

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONTINUED

This fundamental imbalance in the Regulating District's finances has loomed large in recent years and in many respects presented financial uncertainties would ultimately could have threatened the Regulating District's ability to deliver on its operational mission, and make the necessary capital investments to keep its infrastructure safe and functioning as designed for future generations. This critically important correction to the Regulating District's funding model is great news for taxpayers and the residents we serve, ensuring that we can continue to provide current level of service, and make those necessary infrastructure investments, for decades to come.

Importantly, the Regulating District is also negotiating new agreements for the operation of hydroelectric power plants at its Stillwater and Conklingville Dams. The existing agreements have expired but have been extended. The Regulating District anticipates reaching agreements with these companies in 2022 which represent fair market value and which further enhance the Regulating District's financial position.

### ***Important Infrastructure Improvements on Agenda***

With an improved financial outlook overall, and with funding secured from the State for the Conklingville Dam project, the Regulating District is aggressively pursuing other capital investments in its infrastructure. Work to rehabilitate Hawkinsville Dam in the Town of Boonville, Oneida County is projected to begin this summer and be substantially complete by the end of the year. The Regulating District is also working with its consultants to finalize design for a rehabilitation of Indian Lake Dam in Hamilton County,

with work expected to be ongoing in 2023. And engineering analysis and preliminary design work continues for eventual projects at Stillwater, Old Forge, and Sixth Lake, with the Board slated to receive an update on the Old Forge and Sixth Lake design at its May Board meeting in Old Forge.

### ***Renewal Season a Success***

Just as spring is a season of renewal, the *permit* renewal season has drawn to a close and I also want again thank those GSL permit holders who have taken the time to renew their permits for 2022, especially those who have utilized our online access permit payment system during its second year of operation. There were 2698 renewals using the online system in 2022, amounting to 56% of all renewals processed! More customer service improvements featuring this online capability are under development, and we hope to have more information on that soon.

2022 marks our 100<sup>th</sup> year of serving residents in the Hudson River Area, and thanks to a fruitful State budget, and the continued great work of our incredible team here, the future of our organization has never looked brighter!

### ***Best Wishes for Safe, Happy Boating Season***

Finally, as we embark on the summer boating season the Coast Guardsman in me can't help but ask those of you who recreate on the water to make a plan, be alert, boat sober, "wear it", and always be on the lookout for hazards. National Safe Boating week is right around the corner but we all have a shared responsibility to help keep each other safe each and every day. One way to do so is to visit the GSL Safe Lake Initiative on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/203634077638678/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/203634077638678/) and don't forget to

download – and use – the Henry D. Ross III “Send It” app to help keep your fellow boaters safe. Google “Send It – HDRIII” and you’ll have no trouble finding it on Google Play or the Apple Store.