I am entering my third year as your Director and would like to do a quick review of our accomplishments and the challenges that still lie ahead. In my very first “Straight Talk” column (Back to the Future, March/April 2010), I explained my priorities, which included 1.) finalizing a contract for our Waterways Conservation Officers (WCOs), 2.) improving public and staff morale and 3.) securing funding to insure a future for our aquatic resources and our sports of fishing and boating. 1.) We finalized the contract for our WCOs just after my appointment. 2.) We began a Climate Assessment process to identify staff concerns and put together an improvement plan, which includes a Fishing and Boating Employee Appreciation Day. We also hosted legislative and public meetings around the Commonwealth in areas where we could talk one-on-one with individuals about local, regional and statewide concerns. 3.) We made the case for the need for additional funding for Marcellus Natural Gas permit reviews with the General Assembly. The administration agreed by including us in Act 13 for $1 million per year.

I also reorganized our agency into a structure, which will become more effective and efficient. This will depend upon our ability to follow a fiscal management strategy, where we spend no more than we earn. This may seem like a simple and reasonable strategy since most of us follow this model in our own personal lives. However, if we look back in time, we will find that our predecessors typically continued the same or greater rate of spending to keep up with the costs of inflation or increased spending to create new programs while continuing to fund existing programs. They would spend...
The mission of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth’s aquatic resources and provide fishing and boating opportunities.
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