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## Edmund W. Stiles Award for Environmental Stewardship 2009 Annual Meeting

Ron Borsellino – U.S. EPA Acting Director, Division of Planning & Protection  
*Accepting on behalf of award recipient U.S. EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson*

Thank you for that introduction and thank you for inviting me here today. I am very proud to have this opportunity to meet with you and to accept such a prestigious and meaningful award on behalf of EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

We want to applaud the commitment and good work of the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association in this your 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. The fact that you have survived and thrived for that long as a cohesive organization is proof positive that you have focused a very bright light on the sensitive needs of an important New Jersey watershed – and you have done so with great determination.

Your organization was ahead of its time in recognizing the holistic watershed management approach. Over the years, this Association has advocated measures to protect our environment based on conservation, advocacy, sound science and education.

As most of you know, in 2003 the Association was the recipient of one of the first EPA Targeted Watershed Initiative grants in the amount of \$1 million. We are very pleased to have had the opportunity to support your great efforts.

Good watershed stewardship has its roots right here – at the community level. EPA discovered early on that substantive environmental progress takes place at the grassroots level. The catch-phrase “think globally, act locally” is somewhat of a mantra for the agency, in recognition that grassroots organizations like yours play a valuable role in helping us with our mission.

I know that your interests go beyond clean water – they also include improving wildlife habitat, preventing pollution, monitoring for water quality, encouraging municipalities to adopt “water friendly” ordinances – it all comes under the same heading – protecting and improving our watersheds.

Clean water is everyone’s right and we need to continue working at it. Here, you are helping to lead the way. On behalf of Administrator Jackson I want to thank you for this incredible honor and I am privileged to be here today.