



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Prussing
Members, Urbana City Council

FROM: Bruce Walden, CAO

DATE: October 25, 2006

RE: Mahomet Aquifer Study Funding

Introduction:

The purpose of this report is to provide notification to the members of the United States House of Representatives and Senate that the City of Urbana supports their efforts to secure \$1.3 million in federal funding for the study of the Mahomet Aquifer in the federal budget.

Background:

1. Mahomet Aquifer Consortium. The Mahomet Aquifer was founded in 1998 by water professionals concerned with the long term quality and quantity of water provided by the Mahomet Aquifer. The Mahomet Aquifer is the primary groundwater source for 15 counties in central Illinois. Members of the consortium represent local, state and federal agencies, farm bureaus, University researchers, local water providers and others interested in this issue. Approximately 50 people attend regular meetings of the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium.

2. Mahomet Aquifer Consortium Mission. The mission of the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium is to “further study the Mahomet Aquifer on a regional basis, and to develop a plan for the management of this valuable resource.”

- develop options to manage groundwater resources
- collect and analyze data relative to groundwater

- develop a comprehensive understanding of the aquifer
- deliver user-friendly products
- educate the public about the aquifer and ground water issues in general
- provide scientific expertise to assist in implementing future groundwater strategies

3. Need for Scientific Data. The recent proposals for several large water intensive projects in east central Illinois (proposed ethanol plants and the Futuregen Project) have resulted in an increased sensitivity regarding the capacity of the Mahomet Aquifer to provide water to these projects. The lack of scientific data in the Mahomet Aquifer makes it impossible for local decision makers to make an informed decision on these projects. Completion of the Mahomet Aquifer Study will allow decision makers to effectively evaluate the impact of water intensive developments on the long term supply of quality water from the Mahomet Aquifer.

4. Funding. The estimated cost of the Mahomet Aquifer Study is approximately \$3 million. The commitment of \$600,000 from Illinois American Water Company and Governor Blagojevich's Executive Order 2006-01 recommitting \$1.1 million in state funds leaves a funding gap of \$1.3 million. This is the amount being requested from the United States Government. The earliest these funds could be included in a federal budget is for the federal fiscal year 2008.

Alternatives:

1. Approve the Resolution.
2. Reject the Resolution.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of the Resolution Declaring the City Council's Support for State and Federal Funding of the Mahomet Aquifer Study.

RESOLUTION 2006-11-030R

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR
STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING OF THE MAHOMET AQUIFER STUDY

WHEREAS, the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium was formed in 1998 by public and private parties interested in the Mahomet Aquifer; a groundwater source 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, Illinois American Water Company has committed \$600,000 to satisfy the local share of the rest of the Mahomet Aquifer Study; and

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois has committed \$1.1 million as the 'State of Illinois' share of the cost of the Mahomet Aquifer Study; and

WHEREAS, an additional \$1.3 million is needed from the United States Government to complete the Mahomet Aquifer Study.

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 appreciates the fiscal support of Illinois American Water Company and the State of Illinois for their combined commitment of \$1.7 million to complete the Mahomet Aquifer Study.

Section 2. That the City Council of the City of Urbana supports the efforts of the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium to secure federal funding in the amount of \$1.3 million to complete the Mahomet Aquifer Study by 2010.

Section 3. That the Chief Administrative Officer is hereby authorized to forward this Resolution to Urbana's representatives in the United States House of Representatives and the Senate; and to United States Congressional representatives of other communities served by the Mahomet Aquifer; and to the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium.

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of _____,
2006.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this ____ day of _____,
2006.

Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor