

# **Appendix A**

## **Public Outreach**

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**EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS  
REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLANNING  
COMMITTEE**

**P.O. Box 7318, Champaign, Illinois 61826-7318**

**Water-Demand Study  
Meeting Agenda**

- Welcome and introduction of water-demand study team
- Water-demand study background and methodology
  - A power point presentation will be given that:
    1. provides background information about water-supply planning in Illinois
    2. shows the boundaries of the East Central Region
    3. discusses the goal of the water-demand study
    4. describes the study methodology and demand scenarios
- Historical data
  - Graphs of county historical water-use and variable data will be presented by water-use sector.
- Divide into groups by water-use sector
  - Participants will be asked to break into groups by water-use sector to share knowledge about historical and current trends in water-use. Meeting packets will be distributed that include graphs and a table of historical water-use and variables for each sector. A questionnaire, also included in the information packet, will be used to lead the group discussion and should be completed by participants as best as possible.

Please make sure you sign-in.

If you have questions regarding this meeting, please contact WHPA using the contact information on bottom of this page.

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### Water-Demand Study Meeting for Cass, Mason, Menard, and Sangamon Counties

The following is a synopsis of the water supply planning meeting held on August 22, 2007 in Havana, Illinois targeting Cass, Mason, Menard, and Sangamon counties.

**Meeting Location:** Havana, Illinois

**Meeting Date:** August 22, 2007

**Targeted Areas:** Cass, Mason, Menard, and Sangamon Counties

**Main Concerns:**

1. Water availability
2. Water quality
3. Economic impacts
4. Water conservation
5. Future regulations

**Meeting Attendees**

Group Represented	Number of Attendees
Public	44
East Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee	2
Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Board	3
Illinois State Water Survey	2
Illinois State Geological Survey	1
Wittman Hydro Planning Associates (Water-Demand Study Team)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>

**Meeting Summary**

Susan Licher of Wittman Hydro Planning Associates, Inc. (WHPA) gave a presentation on the scope and time line for the water supply planning project. This project involves a fifteen county region in East Central Illinois and was initiated in response to Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order 2006-1. Susan Licher's presentation focused on the background of the water supply planning initiative, the methods associated with assessing water-demand, and the historical data being used in the water-demand study.

After the presentation, the attendees were asked to state with whom they were affiliated and what specific concerns or comments they had regarding the study. The following paragraphs are a general synopsis of the stakeholders concerns.

Steve Waterworth of the Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation had a concern about how this study might influence the growth within the state of Illinois. If citizens and corporations in less water-rich areas have a report saying that water resources in East Central Illinois are abundant, they might move here in order to feel secure about the water supply. This influx may have a negative

impact on the water supply.

Susan Licher responded by saying that the possible increase in demand by commercial and industrial uses will be part of the supply and demand study. The studies will look at where commercial and industrial activities may locate and determine where there might be conflict due to water availability.

Dr. Derek Winstanley of the Illinois State Water Survey followed this comment by saying that without reasonable planning there is conflict and that one objective of this study is to reduce conflict.

Wendy Martin from the Mason County Democrat said she wanted to know how the two separate studies - supply and demand - would complement one another and how we would avoid inconsistencies between the studies

Susan Licher responded by saying that the water demand study results will be given to the State Water Survey and they will be incorporating the demand results into the supply modeling.

Richard Nichols, the executive director of the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District, is interested in what the study will accomplish. Specifically, he was interested in how conservation would be utilized. He also stated that the Soil and Water Conservation Districts can help with groundwater recharge and conservation initiatives. Richard also talked about how climate change could impact water availability in the area. Industries could also come in and have substantial water uptake and impact water availability.

Cecil Gilson, a retired citizen concerned about water, remarked that municipalities want to tap into the aquifer. He asked if this was being considered in this study and asked if there would be large withdrawals as a result of this.

Susan Licher responded by saying that part of the future scenarios will look at the cumulative effects of all water users on the resource. Currently water is being withdrawn without looking at how water demands impact other users. This study will look at ways each of the users impact the water. One person's actions affect others and we must consider the cumulative impacts on all users and areas.

Aleda Riviere, a citizen from Forest City said that she applauds Richard Nichols for his comment regarding water conservation. Mason County has laws against gray water recycling and she wants to see this study used to save the water resources.

In response to Aleda Riviere's comment, Susan Licher stated that water conservation is important for the future and it is important to talk to committee members and voice your opinion. The Regional Water Supply Planning Committee is the public's voice and are the ones who will make the final recommendations regarding planning and management of the resource.

Andy Wiesenhofer, of Reynolds Well Drilling and member the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals, said that he came because he is information gathering. He is concerned about groundwater because he has been in the water business for thirty years. He also wants to see what the government is planning in regards to the water sources in Illinois.

A gentleman asked how the 12 member Regional Water Supply Planning Committee (RWSPC) obtained their positions on the committee.

Susan Licher said that it was formed by the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium. Invitations were sent out to people to invite them to sit on the board and be a part of the planning effort.

A gentleman asked if the Regional Water Supply Planning Committee was a closed board.

Morris Bell, a member of the RWSPC from Mason County, said that it is not a closed board and that meetings are held once a month and those meetings are open to the public. The committee has a responsibility after the studies are over to make recommendations for water management and planning.

A gentleman from St. Paul's Lutheran Church said that he was there to gather information. He is interested in private water use and particularly interested on what impact commercial and industrial users will have on private use.

Susan Licher stated that the study is regional in its focus, so it will not cover specific wells. In general, however, activities that affect the aquifer and areas of potential conflict will be considered. Susan Licher asked Dr. Derek Winstanley how he would deal with changes in heads on the supply side.

Dr. Derek Winstanley stated that the Water Survey will deal with head changes but not on a well-by-well basis.

A gentleman asked, "So there are no plans to put meters on every well?"

Dr. Derek Winstanley replied that the Survey would incorporate the water demand results into the supply models and see how water demands would change water levels on a regional basis but not on a well-by-well basis.

A gentleman asked Dr. Derek Winstanley where he could find the results of the completed studies.

Dr. Derek Winstanley said that the results from both studies will be published and available to the public. He then reiterated that people are welcome to come to the meetings being held over the course of the studies and obtain updated information as the studies continue.

A gentleman asked if the meeting details will be posted on the website and Dr. Derek Winstanley said that they would be available on the websites provided at the end of the presentation.

A gentleman asked how the RWSPC was selected and Dr. Derek Winstanley said that the meeting to select the board members was put in local newspapers eight to nine months ago. About one hundred people turned up and those present made their own nominations for who they wanted as representatives. It was a self-selected process and not a state-led process. He said that they have looked at other states in determining how to run this process. Texas has been involved in water supply planning process for fifty years. In 1985, they decided that their previous top-down, government led approach did not work and finally started a bottom-up approach. For this reason, Illinois is implementing a bottom-up approach and developing recommendations through a grassroots effort.

Joan Esarey, a Havana citizen, said that she wondered if projections for supply included water quality parameters or water quality changes. She mentioned a concern about arsenic in groundwater, for example.

Dr. Derek Winstanley said that this is a three year study that is only dealing with two (2) priority areas

and utilizing the available resources. He envisions that in the long term there will be a statewide process that will involve water quality, but right now there is not appropriate resources, time, and understanding to include water quality. Dr. Winstanley said that currently there is not a consensus about how naturally occurring arsenic gets into water resources. Water quality is a big issue in Northern Illinois, with naturally occurring radionuclides in the bedrock but again this is not being included at this time due to limited resources.

Ron Armbrust of Manito said that he is interested in the planning process because his livelihood, farming, is dependent on water. His biggest concern is water control or restrictions. He said that the aquifer is unconfined in this area and in Champaign situations are different. Ron Armbrust wanted to make sure this difference was considered. He also asked in what sector the local fish hatchery fell.

Susan Licher responded by saying that she thought that the hatchery was included in the irrigation and sector because the water use at the hatchery is different from most commercial and industrial users. Susan said she would look at the data to find out for sure where the Hatchery's use was included.

Ron Armbrust followed by saying that the Hatchery pumps all year long and does not have the seasonal changes like agriculture and irrigation, so he felt that the hatchery's water use was more closely related to commercial and industrial. Susan Licher stated she would take that into consideration and look more closely at the Hatchery's use.

As a follow up to Mr. Armbrust's comment on how different areas of the aquifer are structurally different, Dr. Derek Winstanley agreed and said that it was certainly wrong to generalize about the whole aquifer. In this area, for instance, there are large pumping rates and we know it is sustainable. This idea cannot be transposed to the eastern part of the aquifer, however.

Jim Nelson of the Soil and Water Conservation District asked if the water demand in one area affected the other side of the aquifer very much, since the areas were so different.

Dr. Derek Winstanley said that for some areas the water use on one side does not impact water availability on the other side. However, there is a very slow westward movement. Unlike the rapid water movement in a river, groundwater movement is only a few feet or tens of feet per year. Over a long period, though, there will be an affect.

Aleda Riviere expressed her concern that water is wasted by farmers. She has seen some irrigation water spraying onto roads rather than the intended fields. She asked if phone numbers could be posted at the end of the irrigation systems so that people could let the farmers know what was occurring.

Ron Armbrust stated that the farmers had been informed that their irrigation systems were not reaching the intended areas.

Mel Pleines, chairman of the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium, said that when people have local concerns it is important that they let people in the committee know. They need citizens to let them know about issues so they can serve them appropriately.

Dr. Derek Winstanley said that planning is important and there is already a lot of planning within communities and industries. Dr. Winstanley related the idea of planning to individuals planning for retirement and that if you do not plan, you will not have enough resources for the future. The same ideas can be applied to water resources and without planning the State may not have enough resources

for the future. It is better to begin planning now, rather than not have enough water in the future.

Susan Licher asked if there were more questions and seeing no more hands said that she would like people to take the packet(s) related to specific interests and fill out and return the questionnaires at the back of the packets by September 1. She thanked everyone for coming, reiterated that everyone needs to use the Regional Water Supply Planning Committee as their voice throughout this water supply planning process and the meeting was adjourned.

**ADDENDUM**

The local fish hatchery water demand has been placed in the Livestock sector. Aquaculture is considered in the U.S. Census of Agriculture as livestock production. Due to this fact, it was placed in Livestock rather than Commercial and Industrial water demand sector.

### **Water Demand Study Meeting for Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties**

The following is a brief synopsis of the August 20, 2007 water supply planning meeting held in Rantoul, Illinois targeting Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion counties.

**Meeting Location:** Rantoul, Illinois

**Meeting Date:** August 20, 2007

**Targeted Areas:** Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion counties

**Main Concerns:**

1. Water availability
2. Ethanol production

**Meeting Attendees**

<b>Group Represented</b>	<b>Number of Attendees</b>
Public	27
East Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee	4
Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Board	2
Illinois State Water Survey	3
Illinois State Geological Survey	1
Wittman Hydro Planning Associates (Water Demand Study Team)	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>

**Meeting Summary**

Susan Licher of Wittman Hydro Planning Associates, Inc. (WHPA) gave a presentation on the scope and time line for the water supply planning project. This project involves a fifteen county region in East-Central Illinois and was initiated in response to Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order 2006-1. WHPA, in cooperation with Dr. Ben Dziegielewski from Southern Illinois University, was hired to conduct the demand study. Susan Licher's presentation focused on the background of the water supply planning initiative, the methods associated with assessing water demand, and the historical data being used in the water demand study.

After the presentation was completed, Susan invited attendees to ask questions.

One gentleman voiced a concern about the well that had been drilled for an incoming ethanol plant that is located a short distance from his well. He wanted to know if pumping would significantly affect the water-level in his well.

Jack Wittman of WHPA said that one plant would likely not have much of an effect on his supply. If many plants are introduced to the area, on the other hand, the impact could be significant. This is why regional demands are being examined. Jack suggested that the gentleman contact the State Water Survey. The survey can test the water level within the aquifer before and after the plant comes on-line

to see if the plant caused a significant drop in the water level. During this discussion, it was noted that the water supply planning effort is regional in scale and will assess heads in the aquifer and areas of possible conflict and/or abundance.

Someone asked how much water it took to produce one gallon of ethanol. George Roadcap and Ed Mehnert, representatives of the Illinois State Water and Geological Survey, said that they thought it took about six to seven gallons to produce one gallon of ethanol. Jack Wittman said that he thought the numbers were closer to ten gallons of water per gallon of ethanol. The State Survey representatives added that ethanol plants use about 2 million gallons of water per day and release about 300,000 gallons of water per day into surface water sources. The baseline water demand scenarios will include the demand for all permitted ethanol plants and the “increased use” scenario will include potential future plants.

Bradley Uken commented that the aquifer changes as you go from east to west. The aquifer in the eastern portion of the study area is a confined aquifer while the western portion is unconfined. Therefore, the differences in how the aquifer recharges is different. Bradley stressed that due to these differences the best available data must be used in each portion of the aquifer. The eastern portion of the aquifer has less data available especially in regards to irrigation and cooperation from all parties will be required in order to properly assess the demands and supplies.

Susan Licher stated at the end of the discussion that the recommendations that will be made by the East Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee must fall within existing regulations, laws, and property rights.

At the end of the meeting, the group was divided into sub-groups based upon water-use sector and questions and concerns were addressed within those groups. Each participant was provided with a packet of information regarding water-demand within their specific sector and a questionnaire that they were asked to fill out and return to WHPA.

#### **ADDENDUM**

After the meeting, WHPA, reviewed existing information on the amount of water needed to produce one gallon of ethanol. An article published by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (Kenney and Muller, 2006) states that a review of the existing data indicate that most plants consume from 3.5 to 6.0 gallons of water per gallon of ethanol produced. The Renewable Fuels Association estimates that 3 gallons of water are used per gallon of ethanol produced. Below are some links to websites that have additional information regarding ethanol.

<http://www.ethanolrfa.org/>

<http://www.epa.state.il.us/air/permits/ethanol-plants.html>

<http://www.agobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=89449>

### Water-Demand Study Meeting for DeWitt, Logan, Macon, and Piatt Counties

The following is a brief synopsis of the August 23, 2007 water supply planning meeting held in Clinton, Illinois targeting DeWitt, Logan, Macon, and Piatt counties.

**Meeting Location:** Clinton, Illinois

**Meeting Date:** August 23, 2007

**Targeted Areas:** DeWitt, Logan, Macon, and Piatt counties

**Main Concerns:**

1. Water availability
2. Implications for future regulations
3. Water quality
4. Study methods

**Meeting Attendees**

Group Represented	Number of Attendees
Public	26
East Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee	3
Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Board	2
Illinois State Water Survey	2
Illinois State Geological Survey	1
Wittman Hydro Planning Associates (Water-Demand Study Team)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>

**Meeting Summary**

Susan Licher of Wittman Hydro Planning Associates, Inc. (WHPA) gave a presentation on the scope and time line for the water supply planning project. This project involves a fifteen county region in East-Central Illinois and was initiated in response to Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order 2006-1. WHPA, in cooperation with Dr. Ben Dziegielewski from Southern Illinois University, was hired to conduct the demand study. Susan Licher's presentation focused on the background of the water supply planning initiative, the methods associated with assessing water-demand, and the historical data being used in the water-demand study.

After Susan Licher's presentation, she asked for volunteers to introduce themselves, explain why they were at the meeting, and to voice any questions or concerns they had regarding the study.

Robert Lieb from Piatt County stated that there are five or six wells located in the Mahomet aquifer that are being used to export water to areas outside of the Mahomet Aquifer. He asked if water-demands beyond the 15-county areas were being considered if they received their water from the Mahomet aquifer.

Susan Licher responded by stating that the water-demands will be considered for any well located

within the Mahomet Aquifer even if the water was being exported outside the study boundaries. The study looks at the water-demand on the aquifers and surface waters within the 15-county region even if the users are outside of that 15-county boundary.

Dave Joswiak, the city manager of Farmer City, said that he was there to gather information and to figure out the impacts of water use on Farmer City. While there has not been a lot of growth in Farmer City in the last few years, he is concerned about the city being restricted in water-use and that this could affect their growth. In particular, he is concerned about the impacts of ethanol plants on water availability.

Susan Licher followed by saying that WHPA will try to get at that with the different scenarios, in terms of how ethanol plants will impact the aquifer. Also, part of the study is looking at the cumulative effects of individual users and individual industries.

Ed Glatfelter of the Illinois State Water Survey added that the study is to be done within existing rules and regulations. The study itself will be within those bounds. However, there may be changes in regulations later on as an indirect result of the studies taking place in relation to planning.

Matt Ringenburg of the Logan County Health Department said his main concern regarded domestic well users. He asked what type of recommendations would be made - regulatory, educational, or other?

Susan Licher responded by saying that there will likely be a variety of types of recommendations including educational, conservation, and regulatory but these would be just recommendations. It is the expectation that the local entities will take the recommendations and begin implementing. There will be different approaches in different areas, because this is a bottom-up process. What recommendations are appropriate for some areas may not be appropriate for others.

Shane Balding of S&J Well Drilling wanted to know if the study dealt with water quality issues related to abandoned wells. He wanted to know if the study dealt with water contamination from abandoned wells that had been capped. He was also concerned about geothermal intrusion.

Ed Glatfelter said that well abandonment will not be addressed in the study. Geothermal intrusion by smaller private or commercial users will not be considered in this study either because it is a water quality issue.

Charles Jolly from the Reynolds Drilling Coop asked how a firm from Indiana (WHPA) was selected and the amount of the contract awarded.

Susan Licher responded by saying that a request for proposal was sent out and WHPA sent a proposal. After all of the proposals were reviewed and companies were interviewed, WHPA was selected for the project. In terms of the exact price for the study, Susan Licher was unsure, but she said that she could retrieve that information.

Mel Pleines of the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium said that WHPA's proposal will be on the committee's website in the near future.

Stephen Parker of the DeWitt Soil and Water Conservation District asked if there had been comparisons done between the regression models used in other water-demand studies and the actual water-demand. He also asked that if yearly averages and seasonal averages are being extrapolated how well will this

work if we do not have seasonal data.

Derek Winstanley talked about how the study done by Ben Dziegielewski was only completed two years ago, so there has been no comparisons available at this time. He also mentioned that some studies have been great at predicting actual usages while others have over estimated water-demands. It is important to recognize that no one can predict the future but depending on the information, the output can be very good.

Susan Licher said that she has only been with WHPA for a year, so she does not know how well some of the water-demand studies completed by WHPA had predicted future water-demands.

Stephen Parker asked how well these Texas regression models worked.

Derek Winstanley said that he wanted to clarify that Texas is just being used as an example. The actual water conditions in Illinois are quite different from those in Texas. Texas's approach to general water supply planning is being used but the water-demand modeling is different and specific to Illinois.

Stephen Parker asked how the data could be broken down seasonally.

Susan Licher said that part of the process of data collection is to talk to the public water supplies and to determine the peak season and peak daily demand. Peak season water demand is reported to the State Water Survey, but peak daily demand is not.

Stephen Parker asked how will the study be completed in time if not all the data are in. Will the data be in in time?

Susan Licher responded by saying that the historical data go back to 1985 and the study will analyze water-demand on a five-year increment. So the data is available for making those relationships.

John Stolfa, a resident of Piatt County, asked about the current water use regulations that users must adhere to.

Ed Glatfelter said that generally there are not a lot of regulations in regard to water use but there are regulations for water quality. As to a person's right to utilize water, there really are few laws to regulate usage. It is primarily common law that governs water usage. He said that this is one reason he feels it is important to have a planning process. It is legal to overuse the resource right now and there are no legal standings for someone to who is impacted by other users.

Shane Balding said that he thought that in Decatur there were laws to deal with this issue because Decatur had replaced or lowered several wells which had been impacted by their water-use.

Ed Glatfelter said that is a situation in which a company was trying to be a good neighbor and help people who had been impacted. However, they are not required by the law to help in any way.

Ed Mehnert of the Illinois State Geological Survey suggested looking at the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium website to read about Illinois water law.

Mel Pleines said that the main focus in this study was to determine what people expect to use in the future, factoring in growth, etc. The State is trying to find out how much water there is in the aquifer

and from there it will be determined if the aquifer can supply the demand. If not, then steps will have to be made to reduce future conflicts.

Dave Joswiak asked if the study is only looking at the Mahomet Aquifer.

Susan Licher responded by saying that other aquifers, such as the Glasford Aquifer, are being considered. The study will include the entire strata from ground level all the way to the base of the Mahomet Aquifer.

Ed Mehnert added that the study incorporates both groundwater as well as surface water so it is a comprehensive planning process.

One gentleman asked if this was strictly a county based study or if we would be looking at HUCs or Hydraulic Units on the surface water side.

Susan Licher said that the water-demand study will be based both on county and city boundaries as discussed in the study area portion of the presentation. For the demand side, the data are generally at the county or city level.

Derek Winstanley said that the supply study is looking at the whole watershed in the statistical hydrological analyses.

The same gentleman asked if these studies are looking at the counties themselves.

Derek Winstanley responded by saying that the water supply study is based upon watershed boundaries.

Then, the gentleman asked if the models generated and the results were going to be accessible to other groups using models.

Derek Winstanley said that absolutely all the data models will be accessible and that they are going to go through external peer reviews.

Dave Joswiak asked where the risk of water contamination will be factored in.

Susan Licher responded by saying that this study deals more with water quantity than quality.

Ed Glatfelter said that the first three (3) years of the study will deal strictly with quantity. Where water quality makes some water unusable, that will be taken into account. In future iterations water quality will be taken into account.

One gentleman asked if the shallow unconsolidated glacial deposits that are not in the main Mahomet Aquifer would be considered in the study.

Susan Licher said that the whole strata in the fifteen county region will be considered not just the Mahomet Aquifer.

A gentleman asked if drainage systems that intersect the groundwater would be considered in the study.

Derek Winstanley said that the State Water Survey will look at recharge and total water budgets to the extent that it can and will draw connections.

The same gentleman asked if there were records for where there are farm fed drainage systems.

Derek Winstanley said that it varies. The data for tile drainage is emerging “slowly but surely” and that as the data becomes available there will be an effort to incorporate this information into the models. Right now there is not enough data to include the farm tile drainage networks.

There were no further comments so the meeting was concluded.

### Water-Demand Study Meeting for McLean, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties

The following is a synopsis of the August 21, 2007 water supply planning meeting held in Tremont, Illinois targeting McLean, Tazewell, and Woodford counties.

**Meeting Location:** Tremont, Illinois

**Meeting Date:** August 21, 2007

**Targeted Areas:** McLean, Tazewell, and Woodford counties

**Main Concerns:**

1. Water availability
2. Water quality
3. Future regulations
4. Regional planning

**Meeting Attendees**

Group Represented	Number of Attendees
Public	42
East Central Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Committee	3
Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Board	1
Illinois State Water Survey	1
Wittman Hydro Planning Associates (Water-Demand Study Team)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>

**Meeting Summary**

Susan Licher of Wittman Hydro Planning Associates, Inc. (WHPA) gave a presentation on the scope and time line for the water supply planning project. This project involves a fifteen county region in East Central Illinois and was initiated in response to Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order 2006-1. Susan Licher's presentation focused on the background of the water supply planning initiative, the methods associated with assessing water-demand, and the historical data being used in the water-demand study.

After the presentation, the attendees were asked to state with whom they were affiliated and what specific concerns or comments they had regarding the study. The following paragraphs are a general synopsis of the stakeholders concerns.

Traci Barkley from the Prairie Rivers Network was concerned about surface-water base flows, public water supply protection, and habitat protection. Traci Barkley stated that people must realize that surface water and groundwater systems are interconnected and are not completely separate systems. She also expressed concerns regarding the inclusion of climate change through sensitivity analysis rather than in the three future scenarios, because climate does have an impact

on the explanatory variables that will be used in the water demand models.

Susan Licher responded by saying that we are assessing climatic relationships between historical climate data and water. In order to understand the future scenarios in the study, sensitivity analysis was chosen by the group because of the uncertainty in the climatic models. The sensitivity analysis will allow us to assess the impacts of climate separately from the other variables that will be included in the three future scenarios.

Dave Dingedine, a water well contractor with M.E. Bent Company and the director of the Illinois Association of Groundwater Professionals, stated that he wanted to make sure that this group had the proper focus and that water restrictions were not implemented where water was plentiful. He wants to be a direct partner in water supply planning and the studies that are currently being conducted.

James Adams, McLean Mayor, and Dick McMann, a McLean Trustee, stated their concerns about growth in northern McLean County and its potential to significantly deplete the water supply in the Village of McLean.

Larry Littell with Spin Lake Public Water stated his concern about well-drilling by Bloomington and the potential of that well to significantly deplete the water supply.

Jennifer Sicks, McLean County Regional Planning Commission, stated that McLean County is currently working on a local demand study and she is interested in seeing how the regional water demand study data and information match up and work with their local study. In response to the two previous comments she said that she wants to see everyone in the county and region discussing how a new well field might impact them. She wants to see people involved in these processes and is interested in regional water supply planning in general.

At that point, Tom Korn with the Allin Township Water Authority introduced himself and stated that he came to the meeting to learn about and be involved in the whole process of water supply planning.

Glen Thompson of Tremont, who is originally from eastern Colorado, wants to see a fair and equitable system for water distribution here in Illinois. Being from the West he understands the importance of water supply planning and he is concerned about the long-term availability of water in Illinois without water supply planning.

Susan Licher stated that one reason Illinois began looking at water supply planning is that there are so many states that currently have water supply planning and Illinois is at a disadvantage without water supply planning. In areas where water shortages are common, water supply planning is critical. While Illinois is not in that situation currently, water supply planning can begin the process of looking at those areas where quantity may become an issue in the future.

Tom Edwards with the Sierra Club and River Rescue stated that he wanted conservation to be in the discussion. He was also concerned that water quality was not being directly included in these studies because there are many different sources of groundwater contamination.

As a response, Ed Glatfelter of the Illinois State Water Survey said that the supply study will deal with water quality only on a "macro level." Highly saline water in parts of the aquifer are not considered available water sources, for instance.

Traci Barkley followed by saying that water quantity will affect the water quality because water is used to dilute wastewater. In order to reduce the concentration of contaminants in surface waters there must be a sufficient supply of clean water to be used in the dilution process. She is concerned about both quality and quantity and does not want to see valuable groundwater being wasted for dilution.

Joyce Blumenshine of the Sierra Club followed that by saying that water quality is of concern now because groundwater and surface water are being polluted.

Although this is a concern, Ed Glatfelter stated that this is just the first iteration of a much longer process. He said that this study is largely modeled on work done in Texas. Every five (5) years Texas must start the whole water demand/supply process over. The first iteration of the study will not take a detailed look at water quality but the State hopes to incorporate it in the future.

One gentleman asked how the results of the study would be used and what role the planning committee plays in the outcome.

Ed Glatfelter answered by saying that once the study is completed, the Water Supply Planning Committee's role will be strictly advisory. The recommendations made by the committee must fall under existing laws and property rights. He hopes that the recommendations will be picked up by those organizations that have control of water use in their jurisdictions and that some or all of the recommendations will be implemented locally.

One gentleman requested a synopsis of the statements made today. Bob Duvall, Patrick Engineering, also requested copies of today's sign-in sheets.

Mel Pleines of the Mackinaw Valley Water Authority and Chairman of the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium stated that the goal of the study was to estimate the amount of water-demand the aquifer can support, what areas are available for growth, and those areas where conflict may occur in the future.

Wayne Deppert, a livestock and crop farmer and a representative of the Imperial Valley Water Authority, introduced himself and stated that his concern is water availability for his crops, livestock, and domestic use.

Traci Barkley asked how people can stay involved in the whole process.

Brent O'Neill, chairman of the Regional Water Supply Planning Committee, replied that on September 20, 2007 there will be a committee meeting at the Park Inn in Urbana. Registration will start around 9:30 a.m. and the meeting will run from approximately 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.. Lunch will be provided.

One gentleman asked about nitrates and other contaminants that are leaching into groundwater due to agricultural practices.

Morris Bell of the RWSPC believes there are no contaminants in the wells due to agriculture fertilization. He explained that farmers apply what is needed and what is applied is taken up by crops and not leached into the groundwater. He feels that people perceive the contamination to be much worse than it actually is.

In response, Tom Korn stated that, although farmers may apply only what is needed, there are spills sometimes. He mentioned an incident in which a spill was cleaned up by the EPA 1.5 years after the spill occurred.

Susan Licher asked if there were more questions or concerns. She then invited all attendees to pick up information and questionnaire packets and the meeting was concluded.

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