



Your water. Your environment. Your voice.

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## Welcome – 2009 Annual Meeting

Candace Preston – Board Chair

Well, Happy Birthday to us! We are celebrating 60 years and it's such a big deal. We are celebrating it all year long. Sixty! I, for one, know what that means – we are in our prime!

We have had six decades of determination when we have been growing, learning and accumulating experience. We still don't know everything, and we never will. The world will continue to change and we will change with it. But right now, we are more prepared, better equipped and better staffed than ever before. We are poised to have an even larger impact at the time when it is most needed.

The Watershed comes with a long tradition of social responsibility. Our largest land grants were from Muriel Buttinger, who besides believing in the importance of protecting our environment, was active in the Austrian underground, helping Jews and political dissidents escape from Europe. Eventually she wrote her autobiography, "Code Name Mary."

The forward was written by her friend Anna Freud, the daughter to Sigmund Freud. In the forward, Freud said "Two things can be learned from her autobiography: One, that it is possible for lone individuals to pit their strength successfully against the sinister forces of an unjust regime; and Two that there is always at least on 'just' man or woman ready to help, rescue and sacrifice his or her own good for fellow beings." This is the spirit by which we are inspired at the Watershed and the role model we have to live up to.

Last year we unveiled our new slogan – "Your water. Your environment. Your voice." We promised you the beginning of a new era and it has begun. We hope you have noticed how we have been out there using our voice and diplomacy and giving blood, sweat and tears for the benefit of your water and your environment.

We've done it locally – in town meetings, libraries and living rooms. We've done it at the state level in Trenton and nationally in Washington. You have probably read about these challenges and our accomplishments in the press. We have been the subject of tens of hundreds of articles in all of the regional papers. You have also seen them in our newsletter, the Wellspring, which has been totally revamped to make it a more compelling read.

Jim Waltman and his entire staff are out there making the CASE for water quality in many ways. For all of us at the Watershed, making our CASE has helped us explain our mission. Using the acronym C-A-S-E has helped all of us, and we hope all of you, as our ambassadors at large, remember the four central tenets of our mission: conservation, advocacy, science and education.

We value everything you have done to support us over the years. We know you care. Why else would you be here? My guess is that virtually everyone here today is a Watershed donor. You know the importance of our work. Our time is now. The need to husband the environment has never been greater. We want to keep doing it for your good and the good of all generations. The economy has dealt us a bad hand right now. We want you to know that we have taken a number of steps to make sure we can continue our work and do it in a financially responsible way. We appreciate anything and everything you can do to help us and continue your support.