

## August 18, 2010 - Groundwater Task Force Meeting Notes

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\*\* Note: Prior to the Task Force meeting, Congressman Manzullo “cut the ribbon” on one of the County’s observation wells, officially recognizing the County’s comprehensive Groundwater Research Program. Light refreshments were provided for a brief meet and greet with the Congressman.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 11:03 am

Cassandra McKinney began the meeting by welcoming the Task Force back from their year-long recess and by thanking them for their continued interest and participation in protecting and preserving the Water Resources of the County.

To bring everyone up to speed, she presented to the Task Force the same presentation she has been presenting to each of the municipalities over the past year. At the conclusion of this brief 10 minute presentation, she requested that if your municipality has not been in contact with her regarding adopting a resolution to “thoughtfully review and consider the McHenry County Water Resources Action Plan recommendations, and adopt and implement the applicable model policies, where possible, over the next twelve months”, to please pass on her contact information to the appropriate representative.

Additionally, Cassandra presented an updated chart on water usage, noting the 2005 drought. During the 2005 drought, the County used the projected demand for 2020. She emphasized the importance of Drought Planning as we move forward.

She noted the 7 Step Integrated Water Resources Planning Process that the Task Force has followed over the past three and a half years, described where the Task Force is in the 7 steps today, and detailed the steps to implementation. As a part of implementation, she noted the next phase of Task Force meetings will be solely geared around implementation of the Water Resources Action Plan.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Cassandra outlined the comprehensive Water Resources Research Program and then introduced representatives for each of the entities responsible conducting the research and producing the reports.

**ISGS** status report from Jason Thomason; 3-D Geologic Mapping; noted that 60% of municipal water comes from sand & gravel aquifers. Project is in year 2 of 3, draft maps should be ready for review in July 2011 with a project completion date of December 2011. Project has been coordinated closely with the ISWS groundwater flow modeling and has used information from the Observation Wells.

**ISWS** status report from Scott Meyer – said “no pictures YET, but come this time next year, he will have lots!” Developed 22 vertical layer mapping with 625 sq’ cells based upon data from 18,000 wells - to create a computerized model for McHenry

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County in a pre-development condition. Plans to compare this to current conditions to understand population impacts on our aquifers, and be better able to predict future impacts. Also developing a “tool” to simplify the use of the data to understand water flows and what it all means. It’s named “U-Water 1.0.” and is available for download now. Brought copies of the report completed for Kane County so we can get a feel of what kind of reports will be possible.

**USGS** status report provided by Douglas Yeskis – County received a \$280,000 earmark for FY2010. As part of this, the USGS has been installing telemetry on 40 of the County’s observation wells. The telemetry equipment will transmit real-time information from the observation wells to the USGS, which will then display the information on the USGS website. Additionally, the USGS will install 2 stream gauges and conduct a water quality analysis on all 40 observation wells this fall. This information will assist the county in understanding surface/groundwater interactions and in establishing long-term water quality data.

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Cassandra concluded this segment of the meeting by stating that a complete outline of the Water Research Program is available on the Water Resources Website. Next, Cassandra summarized the status of the Water Resources Action Plan across the County. As of August 17, 11 municipalities and the County Board have adopted a resolution to review the Water Resource Action Plan (WRAP), two municipalities were currently considering the resolution. Finally, Cassandra introduced representatives from Algonquin and Crystal Lake and state that these communities have begun to implement components of the Water Resources Action Plan and would be providing an overview of their progress to date.

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**Village of Algonquin** overview as presented by Katie Parkhurst. Algonquin has been very active in water conservation and the use of conservation pricing. Education has been central to their efforts. Their conservation goal is to reduce the per person consumption from the average 100gal/day to 75gal/day. They are instituting a rain barrel program. Many other exciting accomplishments to date were noted.

**City of Crystal Lake** overview was presented by Eric Lecuyer. Eric noted that the City has historically used dry wells for handling stormwater. However, after becoming aware of the potential groundwater implications of these, the City has revised their ordinances to limit or restrict their use. Additionally, the City has undertaken efforts to utilize a treatment train or other cleansing mechanism to ‘clean’ the stormwater before it enters the subsurface. For example, they are making use of Bioswales along side parking lots. Additionally, the City has modified their road operations including reducing the amount of road salt and instituting a street sweeping program (3-4 times a year). Both will reduce impacts on the water resources. Finally, in partnership with Cassandra, educational signage will be used at the Three Oaks/Vulcan Lakes Park regarding natural resources and water protection. Finally, they have begun a rain barrel program.

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### **PREVIOUS AND FUTURE TOPICS**

Cassandra concluded the meeting with a quick overview of the “next 12 months.” Each meeting over the next 12 months will focus on a component of the WRAP and how to implement it. These meetings will be less frequent and will be hosted by the municipalities. If interested in hosting an upcoming meeting, please contact Cassandra. Also, Cassandra announced that the County will be hosting two Snow and Ice Workshops at MCC this fall – October 22 and November 5 - each will have a Hands-On Calibration component. Cassandra applied for a USEPA grant to offset the cost of the workshop and to improve the training materials and is awaiting response on the award. She mentioned that there are two active Medication Disposal sites in the County that are open for drop off and that other sites are being considered by local law enforcement entities. Cassandra is working on developing a Turf Management Training Program for Spring and has applied for 319 funds for this. Finally, Cassandra has partnered with the McHenry County Schools Environmental Education Program to enhance and expand the current educational offerings on Water. Currently, trained educators can present water lessons to second and eight grade students. K-12 lesson plans and materials are available on the website ([www.mchenryh20.com](http://www.mchenryh20.com)).

NEXT MEETING will be October 14, 2010; from 2-3:30 at the Crystal Lake City Hall and will focus on Water Conservation and Rate Setting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 12:15pm