



Monthly Report - October 2009

from Janet Agnoletti, Executive Director

BACOG ANNUAL DINNER NOVEMBER 14th – RSVP NOW!

- Saturday, November 14th, will be an evening of good food and conversation at Chessie's/111 Grille in Barrington for BACOG officials and administrators. Join us at 6:30 for cocktails, appetizers and a game of “**Groundwater Jeopardy**”! RSVP to Julie at the BACOG office at (847) 381-7871 ASAP!

GROUNDWATER

- **Public Groundwater Presentation.** A presentation of the groundwater project is scheduled for the public for Monday, November 30th, 7:00 p.m., at the Barrington Village Hall. If you missed any of the three modules (part 1, 2 and clips), you have another opportunity. Encourage your residents to attend to see this information about the source of their drinking water!
- **Groundwater Work.** Staff and Dr. Kurt Thomsen, BACOG's advising hydrogeologist, have completed presentations of BACOG's groundwater work to our member village and township boards. Seventeen (17) presentations were held in all. Staff is now planning a public presentation for later this year or early 2010. We also will put the materials into a web-accessible format at www.bacog.org soon.
- **Other Groundwater Presentations.** Staff and Dr. Thomsen presented the BACOG project to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) environmental and natural resources committee on October 7th. This committee is developing sections of the *2040 Regional Plan* for the Chicago metropolitan area.
- **Water Resources Initiative Committee.** A subcommittee of attorneys is meeting to review Illinois statutes and case law governing groundwater, as it relates to the development of policies for the BACOG area. Thanks to William Braithwaite of Arnstein & Lehr and his associate Christina Lutz; Melissa Berry of the WRI Committee; and Jessica Dexter of the Environmental Law & Policy Center for providing legal assistance.
- **Joint COGs Water Supply Planning Group.** Municipalities recognize that water supply planning is a priority in the State of Illinois. Since supply is provided by municipalities (not state or regional entities), the councils of governments came together to ensure that municipalities have a seat at the table in discussions about water supply planning and/or governance in northeastern Illinois and other study areas of the state.

The Joint COGs Group's "Position Statement" adopted by BACOG at the October 27th meeting emphasizes: 1) planning areas should be thoughtfully determined based on similarity of available resources and sensible geographic boundaries; 2) any governance or planning groups created should be advisory and a majority of representatives should be from public water supply agencies; 3) any future water supply planning must have a strong educational component; and 4) recent regional and local water planning initiatives should continue and be taken into account by new water supply planning efforts.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

- **BACOG 2009 Foreclosure Initiative SUCCESSFUL!** You will recall that BACOG initiated a bill in January that would require foreclosing entities to provide local governments notice when a foreclosure action is initiated. There was some sausage-making along the way, but the original intent is intact in SB1894 (a larger bill that deals with unrelated issues). The bill includes additional provisions requiring information that makes it easy for municipalities to contact the person responsible for maintaining the property, and gives

priority to municipal liens for the cost of property maintenance in a foreclosure sale. Municipalities would be able to recover their costs if they are properly documented and the municipality made a good faith effort to contact the property owner. **As of 10/29/09, SB1894 passed both houses and is on its way to the Governor's office for signature.**

- **Joint Meetings with CUSD 220.** The BACOG Legislative Committee continues to meet with CUSD 220 board representatives. At the meeting on September 30th, common language was developed for both agencies' 2010 legislative platforms on several issues.
- **2010 Legislative Platform.** The BACOG Legislative Committee is drafting the 2010 annual platform. It will be presented to the Executive Board at the meeting on November 24th.
- **IML Conference.** Agnoletti attended the IML Conference in Chicago on September 25th, including meetings of the IML Statewide Regional COGs Group (legislative) and the Joint COGs Groundwater Supply Group.

BARRINGTON AREA GIS (BAGIS)

- **ILGISA Presentations.** BACOG staff presented at the Illinois GIS Association conference on October 5-6th. Joy Hoeffler, GIS Analyst, presented the groundwater project methods, maps and model outcomes. Janet Agnoletti was a panelist in a session that reviewed regional consortia like BACOG's and the effects on GIS programs of the new Freedom of Information Act law.
- **BACOG Celebrates GIS Day!** The BACOG Board proclaimed Wednesday, November 18th, as GIS Day in the Barrington Area! BACOG will host an open house and display of GIS maps at the Library from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. National GIS Day on November 18th heightens public awareness of this important technology and geographic literacy in education. Please stop by the Library and see an amazing display of maps about the region!

ADMINISTRATORS' ROUNDTABLE

- The BACOG governments' administrators met October 19th at a BACOG roundtable with ComCast reps Chris Nelson and Dan Maloney. They reviewed new telecom products and infrastructure needs. Administrators discussed the new FOIA law, building/zoning services and drainage issues.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- **U.S. Census Information.** The League of Women Voters of the Barrington Area (LWVBA) is planning two informational meetings about the U.S. Census that will be held on February 16, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. and February 24, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. The meetings will be at the Barrington Area Library. Census basics such as its history, why the census matters, use of technology and privacy issues will be covered. BACOG is co-sponsoring the meetings and urges residents to "Stand Up and Be Counted!"
- **Rotary MicroLoan Program.** The Barrington Breakfast Rotary Club is launching a microloan program for residents of the greater BACOG area. Low and moderate income residents may apply for funds to start or expand a business. BACOG area residents should contact the Rotary for further information.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Legislative Committee: November 10, 5:30 p.m., at Barrington Village Hall; and November 24, 5:30 p.m., at Tower Lakes Village Hall
- Water Resources Committee: December 3, 7:00 p.m., at Barrington Village Hall
- GIS Committee: November 10, 4:00 p.m., at Barrington Village Hall
- **Executive Board: November 24, 7:00 p.m., at Tower Lakes Village Hall**