Policy Implications for Arctic Collaborations on Water and Sanitation

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Rural Water and Sanitation in other Arctic Countries
Cooperation on Arctic human health

- **International Union for Circumpolar Health**
  - **Members:**
    - American Society for Circumpolar Health
    - Canadian Society for Circumpolar Health
    - Nordic Society for Arctic Medicine
    - Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences
    - Danish/Greenlandic Society for Circumpolar Health
  - **Working Groups:**
  - Triennial Congress ICCH16 Oulu Finland June 2016
Cooperation on Arctic human health

Arctic Council

- The Arctic Council is a high level intergovernmental forum for political and scientific discussion on issues common to the governments of the Arctic.
- Member states
  - Canada, Denmark/Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, United States
- Permanent participants
  - Aleut International Assoc, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Qwich’n Council International, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Saami Council
- Observers
  - Non Arctic states and international organizations (WHO, IUCH)
Cooperation on Arctic human health

- **Arctic Council Working Groups**
  - Arctic Contaminants Action Program
  - Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna
  - Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response
  - Protection of the Marine Environment
  - Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Program
    - Human Health Assessment Group
  - Sustainable Development
    - Human Health Experts Group

- **Chairmanship rotates every 2 years**
  - Canada 2013-15
  - US 2015-17
Cooperation on Arctic human health

- **US Arctic Research Commission**
  - Is an independent Federal agency
  - Establishes goals and objectives for Arctic Research
  - Priority area: Improve human health
    - Special Focus: Water Sanitation and human health
    - Coordinate the Alaska Rural Water and Sanitation WG
Cooperation on Arctic human health

- Rural Alaska Water and Sanitation Work group
  - Improve health by increasing water and sanitation services
  - Participants
    - Alaska Native Tribal organizations
      - ANTHC, YKHC
    - State of Alaska
      - Department of Environmental Conservation
    - US Government Agencies
      - US Arctic Research Commission (coordinator)
      - CDC Arctic Investigations Program
      - Environmental Protection Agency
  - Yearly workshops
    - Engineers, scientists, health experts, policy makers
Alaska Rural Water and Sanitation Work group
Current Activities

- **Water and Sanitation retrospective**
  - Historical account of R & D in decentralized settings

- **Best practices for Alaska Washeteria Construction**

- **Healthy Alaskans 2020**
  - Added rural water service as a Leading Health Indicator
    - “Increase the proportion of Alaskans with access to in-home water and wastewater services from 2010 baseline of 78% to 87%.”

- **Arctic Council, US Chairmanship 2015-17**
  - Promoting a water and sanitation human health theme
Objectives

- Host a circumpolar conference in Anchorage-summer 2016
  - Explore benefits, challenges and solutions associated with provision of adequate safe affordable sustainable water and sewer in Arctic & sub Arctic communities
- Showcase selected projects of the Alaska Water &Sewer challenge
- Human Health Assessment
  - Conduct a circumpolar assessment of current status of systems, water quality and quantity, regulatory frameworks, health impacts, and challenges posed by climate change.
- Publish Proceedings and a Report to Arctic Council Ministerial 2017
Policy Implications:

- Highlight potential impacts of climate change on water and sanitation infrastructure and health
- Greater visibility of the challenges to help policy makers and non-government organizations assist and allocate funding future efforts
- Exchange of ideas regarding regulatory approaches and flexibility toward small community public health infrastructure.
- Springboard for further collaborative research and development that could lead to improved health and support sustainable development