

Press



Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rockland Water Resources Management Task Force Prepares To Mark Anniversary

Moving To Identify Ways To Conserve Supply, Reduce Demand

New City, NY (Sept. 22, 2015) - The Rockland County Task Force on Water Resources Management marks a milestone Thursday when it celebrates the one-year anniversary of its first public meeting and with it, the start of a new relationship between local residents and their water supply.

The Task Force, chaired by Rockland County Legislator Harriet Cornell, was created in June 2014 and is comprised of 19 members representing the County Executive, County Legislature, United Water New York, and local governments, academia, business and advocates.

It resulted after United Water's effort to build a costly Hudson River desalination plant energized residents into opposing the facility in favor of additional studies of the existing supply and demand, and deeper exploration of alternatives.

In November 2014, the New York state Public Service Commission determined that while Rockland may one day need more water, it doesn't need it until at least 2020. In the same decision, the PSC said opponents of the plant would now have the time they needed to implement conservation measures designed to delay or possibly prevent the project.

The PSC is currently accepting public comment on whether plans to build the proposed plant should be abandoned. The Task Force encourages the public to comment by the Oct. 5 deadline. The case number is 13-W-0303.

How to Comment:

On the PSC website: <http://on.ny.gov/lii9oww>

Email to PSC Secretary: secretary@dps.ny.gov with the subject line "Comments on Case 13-W-0303"

In the 12 months since its first meeting, the Task Force has experienced multiple successes, including submission of a report by national water conservation and efficiency expert Amy Vickers, *Water Losses and Customer Water Use in the United Water New York System*; and the creation of five committees to focus on details related to conservation, groundwater and stormwater, drought and flood control, systems management and community communications.

Cornell said Task Force committees are working on a number of priority issues overseen by the Task Force Coordinator Patricie Drake, and that a green infrastructure feasibility study on groundwater recharge and surface water storage to be done by engineering students at the Stevens Institute of Technology is on track to start this month.

The Task Force next plans to use Vickers' analysis, which provides baseline information about the status of Rockland's water supply system, to help identify possible conservation efforts. Vickers has recommended that a combination of conservation, water reuse technologies, rainwater harvesting and green infrastructure options be tapped to help Rockland further drive down demand and increase water supply independence.

United Water is a private utility that provides drinking water to about 90 percent of homes and businesses in Rockland. The Public Service Commission oversees most utilities in New York state.

The Task Force meets from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24, in Room 305 at Clarkstown Town Hall, 20 Maple Ave., in New City. Anyone interested in learning more about Rockland's water supply, demand and use is welcome to attend.

Visit the Task Force's web site for additional resources:
<http://rocklandgov.com/departments/planning/task-force-on-water-resources-management/>

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