

Suffolk County Water Authority

LONG ISLAND COMMISSION FOR AQUIFER PROTECTION

Meeting Notes

March 27, 2014

4060 Sunrise Highway, Oakdale, NY

ATTENDEE	REPRESENTING
Dorian Dale	Suffolk County Executive Appointee/Dept. of Economic Development & Planning
Brian Schneider	Nassau County Executive Appointee/DPW
Dennis Kelleher	H2M/Long Island Water Conference and Vice-Chairman of LICAP
Walter Dawydiak	Suffolk County Department of Health
Donald Irwin	Nassau County Department of Health
Michael White	Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory
Michael Schneider	Nassau County Legislature Presiding Officer Norma Gonsalves
Gilbert Anderson	Suffolk County Commissioner of DPW
Paul A. TeNyenhuis	Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District
George Proios	Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District
Peter A. Scully	Regional Director of New York State DEC
Tony Leung	New York State DEC, Region 1
Stephen Terracciano	USGS
Lora Gellerstein	Suffolk County Legislator William Spencer
Sarah Anker	Suffolk County Legislator
Pamela Donovan	Legislative Aide – Legislator Sarah Anker
Michael Comerford	Nassau County Parks
Dick Amper	Long Island Pine Barrens Society
James F. Gaughran	Chairman of SCWA
Jeffrey W. Szabo	Chief Executive Officer of SCWA and LICAP Chairman
John C. Milazzo	Counsel – SCWA
Carrie Meek Gallagher	Chief Sustainability Officer of SCWA
Kevin Durk	Laboratory Manager of SCWA
Tina Lasher	Assistant Laboratory Director of SCWA
Steve Colabufo	Water Resource Manager of SCWA

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:

Mr. Szabo welcomed everyone and thanked them for dedicating their time to the Commission. Mr. Szabo further stated that the Nassau and Suffolk Legislatures

unanimously approved the creation of this body to play a vital role in protecting Long Island's precious groundwater supply. The Commission's mission will be to study and report on the state of our sole source aquifer and recommend additional proactive measures that should be taken to safeguard our aquifer for future generations. An island-wide approach to this goal will be an essential component to our work if it is to succeed. He also stated that we expect to be the catalyst for action by any oversight body subsequently created on the state level with the power to enact meaningful aquifer protection measures and we will operate solely in an advisory capacity. Should any such body be formed, our expectation is that the work performed by us will serve as the scientific underpinning for their actions.

Mr. Szabo further discussed the increasing levels of some contaminants in our aquifer system which make it clear that we need to expedite our work toward finding solutions. No one has a greater stake in preventing the pollution of our aquifer system than water suppliers, such as the Suffolk County Water Authority. Pollution prevention is much less expensive than remediation.

Mr. Szabo stated that this is an organizational meeting. He advised the Commission that they had before them the agenda as well as the resolutions authorizing the formation of this Commission.

Mr. Szabo and Carrie Meek Gallagher, SCWA's Chief Sustainability Officer, discussed the following topics:

LICAP OVERVIEW:

- Produce concrete deliverables (see below);
- All voting members are either technical experts (permanent members), or must have technical expertise (appointed members);
- Provides scientific/technical underpinning for any other, more expansive bodies being contemplated for creation at the State level;
- Cost-effective mechanism to accomplish the goal of a regional approach as the water providers will handle all the administrative aspects of the commission so as not to impose any economic burden on local municipalities;
- Will build on past water resources studies.

LICAP TASKS AND DELIVERABLES:

- LICAP shall meet quarterly or more frequently as agreed upon;
- Meetings will be open to the public;
- LICAP shall conduct one public hearing annually in each county;
- **2040 Water Resources and Infrastructure Subcommittee**
 - Develop plan to identify long-term risks from global climate change;
 - Recommend short-term measures to strengthen public water distribution systems.
- **Water Resources Opportunities Subcommittee**
 - Identify and quantify short term risks to groundwater resources;
- Create a **State of the Aquifer Report**, to be completed by March 27, 2015. Annual updates will be provided and the contents will consist of:
 - Aquifer use history;
 - Groundwater principles;
 - Current conditions – environmental, quantity and quality;
 - Current regulatory and management structure; and
 - Literature review.
 - Work has already begun on this task; an update will be provided at the next meeting.
- Create a **Groundwater Resources Management Plan** to be completed by March 27, 2017, and will include:
 - Qualitative and quantitative groundwater data;
 - Anthropogenic threats to groundwater quality and quantity;
 - Existing regulatory groundwater management regimes;
 - Assessment of adequacy of existing groundwater management regulations;
 - Management opportunities;
 - Development of and methods for implementing recommendations and proposed regulatory amendments;
 - Implementation program including stakeholders, roles and responsibilities, prioritization of action, schedule and costs.

TOPICS OF REGIONAL CONCERN:

- The Commission discussed compiling all past major reports regarding groundwater into a virtual reference collection. Some key reports to include are:
 - Dvirka & Bartilucci. 1987. Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan. Suffolk County Department of Health Services. Hauppauge, New York.

- Long Island Regional Planning Board 1992. The Long Island Comprehensive Special Groundwater Protection Area Plan.
 - Long Island Regional Planning Board 1978. Long Island Comprehensive Waste Treatment Management Plan (L.I. 208 Study) LIRPB, Hauppauge, New York.
 - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. 1986. Long Island Groundwater Management Program.
 - New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). 2003. Long Island Source Water Assessment Summary Report.
 - New York State Legislative Commission on the Water Resource Needs of Long Island – all reports and proceedings.
 - New York State Water Resources Planning Council – all proceedings that pertain to Long Island.
 - United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). 1975. Nassau-Suffolk Aquifer System – Support Document May 1975.
- Water efficiency.
 - NYC’s interest in re-opening Jamaica wells.
 - Leveraging sole source aquifer designation into Federal support for our efforts.
 - Education – the need for public education about source water protection, water efficiency and the value of water to help change behavior. Perhaps develop a mobile education unit.
 - A primary goal of the Commission is to start speaking with one voice in making recommendations to the State and local governments to ensure we are improving the quality of our groundwater.
 - Good science is needed to help make our case.
 - Financial incentives are needed to change consumer behavior.
 - A compilation of all groundwater protection laws passed by New York State not currently being enforced.
 - Some members suggested that the scope of LICAP should be expanded to address issues including the integral connection between ground water and surface water, coastal resiliency and the impact of the low cost of drinking water on consumption and conservation, to the extent possible.
 - The Suffolk County Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan is in the process of being updated/completed, with a target availability of summer 2014.

VICE CHAIR APPOINTED:

On motion made by Mr. Szabo, duly seconded by Michael White, and unanimously carried, it was

Resolved to appoint Dennis Kelleher as Vice-Chairman of LICAP.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Our next meeting will be scheduled for late June, 2014.

Prepared by: Maria Trupia

Reviewed by: Carrie Meek-Gallagher, CSO