Water Resources and Infrastructure subcommittee 12/2/14 meeting summary.

The meeting was held at the SCWA Education Center, 260 Motor Parkway, Hauppague. In attendance were the following people:

Name	Affiliation
Steven Colabufo	SCWA
Carrie Gallagher	SCWA
Paul Tenyenhuis	SCSWCD
Corey Humphrey	NCSWCD
Julie Hargrave	Central Pine Barrens Commission
Jared Hershkowitz	LICAP
Stephen Terraciano	USGS
Paul Granger	H2M, Long Island Water Conference
Tony Leung	NYSDEC
Doug Paquette	BNL
Patricia Ramirez	NCDOH
Michael Alarcon	NCDOH
Jason Hime	SCDHS
Kevin Durk	SCWA Laboratory
Thomas Schneider	SCWA Laboratory

The attendees were provided with three handouts in an effort to guide the discussions of this meeting. These included: (1) Minutes from the meeting of the Water Resources Opportunity Subcommittee, held on September 30; (2) A partial list of topics for discussion at today's meeting, for eventual inclusion in the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), and (3) a rough conceptual outline of the Groundwater Management Plan. This rough outline is considered a work in progress, and is expected to change frequently between now and when the plan is ultimately published.

Jared Hershkowitz mentioned that he will be attending a meeting of civic and environmental groups the evening of 12/2, and that he will mention the work of LICAP at the meeting. None of the WRIS meeting attendees were aware of the civic and environmental group meeting. Steven Colabufo then mentioned that a big issue facing the water supply and regulatory agencies is the meshing of technical vs. environmental groups, and the often adversarial relationship between the two groups. At Jared's suggestion, the group agreed that public-private partnerships should be a subject of the final GMP.

Doug Paquette talked briefly about the contamination remediation at Brookhaven National Laboratory, and mentioned that he is willing to give a more formal presentation on the state of the clean up at a future meeting. Paul Granger then added that other contamination plumes should be addressed in the GMP. The group suggested Grumman, Fairchild/Republic, Lawrence Aviation, and New Cassel as other regional contamination sites that should be given special attention in the GMP.

The topics listed on the handout provided at the meeting were discussed at great length, and the following serves as a recap of the discussion. It is important to note that an underlying theme of all of these discussions is the need for a regional groundwater quality and quantity monitoring network, and an easily accessible clearinghouse for all of the data collected.

Competing water use – in Suffolk County, especially the north fork, water suppliers are noticing water quantity impacts due to the high volume of agricultural pumpage in a very small area. In order to properly manage their facilities, water suppliers need to know the locations and pumpage rates of all wells in the area, including agricultural wells. Paul Tenyenhuis mentioned that the SCDHS may try to initiate a program to utilize a GPS system to locate agricultural wells on the north fork. In Nassau, similar "competition" may be seen on a more localized level from golf courses or industrial users.

New York City pumpage from Long Island aquifers – There are still no specific plans for pumpage of these wells from the NYCDEP. Nassau Water suppliers need to know the DEP's intentions in order to plan for the future. The current position of the salt water interface is not known with a great degree of precision, and any further pumpage may cause problems to Nassau water suppliers. The USGS' North Atlantic Coastal Plain project may be a big help in better quantifying potential impacts of pumpage from these wells.

Effects of increased sewering – A lot of attention has been given to the potential water quality improvements brought on by regional sewering, but much less attention has been given to the quantity impacts. Nassau's experience can be drawn upon when referring to these quality vs. quantity issues. There is a current proposal to sewer the Mastic Beach area and recharge the tertiary treated wastewater to a spot at Brookhaven airport. While this may help alleviate quantity stresses in the area, it may serve as a point source of other contaminants that are not removed by the treatment process. The impacts can be analyzed using existing groundwater models.

The use of Pine Barrens groundwater to supplement public water supply elsewhere – The hydrgeologic effects of "mining" groundwater from the Pine Barrens in order to supply water to other portions of Suffolk County need to be studied. In addition to the expense of laying tens of miles of water main, there may be permitting issues involved due to the hydrogeologic effects of permanently lowering the water table within portions of the Pine Barrens. Since the Pine Barrens were "marketed" as the future water supply for Long Island, the actual feasibility and safe yield of using the area for such a purpose should be studied in depth.

Other topics that were discussed briefly included the following:

Water use efficiency

Gray water irrigation – there are current plans to utilize tertiary treated effluent at Indian Island Golf course

Land preservation needs -water supply infrastructure must be an allowable use of any preserved lands in the future

Topics that were listed on the handout but not discussed at this meeting are listed below. They should be discussed at a future meeting, and ultimately included in the GMP.

Future regulatory requirements – not only changes to environmental law, but also the personnel and resources needed by regulatory agencies to enforce those laws.

The Lloyd aquifer moratorium – given the advancement in the knowledge of groundwater flow on Long island since 1986, the popularity of computer models, and the ability to perform complex groundwater analyses relatively cheaply and easily, the establishment of science-based criteria for use of the Lloyd aquifer should be investigated.

Chloride contamination – including lateral salt water intrusion, vertical upconing, and road salt contamination.

Geothermal systems – considered to be a "green" technology, they may result in environmental and/or hydrogeologic impacts .

The list of topics is by no means final. Other important topics that affect groundwater resources and water suppliers will probably be introduced. Ultimately, by spring a finalized list of topics should be decided on by the subcommittee for inclusion in the final GMP. Once that is done, topics can be assigned to different members.

It is hoped that the next meeting of the WRIS will be held jointly with the WROS. Additionally, the WRIS would like to have guest speakers give short presentation on pertinent topics that would be of interest to the subcommittees.