

## Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



**James Mueller**, Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Engineering Design and Construction, is a guest commentator this week.

Since transferring to BEDC from BWT about five months ago, I've been working with BEDC senior

leadership, as well as the Commissioner's office and other agency Bureaus, to evaluate BEDC's existing organization as it absorbs new functions and continues to develop its project delivery capability. The resulting BEDC reorganization was rolled out at the Bureau-wide BEDC Forum on Nov. 29 at the Queens Museum. Key highlights include:

- The new Office of Stormwater Planning and Engineering (OSPE) has been created to develop integrated plans for long-term stormwater management and identify synergies with shorter term state-of-good-repair projects for phased implementation of final plan elements.
- The new Green Infrastructure design program, which was transferred from BEPA to BEDC, is being overseen by In-House Design (IHD) Director **Pat O'Connor**. BEDC IHD will now also report to Assistant Commissioner **Mike Borsykowsky** in



addition to Mike's other portfolio responsibilities for the water supply capital program.

- The Gowanus Canal Superfund project, currently estimated at \$800M for construction of two CSO storage tanks, has been transferred to Borsykowsky to balance workload.
- Executive Program Director **Sean McAndrew** will be a direct report to the Acting Deputy Commissioner for all projects in his portfolio including Water for the Future, Gilboa reconstruction and other critical water infrastructure.
- The EH&S Directorate under **Heather Belovin** has added two new Chief positions, one for Environmental/Auditing and EHS Design and one for Field Management. These two new positions are in addition to **Neil Feldscher**, who will continue to be Chief of EHS Programs and Training.
- **Stephanie Chao** is Acting Director of the Capital Budget and Contract Services Unit in BEDC.
- Two new Executive Office positions are being created: one for BEDC Chief of Staff and one for Chief of BEDC IT.
- **Tom Long** is Acting Director of the BEDC Program Management Office (PMO) with the pending departure of **Ruth Douzinas**. **Shanna Davis** is Chief of the ePMIS Division and will continue the roll out of eBuilder.

- Initiation of a Continuous Improvement Program in collaboration with key managers and staff throughout BEDC and the Agency, led by **Wendy Sperduto** and supported by **Jonathon Hoffman**.

Additionally, key HR initiatives were reviewed, and upcoming signature projects were presented including: Gilboa Dam reconstruction, Water for the Future, Kensico Eastview Tunnel connection, Ashokan dam reconstruction, Hannah Street Pump Station, Brooklyn/Queens City Tunnel No. 3, Gowanus Canal Superfund and North River Cogeneration. The lunchtime program also included the introduction of newly hired personnel as well as employee recognition awards for excellent work.

Lastly, guest speakers BWS Deputy Commissioner **Paul Rush**, BWT Deputy Commissioner **Pam Elardo**, ACCO **Elisa Velasquez**, and BWSO Director **Angela Delillo** talked about partnering with BEDC to improve project delivery, collaboratively address issues, and deliver critical infrastructure in the most effective and sustainable manner.

Special thanks to **Tamara Williamson**, **Aimee Edwards**, **Chris Smith**, and **Rebecca Behle**, and their respective staffs, for coordinating logistics and documenting the event.

Looking forward to continuous growth and improvement in 2017 and beyond!

## Spotlight on Safety

### Eye Protection Safety

Protecting your sight is one of the most important things you can do in the workplace. According to OSHA, thousands of people are blinded each year from work-related eye injuries that could have been prevented with the proper selection and use of eye and face protection. Typical eye injuries occur by foreign matters, such as metal chips, dirt particles or splinters entering the eye. Surface scratches are the most common types of injuries to the eyes. Other injuries include chemical burns, eye swelling and penetration by foreign objects.

Wearing the following eye protections when required are the best approach to preventing eye injuries:

- Safety goggles
- Safety glasses
- Safety glasses with side shield
- Face Shield
- Welding Helmet (stationary window or lift-front window)

Ask your supervisor or your safety officer to help you select the right eye protection for your job task. For more information, visit [DEP's PPE Policy](#) and OSHA's eye and face protection [website](#).

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [PIPELINE](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.



## Art Exhibit Features DEP Image



The above photo of former DEP Water Quality Scientist **Brittany Smith**, taken by DEP photographer **Kristen Artz**, is featured in the new City Hall art exhibit “City at Work: Portraits in Civic Pride,” a series of portraits of City workers and the New Yorkers they serve every day. The exhibit, curated by Kalia Brooks, will be installed throughout the building, concentrated in the rotunda, and open to the public through the [Public Design Commission tours](#).

## Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday, 22 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner **Diana Jones Ritter**, Director of Planning and Recruitment **Grace Pigott** and HR Specialist **Grace Franco**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

**Eyden Inshanally** with ACCO; **Joseph Salazar** with BEC; **Robert Bianchi**, **David P. Friedrich**, **Allan Gilbert**, **Melissa Phelan**, **Michael Risinit** and **Edward Scheuner III** with BWS; **Sylvia E. Ancrum**, **Ellen Anderson**, **Sytonia Letsome**, **Natalia Mendyk**, **Bhaskar Nookala**, **Shibly Shadeque**, and **Alina Tarmu** with BWSO; **Desiree Gibbs**, **Joshua Matias** and **Tanvir Saddique** with BWT; **Meiska Castillo** with CDBG; **Adam Abuhamda** with FDC; and **Katharine S. Okamoto** and **Michael Scabia** with Sustainability.

## Tree Thinning By Ashokan Monument



A [forestry project](#) is under way to remove hazardous trees from the immediate proximity of the J. Waldo Smith Monument, a stone tower located on a hill along the south side of Ashokan Reservoir. A portion of the recreation path located between the monument and the Dividing Weir Bridge is expected to be closed until the end of December to allow for the safe removal of century-old trees that are dead, dying, or within falling distance of the monument. This tree thinning will open the forest floor to sunlight, promote the growth of a younger, more diverse forest, and allow for the creation of a public lawn area near the monument. The historic monument was built in 1908 as hundreds of workers constructed the dam, dikes, chambers and tunnels that would become Ashokan Reservoir. A photo gallery of the monument can be viewed [here](#).

## Nominate An Ace To Be Honored

Nominations for 4th Quarter A.C.E. Awards are being accepted through Thursday, Dec. 15. Submit your nomination, with some basic information such as the nominee’s responsibilities and examples of extraordinary performance, by clicking [here](#) or mail your submission to 59-17 Junction Boulevard, 18th Floor, Flushing NY 11373, ATTN: ACEAWARDS. For more information, consult the Employee Resource Center on The Source, email [ACEAWARDS@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:ACEAWARDS@dep.nyc.gov) or call **Herb Roth**, Deputy Director of Human Resources at (718) 595-3377.

## \$10 Million Gowanus Sewer Upgrade

DEP will be embarking on a [\\$10 million sewer upgrade](#) along 9th Street in the Gowanus and Carroll Gardens neighborhoods of Brooklyn that will improve drainage and reduce flooding. During heavy rain storms 9th Street is prone to flooding, which can impede the safe flow of traffic and impact local businesses. Funding for the project is being provided by DEP. The design work for the project has been completed and it is anticipated that work will begin by the fall of 2017. As part of the project, stormwater and sanitary sewers will be installed, as well as combined sewers, and an existing cast iron water main will be replaced. The upgrade complements a [\\$52 million project](#) that is already underway to install nearly three miles of high level storm sewers along 3rd Avenue that will create additional capacity in the neighborhood’s drainage system, helping to reduce street flooding and the amount of pollution that may be discharged into the Gowanus Canal during heavy rain storms.

**We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: [newsletter@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:newsletter@dep.nyc.gov).**