Small Group Discussion Recap: Advancing Resilience Planning Efforts and Successful Communication

Discussion Questions:

1) What climate change and extreme weather threats have your organization identified and how have or are you planning to address the impacts?
   - **Threats**
     - Flooding
     - Large storms with power loss
     - Vulnerable well heads
     - Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) of stormwater into wastewater or sanitary sewer systems
     - Vulnerable groundwater supply
     - Vulnerability to contamination
     - Spills impacting drinking water
   - **Plans**
     - Better communication between key players
     - Better collaboration between departments and states
     - Cities are taking steps to reduce carbon footprint
     - Some cities need power backup
     - Ordinance and zoning
     - Raising “maintenance holes”
     - “Mock” emergency event

2) What resources or types of support (financial, planning, board education, etc.) do your organization need to prepare for climate change and extreme weather impacts?
   - Support from the government (in light of position changes)
   - Budget allowed for city council water training
   - Educating elected officials
   - Financial needs
   - Better city planning (e.g., new school planned but no water available at that location and cost to extend distribution system was very high)
   - Education for community
   - Cross-training staff
   - Support for better communication between key players and with stakeholders
   - Address three-way disconnect between urban planners, maintenance by utility and expectation of customers
   - Standard emergency procedures
   - Access to emergency personnel
   - Updating and supporting maps
3) What communication methods or strategies have worked or not worked to gain support? Who have been successful partners in advancing efforts?

- **Successful communication methods**
  - i. Newspaper
  - ii. Radio
  - iii. Social media (including local police Facebook pages)
  - iv. St. Cloud website
  - v. Emails
  - vi. Public hearings
  - vii. Word of mouth

- **Unsuccessful communication methods**
  - i. Mass notification system
  - ii. Mailing inserts in utility billing
  - iii. Elected officials

- **Key decision-makers**
  - i. Government
  - ii. Public education programs
  - iii. Partnerships with operational staff
  - iv. Watershed partners
  - v. Regulators
  - vi. Professional help to make decisions and inform community

4) With what you learned today, what steps do you plan to take after this workshop to make your organization more resilient to climate change and extreme weather impacts?

- Acquire backup generators
- Develop programs for rain gardens
- Implement an “adopt a drain” program
- Install vegetation to reduce E. coli from geese
- Implement bike routes
- Look at statewide drought plan
- Use CREAT
- Foster education, including the college community
- Communicate opportunities and tools
- Update Emergency Response Plan
- Transfer knowledge to your organization