

MEETING REGIONAL WAER SUPPLY PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE/TIME Friday April 24, 2009 – 10am – Mason County Farm Bureau

PRESENT: Brad Uken, Jeff Smith, Jay C. Henry, Robert Betzelberger. Alec Davis, Shannon Allen, Mark Sheppard, Dwain Berggren, Frank Dunmire, Alex Whermann, Ed Mehnert, Nancy Erickson, Ellis Sanderson, Robbie Berg, Gary Clark, Sharon Martin, Dee Dee Gellerman, Representative Rich Myers, Mel Pleines, Rick Twait, Derek Winstanley,

ABSENT William Smith, Dorland Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES MOTION BY Mark Sheppard, SECONDED BY Steve Wegman to approve the March 27, 2009 meeting minutes.

MAC TREASURER REPORT

Provided by Mel Pleines, MOTION BY Morris Bell to accept the minutes as presented and SECONDED BY Jeff Smith. Included in packet, please refer to packet.

WEBSITE Please refer to packet.

STATE OF ILLINOIS REVIEW OF DROUGHT RESPON PLAN - SWPTF

Gary Clark gave the report about the need for a Drought Response Plan.

The Task Force is co chaired by Gary and has the charge to update and revise the Plan.

The last one was done May 2005. He handed out the "Need to Update the State Drought Plan" April 22, 2009 given to the SWPTF. The schedule for the plan completion has not been set. They meet quarterly. A request has been sent out to the Task Agencies to submit names to serve on the committee. Springfield, Decatur, Bloomington rely on surface water. 300,000+ people in this region would be affected by a drought immediately. Hopefully this plan will be a proactive plan and can be put into immediate action with a drought.

REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCTION

Chairman Brad Uken introduced Representative Rich Myers. He represents seven counties. He has attended the Midwest Legislative Conference (11 states attended). They were most concerned about having enough water and water withdrawal from the rivers. He is attending the RWSPC meeting with the interest of knowing about any regulation recommendations that the committee may be making that would effect Mason County and his region. He also stated that education about water is very important. Committee member Dwain Berggren stated the committee at present would not be making recommendations on regulation as they are making recommendations within the exiting law.

STATEWIDE POTENTIAL WATER RECOMMENDATIONSC

The committee discussed three possible recommendations of:

Establishing a "statewide" Water Board, hiring a statewide Water Conservation employee for water education, and creating a statewide Conservation Plan. After the discussion it was the consensus of the committee to not make any statewide recommendations

Derek Winstanley stated that CMAP has asked for a six month extension of their final report. They are looking at proposing a statewide conservation coordinator for outreach and education also proposing a need for a statewide study and plan.

Gary Clark - CMAP believes that conservation is very important because they have more water issues than the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium/RWSPC. They believe that the state would benefit by conservation education and outreach and Texas Plan has this.

CMAP doesn't see regulation coming out of the Northeastern group.

Kane county is at risk and has many water issues and has hired the water survey to do additional to do additional studies as they are seeing that they will need to drill a multibillion dollar well every few years as other collar counties have had to drill drawing from the same source.

+++++Lunch+++++

FUTURE OF PRESENT COMMITTEE

Three board members stated that they would prefer not to serve further after June 30, 2009.

The public education regarding the Final Report and general water education for the public should cover the following:

- Power Point for RWSPC members and others to present and for the website, Derek Winstanley will be preparing this.
- Specific communities to target should be Champaign, Decatur, Springfield, and Bloomington
- Local public education meetings should be held in the communities where Whittman held them
- RWSPC with editorial boards for the Draft of the Final Report and Final Report
- Video production, 15-30 minute DVD, will need a budget, script, and narrator
- Discovery Channel
- American Water Works
- DVD for teachers
- Press Conference
- Use local cable channels, Champaign, Decatur, also Parkland College and others

It was the consensus of the committee that they would like a direction from the MAC Board as to continuation of this committee and an education plan for the Final Report. Finances also have to be defined past June 30, 2009.

SCHEDULING OF FUTURE MEETINGS AND CONFERENCE CALL

June 17 – Conference Call on comments for Final Report 10a.m. to 11a.m.

June 29 – Champaign – Parkland College, Tony Noel Technology Center

(To review and approve Final Report)

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Uken adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.