

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-362

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE
MAHOMET AQUIFER PROTECTION TASK FORCE
TO PROPOSE ACTIONS TO PRESERVE WATER QUALITY AND
SUSTAINABLE AVAILABILITY OF WATER FROM THE MAHOMET AQUIFER

WHEREAS, the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force was established via the Public Act 100 – 0403 and was implemented on December 21, 2017 to address the issue of maintaining clean drinking water from the Mahomet Aquifer and the Task Force is in the process of writing a report to the General Assembly to be submitted by the end of December 2018; and

WHEREAS, most of Champaign County is dependent upon the Mahomet Aquifer as their sole source of potable drinking water that is necessary for public health and safety for east central Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Mahomet Aquifer is critical to the economy of Champaign County; and

WHEREAS, there have been instances of contamination of the Mahomet Aquifer preventing landowners from use of the water including the recent contamination of private wells by natural gas in the Manlove Gas Storage Area; and


WHEREAS, there are reasonable concerns about sustainable use and preservation of water quality from various threats to the Mahomet Aquifer because of large cones of depression caused by withdrawals from the aquifer; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board:

1. The Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force is urged to advocate taking all means necessary to insure the quality and sustainable availability of water from the Mahomet Aquifer in perpetuity as a matter of public health and economic necessity, and that the report should include actions needed to implement recommendations by the task force including a State plan to protect the aquifer that includes the following:
 - A. Determine the geography of the Mahomet Aquifer through additional research including identification of recharge areas and initiating a HTEM technology project.
 - B. Monitor water quality and quantity.
 - C. Take remedial action as appropriate to protect water quality.
 - D. Take preventive action where possible to protect water quality especially as relates to the following:
 - a. Legacy landfills that should be prioritized for action based on the hazard to surface and ground water resources.
 - b. Storage, processing, and transportation facilities that contain large quantities of material that could threaten the aquifer.
 - c. Other contamination threats to the aquifer including Manlove #4, source water contamination, road salt, upwelling brine, arsenic, nitrates, improperly sealed and/or abandoned wells, and household hazardous waste.

- c. Updating the current methods and increase the training of landfill inspectors to incorporate advances in remote sensing and GIS to guide field inspections.
 - E. Provide ongoing public education as well as timely notice of unusual events.
 - F. Establish a regional organization to accomplish the Plan, perhaps an extension of the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force.
 - G. Create a funding plan, including authority for a water-based fee system.
2. The County Administrator shall forward a copy of the approved Resolution to the Mahomet Aquifer Protection Task Force c/o Barb Lieberoff, Illinois EPA Office of Community Relations, at Barb.Lieberoff@Illinois.gov.

PRESENTED, ADOPTED, APPROVED, AND RECORDED this 27th day of November A.D. 2018.



C. Pius Weibel, Chair
Champaign County Board
Champaign County, Illinois

ATTEST:



Gordy Hulten, County Clerk
and *ex-officio* Clerk of the Champaign County Board