

Long Island Commission on Aquifer Protection Joint Subcommittee Meeting Notes

August 12th, 2015

**Suffolk County Water Authority
260 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY**

Prior Long Island Groundwater Studies Presentation

The meeting began with a presentation by Ronald (RJ) Theofield, SCWA intern, which summarized all previous Long Island groundwater studies. RJ discussed eleven separate groundwater studies that were performed between 1969 and 2015. For each one he gave its sponsor, objective, and summarized the recommendations that came from each. Discussion then ensued as to how effectively these recommendations were followed up on and implemented. At the conclusion of the presentation, RJ mentioned the most frequent recommendations common to the studies, as well as the most commonly identified problems not yet resolved. The members agreed that these studies can serve as good template for the Sustainable Groundwater Management Action Plan, but that recommendations should be more quantitative in nature, backed by careful analysis and “numbers”, rather than broad sweeping generalities.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Action Plan Topic Updates

Steven Colabufo then spoke briefly about the status of the topic reports that constitute the Sustainable Groundwater Management Action Plan. He passed around the plan outline, with the author of each topic listed in red. There were four orphan topics, but Brian Schneider and Mike Flaherty volunteered to author the report on regional contamination sites. Steven also mentioned a meeting that he had with Bill Merklin, Paul Granger, and Stan Carey on Monday, August 10. At that meeting, the current status of the subcommittees was discussed, and it was agreed that the participants would begin recruiting authors for the remaining orphan topics, which include “Water Supply Alternatives”, “Facility Inspections”, and “Wastewater Management”. It was also agreed that the subcommittee chairs should be in contact with authors between subcommittee meetings. The monthly meetings serve as progress updates, while the bulk of the actual work on these reports should be happening between meetings.

As a result of the August 10 meeting, some of the topic reports were adjusted. As an example, the topics listed on the February 25 “roadmap” pertaining to cross county water transmission and regional interconnection of water suppliers (both facilities and resource aspects) will be merged into one larger report, to be authored by Stan Carey and Bill Merklin. Also, the report on water supply alternatives (such as desalination) should be handled under the Water Resources and Infrastructure Subcommittee. Additionally, the topic listed on the roadmap as “Regional Water Quality and Quantity Monitoring” will be handled by the water quality working group.

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Value of Water Discussion

Paul Granger mentioned that he will be authoring a report on water efficiency and conservation, and a lively discussion as to the value of water ensued. The general consensus was that the cost of water to the consumer is far below its value, and far below what is necessary to replace aging infrastructure and safeguard the water supply in the future. Alternative rates structures and user fees were discussed as possible means of additional revenue to capitalize necessary improvements.

Cross County Transmission of Water

Bill Merklin and Stan Carey then initiated a brief discussion of cross county transmission of water. Bill stated that while emergency interconnections between most water suppliers exist, the routine movement of larger volumes of water between suppliers is generally not practiced. Bill also explained that some Nassau water suppliers are already experiencing water quality problems (especially those near the coasts), and suggested that they should be first to embrace the idea of regional transmission of water. It was suggested by some members that suppliers should be required to meet conservation or sustainability goals prior to being allowed to interconnect. However, Steven Colabufo objected, stating that since such movement of water between suppliers represents the proper resource and facilities management practice, suppliers that are willing to do this should not be prevented from doing so. Jennifer Pilewski further stated that water suppliers are not restricted to constructing wells within their service territory. Stan Carey referred to a past DEC decision concerning Great Neck, and Steven Colabufo mentioned current practice at the SCWA for supplying water to the Town of Southold as proof of this.

Upcoming Deadlines

Upcoming deadlines for completion of various aspects of the Plan were discussed briefly. The first target is to have rough drafts of topic reports ready by December of 2015.

Attendees

- Carrie Gallagher
- Jared Hershkowitz
- Karen Blumer
- Sarah Meyland
- Michael Flaherty
- Paul TeNyenhuis
- Doug Feldman
- Stan Carey
- Steven Colabufo
- Brian Schneider
- Joseph DeFranco
- Jennifer Pilewski
- Stephen Terracciano
- Maureen Dolan Murphy
- Kevin Durk
- Pamela Small
- Adrienne Esposito
- Ronald (RJ) Theofield
- Richard Bova
- Bill Merklin
- Wendy Newton Smith
- Michael Alarcon
- Julie Hargrave
- Glynnis Berry