

DRAFT

Minutes from the Mahomet Aquifer Task Force Meeting

February 23, 2018

Place: First Christian Church 3350 N. MacArthur Rd. Decatur, Illinois.

Time Started: 10:00 AM

Time Adjourned: 12:37pm.

Members Present:

Teresa Barnett, DeWitt County Emergency Management Agency

Lynn Karmer, Illinois Pipe Trade Associates

Claudia Lennhoff, Champaign County Healthcare Consumers

Charles Hostettler, PDC Technical Services

Alec Davis, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group

Donovan Griffith, Illinois Manufactures Association

Jim Risley, Mahomet-Seymour School District

Representative Carol Ammons, 103rd District

Mayor Deborah Frank-Feinen, City of Champaign

Mayor Charles Smith, Village of Rantoul

Mayor Chris Koos, City of Normal

Steve Turner, Illinois Farm Bureau

Senator Chapin Rose, 51st District

Director Alec Messina, Illinois EPA

Mayor Diane Marlin, City of Urbana

Mayor Larry Stoner, City of Monticello

George Roadcamp, Illinois State Water Survey/Prairie Rivers Institute

David Zimmerman, Tazewell County Board

Andrew Rehn, Prairie Rivers Network

Mayor Todd Zalucha, City of Heyworth

Brad Frost, Illinois EPA

Barb Lieberoff, Illinois EPA

Rick Cobb, Illinois EPA

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

WELCOME AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Brad Frost welcomed everyone and explained that he would be facilitating this first Task Force meeting and then passing the baton to Barb Lieberoff of his staff who would be the Illinois EPA's liaison for the Task Force. Introductions were then made around the room introducing the members of the Task Force.

First order of business was to nominate a Chairperson for the Task Force. Senator Rose nominated Mayor Deborah Feinen. Brad Frost asked for a second. Mayor Chris Koos seconded the nomination. Mayor Feinen accepted the nomination. A motion was made and the nomination was carried that Mayor Deborah Feinen would be the Chairperson.

DATES, LOCATIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Brad Frost brought up dates for future meetings. Discussion on dates commenced. Final dates are subject to change, however future dates as of now are March 26, April 30, May 14 and June 18. Time will be 10am-12pm. Task Force Members noted that they would like to see locations moved throughout the Mahomet Aquifer. Director Alec Messina suggested that the Task Force Members send all suggested meeting locations to Barb Lieberoff and that the Illinois EPA would work on logistics and the Task Force could vote on future locations.

REVIEW OF TASK FORCE DUTIES AND OPERATING RULES

Senator Rose suggested to the Task Force a possible extension to the deadline from July 1 to the end of December. Consensus of the Task Force was that YES this is something they would like to see the legislative members try to extend. Senator Rose suggested that in order to review topics that the Task Force create working subcommittees that will report to the full Task Force. A discussion was had relating to Task Force Members participating via teleconference. A motion was made by Jim Risley for ~~M~~members to participate via teleconference. Steve Turner seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Alec Davis brought up the discussion on how the Task Force intended to conduct business. His examples included: Would there be a proxy vote-consensus was NO, would there be an electronic vote-consensus NO. Task Force Members were reminded that the provisions of the Open Meeting Act apply to the Task Force and that business must be conducted in accordance with OMA. Several Task Force Members again brought up the discussion of voting on content and the need for potential sub committees. Representative Ammons discussed gathering agenda items and adopting rules which the Members agreed should be added to the agenda for the next Task Force meeting. Members also agreed that rules including but not limited to, the process for decision making via majority or super majority, whether the Task Force should be subject to Robert's Rules of Order or other rules, and if there should be a majority and minority report should be discussed at the next meeting.

Commented [DFF1]: Who? Hopefully it will be easier at future meetings as we will call on people and keep a audio tape of meetings but we lack detail in some of this minutes

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

George Roadcap from the Illinois State Water Survey/Prairie Research Institute and Rick Cobb from the Illinois EPA presented technical presentations regarding the aquifer Task Force Members and members of the Public discussed the presentation and asked questions of the presenters. The topics of the presentations included: _____

Topic Discussion for Future Meetings

The Task Force Members discussed topics that they would like to discuss and have more information on at future meetings the list of agreed topics was:

1. Mapping of existing Landfills and abandoned landfills and information on what is currently monitored and not monitored for in landfills
2. Public Education
3. Further understanding of the current state of the science relating to the aquifer
4. Information on withdrawal from aquifers and on sources. Possible regulations on the withdrawals
5. Quantity vs Quality-Risks vs Contamination
6. Consolidating report recommendations found in the existing scientific reports on the aquifer with references provided to which report each recommendation came from.
7. Recharge/Contamination Pathways/High Recharge Zone
8. Gas Storage Fields/aging infrastructure/notice for emergency action plans/preventive action /review of pathways if there is a leak potential for public hearing on People's Gas issue in Mahomet
9. Groundwater restriction ordinances
10. Regulatory/statutory authority what's already available to the Task Force that is not being utilized
11. how may we use the sole source designation to benefit the aquifer?
12. Diversion of hazardous waste

Commented [DFF2]: Part of item 8

Commented [DFF3]: See #7

Director Messina stated that these topics give the Agency a lot to discuss prior to the next meeting. Mayor Deborah Feinen again reminded everyone about the OMA Rules and that 6 or fewer can talk to each other about Task Force items but that more than that number is a violation of OMA. Donovan Griffith noted that an additional Task Force Member will be added, from the state labor waste industries. Charles Hostettler stated that he understood the recommendation was made to a teamster Member. Senator Rose volunteered to find if the recommendation was made and who the individual was.

Public Comment Q/A

Members from Prairie Rivers Institute spoke to the complexity discussed by the Task Force Members regarding the Peoples Gas Leak and why gas may affect some homeowners/wells and not others.

Joe Hooker a private citizen spoke to the importance of advocating for funding -towards new technology that can protect the Mahomet Aquifer.

Lauren Lurkins from the Illinois Farm Bureau spoke about the importance of bringing the Task Force to the western side of the Mahomet Aquifer. She was glad to see representation for agriculture and hoped that the Task Force would bring forth and protect the needs of farms and agriculture and they move forward. She also asked if there were minutes being kept of Task Force meetings and If those minutes would be posted online. Barb Lieberoff explained that -she was taking notes and would be creating a draft of minutes that would be posted to the Task Force website. Discussion followed from the Task Force Members about voting on the minutes and posting minutes prior to the next Task Force meeting marked as "DRAFT."

There was one additional question from the public for George Roadcap.

Commented [DFF4]: We need to get members of the public's names and we need to detail what the question was and what the answer was in future min.

Commented [LB5R4]: I was unable to hear his question when he asked it.