

## **2040 Water Resources and Infrastructure Subcommittee Meeting Summary : 9/11/14**

Attendees included Carrie Gallagher, Steven Colabufo, Michael Alarcon, Patricia Ramirez, Jason Hime, and Steven Terraciano.

Steven Colabufo distributed the meeting agenda, and mentioned that the group's initial focus should be on climate change as it affects the water resources and the aquifer system. Since emergency management for catastrophic events is already being practiced by most water suppliers and government agencies, the effects of climate change on infrastructure can be addressed secondarily.

Steven Colabufo mentioned that, in order to know what climate change scenario to address, the magnitude of sea level rise must be quantified. To this end, a USGS document was handed out taken from their website, which estimated between 1 and 4 feet of sea level rise by the year 2100. With this information, a two foot rise in sea level by mid century appears reasonable. Steven handed out a document excerpted from the Task 4.4 memo from the original Suffolk County Comprehensive Groundwater Resources Study (aka "Comp Study"), in which a 2 foot sea level rise was used to address the Suffolk county Groundwater Model's ability to simulate changing boundary conditions. This document and its findings can serve as a basis for future work. Since the SCDHS is currently revising and finalizing the Comp Study, it is hoped that some additional computer modeling work can be done under that initiative to support these simulations. Patricia Ramirez mentioned that there are several Nassau County Health Dept. personnel who have been trained in using CDM's software, and could possibly contribute to this effort. They will be contacted before the next meeting as possible invitees.

Michael Alarcon asked about the role of consultants in this process. The committee agreed that consultants should play a small and very specific role, such as the previously mentioned work being done in Suffolk County. The vast majority of the work on the two committees is to be done by the members.

The composition of the subcommittees themselves was discussed. Steven Colabufo mentioned that he made phone calls to key attendees from the previous LICAP meeting, and only got positive responses from those currently at the table. Extending invitations for additional committee members will be ongoing.

The other subcommittee, the Water Resources Opportunities Subcommittee (WROS) was discussed briefly. No meetings have yet been held to date. It is necessary for someone from Nassau to chair that committee, to preserve the 2 county balance. Steven Colabufo expressed interest in joining the WROS, since the work of the two is somewhat intertwined. It is hoped that in the future, there will be several members that will participate in both subcommittees.

Note: since the meeting, a notice was sent out for an initial meeting of the WROS, scheduled for Sept. 30, 2014.

A discussion ensued about conservation ordinances in Nassau and Suffolk, and how geothermal wells fit in. The differences between Nassau and Suffolk counties are major. As an example, open loop geothermal systems are prohibited in Nassau, but quite common in Suffolk. There is no clear oversight of geothermal wells on Long island. Given the fact that open loop systems utilize injection wells, the EPA

## **2040 Water Resources and Infrastructure Subcommittee Meeting Summary : 9/11/14**

should oversee them through the UIC program, but in fact they don't. Geothermal wells will undoubtedly become a significant factor affecting the aquifer system in the near future. It was suggested that they might be considered by the WRIS as part of the climate change scenario. The Dept. of energy website is a good source of information pertaining to these systems.

Steve Terraciano then reviewed the findings contained on the GlobalChange.gov website for the northeast region for possible climate change scenarios. Steven Colabufo will send out a meeting request for the week of October 20<sup>th</sup>, with the venue in Nassau County.