

# Minutes from the Mahomet Aquifer Task Force Meeting

April 30, 2018

Place: Town of Normal Multipurpose Room #409 Uptown Station; 11 Uptown Circle; Urbana, Illinois.

Time Started: 10:00 AM

Time Adjourned: 11:40

## Members Present:

Teresa Barnett, DeWitt County Emergency Management Agency

Charles Hostetler, PDC Technical Services

Alec Davis, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group

Donovan Griffith, Illinois Manufactures Association

Jim Risley, Mahomet-Seymour School District

Representative Carol Ammons, 103<sup>rd</sup> District

Mayor Charles Smith, Village of Rantoul

Senator Chapin Rose, 51<sup>st</sup> District (by phone)

Director Alec Messina, Illinois EPA

George Roadcap, Illinois State Water Survey/Prairie Rivers Institute

David Zimmerman, Tazewell County

Andrew Rehn, Prairie Rivers Network

Mayor Todd Zalucha, City of Heyworth

Mayor Julie Moore-Wolfe, City of Decatur

Barb Lieberoff, Illinois EPA

Rick Cobb, Illinois EPA

## **TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

### **Nomination of Vice Chair**

Mayor Julie Wolfe calls the meeting to order and informs the Task Force she will be running the meeting as Chair Deb Feinen is absent from today's meeting. Mayor Julie Wolfe has some discussion with Sen Rose who is on the phone. Sen Rose calls to have Mayor Julie Wolfe nominated as Vice Chair for the Task Force. There is a question on the floor by Donovan Griffith

if we a quorum? It appears at the moment there is not a quorum. Mayor Wolfe suggests we table the nomination for Vice Chair for the next meeting or lower in the Agenda to give a few members additional time to show up.

### **Update on Legislation Extension**

Sen Rose updates the Task Force on Senate Bill 274. It was voted out of the House. The intent is to be extended to December 31.

### **Sub-Committee A Update “Identifying potential and current contamination threat to the water quality of the Mahomet Aquifer”-Charles Hostetler**

Charles Hostetler comments that Sub-Committee A had its first meeting April 23<sup>rd</sup> and thanks the Task Force Chair and Barb Lieberoff for their continued help. He looks forward to hearing the discussion today on the timeline for the task force work and sub-committee work so he can take that back and begin outlining what sub-committee A’s task as whole will B. He will continue to work with Barb to get dates for additional meetings lined up. Charles Hostetler invites all to attend Sub-Committee A’s next meeting. Mayor Julie Wolf asks if anyone has any questions for Charles on the sub-committee report. There were none.

### **Sub-Committee B Update “Identifying B Update “Identifying actions that might be taken to ensure the long-term protection of the Mahomet Aquifer”-Larry Stoner**

Mayor Julie Wolfe turns to Mayor Larry Stoner for a report on Sub-Committee B. Mayor Stoner comments that it was a pleasure to have been appointed chair of the sub-committee and looks forward to what they can do legislatively to protect the aquifer. Our first meeting was held on April 16<sup>th</sup> in Champaign. Mayor Deb Feinen asked for a nomination for a sub-chair as you can see I was nominated and accepted. Deb did run that first meeting. Much like the other sub-committee we are looking to get some more information a put a schedule together for further meetings. Mayor Julie Wolfe asks if there any questions for Mayor Stoner. There were none.

### **Adopting Timeline for Task Force Work and Sub-Committee Work**

Mayor Julie Wolfe turns this part of the agenda over to Barb Lieberoff, Illinois EPA. Barb comments that having conversations with Mayor Deb Feinen this is the meat of the meeting where we can open this up for discussion on how the Sub-committee can complete their tasks. They have until September to complete their work and bring some type of deliverable before the full Task Force where then the full Task Force is then working to complete a state plan submit to the Governor. So, now I’m going to open this topic up for discussion on just how we go about doing that.

\*Barb Lieberoff comments that now there is a quorum of the Task Force and we can revisit voting on Mayor Julie Wolfe as Vice Chair of the Task Force. There is a motion on the floor by Senator Rose. Second by Mayor Larry Stoner. Any other nominations. There were none. Motion carries.

Back to the topic of discussion on adopting timelines for sub-committee work. George Roadcap comments on his Matrix from Sub-Committee A that he received lots of good comments and that he has updated and revised. George discusses his revisions with the Task Force. Jim Risley comments on the Matrix that is a great outline and he's pondered many questions on risks to the Aquifer and to him the greatest risk is the People's Gas spill. Perhaps looking at what other states or nations are doing and handling issues such as this spill and not re-inventing the wheel so to speak and then we can fill in the blanks here. Then we can tweak that to meet our needs and then we can move on to other things like landfill problems and multitude of potential threats to use that as we move forward. The information is overwhelming and the more questions I have the more questions I keep getting as well. Thank you for this outline it is very helpful. Alec Messina comments George and Rick this is a good to start to where the gaps in coverage is and where to focus on. I have a general question, between today and the next sub-committee for the threats group can they fill in some of the gaps here on this matrix. We are going to have someone from DNR to address the regulatory structure and what their authority is. When are they coming Barb? Barb Lieberoff comments that will be in May. Alec Messina comments that it would be helpful to us at the Agency that it would be helpful to us as to what entities you would like to hear from or if there are holes that need to be filled we can do that for you so please just let us know and we can make that happen. Senator Rose on the phone is speaking (in audible at times) commenting that they will be in session virtually all of May asking if we could move Mike Mankowski speaking from DNR to the June 18<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting. Alec Messina comments to Senator Rose's suggestion to move his presentation to June 18<sup>th</sup> Task Force meeting and is emailing Mike to do that. Please let us know if there is anyone else you want us to have at that meeting. Rick Cobb comments on the threat matrix these are all potential sources whereas right to know is based on contaminants that the IPCB has groundwater standards for. So, an exceedance in that standard triggers a notification. We regulate community wells; Public Health regulates non-community wells. With right to know it's not so much source its contaminate driven. Charles Hostetler comments that Sub-Committee A's work is going to be detailed and time consuming and we need to know what our schedule is so I'm going to ask members of sub-committee A to consider being prepared a work product to the full committee in Sept. based on the approximation that will take a couple of months to for the whole Task Force to review it comment on it so it can be done by Dec. So, I'd like to make sure we have deadlines in mind. Jim Risley comments on Sub-Committee A in mind do we want to talk dates now? Alec Messina comments Charles let me asks would it be reasonable to presume that the various task force members spend how many weeks before the next Task Force meeting identifying what's not here, what's not filled in? So, since Charles is nodding I will keep talking. On June 18 we will have Mike Mankowski from DNR as well as the Agency on 3D modeling. Following Sub-committee meeting from what we learn there we may be able to identify those short comings. A lot of work between now and then. We can revisit those timelines but that will keep us on track. Alec Davis comments we've talked about filling in this chart in the interim and the missing component of

this chart is the risk. I'm not an expert and maybe Rick is the answer to my question. Do we have someone who can walk us through that component? I think I can understand what constitutes a risk in one activity vs. another but it's not something I'm qualified to generate myself. That's something I want us to think about do we have the staff resources or the expert resources to walk us through that to generate that content. Mayor Todd Zalucha comments is this the end product (the Matrix) that we are looking for, for Sub-Committee A? Charles Hostetler comments my view is the Sub-Committee will define what the final product is. There are lots of different risk assessments; qualitative to highly detailed numerical models. My sense is to send out some questions before the next sub-committee meeting to think about. What does the deliverable look like will be the focus of the first meeting in my view. I will jot down some items and send them to Barb and send to the whole committee prior to the next sub-committee meeting. Representative Ammons comments one of the concerns I have is once we have identified contaminants is we don't leave something off the list that is potentially hazardous b/c the Illinois EPA says it isn't that bad or it may have a lower threshold at the US level than IL level. Regulated differently at federal level vs state level. So, that's something I'm leaning on the experts on that issue. So, whatever that report from sub-committee A and moving that to sub-committee B for protection and then legislatively which of these are municipally mayors and such they can take action on and which of these will need state action on. Rick Cobb comments on contaminants on the ambient monitoring program. Mayor Julie Wolfe comments on the timeline and schedules for the sub-committees and that Barb suggested once a month for the sub-committees. Barb Lieberoff comments that survey monkey will be going out for the next sub-committee meetings for May and that majority works best for the meetings for location etc. Alec Messina comments that sub-committee B may not meet until sub-committee A has some kind of work product is that what I am hearing? No, I'm wrong. I'm misreading. Sub-committee A will meet, another Task force meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup>, the question is what will happen at the May Task Force meeting but we can get back to that, DNR presentation, IEPA presentation of 3D modeling and anything else that people can identify and we will have 2<sup>nd</sup> Sub-committee A to finalize if its narrative so sub-committee B can take off on its work. Charles Hostetler comments that is an interesting comment and I brought with me a list of things to Sub-Committee B's first meeting should they kind of sit around and not do anything until they get a deliverable from Sub-Committee A. I came up with a list of things that Sub-Committee B could be doing independently. If Sub-Committee B is going to be identifying future actions it would be useful to compile a knowledge base in some format how our current resources are allocated. How is it we don't have inspections for a certain class of industry? Are inspections in the real world budgeted comfortably in the view of the people? Where data gaps might be. What has been done in other states. We aren't the only state that is dealing with a sole source aquifer. Andrew Rehn comments on what Charles said is good and I think our first sub-committee B meeting was good and I think our lack of knowledge of threats was good but the lack on quantity is absent from sub-committee A and I think we can answer in sub-committee B as well. So quality vs quantity. George Roadcap comments on identifying the roles on the Agencies in the Matrix. Rick Cobb comments on threats that the aquifer itself is

different from one end to the next. Looking at this geology and hydrology and high areas the nature of the sources doesn't lose that fact. Another comment in regard to sub-committee B don't forget that there are preventive things you can be doing as well. I know it's hard to quantify prevention. As far as what Agency does what we have an Inter-Agency Groundwater Advisory Council so don't reinvent the wheel there on who does what. So just a couple reminders there. Rep. Ammons comment on the Interagency committee that currently exists have they taken up this issue on the aquifer in the past and have you all and have you already produced something that we could look at that gives us this start point? Rick Cobb comments that yes, we have a speaker that is coming Bill Compton who chairs the Governor's Groundwater Advisory Council who has headed up and worked with a lot of local affiliates in developing numerous ordinances such as Pekin wellhead protection overlay zoning ordinance, Tazewell County groundwater protection ordinance and Pleasant Valley PWD Regulated Recharge area. Andrew Rehn comments on recharge areas. George Roadcap comments on dividing risks into two categories. Teresa Barnett comments on Sub-Committee B and the fact that there are a lot of existing ordinances out there and laws and continue to look at and what is being followed and what can put forth in a recommendation so I'm very much in favor that Sub-Committee B needs to keep working. Rick Cobb comments that we have quite a bit of monitoring on the Mahomet Aquifer. In terms of priority we need to see where the potential sources sit. In terms of recommendations we have source water assessment fact sheets for every community water supply. Teresa Barnett comments how do we go about getting those source water assessment fact sheets? Rick Cobb comments that they are on the GIS web management tool that I presented. Andrew Rehn comments on the HTM on the confidence of this map? George Roadcap comments that this has been area of our research for some time. Rick Cobb comments that the map potential for aquifer recharge is a first step to look it's for planning purposes. Charles Hostetler comments on the degree of uncertainty so that sub-committee B and the Task Force as a whole about how much we believe in a particular thing like risk or how much the recharge might be. It's important to acknowledge the gaps and uncertainties to sub-committee B so they can take that into account when developing their areas of identifying actions. Mayor Todd Zalucha comments so Charles if laws or regulations could have triggers is their conceptually we set up our actions in that manner so that we learn more about the science so that then these laws could adapt boy you find out later boy the science was wrong. If you had a trigger that would deregulate that area or vice a versa. Charles Hostetler comments that the answer to your question is yes and we do that quite often through risk based frameworks. Andrew Rehn comments on public monitoring that could flag some of these systems and goes to a website for the public to see and perhaps have the Task Force convene on a five-year basis something like that. We aren't at a at risk right now but perhaps when the quantity is low we could worry then. George Roadcap comments on knowing some things in advance is a good thing instead of waiting for a crisis. An important strategy is continued monitoring. Mayor Julie Wolfe comments that we don't want to get too into the weeds b/c it takes away from the sub-committees but we have had a lot of good conversation to take back to the sub-committees. Barb, you will get the survey's out for the next sub-committee

meetings. Barb Lieberoff comments that yes I will and that the next Full Task Force meeting is May 14<sup>th</sup> but since we still need a location for that meeting if anyone is willing to host that meeting please email me. Next item on the Agenda is Public Comments.

### **Public Comments**

Joe Hooker comments on the Clinton Landfill and pipeline approval/aquifer and surface of the ground.

Randy Locke Geological Survey comments what are the levels of impact inform that risk assessment and then prioritize that risk.

Buck Carter comments on his concern on the wind farm in DeWitt County on the vibration from the wind farm on the quality of water.

### **Committee Comments**

Donovan Griffith comments is there is a goal for the May meeting and can we discuss the Agenda today? Mayor Julie Wolfe asks should we consider having the sub-committees first then have the full task force meeting? Mayor Julie Wolfe asks for a motion to cancel the May meeting. Motion carries. Charles Hostetler is there a quorum requirement? Alec Messina comments as to no b/c there is no formal work being done.

### **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn Alec Messina Seconded by Mayor Larry Stoner. Motion Carries