI techniques and watershed initiatives? What are some of the benefits beyond stormwater management that might make these efforts more enticing to partners?

Co-chairs:

Jeff Rumpf, Clearwater and HREMAC member

Alma Rodriguez, Workforce Development Institute

Judy Anderson, consultant and HREMAC member

Note Taker: Rebecca Houser

Questions for the Group:

What are the opportunities?

What are the challenges?

What can the Hudson River Estuary Program do to help?

About Our Speakers

Phillip Amicone

Philip A. Amicone is the forty-first Mayor of the City of Yonkers. He began his second term in office on January 1, 2008. Under his stewardship, New York's fourth largest city has experienced its strongest economic growth in almost a century, with record employment and dramatic improvements to city programs and services.

Mayor Amicone, a Republican, has led an aggressive economic expansion that has brought in new jobs and revenues to the city. His fiscally conservative policies have restored stability to city finances, while his leadership and accountability continue to build a stronger neighborhood school system. Mayor Amicone has also implemented a number of new initiatives that have improved quality of life and public safety for Yonkers' nearly 200,000 residents.

Prior to being elected Mayor in 2003, Amicone served as Deputy Mayor and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the city agencies and departments. Prior to becoming Deputy Mayor, he was Commissioner of Buildings for the City of White Plains. Before his tenure White Plains, he worked for The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Mayor Amicone is a licensed Professional Engineer. He was awarded a Bachelor of Civil Engineering from Manhattan College and a Masters of Civil Engineering from New York University. In 1970, he married Kay Terry Amicone. They are the proud parents of three sons: Joseph, Brendan and Matthew. He and Kay are also the proud grandparents of three grandchildren: Julia, Ryan and Caroline.

Gerald Benjamin

Gerald Benjamin was appointed as Associate Vice President for Regional Engagement and Director of the Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach (CRREO) at SUNY New Paltz in 2008. CRREO is the principal locus of the college's efforts to raise its level of engagement within communities, governments, not-for-profits, and businesses across the Hudson Valley. It seeks to conduct research on regional topics; encourage faculty to build regionally-based service activity into their scholarship and teaching; create and direct institutes and programs to meet regional needs; and offer conferences and programs on matters of regional interest.

Dr. Benjamin joined the New Paltz faculty in 1968 and achieved the university's highest rank in 2002, when he was appointed Distinguished Professor. Dr. Benjamin is considered a leading expert on New York state and local government. He offers an unusual combination of academic and applied experience, having served both in leadership roles in the university – for example, twelve years as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences – and in local government – as legislative chair and Chief Elected Officer in Ulster County. Dr. Benjamin was chairman of the commission that created Ulster County's first charter, staff director for the State Constitutional Revision Commission, and a member of the State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness.

Fran Dunwell

Ms. Dunwell is the Hudson River Estuary Coordinator and Special Assistant to the Commissioner at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, a position she has held

since 1984. She oversees the implementation of the state's *Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda*, which seeks to

- Ensure clean water
- Protect and restore fish and wildlife habitats
- Provide recreation in and on the water
- Adapt to climate change
- Conserve the scenic landscape

Through this work, the Estuary Program is helping people enjoy, protect and revitalize the Hudson River and its Valley. More information on the Hudson River Estuary Program is available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html>.

Ms. Dunwell has a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies from Yale University and a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology from Kirkland College. She is the author of two award-winning books about the river's environment, culture, and history.

Steve Finkle

Steve Finkle has been the Director of Economic and Community Development for the City of Kingston for 16 years. In this position, he successfully wrote and administered over \$30 million in grants; issued 43 Industrial Revenue Bonds totaling \$80 million; managed the writing and administration of a Waterfront Revitalization Implementation plan involving brownfield remediation, construction of public infrastructure projects, and attraction of almost \$20 million in investment; built business parks; prepared shovel ready sites; and constructed buildings. He is well versed in right-to-build processes and environmental reviews (SEQR and NEPA).

Mr. Finkle's prior positions have included Director of Economic Development at the Stewart International Airport, Executive Director of the Ulster County Development Corporation, Director of Economic Development and Tourism for Greene County, NY, and Economic Planning Aide for Columbia County, NY. He holds a Master's degree in Geography from the State University of New York at Albany and a Bachelor's degree in Geography from the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Mike Hein

Mike Hein, Ulster County Executive, was born and raised in Ulster County. He grew up on a farm in Esopus and was educated in the New Paltz school system. After attending college, he returned to Ulster County where he resides with his wife of 20 years, Christine, and their son, Mickey. County Executive Hein's extensive private sector experience, primarily in the area of finance, has served him well in his new position. As Ulster County's first County Executive, it is his responsibility to shape a completely new form of government, one that sets precedent and establishes the all important foundation for the future. County Executive Hein works tirelessly to create a fully accountable, innovative and effective government that is working harder and smarter to advance the interests of the people of Ulster County. He sees a future for Ulster County with a strong and sustainable economy and a healthy environment; a community that is the perfect place to live, work, play – and raise a family.

Maurice Hinchey

Maurice D. Hinchey is a leading progressive, Democratic voice in Congress and has earned a reputation as a hard-working and effective advocate for the middle class. He represents New York's 22nd Congressional District, which spans eight counties from the Hudson Valley to the Finger Lakes region.

Maurice is a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, which allocates funds in the federal budget. On that panel, he serves on the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; and the Subcommittee on Defense. Hinchey is also a member of the House Natural Resources Committee. Additionally, the congressman is one of only 20 members on the bicameral Joint Economic Committee.

Upon graduating from high school, Maurice enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in the Pacific on the destroyer U.S.S. Marshall. After receiving an honorable discharge, he worked for two years as a laborer in a Hudson Valley cement plant. He then enrolled in the State University of New York at New Paltz and put himself through college working as a night-shift toll collector on the New York State Thruway. He went on to earn a master's degree at SUNY New Paltz and did advanced graduate work in public administration and economics at the State University of New York at Albany. Maurice has three children. He and his wife, Allison, live in Hurley, New York.

Born to a working class family in New York City's Lower West Side, Maurice has helped lead the effort to prevent abusive corporate practices and ensure fair economic policies that strengthen the middle class and create jobs in all sectors of the economy. He is a strong supporter of tax cuts for middle class families and small businesses. In order to rein in the risky and manipulative investment practices that led to the recent economic collapse, Maurice is also one of the strongest proponents of comprehensive Wall Street reform -- authoring legislation to break up the largest banks and putting in common-sense protections to safeguard the public from another economic collapse.

Recognizing that the renewable energy sector will increasingly play a leading role in our economy, Maurice has worked tirelessly to position upstate New York as a world leader in the high-tech, clean energy manufacturing job revolution. With the goal of establishing a national and international hub for solar energy research, development and manufacturing, Maurice led the effort to establish The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) -- a not-for-profit entity in upstate New York that brings together private solar companies and research institutions throughout the state to develop new ways to efficiently and effectively develop economically viable solar technologies. The results have been extraordinary. In just three years, Maurice and TSEC have attracted numerous companies to upstate New York and helped create more than 600 solar energy-related jobs with 1,000 jobs expected by the end of next year. As a result of these efforts, upstate New York is gaining the reputation as a premiere place to conduct renewable energy business.

Early in his first year in Congress, Hinchey initiated and led the successful effort to preserve Sterling Forest, the last significant area of open space in the New York metropolitan region and an important watershed for southeastern New York and northern New Jersey. He also introduced and saw enacted legislation to create the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, the first federal action formally recognizing the fundamentally significant role the people of the Hudson Valley played in the early development of America and its institutions.

Hinchey began his 18-year tenure in the New York State Assembly in 1975. He was the first Democrat elected to the state legislature from Ulster County since 1912, and only the second since the Civil War. He became Chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee in 1979. Under his leadership, the committee conducted a successful investigation into the causes of "Love Canal," the nation's first major toxic dumpsite, and developed landmark environmental legislation including the nation's first law to control acid rain. Between 1982 and 1992, Hinchey

led an investigation into organized crime's control of the waste-hauling industry that led to the conviction of more than 20 criminal figures, including one for murder. He successfully led the fight --first in Albany and later in Washington-- to force the cleanup of PCBs from the Hudson River. During his tenure in Albany, he was responsible for the development of the statewide system of Urban Cultural Parks (now called Heritage Areas), including those in Kingston and Binghamton. Hinchey is the author of the act that created the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Hudson River Estuary Management Program. He also served on the Ways and Means, Rules, Banks, Health, Higher Education, Labor, Energy and Agriculture committees.

Caswell Holloway

Appointed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to lead the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Commissioner Caswell F. (Cas) Holloway took office on January 1, 2010. Prior to his appointment, he served as Chief of Staff to Deputy Mayor for Operations Edward Skyler and as Special Advisor to Mayor Bloomberg.

Joining the Mayor's Office in 2006, Mr. Holloway was tasked with finding solutions to some of the City's most complex challenges. He was instrumental in the writing and implementation of the Administration's report on the health impacts of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and led negotiations on legislation that has since been introduced in both houses of the United States Congress. Following the tragic fire at 130 Liberty Street in August 2007, Mr. Holloway led a comprehensive review and overhaul of abatement and demolition processes.

He played an important role in the passage and ongoing implementation of the City's Solid Waste Management Plan, which established an equitable and environmentally sustainable system for dealing with the City's waste for the next twenty years and beyond. Mr. Holloway spearheaded a number of key initiatives, like the new citywide public recycling program, and working with the Fire Department to implement new inspection protocols and safety measures for first responders on construction sites. In 2009, he led the negotiations that resulted in Project Labor Agreements that cover \$5.3 billion in public projects, and will save the City \$300 million over the next 4 years, all of which will be re-invested in dozens of major infrastructure projects and will create approximately 1,800 additional construction jobs. The Agreements also include provisions that will ensure better access to good construction jobs for Minority and Women-owned small-businesses.

Graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College, Mr. Holloway went on to graduate with honors from the University of Chicago Law School. Prior to joining the Mayor's Office, he was an associate at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, and Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. He also served as a law clerk to Judge Dennis G. Jacobs, now the Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Prior to law school, Mr. Holloway served as Chief of Staff at the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. He lives in Brooklyn Heights with his wife.

William Janeway

Willie Janeway was appointed Regional Director of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 3 in May, 2007 by Commissioner Alexander "Pete" Grannis. Region 3 includes the counties of Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, Putnam, Dutchess, and Ulster. Willie was born in and grew up in Westchester. From 2001 to 2007, he was Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy's New York program. He has also served as Executive Director of the Hudson Valley Greenway Conservancy and Executive Director of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission. He began his career working in Lake Placid for the

Adirondack Mountain Club after graduating from St. Lawrence University in 1985 where his studies focused on environmental studies and economics. Willie and his family live on a small farm in Stuyvesant, in the Hudson Valley.

Brian McMahon

Brian McMahon has served as the full time Executive Director of the New York State Economic Development Council since January 1, 2000. Prior to that he served as the Director of Economic Development and Manufacturing for The Business Council of New York State, Inc.

NYSEDC is the principal organization representing more than 900 economic development professionals, which include the leadership of Industrial Development Agencies, Empire Zones, Local Development Corporations, commercial and investment banks, underwriters, bond counsels, utilities, chambers of commerce and private corporations. The purpose of NYSEDC is to promote the economic development of the state and its communities; encourage sound practices in the conduct of regional and statewide development programs; and, develop education programs that enhance the professional development skills of NYSEDC members.

NYSEDC also leads NY's marketing activities for the biotech sector. Through its subsidiary NY Loves Bio, NYSEDC coordinates trade show, external communications, and public policy activities to expand and market NY's life science strengths and assets nationally and internationally.

Brian McMahon is a director of the New York Business Development Corporation, the Council of Development Finance Agencies, and has served on numerous community boards, including the Wilton Wild Life Park and Preserve and the Albany YMCA.

Brian McMahon grew-up in Corning, New York, and graduated from SUNY-Albany in 1977 with a degree in Political Science. He resides in Saratoga Springs, New York with his wife Kim.

Scott Olin

Scott D. Olin brings years of beverage alcohol experience to his role as Empire Merchant North's Chief Operating Officer (COO). Scott has been with Empire Merchants North since December 2007 and served as the General Operations Manager before moving into the role of COO in March 2010. Prior to joining Empire Merchants North, he served as Operations Manager at Eber Brothers, and Director of Operations at Southern Wine & Spirits. Scott attended Arizona State University where he studied Transportation Management.

Elizabeth Schilling

Elizabeth Schilling is a policy analyst and writer who focuses on how growth and development patterns shape quality of life, and how public policies shape growth and development patterns. Ms. Schilling's approach to creating more livable communities has been shaped by work for the private sector, non-profit sector, and for the public sector at all levels of government. She served as the Public Information Officer to Maryland's Secretary of Planning under Governor Parris N. Glendening, and as a Legislative Aide to Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D, OR-3).

At Smart Growth America, Ms. Schilling is managing a project to identify opportunities to align state land use and source water protection policies. She recently helped to develop the US Green Building Council's rating system for neighborhoods. From 2002 to 2005, she served as the Executive Director of the Growth Management Leadership Alliance, a national network of three-dozen smart growth advocacy organizations in thirty states and British Columbia, Canada.

Ms Schilling holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government and a Bachelor of Science in Social Anthropology from Harvard College. She lives and works in Alexandria, Virginia with her sons and her husband.

Dennis Suszkowski

Dr. Suszkowski has been the Science Director of the Hudson River Foundation for Science and Environmental Research, Inc. since 1987. He received a doctorate in marine science from the University of Delaware in 1978. Prior to joining the Hudson River Foundation, Dr. Suszkowski held positions as Chief of the Marine and Wetlands Protection Branch at Region 2 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Assistant Chief of the Operations Division of the New York District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Dr. Suszkowski currently oversees the Hudson River Foundation's grants program for scientific research. The Foundation is the single largest funding source for research about the Hudson River and New York Harbor. He chairs several advisory groups including and the Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee and the Science and Technical Advisory Committee of the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary. He recently led a team of scientists in the development of Target Ecosystem Characteristics that are the foundation of the Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Plan for the New York Harbor/New Jersey Harbor Estuary.

James Tierney

Jim Tierney serves as the Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Assistant Commissioner Tierney leads DEC's management team for policy and programs to restore and maintain the physical, biological and chemical integrity of New York's waters – the central mission of the Clean Water Act. Areas of responsibilities include: sewage and industrial waste water treatment plants; programs to address polluted runoff from condensed animal feeding operations, construction excavations, and urbanized areas; drinking water supply permits; water quality standards; stream classifications; and water quality assessments. Mr. Tierney also oversees critical dam safety, flood plain mapping, and coastal erosion hazard programs. Included within Mr. Tierney's responsibilities is representation of New York's interests on the numerous interstate and international commissions with respect to the water quality and resources of the Great Lakes, Long Island Sound, New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary, Susquehanna River Basin, Lake Champlain, and Delaware River Basin. He also oversees DEC's efforts to protect the New York City drinking water supply and watershed, as well as the Hudson River Estuary Program.

Mr. Tierney served from 1998 to 2007 as the New York City Watershed Inspector General, a joint appointment of the Governor and Attorney General within the NYS Department of Law. This position was created by virtue of the 1997 New York City Watershed Memorandum of Agreement and a 1998 Executive Order of the Governor to better protect the unfiltered drinking water of 9 million consumers. Mr. Tierney was an Assistant Attorney General with the Environmental Protection Bureau from 1991 to 2007, gaining experience in all levels of State and Federal Courts in the field of environmental, natural resource, and public health law. Mr. Tierney was the recipient of the 2002 "Best Brief" award for U.S. Supreme Court practice by the National Association of Attorneys General and received the 2007 Public Official of the Year award from the Natural Resources Defense Council and Earth Day New York. He is a member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court, among others. Before joining the Attorney General's office, Jim was associated with the environmental law firm of Sive, Paget & Riesel and served as a law clerk to the Hon. Neal P. McCurn, then Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. Mr. Tierney is a 1988 graduate of the SUNY Buffalo School of Law where he served as Articles Editor of the Law Review.