February 24, 2015

Nitrogen Workgroup Meeting Update:

(*Matt Sclafani, TAC Chair*)

- The Nitrogen Loading Model (**NLM**) should only be viewed as a tool within the 2 year groundwater travel time for management recommendations. It is not designed for groundwater with long travel times.
- There is potential to use the NLM to identify priority areas. This would allow for tests to observe how much nitrogen loading would be reduced if all homes in that 2-year zone where upgraded to alternative sanitary systems.
- The boundary beyond the shallow-water contributing area in the Peconic River could be updated, which may change the loadings considerably in the western Peconic River corridor.
- Collecting field data on dissolved organic carbon and dissolved oxygen in aquifers to validate attenuation coefficients (particularly in agricultural areas) would improve the NLM over time.
- Consider working with concentrations of nitrogen that can be related to estuary management rather than Mass (Kg or lbs).
- Examining private well data (legacy water) may be a relatively inexpensive way to observe nitrogen loading trends from the past.
- Solute transport models may be needed to predict long-term trends from greater travel distances.
- Atmospheric deposition is very significant and should be re-examined in the western portion of the bay. The EPA's expects for reductions based on atmospheric regulations should be considered. We should also look at NLM output data in relation to that and see cost-benefits of different land-based reductions and how much N we can expect to remove from the system and improve.