



Office of the Mayor

Laurel Lunt Prussing

400 S. Vine Street
Urbana, IL 61801
(217) 384-2456
FAX (217) 384-2426
llprussing@city.urbana.il.us

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To: Urbana City Council Members Charlie Smyth, David Gehrig, Robert Lewis, Brandon Bowersox, Dennis Roberts, Heather Stevenson, and Diane Marlin

From: Laurel Prussing *L.P.*

Re: Motion Supporting Municipal Representation On State/Regional Water Planning Entities

MOTION: The vast majority of Illinois citizens are served by municipally owned water plants and even in cities that do not own their own water systems the planning and sustainable management of Illinois water resources are vital for the future of all water users. Therefore, the Urbana City Council wishes to go on record supporting representation of Illinois municipalities-- in a reasonable proportion of the Illinois population who live in municipalities-- in any state/regional water planning and management entities which may be created.

Background: Two regional water studies have recently been completed in Illinois. One was completed by the Mahomet Aquifer Consortium for the region of central Illinois. The second was in northeastern Illinois.

Representatives of the Joint COGS Water Supply Planning Alliance invited me to meet with them at the Illinois Municipal League on September 25. They represent a number of cities in northeastern Illinois who would like to expand their alliance to include other regions of Illinois. Although we do not have a similar organization in this part of the state I volunteered to contact a number of cities in central Illinois to push for reasonable representation of municipalities in any state or regional water planning agencies which may be created as a result of the recommendations from the two studies that planning and management entities be created.

The Mahomet Aquifer Consortium presented its report around the region and had by far the biggest turnout at its presentation September 30, when over 70 people showed up.

I think most people agree that the time has come to engage in long-term studies and planning for sustainable use of Illinois water resources. Most would also agree that a broad-based grass-roots effort is the best way to involve the public and that all kinds of users need to be at the table, and that municipalities are critical to the process because they represent the vast majority of Illinois citizens. Furthermore, the planning needs to be done on a regional "hydroshed" basis. Regions need good communication established within the region, with other regions and with the state.

