



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1907

Don't forget to renew your membership

Renewal can be completed online at the [AWMA Website](#) or using the hardcopy form provided on the website.

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THE RELEASE

Vol. 52 No. 1 September 2023

Peter Grasso — Editor

Message from the Chair

Peter Grasso

Welcome to the 2023-2024 year of the Air & Waste Management Association – Niagara Frontier Section (A&WMA-NFS). I am honored to serve as the Chair of this great organization. I would like to thank all our board members for their contributions and assisting me in my role as the Chair. We have another great year ahead of us and our board members are already working hard to make the 2023-2024 season a great success. Please join us for the first dinner meeting of the fall starting with a Bus Tour of the former Bethlehem Steel Corporation (BSC) Plant followed by dinner at Curly's Restaurant on Thursday, September 28th (see attached meeting announcement for additional details). Stan Radon of the NYSDEC will be narrating the bus tour and will give a presentation at Curly's. If you have never been to the former BSC plant site, which encompasses the City of Lackawanna's Lake Erie shoreline, this kickoff event is an opportunity you do not want to miss. As you can see below, there are many volunteers involved in running our organization. However, we are always looking for new people to help out and bring new ideas to the group. I encourage all our members to invite other professionals to attend one of our meetings. Getting involved in A&WMA-NFS is a great opportunity to keep up to date on current practices and to network. We look forward to seeing you at our dinner meetings.

The following are the Officers for the year 2023-2024:

[Lindsey Haubenreich](#) is taking over the duties of the Vice-Chair and will be responsible for setting up speakers and locations for the dinner meetings. Let her know if you have any ideas for tours, speakers or dining locations. Lindsey is an Attorney at Phillips Lytle LLP.

(Cont'd on p. 6)

Monthly Meeting Schedule

SEPTEMBER 2023 DINNER MEETING

The [A&WMA-NFS](#) September dinner meeting will feature a narrated bus tour of the former Bethlehem Steel Site, narrated by Stan Radon of the NYSDEC. Stan will also give a presentation of the site following the dinner.

The tour will begin at 5:00 PM. Park at Roux (Benchmark/TurnKey) office at 2558 Hamburg Turnpike, across the street from the Site. The dinner and presentations will be held at Curly's Grille & Banquet Center in Lackawanna. Social hour begins at 6:15 PM.

[Mark Your Calendars](#) for the Upcoming Monthly Meetings:

- September 28, 2023 — BSC Tour & Dinner Meeting, Curly's Grille & Banquet Center
- October 19, 2023 — Dinner Meeting, Erie County Sustainability Efforts, Location TBD
- November 16, 2023 — Dinner Meeting, TBD
- December 14, 2023 — Holiday Social, TDB
- January 25, 2024 — Enrichment Seminar

Please visit the website for updates on the Monthly Meeting schedule.

People on the Move**Peter Grasso**

Recent changes in job status (that we are aware of) include:

- ⇒ **Robert Poczalski**, P.G. has been promoted to the NYSDEC Region 9 as the Regional Spills Geologist. Rob will be responsible for supervising the spills, petroleum bulk storage, and chemical bulk storage program staff and manage all spill responses, remediations, compliance inspections, registrations, and enforcement activities. Rob will also fill the role of Deputy Regional Emergency Response Coordinator assisting with emergency response incidents in the region.
- ⇒ **Derick Dietrich** has been hired by the NYSDEC Region 9 as an Environmental Radiation Specialist Trainee 1 in the Division of Materials Management (DMM) to support R9's ever growing work with radioactive contamination and the West Valley site. Derick will also be assisting the Division of Environmental Remediation in the Brownfield and Superfund programs.

If you have changed jobs, gotten a promotion or retired, let us know. Information can be sent to Peter Grasso (newsletter editor) at pxgrasso@gmail.com.

Envirun 5K 2024**Mary Padasak**

The A&WMA NFS is looking forward to planning the 32nd running of the Envirun 5k, coming April 2024. Our kickoff meeting will be held at Olympic Restaurant (1601 Military Road, Tonawanda) on October 24th at 7:30 am.

Anyone interested in joining the committee is welcome! We are always looking for volunteers for helping with ideas, organization, and volunteering, so don't be shy. Prior experience is not required, just an interest in helping to continue to raise money for environmental grants and spread environmental awareness around WNY.

Finally, please look into sponsorship opportunities at your companies for Envirun. We will be revamping the menu this year, to modernize our offerings. As financial plans get set for the new year, we would like to be part of your budget! The success of this event wouldn't be possible without our generous sponsors, many of whom come back year after year.

If you would like to join our planning committee, please let me know at awmaenvirun5k@gmail.com or 716-462-9105. Also, we are looking to find a cause or program to receive a grant with some of the proceeds for this event. If you know of a worthy environmental program in the WNY area, please send some information to me and I will share with the committee. Let's keep improving the WNY environment!



Future City Competition 2023 - 2024**Hal Pierce and Kathy Moguel**

National Engineer's Week Foundation hosts the Future City Competition each year for middle schools around the world. A&WMA-NFS has participated in this rewarding program for many years.

Each fall, students from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade form teams to design a city of the future. This year they will design a city completely powered by electricity generated from various sources. They will research current technologies, imagineer future technologies and design and build a future city. Teams submit an essay about their city, a project plan, and a scale model of the city with a student presentation of the city.



Engineers are needed to be team mentors for our Western NY teams and to judge presentations at a Regional Competition. Team mentors work with the teacher and team to educate students on the role of an engineer in technological design and implementation.

Judges are also needed to score essays and/or come to the Competition in January to judge live presentations by the students.

Anyone interested can register as a mentor or a judge at <https://futurecity.org/register/>. Please select the New York Western region. For any competition information or further details please contact Bonnie Rizzo at bonitarizzo@aol.com or by phone at (716) 803-9408.



2023 Future Cities AWMA Team Winners

Membership

Kathy Moguel

Currently we have over 86 members in the Air & Waste Management's Niagara Frontier Section with roughly a 45/55 split between international and local affiliates. To check membership status, please log onto the [AWMA-NFS Website](#).

Corporate memberships are valid for one year from the date of renewal while local memberships expire on August 31st annually. New members and renewal applications can be found on our website. Payment can be made either through the website or via mail. Membership categories and dues are as follows:

Local Affiliate Member	\$36	* Corporate Sponsor includes an International Membership for one person and a local affiliate membership for a second person.
Local Affiliate Member [Full-Time College Student]	\$11	
International Member	\$195	
International Member [Young Professional - 35 or younger]	\$98	** Web Sponsor includes an International Membership for one person and a local affiliate membership for a second person. In addition, the corporate logo of a website sponsor will be displayed on the home page of the AWMA website.
International Member [Full-Time College Student]	\$35	
Corporate Sponsor*	\$325	
Web Sponsor**	\$500	

If you have any questions about becoming a member or renewing your membership please contact Kathy Moguel at awmanfsmembership@gmail.com. A list of current membership can be found on the [AWMS-NFS website](#).

NYS Env. Bond Act - Project Ideas Survey

Peter Grasso

The deadline to submit project ideas for funding through the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act survey has been extended to Sept. 30, 2023. The survey, available at <https://bit.ly/BondActSurvey>, has collected hundreds of project ideas from potential applicants and interested stakeholders so far. The survey is not a formal funding application, but instead was designed to solicit input about the State's existing funding mechanisms and help municipalities, community-based organizations, and other New Yorkers share potential projects ideas and capture feedback about the types of projects communities may want supported with Bond Act resources.

Projects of interest may include drinking water and wastewater municipal infrastructure needs; flood prevention or areas where home buyouts may be considered; innovative approaches to prevent climate change impacts; actions to increase recreational access or improve recreational infrastructure; opportunities to protect open space or restore habitat; and other potential community-based efforts that complement the Bond Act's objectives.

The survey was extended in response to requests from community-based organizations and attendees of the [Bond Act listening tour that concluded last month](#) and, along with the 10-stop educational listening tour, it is part of the State's commitment to a collaborative and transparent process in the delivery of Bond Act funds. Over several months, the tour – including two virtual sessions with recordings available at www.ny.gov/BondAct – provided an opportunity for the public and potential funding applicants to learn more about the Bond Act and to begin discussions on the guidelines being developed to identify potential projects.

Benchmark-TurnKey Merger with Roux in Buffalo, NY**Lori Riker**

Benchmark Civil/Environmental Engineering & Geology, PLLC and TurnKey Environmental Restoration, LLC (collectively called Benchmark-TurnKey) have merged with Roux as of July 24, 2023 and will continue to provide clients with the same exemplary service under the name Roux Environmental Engineering and Geology, D.P.C.



Benchmark-TurnKey was founded in 1998 and was majority owned and managed by Tom Forbes (President of Benchmark who joined in 1998) and Mike Lesakowski (President of TurnKey who joined the firm in 2006). In addition to Tom and Mike, Benchmark-TurnKey brought three additional Principals to Roux – Lori Riker, Chris Boron, and Nate Munley as well as a strong team of technical directors, engineers, scientists, and heavy equipment operators.

Benchmark was a licensed professional engineering company that provided comprehensive civil and environmental engineering services. TurnKey provided site investigation, remediation, and infrastructure construction, and environmental and site management services. Benchmark-TurnKey, comprised of 35 personnel, was known to be a strong advocate for their clients' business interests and projects. Many of their client relationships span over 25 years. Tom Forbes, new Vice President at Roux, shared, "Mike and I are proud to be welcomed into a company that strongly values its clients and personnel in the same way we do and shares our career-long passion for doing quality work that benefits the environment. We all look forward to our future with Roux!"

Roux has worked in Western New York for over 25 years on multi-year remediation projects, partnering with Benchmark-TurnKey several times on projects, which ultimately led to a realization that combining firms and achieving a more substantial presence in Western New York would benefit all. Sin Senh, CEO of Roux, stated, "This cultural alignment between our two firms just makes good business sense, allowing us to better service and expand our clients in Western New York, a geography currently experiencing a growth cycle with new opportunities in technology, manufacturing, and clean energy. I am excited to take this next step with them, and I know they will help us grow in the long term."

Corporate Sponsors**Mark Hans**

We would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors for their continued support of our organization. The money provided through our prorated sponsorship program is used to help fund our various scholarships. A list of our current Corporate Sponsors follows:

- ⇒ **Alpha Analytical** (<https://alphalab.com>) is a full service analytical laboratory with offices located throughout the Northeast. The local office is in Tonawanda. For more information, please contact Pat Filey (pfiley@alphalab.com).
- ⇒ **CADEX of Western NY** (<http://cadex.net/>) supplies industrial equipment, focusing on environmental and waste issues. For more information, please contact Will Wilesovich (will@cadex.com).
- ⇒ **C&S Companies** (<https://www.cscos.com/>) is a national consulting firm which offers a wide range of services. They have a local office in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Dan Riker (driker@cscos.com).

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Message from the Chair (Continued)**Peter Grasso**

Mark Hans will continue as the A&WMA-NFS treasurer. Mark is responsible for the money that goes into and out of our accounts, also maintains our section website and is co-chair for our annual seminar. Mark is a very busy retired engineer from the NYSDEC Buffalo office.

Michael Emery will continue to serve as our secretary. Mike is responsible for taking minutes at our Board meetings, sending out notices to membership and keeping me in line. Mike is the Regional Engineer for NYSDEC Region 9.

Christa Bucior takes over the reins as the Past Chairperson. Many thanks to Christa for her leadership last year. I look forward to getting advice from Christa on any issues that may arise. Christa is an environmental engineer with Geosyntec Consultants.

The following members of the Board are serving as Directors:

Sean Donahue is new to the board and has stepped up to be a co-chair for our annual seminar. Sean is an Attorney at Phillips Lytle LLP. Sean will be co-chair along with Mark Hans to plan the enrichment seminar scheduled for January 25, 2024.

Krysta Cione is new to the board and will co-chair the Envirun committee and help promote the section via social media. Krysta is an environmental engineer with Modern Corporation in Model City.

Kathleen Moguel will continue as the Membership Coordinator. Kathleen is currently an environmental engineer with the Durez Corporation in Niagara Falls.

Lori Riker will continue as the Education Committee Coordinator and as our PDH coordinator for the dinner meetings and the seminar. Lori is an environmental engineer with Roux (formerly Benchmark/Turnkey).

Taylor Manin will continue as the Reservations and Young Professional Coordinator. Taylor is an environmental engineer for the NYSDEC in the Division of Environmental Remediation.

Mary Padasak will continue to head up the Envirun committee. Mary is an engineer with General Mills in Buffalo.

Lindsey Haubenreich will continue as our representative with the Technical Societies Council of Western New York. This group includes representatives from most of the professional organizations in Western New York.

Peter Grasso will continue to prepare the newsletter. Please contact me if any current member is interested in taking on this responsibility. Typically, three newsletters are published per year. Peter is the Regional Materials Management Supervisor for the NYSDEC Region 9.

Paul VanKerkhove will continue to be the financial secretary for this year. Paul will be responsible for preparing and monitoring our budget. Paul is an environmental engineer with GHD in Niagara Falls.

Bruce Wattle will continue as our Historian. Bruce is an environmental professional at WSP in Amherst.

Vacant Board liaison with the UB Student Chapter. Any UB student interested in getting involved with AWMANFS please contact any board member.

Corporate Sponsors (Continued)**Mark Hans**

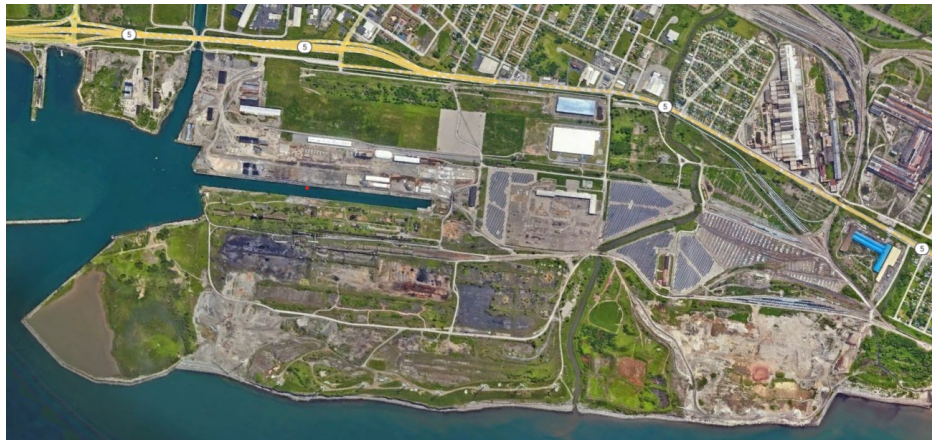
- ⇒ **Glenn Springs** (<https://www.oxy.com/>) is part of OXY and they are responsible for maintenance of the former OXY waste sites in Western New York. For more information, please contact Timothy Bathory (timothy.bathory@oxy.com).
- ⇒ **Hodgson Russ LLP** (<https://www.hodgsonruss.com/>) is a legal firm with offices along the eastern seaboard. Their local office is in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Michael Hecker (mhecker@hodgsonruss.com).
- ⇒ **The Knoer Group** (<http://knoergroup.com/>) is a local law firm located in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Robert Knoer (rknoer@knoergroup.com).
- ⇒ **Linde, PLC** (<https://www.linde.com/>) is a leading global industrial gases and engineering company. They have a local office in Tonawanda. For more information, please contact David Copeland (dave.copeland@linde.com).
- ⇒ **The LiRo Group** (<https://www.liro.com/>) is an integrated construction, design, and technology solutions firm with offices located throughout the northeast. They have a local office in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Robert Kreuzer (kreuzerr@liro.com).
- ⇒ **Modern Corporation** (<https://www.moderncorporation.com/>) is a local waste and recycling management company. They are located in Model City. For more information, please contact Krysta Cione (kcione@modern-corp.com).
- ⇒ **Phillips Lytle LLP** (<https://phillipslytle.com/>) is a legal firm with offices along the eastern seaboard. Their local office is in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Lindsey Haubenreich (lhaubenreich@phillipslytle.com).
- ⇒ **Roux Environmental Engineering and Geology, D.P.C.** (<http://www.rouxinc.com/>), formerly Benchmark-TurnKey Companies, is a licensed professional engineering company that provides comprehensive civil and environmental engineering services including regulatory compliance support, site investigations, remediation and infrastructure construction, and environmental and site management services. Roux is located in Lackawanna. For more information, please contact Lori Riker (lriker@rouxinc.com).
- ⇒ **Watts Architecture & Engineers** (<https://watts-ae.com/>) offers a wide range of architecture and engineering services. They are located in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Kevin Janik (kjanik@watts-ae.com).
- ⇒ **WSP** (<https://www.wsp.com/en-us>) is a worldwide, multi-sector consulting company. Their local office is in Amherst. For more information, please contact Bruce Wattle (bruce.wattle@wsp.com).

Monthly Meeting Announcement

Peter Grasso



MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT Thursday September 28, 2023



TOUR of the former BETHLEHEM STEEL SITE **Lackawanna, NY**

**Bus Tour of the Site to be narrated by Stan Radon of the
NYSDEC followed by a Presentation after Dinner**

Tour Meeting Location:

Park at Roux (Benchmark/TurnKey) Office
2558 Hamburg Turnpike, Lackawanna, NY 14218

Meeting/Presentation Location:

Curly's Grille & Banquet Center
647 Ridge Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218

Tour: 5:00 - 6:00 pm Social Hour: 6:15 - 6:45 pm Dinner & Speaker: 6:45 pm

- \$10 – Bus Tour (limited to maximum of 44 passengers)
- \$25 – A&WMA International Members
- \$25 – Young Professional A&WMA-NFS Members (35 or younger)
- \$30 – A&WMA-NFS Local Members
- \$35 – Non-Members
- \$15 – Full-Time Student
- \$10 – PDH Credits (1 PDH credit approval pending – for the presentation only)

Reservations due no later than Thursday September 21, 2023
(No cancellations accepted after this date)

RESERVATIONS: www.awmanfs.wildapricot.org awmanfs.reservations1@gmail.com

*If you have questions about reservations, please contact Taylor Monnin at (716) 803-7938

Monthly Meeting Announcement**Peter Grasso**

<i>2023-2024 A&WMA-NFS Schedule</i>	
<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>
October 19, 2024	Presentation: Erie County Sustainability Efforts Location: TBD
November 16, 2023	Presentation: TBD Location: TBD
December 14, 2023	Holiday Social Location: TBD
January 25, 2024	Annual Seminar Templeton Landing
February 22, 2023	Presentation: TBD Location: TBD
March 28, 2023	Presentation: TBD Location: TBD
April 25, 2023	Presentation: TBD Location: TBD
May 23, 2023	Awards Presentation Location: TBD

<i>Appreciation to our A&WMA-NFS Corporate Sponsors:</i>			
Alpha Analytical	Roux (Benchmark Civil/Environmental Engineering & Geology)	Cadex	C&S Companies
Hodgson Russ LLP	The Knoer Group	Linde, PLC	LiRo Engineers, Inc
Modern Corporation	OXY Chem	Phillips Lytle LLP	Watts Architecture & Engineering
WSP USA (Golder Associates)			

Please consider having your company become a corporate sponsor of A&WMA-NFS. Please contact Mark Hans (mjhans9@gmail.com) for information.

2023-2024 A&WMA-NFS Executive Board**OFFICERS**

Chair	Peter Grasso (New York State DEC / pxgrasso@gmail.com)
Vice Chair	Lindsey Haubebreich (Philips Lytle / lhaubenreich@phillipslytle.com)
Treasurer	Mark Hans (Retired – New York State DEC / mjhans9@gmail.com)
Secretary	Mike Emery (New York State DEC / awmanfssecretary@gmail.com)
Past Chair	Christa Bucior (Geosyntec / christabucior@gmail.com)

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 Taylor Monnin (New York State DEC / taylormonnin10@gmail.com)
 Mary Padasak (General Mills / mary.padasak@genmills.com)
 Lori Riker (Roux / awmanfs.education@gmail.com)

The Niagara Frontier Section of the AWMA, Inc. publishes its newsletter, **THE RELEASE**, quarterly as a service to its members.

If you would like to submit an article for the next issue of **THE RELEASE**, please contact:

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AWMA-NFS
and also on

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Air and Waste Management
Association

Niagara Frontier Section



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