

A Golden Celebration

The Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority (“BRSA” or “Authority”) recently marked 50 years of essential service to Northern Monmouth County. To celebrate this auspicious milestone, an event was held at The Renaissance in Ocean Township on April 26, 2024. Past and present Authority employees, former and current Authority Commissioners, professionals, and consultants of the Authority were in attendance, along with a number of local elected officials. Among them were New Jersey State Senator Declan O’Scanlon (District 13) and Assemblywoman Victoria Flynn (District 13), who spoke eloquently about the Authority’s contributions to the community and presented a Proclamation in recognition of its 50th anniversary.



Pictured, right to left: State Senator Declan O’Scanlon; Assemblywoman Victoria Flynn; Former BRSA Commissioner Deborah Dow; Chairman of the BRSA Board of Commissioners Bart Sutton.

BRSA was formed in the 1960s, when wastewater treatment was regionalized in Monmouth County. Finding an appropriate location and constructing a wastewater treatment plant took some time. As of February 6, 1974, the Authority was finally, officially in service. The Authority’s Board of Commissioners and Executive Director Peter J. Canal felt that a celebration of the Authority’s achievements over the last 50 years was well-deserved. Generous sponsors stepped in to fully fund the event, which included Arcadis, Bart & Bart, CBE, Cleary Giacobbe Alferi Jacobs, Colliers, Gibbons, Hazen & Sawyer, HDR, Jacobs, PS&S, R3M, Van Cleef and Weiner Law Group.

As the cocktail hour drew to a close, BRSA Operator Harry Ladisheff stepped up to the podium to perform an invocation. He then passed the microphone to Executive Director Peter J. Canal, who welcomed everyone to the celebration and spoke briefly about the significance of the Authority's 50th anniversary before introducing the event's official moderator, BRSA Assistant Superintendent Charles "Chuck" Theodora.



Pictured, right to left: State Senator Declan O'Scanlon; Assemblywoman Victoria Flynn; Former BRSA Commissioner Deborah Dow; Chairman of the BRSA Board of Commissioners Bart Sutton; BRSA Commissioner Marcy McMullen; Former Commissioners Walter Vella, James DiNardo Sr., and Frank Wells; BRSA Commissioner Scott Whalen; BRSA Commissioner Christopher Cavanagh; BRSA Commissioner Sam Lauro.

It was an elegant evening of delicious cuisine, with many guests hitting the buffet line twice because the food was so good. The entire Board of Commissioners was there to represent the Authority —Chairman Bart Sutton, Vice Chairman Scott Whalen, Secretary Christopher Cavanagh, Assistant Secretary John Mioduszewski, Treasurer Samuel Lauro, and Assistant Treasurer Marcy McMullen. After Chairman Sutton's speech about the Authority, its history, and the people who keep it running, Secretary Cavanagh read a Resolution honoring twelve very special people (aka "Dirty Dozen") who were crucial to the Authority's emergency repairs, restoration and mitigation of the devastation left behind from Superstorm Sandy. Those individuals were present to receive framed copies of the signed Resolution, handed to them one by one by Commissioner Mioduszewski. The Dirty Dozen included: Roy Anderson (BRSA), Edward Barboe (Hazen), J.Michael Broyles (BRSA), Peter Canal (BRSA), Michael Dow (BRSA), Robert Fischer (BRSA), Carly Foster (Arcadis), Kevin

Haney (R3M), Manuel Ponte (R3M), Chuck Theodora (BRSA), Rosa Torres (NJOEM) and John Wojnas (Hazen).



Pictured: BRSA Commissioners Bart Sutton, Christopher Cavanagh, Marcy McMullen, Scott Whalen, Sam Lauro; Roy Anderson, BRSA; Edward Barboe, Hazen, Michael Broyles, BRSA; Peter Canal, BRSA; Michael Dow, BRSA; Robert Fischer, BRSA; Carly Foster, Arcadis; Kevin Haney, R3M, Manuel Ponte, R3M; Charles Theodora, Jr., BRSA; Rosa Torres, NJOEM; and John Wojnas, Hazen.

Former Executive Director Robert Fischer spoke about leading the Authority through that tumultuous time, and R3M Engineering presented a moving video documenting the devastation that Superstorm Sandy caused in Union Beach and at BRSA. Although there were many solemn moments, the night also offered plenty of fun. The sponsors donated door prizes that were raffled off throughout the evening, with some lucky winners going home with gift cards, coolers, wine bottles, and even baseball tickets! Each guest also received a “challenge coin,” a custom-made token commemorating the Authority’s 50th anniversary.

Commissioners McMullen, Lauro, and Whalen each read a Resolution recognizing Roy Anderson, Susan DuBey and Robert Fischer, now all retired from the Authority, who had had a lasting impact on its culture and a hand in its success. A professional photographer captured some of the event’s most important moments—including group photos of past and present Commissioners and Authority employees.

Many guests agreed that one of the highlights of the evening came toward the end, when special guest Joseph Anthony performed his standup comedy routine for the crowd. His act touched on a variety of topics, though of course he could not resist lightly roasting Authority management and the wastewater industry itself. The committee tasked with planning the Anniversary event included two members—Harry Ladisheff and Marilyn Raymundo—who went above and beyond by creating a commemorative booklet for all of the attendees to take home with them. A digital version of the booklet is now available to view on the BRSA website.



Pictured: Charles Theodora, BRSA Assistant Superintendent; Marilyn Raymundo, BRSA Purchasing Assistant.



Pictured: BRSA Chairman Bart Sutton, Susan Sutton, Commissioner Christopher Cavanagh, Susan Cavanagh, Commissioner Marcy McMullen, Brian McMullen, Commissioner Scott Whalen, Kathleen Whalen, Commissioner Sam Lauro, Peggy Lauro, Commissioner John Mioduszewski, Kimberly Mioduszewski.