



ROCKLAND COUNTY
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
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CHRISTOPHER P. ST. LAWRENCE
Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Janet Burnet, Senior Program Assistant

Date: December 20, 2005

To: media

Re: new Executive Director

Chairman Christopher P. St. Lawrence Announces
New Executive Director at
Solid Waste Management Authority

At a meeting of the Solid Waste Management Authority December 16, Chairman Christopher P. St. Lawrence announced the appointment of Andrew T. Lehman as the Authority's first full-time Executive Director. The announcement was the culmination of a nationwide search for an outstanding individual to serve as executive director of the Authority's award winning regional solid waste facilities. The Authority's facilities are considered a model operation among industry professionals, and its services include a municipal solid waste transfer station, materials recovery facility, a bio-solid cocomposting facility, yard waste composting facility and household hazardous waste collection.

The position was publicized through the *New York Times*, *The Journal News*, and *Waste Age*, a major magazine for the industry. The search netted 26 applicants from across the local region, and from as far away as Virginia. The Search Committee met to review the resumes and selected four applicants to interview. The Committee was impressed with all the candidates but unanimously agreed that Mr. Lehman's credentials and achievements reflect the expertise that most closely meets the needs of the Authority and the people of Rockland County.

Chairman St. Lawrence applauded the nominating committee for their unanimous decision in recommending Mr. Lehman. “Mr. Lehman brings remarkable expertise as well as passion and knowledge to the job. He is an environmental scientist with great knowledge of the industry, Rockland County and particularly these facilities. As an Associate in the Solid Waste Management Group of Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers, Drew has already worked closely and excellently with the Authority. Most recently, he has helped the Authority implement a new program – the National EPA Wastewise Program. We are extremely fortunate that Mr. Lehman has been chosen as our executive director.”

In his capacity as Chair of the Authority, St. Lawrence took on day-to-day management of the Authority during the search period. Authority Board members thanked St. Lawrence for stepping up to the plate at a critical time. They noted St. Lawrence’s achievement in taking on the executive director challenges in addition to his duties as Town of Ramapo Supervisor -- and praised his flawless execution of those duties -- including preparing the 2005 budget, establishing a capital reserve account for the Authority, and the addition of a new glass beneficiating system for the materials recovery facility as well as a fuel replenishment program which reduces transportation costs by \$2.80 per ton. Board Members also noted that St. Lawrence had generously served in this capacity at no charge – a salary savings of \$60,000 to the taxpayers of Rockland County.

Al Samuels of the Rockland Business Association is also pleased with the decision. “I have worked with Drew Lehman for the past year, as a partner in implementing the WasteWise Program. He has a deep commitment to his field, and a true commitment to the people of Rockland County. He is the kind of person who really makes a difference – and he is a great guy to work with.”

Mr. Lehman’s Bachelor of Arts degree in physical and biological sciences coupled with graduate work in ecology and geology – along with a Master of Arts Degree in Environmental Geography from Columbia University -- give him an outstanding academic background in addition to his career with the USEPA, Ogden Energy Group, and Dvirka and Bartilucci Consulting Engineers. He is the recipient of six USEPA Outstanding Achievement Awards, including one for training 10,000 Federal employees on high-grade paper recycling at three Federal office buildings. At Ogden Energy Group, as Assistant Vice President-Environmental, Mr. Lehman negotiated consent agreements with aggressive timelines for \$20Million+ in Clean Air Act Retrofits;

and he developed and implemented an environmental compliance system that reduced air permit exceedences by 70% at twenty-seven operating waste-to-energy facilities in seventeen states. Mr. Lehman has been a member of the Environmental Leadership Council of the NY League of Conservation Voters, and has served on the Board of Directors of the New York City Audubon Society. He established the Arts Leadership Council in Bergen County, N.J.; and has been the Administration and Fundraising Chair of the Teaneck Cultural Arts Coalition. On behalf of the New York City Audubon Society, Mr. Lehman administered a successful effort to transfer the 45-acre Dubos Point Sanctuary in Jamaica Bay to the NYC Parks Department for preservation as a wetlands sanctuary.

“I have great respect for Authority Chairman, Christopher St. Lawrence, and I look forward to working with him. The Chairman’s vision and knowledge certainly had an impact on my decision-making. It is an honor to accept this position, and to serve the Authority and people of Rockland,” Mr. Lehman told Authority Board Members. “It is amazing what the Authority has accomplished here in Rockland: This is a first-class operation, and an excellent group of people.”

Mr. Lehman will assume his duties on Monday, January 10, 2005 at an annual salary of \$108,000.