

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

August 6, 2018

Place: Jeld-Wen Windows and Doors 201 Evans Road Rantoul, Illinois 61866

Time Started: 9:00 AM

Time Adjourned: 10:20 AM

**Members Present:**

Charles Hostettler, PDC Technical Services  
Alec Davis, Illinois Environmental Regulatory Group  
Jim Risley, Mahomet-Seymour School District  
Andrew Rehn, Prairie Rivers Network  
Donovan Griffith, Illinois Manufacturers Association  
Sen. Chapin Rose, 51<sup>st</sup> District (Landon Stenger)  
Director Alec Messina, Illinois EPA  
Mayor Diane Marlin, City of Urbana  
Mayor Julie Moore-Wolfe, City of Decatur  
Mayor Charles Smith, Village of Rantoul  
David Zimmerman, Tazewell County  
Barb Lieberoff, Illinois EPA  
Rick Cobb, Illinois EPA

**TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

**Discussion of Minutes from 7-9 Meeting**

Sub-Committee Chairmen Mayor Larry Stoner calls the meeting to order. The first item on the of the minutes 7-9. Mayor Stoner comments that if there are any comments or changes to the minutes please get them to Barb. Mayor Stoner comments that we are on a tight schedule today so let's get going with Jim who is going to begin discussing the prioritization of the PRI recommendations and will hopefully start to get us where we need to be going.

**Presentation: Jim Risley; Recommendations of PRI's Document by Category and Priority**

Jim Risley has all the recommendations from PRI's document displayed on a poster board. Jim tells the sub-committee members that he worked with two science teachers and began

shortening from 138 recommendations to a smaller list which he has displayed on the board. Started with 7 categories instead of 5. The seven categories are in black. Research category is number one category in their mind. Tried to look at what is general theme those are in red. Worksheet in front of you showing how we may want to categorize, eliminate and prioritize. Hope we can start on that today. One thing he focused on is HTEM and that needs funding. Jim Risley referenced Champaign CFB meeting – Mayor Diane Marlin looked at the outline of the aquifer as a big issue. Jim thinks that could be included. Jim continues to discuss how they came up with their list (references the board). It's on velcro and we can take them off and move them around till we get to something we want to present in September. Jim Risley asks if anyone has any questions on his process. Jim suggests we bring everyone together to work in a close group, less informal. Jim suggests he get the document to Barb and she may be able to put it all together in some electronic format. Donovan Griffith asks for clarification on the document in front of them is indeed what's on the board. Jim Risley says yes, it is. Suggests after Rick Winkel's presentation that we start working on the recommendations.

### **Rick Winkel; PRI update from the “Management and Protection of the Mahomet Aquifer Document”**

Rick Winkel asks that everyone has the updated document? Table B is the only update. Incorporated into a revised set of recommendations. Rick Winkel comments to follow up on Jim, provided documentation and references primarily from Rick Cobb and company (IEPA). Not adding any new recommendations that were given to the task force. Just in nature of what you do beyond. Local ordinances, educating, etc. informative for subcommittee to be referencing this. PRI's Mahomet Aquifer Response Team paired down Five Groups – for this Task Force to do what they wish. Rick Winkel comments that we did get comments from a few members. Alec did provide some commentary. Donovan chimed in as well. Jim comments too. That was all that PRI got from the subcommittee. We need stronger signal from subcommittee to move forward on anything. Mayor Stoner thanks Rick for their work to the sub-committee.

### **Jim Risley Presentation Discussion**

Sub-committee members gather around Jim Risley's board to talk about the big segment. The category lists consist of: Research, Communication, Contamination, Legislation, Management, Education, Conservation. Jim suggests we spend 30 minutes on the Management category and try to widdle down some of the recommendations. Chairwomen Deb Feinen suggests that perhaps we make the HTEM a big recommendation and have a separate category for that. Mayor Diane Marlin comments that the Urbana and Champaign mayors spent time in DC in June pushing HTEM – compare to MRI of the aquifer. Don't' do brain surgery without MRI. Don't make decisions about the aquifer without it. Donovan Griffith comments do we want suggest funding HTEM? He recommends looking at federal and state funding. Rick Winkel comments that PRI has experts on staff to do the HTEM. That U of I, PRI has capacity to do HTEM. They can study the properties of the aquifer through HTEM, data analysis, drilling. Donovan Griffith comments that we put down this is what HTEM is, this is what it can do, this is who can do it, this is the cost, this is our recommendation to the general assembly. Jim Risley comments that after we complete

this task we could meet again to see how we are going to write all of this up. Discussion is that Illinois EPA will be the ones to draft it up. Jim Risley comments that we can't do a 20million dollar pilot project all once, lend itself to breaking into chunks. Alec Davis comments that we could just throw it to PRI and tell them how to prioritize. Tell PRI to exercise its priority areas and timelines. Rick Cobb comments the we could do the pilot to start at Mahomet Aquifer and could go broader than that. Jim Risley comments on Record water usage/management title on the board. Rick Cobb comments that he has reached out to IDPH and through local County Health Departments said here is the area we delineated and oil gas storage wells. Take this into count when permitting wells. Jim Risley comments that this could be completely localized. Maybe something else checked when putting a new well in, regarding methane gas. Column recommendations under Record water usage/management Alec Davis comments addressing recharge/managing withdraw, suggests pulling number two recommendation under that column and keeping recommendation number one. The group discusses 3 items under E page 4 on Jim's document. Alec Davis comments and asks why Champaign Co only? Rick Cobb comments that George Roadcap's model shows that is the biggest cone of depression. If you look at whole aquifer and focus on where land subsidence may happen, C-U is the largest area in the aquifer. That might be why. Charles Hostetler comments if unconfined aquifer, the land doesn't subside. In Champaign co, removing some of the pressure. Alec Davis comments are we using subsidence issue to show impact of draw down? Rick Cobb comments that something the LIDAR can see. Chris Stohr comments LiDAR wouldn't show this but maybe satellite radar like in Decatur to look at millimeters of movement. Deb Feinen comments then perhaps we move this to Research category. Alec comments are we trying to prioritize items that are important and provide us with valuable information where does this one fit in (referencing 3 items under E page 4). Charles Hostetler comments small likelihood but bad if it happens. If pump and pump, subsidence could happen. But this would let you measure. One thing you can measure easily are withdraws. But no one knows how much withdraw you can do before gets to a bad outcome. Jim Risley asks the group where they would like to move this recommendation...Research. Rick Cobb comments that in NE Illinois, aquifer is being mined and becoming unsustainable. HTEM gives higher definition of the geology to put into the numerical flow model. Jim Risley comments that we have reached 30 min that we have discussed this. I think we have gotten some good work done. The group goes back to their chairs.

### **Presentation Discussion**

Mayor Larry Stoner asks the group if anyone has any additional comments or questions regarding the breakout session Jim Risley just led? Mayor Deb Feinen comments and suggests may want a subcommittee meeting to continue to work on that. Maybe put up on a power point and can do by section and move things around. And make sure the PRI people are at the meeting to explain the scientific terms. Barb can start working on a space where we can chat. Jim Risley comments we saw today how long we take. We could put ourselves into a time capsule approach. Took a big step today to get some work to be done. Goal – some sort of matrix or rubric, working model

people have confidence in that could help with future issues. We need George here to present things (George Roadcap's updated Threat Matrix). Charles Hostetler comments that Subcommittee A could provide a list of targets to focus your model on. Manlove, landfills, etc. Developing the telescope needs more. Other components that constrain the model that are as material as the other properties. Important to hear from George (regarding his updated Threat Matrix). Rick Cobb comments where you hit the boundary in the drawdown scenario, it will go down to get water. Boundary is very important. When cone of depression hits boundary to meet the need of pumping on the system, it will go somewhere. That is key to the mathematical model. Charles Hostetler comments – George Roadcap's view on where his model is important. Another thing to think about, having a modeling 101 talk. Mayor Larry Stoner thanks Jim for the work he's completed so far and presenting to the group in this fashion.

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

Mayor Larry Stoner comments on date for future meeting. Its decided that August 20 is next Full Task Force so let's do the same format as today (9am Sub-committee B, 10:30 Sub-committee A, 11:30 Full Task Force). Mayor Deb Feinen will work with Barb Lieberoff on a location.

### **Public Comments**

Lauren Lurkins-comments about the MAC board – as a member. Did a brief summary, connected to website. Lauren left timeline, history and contact information with the group.

### **Adjourn**

Adjourn 10:20am