



City of New Bedford
Jonathan F. Mitchell, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

New Bedford Public Infrastructure Commissioner Receives Leadership Award for Water Management and Conservation

New Bedford, Massachusetts- City of New Bedford Public Infrastructure Commissioner Ronald Labelle has received the Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship (MCWRS) “Joseph J. Superneau Leadership Award” for his work managing and conserving the City of New Bedford water and wastewater systems.

The Joseph J. Superneau Leadership Award honors individuals and organizations whose work and actions embody the principles of MCWRS, including advocating for the application of sound science and a holistic approach that incorporates fiscal considerations and cost-benefit analysis in the regulation and management of Massachusetts water resources.

The award was recently presented to Commissioner Labelle at the Annual Water Resources Strategies Symposium in Marlborough, Massachusetts. The conference was attended by water industry professionals as well as state and municipal officials from across Massachusetts and this year’s keynote speaker was Lt. Governor Karyn Polito.

Over the past 20 years, Labelle has been proactive in implementing over \$250 million in wastewater and storm water projects that have greatly improved New Bedford’s systems. Labelle also has contributed to the improvement of water quality in Buzzards Bay, enabling the reopening of several shell fishing areas.

“I am pleased that the MCWRS has recognized Ron Labelle for his capable stewardship of New Bedford’s water and wastewater systems. Ron’s commitment to continuous improvement and innovation has helped to ensure that these critical infrastructure systems continue to provide the highest level of service to our residents,” said Mayor Jon Mitchell.

About Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship (MCWRS)

The Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship (MCWRS) is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting watershed-based policies and regulations that effectively manage and conserve water resources. MCWRS is unique in its focus on protecting

municipalities' interests in an ever changing regulatory environment. We promote using scientifically based, fiscally responsible approaches to realize environmental and community goals. Members include municipalities; public agencies that transport and treat drinking water, wastewater and stormwater; quasi-government agencies; and private organizations whose members are committed to the principles of stewardship and sustainability in protecting the environment and public health.

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