



ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce Walden, Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Bill Gray, Public Works Director
Rod Fletcher, Environmental Manager
DATE: June 29, 2001
RE: Mahomet Aquifer Consortium, Resolution of Support for Federal Funding

Action Requested

Approval of the attached Resolution, authorizing the Mayor to forward the resolution supporting federal funding for the study of the Mahomet Aquifer, to Representative Tim Johnson and Senators Peter Fitzgerald and Dick Durbin.

Background

The Mahomet Aquifer Consortium (MAC) was formed in 1998 by professionals concerned with the long-term quantity and quality of groundwater derived from the Mahomet Aquifer. This aquifer is the primary source of water for 15 counties in central Illinois, including Champaign County. MAC membership is comprised of local, state and federal agencies, farm bureaus, University of Illinois researchers, local water suppliers (both public and private), and other interested parties. MAC holds bi-monthly meetings and is well attended by these members.

The mission of MAC is to “further study the Mahomet aquifer on a regional basis, and to develop a plan for the management of this valuable resource”. This effort is needed to help the region meet current, as well as, future water supply concerns. There are six long term goals of the MAC:

1. Develop options to manage the groundwater resources;
2. Collect and analyze data relative to groundwater;
3. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the aquifer;
4. Deliver user-friendly products;
5. Educate the public about the aquifer and groundwater issues in general; and
6. Provide scientific expertise to assist in implementing future groundwater strategies.

The adequate supply of potable water is a fundamental need and certainly serves the best interests of Urbana’s residents and businesses. Given the large area that derives its water from the aquifer, number of stakeholders,

the data collection and analyses that would be required of a study of this magnitude, this study is estimated to take nine years to complete at a cost of \$10 million.

Groundwater management is an issue subject to federal mandates and standards, and the MAC is seeking federal funding for the cost of this study. The federal government has funded similar studies of this nature for other regions of the country. MAC has also met with State Representative Winkel in attempts to also secure state funding.

Staff Recommendation

Approval of this Resolution will not have any financial impact to the City and serves the best interests of the City, therefore staff supports adoption.

A RESOLUTION TO URBANA'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
REFLECTING THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE STUDY OF
THE MAHOMET AQUIFER

WHEREAS, the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium was formed in 1998 by public and private parties interested in the Mahomet Aquifer, the primary source of potable groundwater for 15 central Illinois counties; and

WHEREAS, the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium's mission is to study the aquifer on a regional basis to develop a plan to manage this valuable resource; and

WHEREAS, the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium desires to complete this study before 2010; and

WHEREAS, Consortium members, including the City of Urbana, are seeking funding from the federal government to perform and complete a study of this magnitude in the amount of \$10 million, and

WHEREAS, the current federal budget includes partial funding for this aquifer study in the Housing and Urban Development Department budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Urbana declares support of the efforts of the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium to receive adequate federal funding to undertake and complete this significant study.

Section 2. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to forward this Resolution to Urbana's representatives in the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate.

PASSED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2001.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2001.

Tod Satterthwaite, Mayor