

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MAHOMET AQUIFER TASK FORCE

The legislation creating the task force charges them with:

1. Identifying threats
2. Developing actions to protect the aquifer
3. Developing a State plan to protect the aquifer
4. Proposing legislation necessary to implement the State plan

The task is challenging because it is geographically broad, impacts many varied interests, is challenging technically, includes many different levels of government and agencies in the State, has no current source of funding, and a very short timeline. The agreement on a plan of action by the Task Force is critical to the development of future efforts to protect our sole source aquifer, realizing that a more comprehensive and detailed plan is dependent upon more complete information.

The State Plan should include the following major points:

1. Determine the geography of the Mahomet Aquifer through additional research
2. Monitor water quality and quantity
3. Take remedial action as appropriate to protect water quality
4. Take preventive action where possible to protect water quality
5. Provide ongoing public education as well as timely notice of unusual events
6. Establish a regional organization to accomplish the Plan
7. Create a funding plan, including authority for a water based fee system

We (undersigned) support the following priority recommendations for early implementation:

1. Improve our understanding of the geographic boundaries and hydrogeological features of the Mahomet Aquifer, with a particular emphasis on identifying recharge areas. Securing funding and initiating a HTEM technology project is an essential element for meeting this need.
2. Identify all operational and closed landfills which pose a hazard to surface and ground water resources and prioritize them using existing available information. Additionally, identify storage, processing and transportation facilities that contain large quantities of material that could threaten the aquifer.
3. Create an organization responsible for the oversight of sustainably conserving ground water quality and quantity. As the initial step, extend the existing Mahomet Aquifer Task Force and charge them with developing specific models for this organization and for funding from a variety of sources such as federal and state grants, and user fees on withdrawals of water from the subsurface and on entities which dispose of wastes within the aquifer area.
4. Update the current methods and increase training of landfill inspectors to incorporate sensing (aerial photography and lidar), geographic information systems (GIS), and database management to guide field inspections of all legacy landfills.

Respectfully submitted: Steve Carter, Bruce Hannon, Joe Hooker, John Marlin, Chris Stohr

