



NIAGARA FALLS  
WATER BOARD

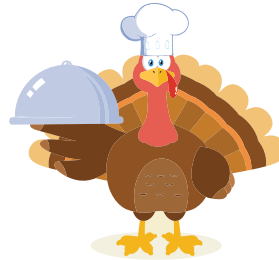


# WITH THE FLOW

Volume 2 No. 4  
November 2018

## Executive Director's Message

Here we are, midway through the fall season with the clocks turned back, daily temperatures falling, the last leaves waiting to be raked and snow in the forecast. I'm sure we are ready for another winter because we in Western New York are strong and resilient. We cope. Now, as the holiday season unfolds, allow me to extend my thanks and gratitude to each reader of this newsletter and wish all a warm and enjoyable Happy Thanksgiving!



STEPHEN COVEY'S  
7 HABITS OF  
HIGHLY  
EFFECTIVE  
PEOPLE

**HABIT #3**

**PUT FIRST  
THINGS FIRST**

After elaborating in prior newsletters on Habits 1 and 2 from Stephen Covey's Seven Habits, namely "Be Proactive" and "Begin with the End in Mind", I'd like to continue with a discussion of Habit # 3, "Putting First Things First." This Habit starts with identifying a clearly defined Mission. The Mission Statement of the Niagara Falls Water Board is..."to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater management services to our community in an economical and efficient manner." When you are making a decision on what to work on next, Covey suggests that one uses your/our mission statement as a litmus test to determine if what you are planning to do is reflected in the mission statement. If your contemplated task is reflected in the mission statement you are headed in the correct direction.

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# Executive Director's Message *continued*

One must add that to work to our personal benefit and that of an organization or team, effective leadership must be tied to effective management, which I define as using time management skills to achieve the most important goals of the organization or team instead of reacting to urgencies. Analysis of a 2018 version of the quadrant matrix of Habit 3 below says most of what I am trying to convey:



Of course, looking back on the last 15 months or so from the perspective of my responsibilities, the time I spent on **Q1** matters most certainly exceeded the time spent on all the other three quadrants combined.... oh to be able to indulge in **"Excessive relaxation"**! Fortunately, during, and because of, a lengthy period of crisis management that began with the July 29, 2017 WWTP incident, a team approach developed – the board, my office, Superintendent of Operations Bob Drury, and the knowledgeable and experienced consultants from AECOM, GHD and the CPL Team – with all working together in an orderly, transparent and systematic way to identify, understand and solve the range of problems presented by the incident. It took time (and the cooperation and financial assistance of Governor Cuomo and the Department of Environmental Conservation) but the result, in my opinion, is a far more nimble, responsive and responsible public body than any that heretofore served the people of Niagara Falls.

So, what's the big deal with putting **"first thing first"**? A summary of each of the above 4 quadrants may serve to support the importance of utilizing Habit 3.

**QUADRANT 1: URGENT-IMPORTANT.** These are the crises that erupt. The most pressing meetings or deadlines fall into this category. When we are addressing the immediacy of a 48" main-break or an overflow at the WWTP it's all relating to stuff in this quadrant.

**QUADRANT 2: NOT URGENT - IMPORTANT.** These are the things that matter in the long-term. They are things we know we need to get to but might push off due to pre-occupation with a **Q1** problem. It's relationship-building,

long-range planning, training on software (New World! Lucy!) that reduces risk and creates greater efficiencies. It's organizing and executing around the proactive priorities established for yourself via Habit 2. To me, it's the essence of effective leadership and management.

**QUADRANT 3: URGENT - NOT IMPORTANT.** According to Covey, these tasks are the biggest reason we're not more successful in the long-term. Sure, they fill up the day, but, are they worth the time? Too often, sadly, they are not. These are interruptions that happen, the ping of a text or email, the ring of your cell phone, poorly organized meetings that soak up time, and other activities which we feel we must do but way too often aren't that important.

**QUADRANT 4: NOT URGENT - NOT IMPORTANT.** Take your pick of these. Some consider them a complete waste of time, others, not so much, after all, you've got to keep up on the latest on HBO or Netflix, don't you? Critics of Covey's philosophy say that he should forget about this quadrant, in effect, they say, "it's none of his business." I tend to agree with the criticism, while at the same time acknowledging that it doesn't hurt to occasionally review how much time we spent on such matters. Just ask if they're worth it.

Are you still with me? I know how entertaining this is... everybody likes it. Right? However you feel, I'm confident that attention to the Habit 3 matrix will pay off for you. Focus on making time every day, every week and every month to spend 30% of your work time on **Q2**. You will be surprised, opportunities will pop up, new ways of doing things will materialize, **you will be** a better manager, co-worker and employee. Do I guarantee it? No, but I urge you to try. ■



## CONSENT ORDER STATUS



August 9, 2018 WWTP, Department of Environmental Conservation and Niagara Falls Water Board Periodic Review Meeting

The most recent quarterly report to the Department of Environmental Conservation, [available at our website: <https://nfwb.org/app/uploads/2018/08/NFWB-Q2-2018-Progress-Report-7-25-18.pdf>], thoroughly details the progress made in addressing the requirements of the order and, overall, provides a positive and encouraging view of the path ahead. Of course, much remains to be accomplished, including project planning for \$27 million in major capital upgrades that is underway with responses received pursuant to Requests For Proposals for engineering consulting services issued this summer having been considered by the board at the October meeting.

Key points in the quarterly report include:

- Solids processing (settling, thickening, dewatering) has functioned as intended so that the WWTP is not accumulating solids.
- Primary effluent is clean (minimal suspended solids) which has allowed the WWTP's activated carbon filters to process all plant influent without any bypasses occurring.
- Planned WWTP piping system upgrades, including work in the thickened sludge pump building are substantially complete with the installation of new pressure gauges, flush ports and concrete pads.



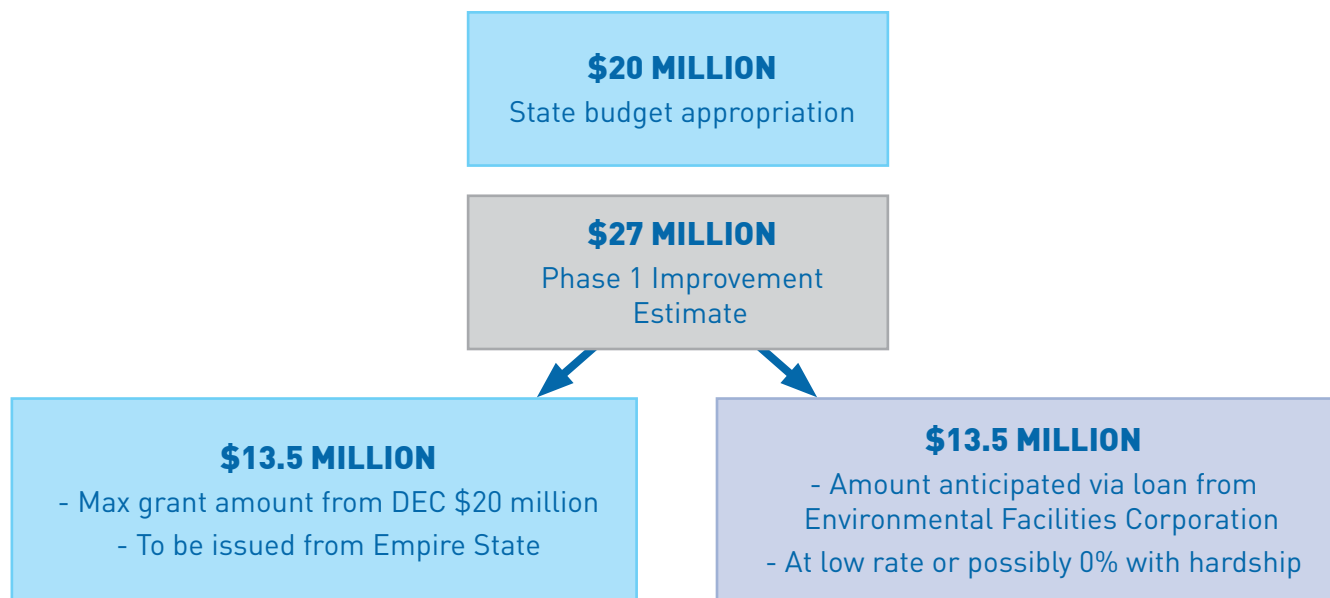
Senior staff, NFWB environmental attorney John Kolaga, Dr. John Goeddertz and others on the engineering consultant team maintain an open and frequent dialogue with the legal and technical representatives at the DEC Region 9 office and have established lines of communication with Albany counterparts that help the process move along toward accomplishing our shared goals. Periodic meetings such as one at the WWTP in August – shown here – allow for the frank exchange of ideas, constructive suggestions, agreed upon redirection as needed and the renewal of a mutual commitment to move forward. ■



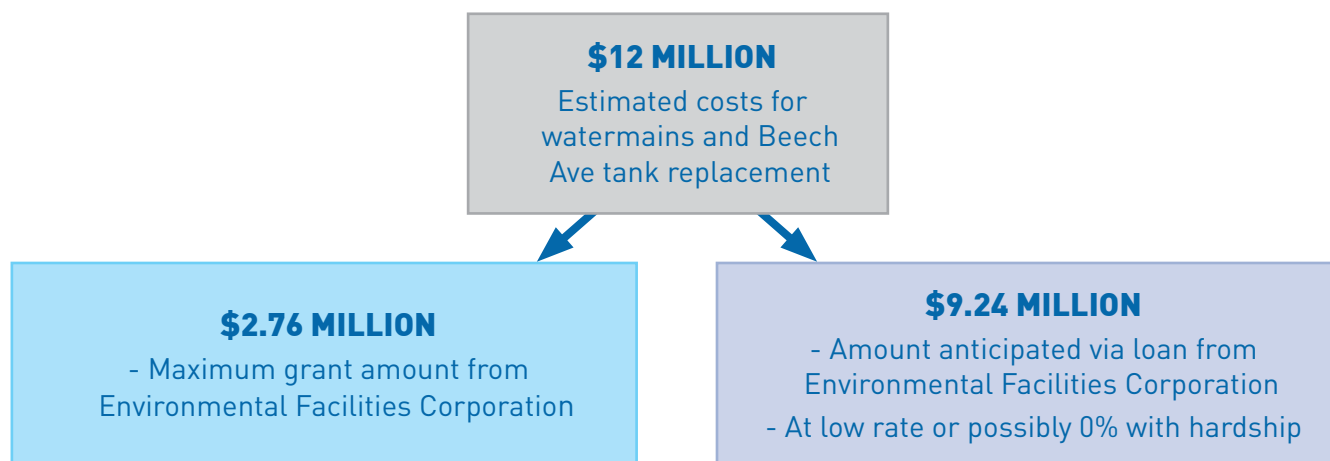
## GRANT FINANCE SUMMARY FOR 2018

Grant financing is an important part of our financial plan for future scheduled capital projects, special – mandatory - projects to be undertaken pursuant to the above mentioned Consent Order and vital programs for the replacement of water lines and, in some cases, the service connection to households. Here is a look at pending grant applications. Lets hope for success across the board.

### WASTE WATER - GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED AUGUST 27, 2018



### DRINKING WATER - GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED SEPTEMBER 7, 2018



**NEWS FLASH**  
see next page

## GRANT FINANCE SUMMARY FOR 2018 continued

NY STATE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS				
WIIA Grant	Awardee	County	Estimated Project Cost	Estimated Grant Award
Drinking Water	Alfred, Village of	Allegany	\$4,836,000	\$2,901,600
Clean Water	Alfred, Village of	Allegany	\$1,964,000	\$491,000
Clean Water	Amherst, Town of	Erie	\$4,877,586	\$1,219,397
Drinking Water	Chautauqua County	Chautauqua	\$11,750,000	\$3,000,000
+Clean Water	Chautauqua County	Chautauqua	\$11,888,000	\$2,972,000
Drinking Water	Erie County Water Authority	Erie	\$5,921,820	\$1,722,159
Drinking Water	Evans, Town of	Erie	\$4,830,000	\$2,898,000
Drinking Water	Newstead, Town of	Erie	\$1,325,000	\$795,000
<b>Drinking Water</b>	<b>Niagara Falls Water Board</b>	<b>Niagara</b>	<b>\$5,495,000</b>	<b>\$2,760,000</b>
Clean Water	North Tonawanda, City of	Niagara	\$5,899,450	\$1,474,863
Drinking Water	Olean, City of	Cattaraugus	\$689,290	\$413,574
Clean Water	Royalton, Town of	Niagara	\$1,032,700	\$258,175
Clean Water	Silver Creek, Village of	Chautauqua	\$3,487,000	\$871,750
Clean Water	Sloan, Village of	Erie	\$6,084,891	\$1,521,223
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>\$70,080,737:</b>	<b>\$23,298,741</b>

Go to link for more on the NY State Water Infrastructure Improvement Grants:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-awards-more-23-million-grants-water-infrastructure-improvements-western-new-york> ■

## FLINT, MI. WATER CRISIS



As I have previously written, the lead in Flint's water supply was due to a failure of government responsibility and a lack of knowledge of water system infrastructure. Flint is now part of the water supply and distribution system of the Great Lakes Water Authority ([glwater.org](http://glwater.org)) and is receiving financial assistance from that authority to replace residential kitchen and

bathroom fixtures to comply with a lead-free plumbing code and additional substantial aid to replace lead service connections throughout its system. Still, if you live in Flint, you're not going to be drinking your water for quite a while – how long is unclear.

While the Flint crisis is one that should never have happened it does provide strategies for improving our nation's aging water infrastructure. Industry experts in academia and business are focusing on fundamental investigations and applied research to create a variety of successful water management options and decision-making tools.

For example, the engineering research center at Stanford University, called ReNUWIt (Re-inventing the Nation's Urban Water Infrastructure, <http://renuwit.org/>), is seeking more sustainable solutions for the use, reuse and management of water resources. They are examining new ways to reuse water that save energy and money, and that provide water for reuse where it's generated and needed. This systems-level thinking can help systems such as ours at the NFWB make wise investments for the long term. Not crisis made decisions that can lead to bad outcomes, but thoughtful, well planned decisions that allow us to continue to provide our customers with water of unquestionable quality. ■

## NEW BANKING RELATIONSHIP ESTABLISHED

The Board, in executing on a comprehensive revenue-enhancing strategy, recently established a new banking relationship with BankonBuffalo. With a convenient temporary office on Williams Road and an even more convenient office opening next year across from Tops International, it is expected that the relationship will be a long and rewarding one. In fact, as illustrated below, the revenue-enhancement strategy paid immediate dividends with income on funds deposited for the month of August amounting to \$25,689.26. ■



Left to right, BankonBuffalo president Martin T. Griffin, Annette Tomlin, bank branch manager, Nick Forster, NFWB Commissioner and chair of board Finance Committee, Executive Director Rolfe Porter



## CITY COUNCIL TOUR

Rob Rowe explains steps in water treatment



City Councilmen Kennedy and Vocchio, Water Plant Operator Rowe, Chairman O'Callaghan, Councilman Scott, Commissioner Forster

Niagara Falls City Council members were recently conducted on a tour of NFWB facilities. The support of the full Council for all grant applications submitted on our behalf this year adds to the strength of the applications and provides solid evidence of the shared commitment of city and Water Board leadership to efficiently and cost effectively provide essential services to the residents of Niagara Falls. ■

## IT DEPARTMENT FOCUS



Carl Hubler, Joe Morock

In the March newsletter, Vol. 2 No.2, it was noted that the IT Department, then consisting of James Brixius, Carl Hubler and Joe Morock, was responsive, quality driven and resourceful. Now, with the departure of Systems Engineer Brixius, Carl and Joe are calling upon that shared resourcefulness to continue to meet their assigned responsibilities. And, interestingly, a relatively unexpected disruption such as that occasioned by James's departure has presented opportunities that under "business as usual" circumstances might not have made the "front burner" and gained priority status. While it is generally recognized that our tech infrastructure - providing phone, email and network support - is not fully developed to meet the unique "2018" goals and needs of the NFWB, an intense emphasis on upgrading may have been a bit lacking. Carl and Joe have taken "the bull by the horns" and are determined to propose and push for improvements in tech infrastructure to create a digital ready system that delivers the best experience - phone system, email and related activities - that is secure, user friendly, expandable and, I should add, affordable. Stay tuned for updates and training announcements. ■

## HYDRANT UPDATE

The on-going hydrant replacement program is nearing completion as the Board recently authorized the acquisition of 100 additional hydrants. As seen below, Niagara Falls Fire Department leadership and Mayor Dyster joined with Chairman O'Callaghan and staff upon the delivery of a recent order. Also see memo from Bill Wright on p10. ■



# Employee Profile: Rob Rowe, Chief Water Plant Operator

Rob Rowe is a good example of the underlying importance of the first phase of what I hope will be a continuing and expanding leadership training program under the direction of Shoshanna Cogan ([www.shoshannacogan.com](http://www.shoshannacogan.com)). Rob has taken the training seriously and has put into action many of the key lessons of the program. He admits that it is sometimes difficult to put the concepts and practices into use but adds that doing so has changed the way he sees himself in relation to his responsibilities and in relation to his role in the organization. He not infrequently goes back to his notes or to the handouts from specific training modules, finding both to be helpful reminders toward encouraging personal exploration and professional development.

Rob graduated from LaSalle Senior High School in 1995, back when the "Explorers" were still going strong - now there's a Walmart store on what was the playing fields of a school that built a long tradition of excellence, and which has provided the NFWB with a fair amount of its fine graduates. After graduation Rob took courses at NCCC and worked at a facility on Grand Island that produced generic and prescription drugs. His "water" related employment exposure began in 1997 (and lasted until early 2008) when he became the assistant manager at The Fish Place, a purveyor of fresh and saltwater fish, aquariums and related supplies in North Tonawanda. There, Rob was responsible for, among other things, the continued operation of marine aquariums having an estimated 30,000 gallon capacity. Not, of course, the treatment of drinking water, but it did provide an early familiarity and appreciation for maintaining the integrity of a water supply system. His duties also included work assignments and scheduling, skills that would be put to good use in his later work life.

Rob's career at the Water Board began in the Spring of 2008 when he was hired as an entry level operator trainee, the first such trainee to be hired in nearly two decades. The history of the Water Treatment Plant operating plant staff during the ensuing 10 years is one that does not exactly spell "continuity" or "stability", since, until the last few years, unexpected departures, an untimely death, and, at one point prior to the arrival of the current administration, possibly some managerial (upper level) benign neglect may have occurred. But, from a review of the department's staffing and with input from some who were around during those ten years, it emerges that there was at least one reliable constant within the operating department: the steady approach and single minded determination of Rob Rowe. For example, Maintenance Superintendent Joe Argona, having known Rob since his "day one" at the NFWB, says, "Rob brought a steady hand to the plant, he trained for his Grade II operator license and kept at it until he acquired, through on the job and course work experience, his Grade 1 operator license to qualify for the position of Chief Water



The camping family: Rowe with daughters Molly and Isla and wife Staci

Plant Operator." Argona added, "Rob's young and healthy, and a good manager, he's also a good listener and a problem solver, he's perfect for the job he's in and I look forward to working with him for many years to come."

Rob grew up in Niagara Falls and has lived here all his life. Until he was 12 years old he lived downtown on Rainbow Blvd., an address now subsumed into the sovereign territory of the Seneca Nation and its gaming operation but one he remembers fondly as having Goat Island for a back yard and the constant hum of the falls as comforting background sound. The family moved to 68th Street when Rob was 12 and remained there through Rob's high school years. He must have grown accustomed to the neighborhood because for the last 16 years he has resided in a home he purchased on 69th Street! There he lives with his wife Staci and daughters Molly, age 7, and Isla, going on 2. The couple is currently looking for new digs, but don't plan on going too far afield, maybe Cayuga Island, maybe a fixed-upper. Staci has a degree in surgical tech and may return to work when Isla is a bit older. For now, she is a happy stay at home Mom. The family keeps busy with school, neighborhood and other activities with a serious emphasis on camping. They frequently prepare their tent camper and travel trailer for weekend or longer stays at the Kinzua National Forest, Watkins Glen and other spots of interest far and wide. They're what I'd call active campers, they hike the trails, check out waterfalls and take in as much of the surroundings as they can. And they start early, Molly accompanied her parents on camping trips before she was 5 months old!

*continued on next page*



# Employee Profile: Rob Rowe, Chief Water Plant Operator *continued*

Going forward, Rob knows that challenges, as always, will present themselves, and he keenly recognizes that regulatory and administrative change is inevitable. He hopes to be able to have a full complement of staff soon and appreciates that the current roster of personnel in his department consists of dedicated and committed employees. That group, WTP Operators Tim LaGamba, Nick Conde, Mike Alfieri and Joe Kempa, Operator Trainees David Roeser and Asen Whisnat, along with Temporary Chief Bob Donald, share Rob's recognition of the value of safe, clean water to our everyday lives and work hard to meet the day to day (and night to night) demands of making sure that the drinking water that is delivered to the homes, businesses and institutions within the city meets the highest standards. ■



Rowe with aspiring engineers

## The Water Board Rules (and Regulations)!

by Sean Costello, General Counsel



Most Water Board employees understand that the Water Board and the legally separate Niagara Falls Public Water Authority were created by State statutes in 2002. These statutes, called enabling laws, are the principal source of the Water Board's duties and powers. Many of the rules that guide our daily operations are taken directly from the enabling laws. For example, the enabling laws specify

the composition of the Board of Directors, the requirements for setting rates and fees, the requirement that the Water Board comply with the State's Minority and Women Business Enterprise (M/WBE) rules, and more. Copies of the enabling laws are available on this web page: <https://nfwb.org/reports/other/>.

The enabling laws do not contain all of the detail required for the Water Board to operate, such as regulations to make sure that excess pollutants are not dumped in the sewers, water bills are paid, and the safety of drinking water is protected. The State Legislature, through the enabling laws, delegated such rule making powers to the Water Board. This means that instead of needing a State statute to change a rate or regulate cross-connections, the Water Board is empowered to develop and enforce the rules and regulations it finds necessary to implement the broad policies adopted by the Legislature. The Water Board has broad power to adopt rules and regulations governing the transportation, treatment, and sale of water, wastewater, and storm water services. Current versions of the Board's Water and Wastewater Regulations are available at the website listed above.

The procedure that must be followed when adopting rules is known as the "rule making process." This process is designed to ensure that the public has an opportunity to be informed about and comment on proposed rules prior to their adoption. The rule making process for setting rates and fees is relatively simple; other changes to the rules may be more complex and require the filing of reports/analysis to help the public understand the rationale for and impact of the proposed changes.

I would like to ask all readers to consider reviewing the current rules and regulations. If there is something required by the rules that you think can be improved – or if you have an idea for a new regulation that will help the Water Board – please reach out to me.

### ETHICS REMINDER:

As noted in the May-June 2018 edition of the newsletter, the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) has provided an informal opinion that Water Board employees are subject to its rules and regulations. In that edition, we discussed gift rules (remember -- \$15 value is the limit!). All employees are encouraged to spend some time reviewing the information on additional ethics rules at JCOPE's website: <https://jcope.ny.gov/ethics>. If you have questions about the applicability of any of these ethics rules to a particular situation, please come see me! ■



# Report from HR, by Jim Perry, Director of Administrative Services



NFWB has had several new hires since June 1, 2018, adding employees in Legal, Security, Maintenance, Engineering, HR and elsewhere. Sample “first impression” comments from 3 of our newest colleagues follow.

## NEW ADDITION TO ENGINEERING DEPT

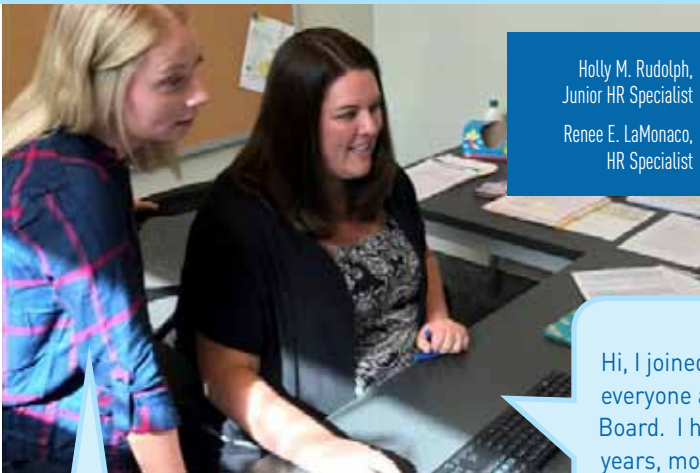


I’ve been at the Water Board since June and I’m looking forward to getting involved with future projects and learning what I can along the way.

**Clayton Hotchkiss**

Clayton L. Hotchkiss, Sanitary Engineer

## NEW HR SPECIALISTS



Holly M. Rudolph,  
Junior HR Specialist  
Renee E. LaMonaco,  
HR Specialist

I’ve been at the Water Board since June 2018. As a Junior HR Specialist I am dedicated to the culture in the workplace and the connectivity of the employees with one another. Culture is a powerful element that shapes your work enjoyment and your work relationships. I enjoy spending my free time with friends and family and doing things outdoors. One of my favorite things to do in the summer/fall months is to go dirt track racing all over the state of NY.

When we work as a team, we can accomplish anything! Thank you all for your hospitality, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you very soon.

Thank you, **Holly Rudolph**

Hi, I joined the Water board in June 1, 2018 and have enjoyed getting to know everyone and all the working parts that make up the Niagara Falls Water Board. I have worked in Human Resources and Management for the last 13 years, most of that time with not-for-profit organizations. I have a strong Employee/Labor relations background, and work hard to develop positive and productive relationships in the workplace. If I haven’t had the opportunity to meet you yet, I encourage you to stop in and say hi. I believe that working in Human Resources, it is one of my top priorities to understand the day to day duties of each employee and the role they play in carrying out our mission.

Today, we often spend more time with our coworkers, in our work environment then we spend at home with our friends, families and loved ones. I value working in a professional, fun and safe environment, and I am sure you do too! I make it a goal to ensure that this is the type of workplace culture that is being built and nurtured. We hear about work/life balance in all the magazines and news articles, but we don’t look upon ourselves to help create that work/life balance, leaving it up only the employer. I’m excited to continue working with each of you and creating a workplace you continue to be proud to call yours.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family, and friends. Fall is my favorite season, and I’m proud to live here in Western New York where we have so many great opportunities to get outside and experience all the season has to offer.

I’m looking forward to growing here, with all of you.

**Renee LaMonaco**

# Memo from Bill Wright, Superintendent



## NEW ERA OF COOPERATION BETWEEN NFWB AND NFFD

The best private business owners and the residents of Niagara Falls can expect is for those who may be at risk to take as many precautions as are reasonably possible to prevent fires, and in a worst case scenario, put fire-fighters in the best possible position to battle a blaze. It is for that

reason that we meet at least monthly with representatives of the Niagara Falls Fire Department to discuss areas of mutual concern, work out problems and anticipate situations that call for coordination and cooperation.

The practical application of our regular meetings was put to the test on the evening of August 6 and the morning of August 7 after fire engulfed a portion of the property of Santarosa Holdings, Inc. near the corner of Highland and College Avenues. After NFWB employees learned of the fire via police scanner it was decided that such coordination could be necessary to aid firefighters in locating the best hydrants to tie in to, to monitor the situation for main breaks (a distinct possibility under such circumstances) and generally to be of help, while also keeping out of the way. Mike Eagler was extra responsive in directing fire crews when additional water was needed at various key points in the blaze. I was there with Bob Drury as we witnessed firsthand the positive pay-off of our planned and coordinated efforts.

While there was substantial loss for product (stockpiled cardboard and paper for conversion into low carbon fuel), no one was injured, nearby residents were never in danger and experts have determined that there are no lasting environmental concerns. We will keep up with the regular meetings with the NF Fire Department and remain "on call" to provide aid and assistance to firefighters as needed. ■



Mike Winker, NFFD Chief of Fire Protection and Bill Wright, Supt.

## BOARD APPRECIATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED:

**From:** Nicholas J. Forster  
**Date:** August 7, 2018 at 9:17:18 AM EDT  
**To:** Rolfe Porter, Bob Drury, Bill Wright

**Subject:** Fire hydrants

Rolfe,

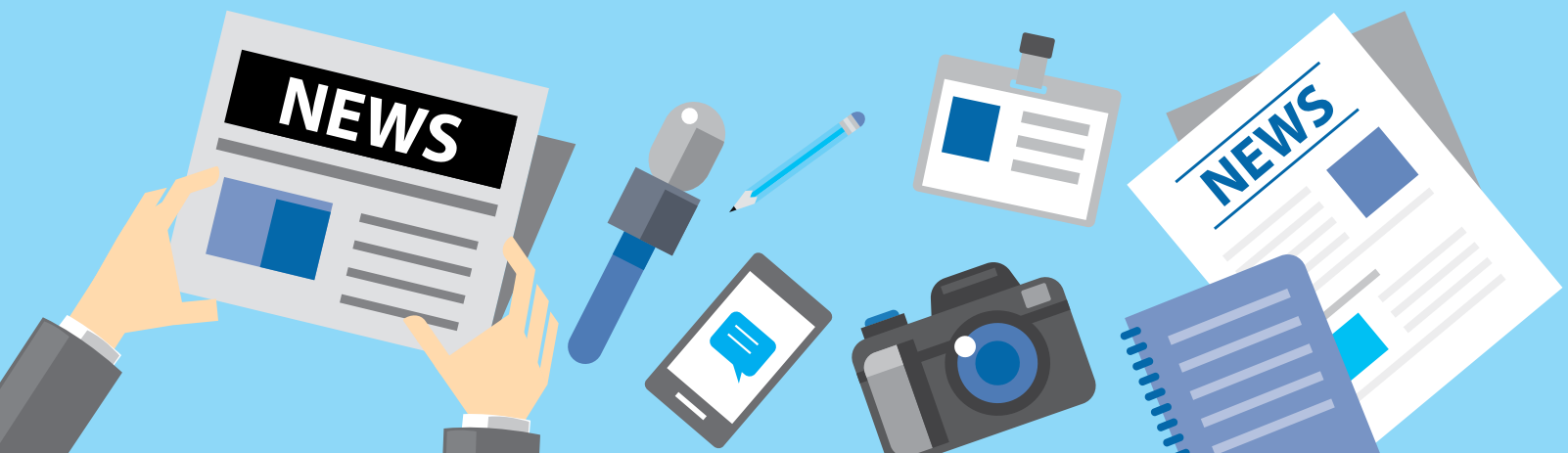
Please extend the appreciation of the Board to the outside maintenance crew for the continued efforts in replacing and maintaining working fire hydrants throughout our city. Their hard work is evident from the huge industrial fire that broke out last night, all six (6) hydrants utilized were fully operational. It's my understanding that one of the six fire hydrants replaced a few months ago had been out of service for 10 years or more.

Job well done.

Regards,  
Nicholas J. Forster  
Member, Niagara Falls Water Board



# Media Day, July 23, 2018



NFWB directors, executive staff members and professional consultants were available on July 23 at the WWTP to provide the print and broadcast press a thorough update on our proactive efforts to improve overall system operations and efficiencies, as well as the functionality of the existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and other investment needs.

Attendee got a firsthand look at the plant in operation and heard the details of the steps taken to date and the work to come in the months ahead.

The event was well attended and received wide coverage in print and on TV. Coverage generally consisted of positive reactions to the operational enhancements and system-wide improvements implemented over the past year following the July 29, 2017 dark water discharge incident. ■



# Chairman's Corner, by Dan O'Callaghan



## LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

The cooperation of local government and business leaders in lending public support to our recent grant applications to New York's Environment Facilities Corporation and to the Empire State Development Corporation is greatly appreciated. I want to personally thank Mayor Dyster, county legislators Mark Grozio, Dennis Virtuoso, Jason Zona and Owen Steed; city councilmen William Kennedy, Ezra Scott, Kenny Tomkins, Chairman Touma and Christopher Voccio; Senator Robert Ortt and Assemblyman Angelo Morrinello; and business and tourism leaders Pat Proctor and John Percy. Their willingness to support our efforts will be a positive factor in the review of the grant applications and is a strong indication of the success of the efforts of the Board and management to not only meet operational challenges but to gain the trust and support of government and business leaders...and our ratepayers. Our work is far from over, but progress is being made.

Representative letters follow.

  
Dan O'Callaghan

## SUPPORT LETTERS

Christopher Schoepflin  
Senior Vice President, Empire State Development  
95 Perry Street  
Suite 500  
Buffalo, NY 10203-3030

July 27, 2018

The undersigned members of the Niagara Falls Tourism Advisory Board hereby express our support for the Consolidated Funding Application of the Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB) for funding from the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program. The application at II be submitted to the ESD offices in Buffalo and is due on July 27.

We understand that the projects to be included in the grant application for upgrades to the Niagara Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant have been identified by the NFWB as the best course to restore treatment process effectiveness, renew aging infrastructure, address operational considerations, promote permit compliance, and, importantly, reduce the likelihood of future incidents such as the discharge into the Niagara river that took place on July 29, 2017. Knowing of the importance of the proposed upgrades to tire residents of our city, we enthusiastically support the NFWB's grant application. The Tourism Advisory Board believes that the promotion of an upgraded facility is vital to tourism.

As Governor Cuomo has often pointed out with 9 million annual visitors, "Niagara Falls is one of our states most valuable tourism assets, drawing visitors from around the globe to see the magnificent falls". Accordingly, we believe strongly that without safe, efficient and reliable infrastructure, especially for such services as wastewater treatment, continuing efforts that we have supported to revitalize the local economy, will, sadly, be hindered and could be held back from delivering the needed growth and longed for return of economic vitality to the city of Niagara Falls.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Proctor  
Chairman Niagara Falls Tourism Advisory Board

August 30, 2018

Dwight Brown  
Division of Engineering & Program Management  
New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12207-2997

**Re: Waterlawn Projects and Water Tower Replacement,  
Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)**

Dear Mr. Brown:

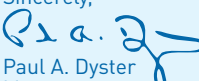
I am writing to express my support for the grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board to the Environmental Facilities Corporation for funding to facilitate the replacement of water lines and service connections at locations in the city on 10th Street, Michigan Avenue, Whitney Avenue, 77th Sheet and Military Road. I also support that portion the city on 10th Street, Michigan Avenue, Whitney Avenue, 77th Sheet and Military Road. I also support that portion of the grant application seeking funding for the demolition and replacement of a water storage and distribution tower on Beech Avenue in Niagara Falls.

The waterline project will replace aged facilities well beyond their expected useful life and that have experienced frequent disruptive breaks. More importantly, since the existing lead component service connections pose a danger connections should be changed to copper or another non-hazardous material as soon as possible.

Our city engineering department worked closely with the Water Board in selecting the highest priority areas for the proposed waterline and lead service replacement projects and prepared the engineering reports for each site. The water tower project is important to provide needed storage of clean drinking water and to help ensure the availability of supply under emergency conditions.

The City of Niagara Falls is moving forward. Governor Andrew Cuomo has continued to address our need for strategic, focused development of our downtown area; most recently with a transformative plan in which the state will acquire more than 30 privately held parcels for development. Meanwhile, we must guarantee that our neighborhoods are safe, that public services are maintained and that infrastructure --such as water lines, service connections and water storage facilities -- are upgraded and improved. Accordingly, the Environmental Facilities Corporation is urged to favorably consider the WIIA grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board.

Sincerely,

  
Paul A. Dyster  
Mayor

*continued on next page*

August 30, 2010

Dwight Brown  
Division of Engineering & Program Management  
New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12207-2997

Re: Watermain Projects and Water Tower Replacement,  
Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)

Dear Mr. Brown:

The undersigned members of the Niagara Falls City Council write to express our support for the grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board to the Environmental Facilities Corporation for funding to facilitate the replacement of water lines and service connections at locations in the city on 10th Street, Michigan Avenue, Whitney Avenue, 77th Street and Military Road. We also support that portion of the grant application seeking funding for the demolition and replacement of a water storage and distribution tower on Beech Avenue in Niagara Falls.

The waterline project will replace aged facilities well beyond their expected useful life and that have experienced frequent disruptive breaks. More importantly, since certain lead component service connections pose a danger to the health of the residents within the project areas and throughout the distribution system of Niagara Falls, such connections should be changed to copper or another non-hazardous material as soon as possible. The water tower project is important to provide needed storage of clean drinking water and to help ensure the availability of supply under emergency conditions.

The people of our city look forward to a brighter future as this council emphasizes fiscal responsibility and smart development. We acknowledge, of course, that government must do all it can to keep our neighborhoods safe, to provide efficient public services and maintain infrastructure—such as water lines, service connections and water storage facilities—that are upgraded and improved. Accordingly, the Environmental Facilities Corporation is urged to favorably consider the MIA grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board.

Very truly yours,



William Kennedy II



Kenny Tompkins



Andrew P. Touma



Ezra P. Scott, Jr.



Christopher Voccio

Mark J. Grozio  
Legislator  
3<sup>rd</sup> District  
640 73<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

(716) 283-8033

August 22, 2018

Dwight Brown  
Division of Engineering & Program Management  
New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12207-2997

Re: Watermain Projects and Water Tower Replacement,  
Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)

Dear Mr. Brown:

As members of the Niagara County Legislature representing the city of Niagara Falls, we are writing to express our support for the grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board to the Environmental Facilities Corporation for funding to facilitate the replacement of water lines and service connections at locations in the city on 10th Street, Michigan Avenue, Whitney Avenue, 77th Street and Military Road. We also support the demolition and replacement of a water storage and distribution tower on Beech Avenue in Niagara Falls.

The waterline project will replace facilities well beyond a useful life that have experienced, frequent disruptive breaks. More importantly, since the existing lead component service connections pose a danger to the health of the residents within the project areas and throughout the distribution system of Niagara Falls, such connections should be changed to copper or another non-hazardous material as soon as possible. The water tower project is important to provide needed storage of clean drinking water and to help ensure the availability of supply under emergency conditions.

Accordingly, the Environmental Facilities Corporation is urged to favorably consider the WIIA grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board.

Very truly yours,



Mark J. Grozio  
Legislator, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



Jason A. Zona  
Legislator, 5<sup>th</sup> District



Owen T. Steed  
Legislator, 4<sup>th</sup> District



Dennis F. Virtuoso, Minority Leader  
Legislator, 6<sup>th</sup> District



July 20, 2018

Christopher Schoepflin  
Senior Vice President, Empire State Development  
95 Perry Street  
Suite 500  
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Dear Mr. Schoepflin:

**Re: Consolidated Funding Application of the Niagara Falls Water Board - Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades**

I would like to express my support for the grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board (NFWB) for funding from the Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program. It is my understand that the funding request will be made pursuant to the terms of the State's Consolidated Funding Application process and that the NFWB application will be submitted this month.

The summary of the projects identifies projects at the Niagara Falls Waste Water Treatment Plant to restore treatment process effectiveness, renew aging infrastructure, address operational considerations, and promote permit compliance. It is my hope that it will reduce the likelihood of future incidents such as the discharge into the lower Niagara River that took place on July 29, 2017.

Niagara Falls is one of the world's most valuable tourism assets, drawing nearly nine million visitors yearly from around the globe. Safe, efficient and reliable infrastructure, especially for such services as wastewater treatment, will continue efforts to help revitalize the local economy. Accordingly, as the elected representative to the New York State Legislature representing the City of Niagara Falls, I urge favorable consideration of the subject grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Ort  
Senator, 62nd District

August 23, 2018

Mr. Dwight Broom Division of Engineering/Program  
Management New York State Environmental Facilities Corp.  
625 Broadway  
Albany NY 12207-2997

RE: Watermain Projects and Water Tower Replacement, Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA)

Dear Mr. Brown:

As the member of the New York State Assembly representing the City of Niagara Falls, I'm writing to express my wholehearted support for the grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board to the Environmental Facilities Corporation for funding to facilitate the replacement of water lines and service connections at locations in the City on 10th Street, Michigan Avenue, Whitney Avenue, 77th Street and Military Road.

I also submit that portion of the grant application seeking funding for the demolition and replacement of a water storage and distribution tower on Beech Avenue in Niagara Falls.

The waterline project will replace aged facilities well beyond their expected useful life and that have experienced frequent disruptive breaks. More importantly, since the existing lead component service connections pose a danger to the health of the residents within the project areas and throughout the distribution system of Niagara Falls, such connections should be changed to copper or another non-hazardous material as soon as possible. The water tower project is important to provide needed storage of clean drinking water and to help ensure the availability of supply under emergency conditions. Inasmuch as providing resources for essential infrastructure improvements has been a top priority for members of the Legislature, I urge the Environmental Facilities Corporation to favorably consider the WIIA grant application of the Niagara Falls Water Board.

Very truly yours,



ANGELO J. MORINELLO

AJM/cld

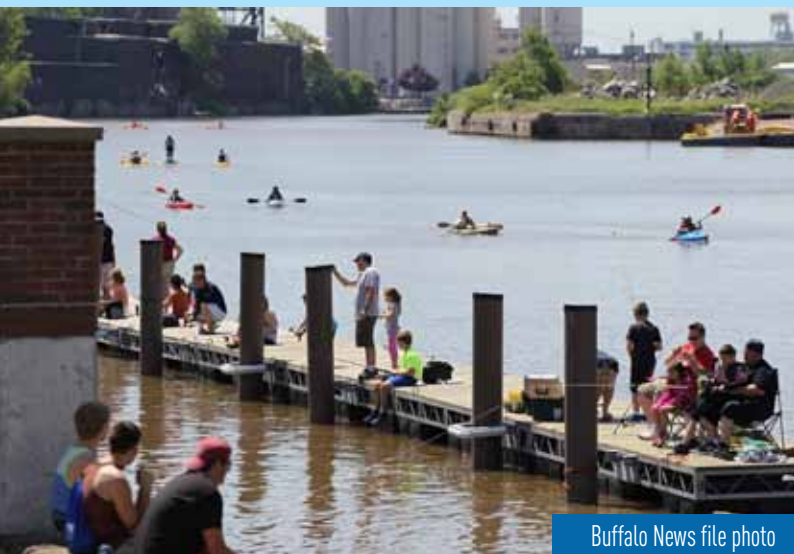
# Publications, incidentals and Miscellaneous

## “BIG RED” AND “BIG BLUE” UNDER A BLUE SKY



Left-to-Right, Matt Shumate, John Koury, Tim Gratto, Nick Kindzia, Alex Hailey, Mike Ross, Brandon Perotti, Mike Eagler, Byron Stewart, Ed White, Nick Castile, Vinny Velasco and Tracey M. Pitrello

## WILSON FOUNDATION GRANT TO WATERKEEPER



Buffalo News file photo

Congratulations to the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper on the receipt of a \$3 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Foundation (<https://buffalonews.com/2018/10/11/buffalo-niagara-waterkeeper-receives-3-million-from-wilson-foundation/>). The non-profit Waterkeeper organization works to protect and restore local waterways and surrounding ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations. The grant money will go toward further restoration of the Buffalo waterfront, and will be leveraged with investments from public, private and other non-profit organizations to help Waterkeeper improve recreational access as well as increase eco-tourism and encourage community revitalization. ■

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Ontario official concerned about sewer overflows

Chairman O’Callaghan was firm but diplomatic in his response to a statement from Wayne Gates, a member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament, complaining to a provincial environmental official about what Gates called the “continual discharge of wastewater” into the Niagara River from Niagara Falls, N.Y. The chairman made it clear that discharges occur on both sides of the border and that responsible officials on our side, at the state and local level, are doing everything possible to address the issue. ■

## LAB SEMINAR AT O'LAUGHLIN

The Drinking Water Laboratory Director, Patrick Fama recently hosted a two-day seminar for representatives from Shimadzu Scientific Instruments Inc., Product Coordinator Yuan Lin and Sr. Technical Support Arto Nyman.

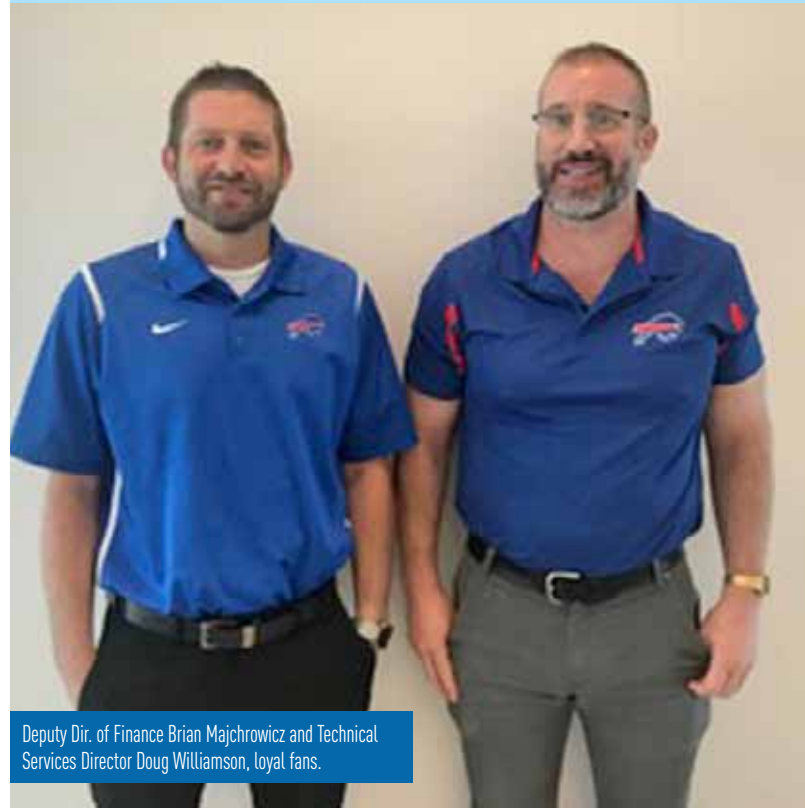
The focus of the seminar was EPA method 552.2, which involved hands-on training in sample preparation for Haloacetic Acids. The goal was to better understand the method and any problems that may arise during the lengthy multi-step extraction process. The Shimadzu representatives were guided through the process on the first day, which included preparing a calibration curve and also sample preparation. The samples were then analyzed on the Shimadzu Gas Chromatograph.

The Shimadzu GCMS product Manager, Nicole Lock, joined on the second day to discuss their findings and experiences. Nicole was so impressed with the overall experience that she has communicated interest in having the seminar offered at the Shimadzu headquarters in Columbia Maryland for the Shimadzu Tech Team, and also for other environmental labs that may be experiencing difficulties with the method. ■



Arto Nyman and Yuan Lin of Shimadzu Scientific Instruments, Inc., with, center, Lab Director Pat Fama

## GO BILLS! BUFFALO BILLS FANS NEVER GIVE UP. RIGHT?



Deputy Dir. of Finance Brian Majchrowicz and Technical Services Director Doug Williamson, loyal fans.

## CAMERA TRUCK DURING TRAINING BREAK



Left to right, Nick Castile, Brandon Perotti, Tracey M. Pitrello and Vinny Velasco

## Feedback

As always, your comments or suggestions on the subjects in this newsletter or other areas of interest are welcome and encouraged. Please contact me via email, phone or stop in to my office, if I'm not there say hello to Erika and make an appointment to come back and see me.

**Use the Feedback page:**

**<http://mco2/Nfwb%20Intranet/Feedback>**

Thank you and best regards,

RP

