

**Minutes of Mahomet Aquifer Consortium – Regional Water Supply Planning
Committee**

March 9, 2007 10:00 am

Attendees:

Regional Water Supply Planning Committee

Morris Bell
Evelyn Neavear
Jeff Smith
Robert Betzelberger
Shannon Allen
Frank Dunmire
Mark Sheppard
Thomas Davis
Brent O’Neill
Dwain Berggren
Paul Berg
Bradley Uken

Mahomet Executive Board

Craig Cummings
Nancy Erikson
Sharon Martin
Mel Pleines
Dorland Smith

Technical Advisers

Gary Clark
Ed Mehnert
George Groschen
Allen Wehrmann

Mel Plaines, Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Chairman welcomed members to the first meeting of the Regional Water Supply Planning Committee and introduced Dorland Smith the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Secretary/Treasurer. Each member introduced themselves to the rest of the members and gave a brief summary of their background and their interest in serving on the Regional Water Supply Planning Committee.

Gary Clark, Office of Water Resources, Illinois Department of Natural Resources reviewed the charge of the committee – to determine demand for water now and to identify potential conflicts between those demands.

Allen Wehrmann, Illinois State Water Survey, Illinois Department of Natural Resources reviewed water supply planning and management principles. He explained that we are to develop water supply and demand scenarios out to the year 2050 when we are finished. The committee also needs to take into account water supply risks and the costs to maintain or improve supply. These scenarios review withdrawal rates during a normal businesses climate, worst case scenarios, daily peaks and seasonal variations. After all of these have been considered, a flow model can be developed to create demand scenarios. The Mahomet Aquifer Consortium will provide a list of water consultants for the committee to consider.

Dr. Derek Winstanley, Illinois State Water Survey, Illinois Department of Natural Resources addressed the committee about the priorities for the committee. The committee's recommendations and final report need to be completed by June, 2009. He stressed the importance of the work and the resources available to the committee.

The overall goal of water supply planning is to provide adequate supplies of clean water for all users at reasonable costs. He reviewed a power point presentation with the committee which included some detailed information about changes that have occurred in the Mahomet Aquifer over the last 50 years. He cited figures that the committee would be interested in discussing and receiving more information about. The top priorities of the committee were (wording to polling of each item).

1. Producing water demand scenarios for 2005.
2. Reviewing existing laws, regulations and property rights.
3. Understanding the aquifer.
4. Groundwater – surface water interactions and recharge of the aquifers.
5. What we know about regional water supply and demand today. What are the key issues?

Other priorities receiving less than majority of votes were;

- sustainability of water resources
- climate variability and change and potential impact on water availability

Management Options

- Increase supply
- Reduce demand
- Protect the resources

Outreach and Education

- Surface Water/Ground water observation network
- Consistency

After lunch, Ed Mehnert, Illinois State Geological Survey, Illinois Department of Natural Resources covered possible uses of the internet and websites by committee members as

well as using these tools for communications for communications with the public on a wide basis. He offered to provide advice on what would need to be done.

Mel Pleines and Dorland Smith then briefly reviewed the draft guidelines for the committee. Dorland was to email elective version to committee members. Both emphasized that the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium wanted the committee to act as independently as possible in their deliberations.

A temporary Chair and Vice Chair were selected by the Committee:

Paul Berg, City of Champaign, Chair
Brent O'Neill, Illinois American Water Company, Vice Chair

It was agreed that these selections would be temporary initially and would be confirmed or altered at another meeting in the near future. This will allow all members to evaluate these selections prior to final approval.

The location of the next meeting will be in Tremont on March 30, 2007 from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm. It was agreed that the meeting times for April and May could be late to try to partially accommodate committee members who will likely be actively engaged in planting activities. A late afternoon/early evening time was generally acceptable as well as trying to find a location that would minimize travel time for these persons.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Berg - with much appreciated help from Mark Sheppard

Attachments: Winstanley Power Point