

October 23, 2014 Water Resources and Infrastructure 2040 subcommittee meeting summary

Attendees included Carrie Gallagher, Steven Colabufo, Michael Alarcon, Patricia Ramirez, Jason Hime, Kevin Durk, and Jack Monti. Jason Hime extended an invitation to David Lengyel of the New York State DEC, but he did not attend. The group agreed that attendance by the DEC to this and other LICAP meetings is essential to water resources management going forward. A greater effort will be made to solicit their attendance.

Carrie Gallagher began with a display of older, legacy water resources documents that have been scanned and are available in pdf form on the LICAP website. One of the more significant of these documents was the Final Long Island Groundwater Management Program, dated June 1986. This document should provide an interesting retrospective, as well as a guide for the next Groundwater Management Program that will be completed in approximately 2 years.

Steve Colabufo spoke briefly about the meeting of the other subcommittee, known as the Water Resources Opportunities subcommittee. This subcommittee met on September 30 at the new offices of H2M consultants in Melville. Steve handed out the summary of that meeting and the group discussed topics that could be shared by this subcommittee. Such topics include: the re-opening of New York City wells, saltwater intrusion, a regional water use and water quality information database, the sharing of resources among water suppliers and other agencies throughout Long Island, water education, and conservation related issues.

Jason Hime then discussed the status of the most recent update to the Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan. The first SCDHS internal goal is to have a rough draft of the Plan compiled by Thanksgiving, with a peer-reviewable version of the Plan available by the end of December. The group discussed topics of the Comp Plan that could be utilized for the next Groundwater Management Plan. Michael Alarcon asked about the feasibility of coming up with a strategy to address all of the issues that this subcommittee will identify. The group agreed that specific approaches will not be part of the group's initial effort, but rather an identification of issues, and an update on their progress since the 1986 Plan. Once the issues are identified, specific implementation strategies can be addressed later on in the process.

A discussion then ensued about Nassau County's water quality and quantity database. Numerous monitor wells have been constructed in Nassau County in the past several years, but water quality data has not been maintained in the past few years. Michal Alarcon suggested that Brian Schneider may be a good contact on the status of Nassau's monitoring well network and water quality data. Steve Colabufo suggested that if necessary and if allowable, some of the SCWA's resources could be used to measure water levels in or to sample existing monitor wells.

Jack Monti of the USGS then gave a summary of the USGS' North Atlantic Coastal Plain (NACP) Project. A discussion then followed about the similarities and differences between the coastal plain aquifer to the south and that of Long Island, in terms of water resources and water use. The report on this project is complete, and a modeling report will be coming out soon. This report contains valuable information that should be helpful in compiling the next Groundwater Management Plan. A pdf copy of Jack's presentation is attached with this summary

Carrie Gallagher than gave each member of the group a homework assignment – to come up with a draft table of contents for the next management plan, listing all of the topics that should be covered.

The next meeting will be scheduled for the first week in December.