

## **Message from the Executive Director**

### **Continued...**

Perhaps most importantly, working with our local partners and our colleagues in state government, we will continue to address critically important capital needs at structures within the HRBRRD's jurisdiction, like the Conklingville Dam. We will also continue to advance planning and design for other, no less important projects at our other facilities. The structural integrity and operational readiness of these facilities is paramount relative to our mission of flood protection and flow augmentation, and there is no responsibility we take more seriously.

To that end, the HRBRRD Board will adopt a new, balanced three-year spending plan this June which seeks to fulfill those objectives and continue to deliver a high level of service with the greatest efficiency possible. From 2013 through 2019, HRBRRD expenses exceeded revenue in six out of seven years, so a key focus will be to continue the trend of our balance sheet being in the black over the last two years. This budget will not include any future increases to Great Sacandaga Lake access permit fees, limits growth in spending in accordance with all applicable agreements, and will include moving forward with critically important investments in infrastructure.

Finally, many of the subscribers to this newsletter have no doubt spoken to or worked with our Area Administrator, John Hodgson. Despite my incessant pleas to sign up for another 10 years, John has decided to retire this June after over two decades serving in various roles here at HRBRRD. John joined the Regulating District as a Maintenance Worker in 2000 after a long and distinguished career in the U.S. Coast Guard. John and I were neighbors on Governor's Island in New York Harbor for his last two years of Coast Guard service and my first two years – though we never met. John went on to serve as Engineering Assistant, Hudson River Area Administrator, ultimately serving as Administrator for both the Hudson and Black River Areas, and Interim Executive Director. As anyone who has had the pleasure of dealing with John can attest, he is the consummate public servant, and an incredible asset to the Regulating District. Whether a permittee with an issue, a member of the public with a question, or a colleague with a problem – John treats everyone with whom he interacts with respect, kindness, honesty and thoughtfulness. The very epitome of integrity, skill, and dedication – John will leave the Regulating District better than he found it. And if you think all these kind words are just a ploy to get John to change his mind and stay a few more years – you're right!

I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable spring and summer. For those of you out on the water – please be safe! 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.

And as always, please follow and stay in touch with us on Facebook and Instagram as well!

Thank you and be well! – ***John C. Callaghan***