

**Minutes from the Sub-Committee B Meeting**  
**“Identifying actions that might be taken to ensure the long-term protection of the Mahomet Aquifer”**

July 9, 2018

Place: Municipal Center, 210 N. Hamilton Street Monticello, Illinois 61856

Time Started: 10:04 AM

Time Adjourned: 11:20 AM.

Members Present:

Alec Davis, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group

Jim Risley, Mahomet-Seymour School District

Mayor Charles Smith, Village of Rantoul

Carol Mitten (proxy Diane Marlin), City of Urbana

Mayor Larry Stoner, City of Monticello

Senator Scott Bennett, 52<sup>nd</sup> District

Barb Lieberoff, Illinois EPA

Rick Cobb, Illinois EPA

**TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

**Approval of Minutes from 6-1 Meeting**

Sub-Committee Chairmen Mayor Larry Stoner calls the meeting to order. The first item on the Agenda is the approval of the meeting minutes from the 6-1. Sub-Committee Chairmen Mayor Larry Stoner mentions that there are no minutes due to a technical issue. Barb Lieberoff speaks to a technical issue on her end. Mayor Stoner announces that we will discuss the minutes at the next meeting.

**Presentation: Rick Wankel, Prairie Research Institute, Recommendations for Research, Management, and Protection of the Mohomet Aquifer**

Rick Winkel begins his presentation by giving a bit of a background on PRI. PRI has a lot to offer as a resource and because they're supposed to – they have statutes (University of Illinois Scientific Surveys Act of 2008) that mandates them to assist in support of the Task Force's mission. The summary report is intended as a working document for consideration by the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force and was created by the Mahomet Aquifer Response Team within the PRI. This response teamhosted a stakeholder meeting in June of 2017 to review

the science, future, technology, and people surrounding the aquifer and to see what stakeholders needed. PRI also formed a response team called the Natural Gas Working Group after the Manlove field gas leak incident. PRI's role in the Mahomet Aquifer Task Force initiative is to advise and assist with recommendations, but leaves the endorsement of recommendations up to the Task Force members. There are 5 groups of recommendations within the summary report: Funding, Understanding the Resource, Water Quality and Protection, Water Quantity and Sustainability, and Communication. Illinois EPA and the Surveys within PRI know a lot, but want to better understand more about the aquifer. PRI could use new technologies (HTEM - helicopter borne time domain) to map the aquifer. They are looking for local, state, and federal funding to increase overall understanding of the resource. In terms of community relations, the development of methods of education/outreach to disseminate what they've learned is essential. PRI could compile more recommendations based on IEPA input. A GIS jurisdictional map that identifies relevant water authorities that govern the aquifer could be useful. PRI could draft the first chapter of recommendations.

### **Presentation Q/A**

Jim Risley comments It appears that the report serves as the bible to what we should be presenting to the full committee. Question is how should the Task force encapsulate the presentation for September? Rick Winkel suggests what we need right now is feedback from you, the Task Force. What you think is important? What should we take out? Alec Davis comments about the details of PRI's aquifer response team itself. Rick Winkel comments that the response team are temporary. As long as the task force is working it will be there. We will keep that response team. They will be in existence through the end of the year. Rick Cobb adds that under the Interagency Groundwater Coordinating Council serves as a partner that statutorily would look at what the Task Force is doing. So just another means of continuing what the Task Force is doing. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Groundwater may be useful resource for evaluating recommendations. It's comprised of IEPA, Nuclear Safety, IDNR, DCEO, the Fire Marshall, and Department of Transportation. Rick Winkel comments Statute needs to be amended – PRI is campus research unit, might benefit from being added (UIUC's 2008 act transferred the Surveys from DNR to PRI and it became a campus institute). Senator Bennet comments that he and Sen Rose's staff can look into that. Alec Davis comments out of things to prioritize, would be good if possible to get comments on need for additional resources and an ability to assess what we're recommending. Rick Winkel comments that the group should pick out areas to clarify. Jim Risley comments on how to evaluate capacity to meet the need. Mahomet Aquifer Consortium – mission is similar to Task Force's. Rick Winkel comments Consortium coincides with Task Force, might have useful info. In 1990s, there was a report on local approach to protecting the aquifer – similar goals to Task Force, would be good to go through. Maps exist from 1980s – regional in nature but could be updated. Mayor Charles Smith comments about threats to aquifer evaluation. Charles Hostetler comments Regional scale discussion isn't as important as site specific local evaluation – has bridged the gap by investigating model's cells around certain landfill and performed calculations based on that. Subcommittee A's

sense of the committee doesn't want just a list, wants discussion and context. If you want a new landfill within x distance of the aquifer, you have to go through local site review – would review application and determine whether it would meet required site criteria – regional pollution control. Donovan Griffith comments Seems that Subcommittee can't just list actions to take, needs to talk about future recommendations and supporting continued research. PRI needs context, rationale, evaluation of capacity around each recommendation – it's just a list without context. Rick Winkel comments HTEM would be quantum leap in providing rich source of data and information. Drilling is always necessary with HTEM, but HTEM is good for modeling purposes. Rick Cobb comments transitional zone in the middle of the aquifer would be great to learn about – issues with nitrates in some parts of aquifer could be investigated. No agency regulates allocation of resources or certain water uses. Laws regarding water quantity haven't been successful.

### **Work Product Discussion**

Mayor Larry Stoner comments that the Sub-Committee need to get their comments/priorities to Rick Winkel by July 23. Our next meeting will be August 6.

### **Future Sub-Committee Meetings**

Mayor Charles Smith offers to hold the August 6 meeting in the Village of Rantoul and will work with Barb on the details.

### **Public Comments**

Dave Larson comments that it is important to consider all aquifers in the area other than just the Mahomet.

### **Adjourn**

Adjourn 11:04am