



## WHAT IS NEW AND UPCOMING AT RURAL WATER

Pat Scalera | CEO, NYRWA

Times are a changing, so they say, and we must move forward with change here at New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA), and nationwide, to meet the challenges that lie ahead. We have all heard in the news about cyber breaching. These attacks have caused havoc for many. It would be negligent of us to not protect ourselves against such unthinkable attacks. NYRWA, along with National Rural Water are moving forward with a Cyber Security Insurance Program designed for utilities with comprehensive coverage for legal costs, notification, credit monitoring and other liabilities associated with a data breach. Probabilities of a data breach is more likely from a disgruntled customer or employee and all policies will be based on population served. More information on this will be available to you in the near future.

In addition to the Cyber Security Insurance, we are working on a Utility Water Loss Insurance - Residential Service Line & Leak Adjustment Program. This program is designed for the long term and is customized at the system level. The policy limits and fees are customized for each system that is interested in this program. Some key benefits for utilities are: if you have a loss adjustment policy this insurance, which is offered only to the utility, prevents that loss of revenue to the utility, as well as the consumer. We, at NYRWA, are looking further into this program and once more information is available we will get it to you, our members.

Being prepared and covered for what may come is the way of the future. As a membership organization, we are here to share our knowledge and communicate with others to resolve issues. With modern technology we can reach further to gather data, opinions, and get quick answers on concerns. Our national organization will soon be launching a newly developed website, "the WaterPro On Line Community" which is a communication networking platform that offers subscribers specific incentives, including Lifelock, NRWA major events, and they are expecting to work a deal with Verizon discounts. This communication tool will allow you and others to communicate on water and wastewater concerns, on projects, funding, or any other areas of interest. We will be discussing this at our Annual Conference and in other communications to our membership once the site is launched.

As you will read in our President's message from Matt Thorp in this issue of Aquafacts, we are partnering with Spear Point Energy on a program that could greatly benefit your utility in energy

saving costs through solar technology. The Village of Maybrook has entered into an agreement with Spear Point and will save over \$1 Million over the 25 year term with no out of pocket cost to the utility. If you are interested in receiving more information on this program, please reach out to us here at NYRWA on our toll free line 1-888-697-8725. This could be a great opportunity for your utility. Spear Point Energy is a solar developer and investor who works mostly with nonprofits to install and sell solar energy at a discount. They develop on-site projects located on rooftops or ground mounted systems. It is a very simple structure where the client signs a long-term contract to buy the energy produced. With different rebates and incentives, now is a great time to lock in on low priced energy and secure stable pricing for the future. If you are not the decision maker on such, please share this with your Supervisor, Mayor or other elected officials. We would be happy to attend a Board Meeting to expand on this opportunity.

If you would like more information on any of the above mentioned opportunities, please email me at [scalera@nyruralwater.org](mailto:scalera@nyruralwater.org). One final opportunity that has been around for some time, but you may not be aware of, is the NRWA Revolving Loan Fund which was established under a grant from USDA/RUS to provide financing to eligible utilities for pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects. The RLF can also be used with existing water/wastewater systems and the short term costs incurred for replacement equipment, small scale extension of services or other small capital projects that are not a part of your regular operation and maintenance. Systems applying must be public entities with up to 10,000 population and rural areas with no population limits. If interested contact Gloria at NRWA 1-580-252-0629.

Now for a change in our staff. As many of you may know, our own Dan Tousley retired February 28, 2015, after 12 years of service to NYRWA and the utilities of western New York. I once read that relationships are the key to success and I am here to tell you Dan built great relationships over the course of his career with Rural Water and has many friends that will miss him. Dan leaves some large shoes to fill for our newly hired Fred Holley who started with us on February 17, 2015. Dan graciously took Fred under his wing and in his truck to meet many of the Operation Specialists in the field he will be working with. We would appreciate your warm welcome to Fred, who has over 26 years of experience in the >>>

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water industry. Fred holds a IB and D certification, and is also a certified backflow prevention device tester.

We appreciate the contributions Dan Tousley has made to this organization, we thank him for his efforts, and consider it an honor to have worked with him. Here's wishing Dan a happy, healthy and well deserved retirement.

We hope to see many of you at our 36th Annual Technical Conference at the Turning Stone Resort & Conference Center in Verona, NY, May 18-21, 2015. Watch your mail for the official announcement, agenda and registration information. We greatly appreciate your support. 💧💧💧



**New York Delegation attends Rally 2015 in Washington, DC to meet with our NY Congressional Leaders and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand to discuss regulations, unfunded mandates, our programs that provide onsite technical assistance and training and the funding to keep these programs available to our small/rural communities.**

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