



Summary of Stakeholder Interest Group Issues and Concerns

From the Open Forum on Regional Water Supply Planning November 17, 2006

This exercise was conducted during the afternoon session of the Open Forum on Regional Water-Supply Planning in Northeastern Illinois on November 17, 2006. The purpose of the exercise was to elicit an initial set of concerns and issues important to each of the invited stakeholder groups.

Process. Each of the seven stakeholder groups had a table facilitator, who asked participants to write three responses on separate Post-It notes to the following question: "What are the issues and concerns about water supply and water supply planning that this stakeholder group should address with the Regional Water Supply Planning Group moving forward?" The sticky notes were placed on a tablet on an easel. With group input, the facilitator rearranged the issues/concerns into clusters so that each sticky note addressed the same topic. After discussion, each participant was given three dot stickers to place on the clusters to indicate their importance or priority. Any number of stickers, up to three per participant, could be placed on any cluster.

Results: For each stakeholder group, CMAP staff transcribed into MS Excel the issues and concerns on the sticky notes and grouped them by cluster. The votes were reported as votes on each cluster. Results for each stakeholder group are reported in separate worksheets (click the tabs on the bottom left to see results). Most groups had additional discussions for which the facilitator took notes. These notes are reproduced under the heading "**Free Writing**" underneath each table.

For more information, contact Tim Loftus of CMAP at 312-386-8666. Read about the water-supply planning project at <http://chicagoareaplanning.org/watersupply/>.

Academia, Public Interest in Regional Planning		
Cluster	Votes	Issue or Concern
Sustainability	12	Relationship between water supply and development decisions
		Sustainable Solutions
		Defining/ensuring sustainability at all levels
		How do we prevent overdevelopment and control population to prevent over taxing the water resource?
		Water availability
		Water supply/sprawl connection
		Sustainability
Quality		Water quality - How we will protect or enhance?
Multi-jurisdiction	9	Cooperation
		Inform Watershed Planning Councils (MWRD)
		Impact of water consumption of an area on a political-governmental entity beyond the area's jurisdiction.
		Public administration of water resources issues.
		Development of infrastructure management system for region (concurrency?)
		Effective watershed through watershed planning councils
Science Data	4	When will the needs and available supply be identified? Time Frame.
		Objectivity /Information integrity
		Performance measurement and accountability
		Demand project/Data gathering
Conservation		Conservation
		Water Conservation
Allocations	2	Relationship between ground water and Lake Michigan diversion.
		Water Allocations (who gets what?)
Education	5	Public Education of the process and importance of
		Public Awareness
		Educating/Spreading the message
		Public Education
		Building public awareness of finite nature of northeast IL's water
Implementation	10	Legislation to implement water supply plan (regulation?)
		Support for implementing plan that is developed (legislation enforcement)
		How will the plan be implemented? What agency finances this? Is there a regulatory arm?
		Pursue a variety of management options.
		Mandates vs. Incentives
		\$
		Focus on data gathering before dealing with implementation issues and choices.
Aquifer	6	Destruction of shallow aquifer by high density housing.
		Destruction of aquifer with pipes that drain it.
		Effect of high consumption water providers on private wells
		Protecting recharge
		Recharge areas
		Increasing reliance on the shallow aquifer system

Free Writing (Academia, Public Interest in Regional Planning)

What does sustainability mean?

Implementation

Concern about beginning implementation too soon

Need good data first

Decisions being made today

Education can begin right away

*Colors respond directly to flip chart input

Wastewater Treatment and Non-Municipal Public Drinking Water Suppliers		
Cluster	Votes	Issue or Concern
Stormwater Management	3	Integrate open space planning and water resources to have multiple uses of stormwater and water waste management.
		Storm and sanitary sewer separation
		Stormwater Management
		Stormwater I/I CSO's
Public Awareness/ Participation	2	Impacts on the quality of the water supply -- level of treatment needed and the impacts of the wastewater generated at the WTP on the wastewater treatment facility
		Public Participation
		Significant increase in public awareness of water quality and quantity concerns/opportunities
Best Management Practices	2	Optional ways to treat water
		BMPs specific to NE Illinois -- "Easy Button"
Conflicting Issues		Conflicting issues
Growth/Demand	8	Matching supply with upcoming growth
		Distribution across user groups
		Continuing growth
		How to handle population growth?
Conservation	5	Conservation
		Lake water diversion and conservation
Unregulated/Private Wells	4	Private well drying up
		Encourage community water supply systems in private development rather than individual wells to better manage and conserve water.
		Demand management
Funding	5	Funding
		Cost of implementing solutions.
Water Quality	8	Water quality issues
		Water quality degradation -- surface and ground water
		Quality of supply for use
		Water quality
		Wastewater special enforcement
Water Reuse	4	Water quality with respect to groundwater recharge through surface waters.
		Wastewater treatment limits
		Wastewater reuse
		Reuse of waste water/ Lord application for aquifer restoration
		Re-use/watershed issues
		Reuse of treated wastewater
		Alternative discharge options to enhance recharge capability
		Recharge areas outside of the Illinois county area
Reclamation and reuse of wastewater to eliminate discharge a.k.a (land treatment, spray irrigation)		
Legislative Issues	1	State legislative change to allow greater control, regulation, info concerning water/well permitting and land use/water issues

Cluster	Votes	Real Estate and Development
		Issue or Concern
Economic Philosophy	1	Profitable use of water should not be discouraged Water rights
Regulation	6	Will water supply become regulated and at the state level? I.e., restriction on how much water can be withdrawn from ground. How will future regulation be shaped? - Will it be statewide or local?
"Planning"	7	Lack of planning for water supply infrastructure in growing areas Who decides on data points that need to be collected and used in analysis? Approval of commercial/residential project without analysis of impact on water supply/infrastructure: impact studies needed Water supply and distribution should not be used to limit or control land development or economic growth Growth Problem: Consistency of tap fees and impact fees How do we involve local towns with regional long-term planning? Using this process to declare or advise lot size minimums in certain areas of Illinois county regions, especially as it relates to well and septic tanks. Using water supply management as a way to circumvent county land use plans thus limiting development.
Awareness and Motivation	1	Lack of public awareness of problems and what can be done by individuals (value of conservation)
Cooperation/Jurisdiction	3	Lack of co-operation between adjunct municipalities/water automation Problem Statement - Who to negotiate with on supply when cross two counties with project? Lack of mechanism for regulatory needs. (Who decides quantity and use?)
Planning Conservation	5	Conservation The abundance of water in the region should be recognized as a resource to be used for economic growth and development Transfer of water resources from one source to a different source is not sustainable - e.g.. Groundwater to surface water.
Water Quality	1	Water Quality

Conservation and Resource Management		
Cluster	Votes	Issue or Concern
BMP/Science	8	Development of best practices to get water conservation
		Capacity of aquifers (water) surface, ground and deep aquifer
		Sustainability of deep aquifer system (assuming 65 million gallons per day)
		Computation of water available in shallow aquifer system
		What are best methods of promoting/achieving water conservation?
Policy	2	Municipal regulation re: water usage
		Lack of regulation and support for BMPs -permeable surfaces -correctly sized parking lots -green roofs -conservation design
		Where's the backbone? How can we get solid permanent support for our recommendations?
Financial		Creating incentives for conservation of Lake Michigan water
		Identify political funding sources for land conservation protection
		Absence of realistic pricing structures/economic analysis
		Funding land acquisition (Secure Recharge Areas)
		Where is the money coming from for these plans?
Stormwater Protection	3	Stormwater - streams/rivers - detention - recharge - BMPs
		Better use of detained/retained water
		How to deal with stormwater runoff? Management issues?
Resource Protection	9	Resource protection
		Protection of aquifers from overuse and falling water levels.
		Protection of water quality of groundwater resources
		Quality of water (now and in future)
		Preventing contamination of water discharged into rivers/lakes
		Protecting source water
Education	11	Decreasing impermeable surface area.
		Education of residents on everyday conservation methods.
		What is conservation?
		Lack of public awareness of need for conservation
		Education - voters not their children - value of open space in this activity
		Education of public
		Educating municipalities and townships
Determining who can best help to identify needs - outreach		
Recharge	16	Protecting and encouraging stormwater infiltration (low impact development)
		Identification and protection of recharge areas
		Identification of recharge areas
		Open space - protect recharge areas - protect wetlands
		Identify key recharge areas for protection and land conservation
		Determine if land conservation will benefit water recharge
		Identifying willing landowners (management for recharge)
		Balance of water pumpage with maintenance of wetlands/base flows

Cluster	Group Votes	Individual Votes	Business, Industry, and Power
			Issue or Concern
Water Quality	4	1	Research all current databases - Quantity and Quality
		2	Water Quality
		1	<u>Modeling</u> - Framework for all local problems - updates and model sharing
Radium Treatment	1	1	Radium Treatment
Under Representation	7	7	Business, industry and utilities are underrepresented on the advisory council -- three somewhat disparate interests being placed into one stakeholder group.
			Environmental interest in water supply will be overrepresented on the council as there are 3 groups generally not supportive of industry needs as stakeholders: resource, environment, academia
Conflict Resolution	1	1	Conflict resolution procedures
Funding	4	2	Cost?
		2	Funding assistance for municipalities
Water Distribution	3	2	Expansion capability for existing major water user businesses
		1	Water distribution
Economic Concerns	3		Economic growth and development -- who is supported? Residential vs. industrial
			Having industrial processes can cause contamination to water sources.
		3	That a full understanding of industry's needs and relationship to the community is developed
			Extreme or obsessive overcontrol (planning for the one-in-a-million occurrence)
Politics/Legislative	11	2	Politics influencing good policy
		1	Will this result in legislation/permits/fee based on wage? Impractical requirements
		5	How is this going to be handled in terms of regulation and legislation?
			Power (utility) should be separate group as in Texas
		1	Interactions of regional committee with existing public water districts and water authorities
		1	Illinois Water Use Law
		1	Hijacking of the process for other agendas (anti-growth, sprawl...endangered species)
			How notified are impacted facilities?
Supply/Demand	4		Water supply
			Issue: Growth will demand more water, how much will be left for business?
		4	Storage If demand exceeds supply how will the H2O be allocated?
Data	7	1	Accuracy of "supply" data
		5	Accuracy of data
		1	Water Use Data - frequency of reporting - connection of that info to demand analysis
			Accuracy of "Demand" Data
Water Use	2		Water discharge and return facility impact
			Mandatory conservation regardless of cost effectiveness

		2	Water Use Restrictions
			Issue: The ability of business/industry grow based on the water supply concerns. What restrictions will result?
			Water use vs. <u>consumptive</u> use
			Sufficient clean water for use in industrial process - some processes require cleaner or more pure water than others

Note: This group voted on individual issues/concerns rather than clusters. The clusters here are CMAP's interpretation of the results and the cluster votes are the sum of the individual votes.

Free Writing (Business, Industry, and Power)

Representation - Split group?

(Power & Business/industry)

Over-focus on residential, not enough on business needs

Certainly, reliability, availability, equity

Industrial water are into (?) and availability for determining impacts

2 hats - water uses & technological innovators

Call in number for dates

Who's missing?

Small business e.g. Chicago Chamber

Pharmaceuticals

Hydrogen Fuel Cell

IEPA?

Army Corp?

Who's missing?

Federal Government

Deep Tunnel - MURD (new)

Com Ed/Excelon

Midgern

Bottled Water Industry 7 Soda maker/beverages

Steel Industry

Platers

*Colors respond directly to flip chart input

Cluster	Votes	Agriculture
		Issue or Concern
Research and Data	5	It would be key to ensure process is based on sound scientific information Lack of quality data concerning agricultural needs and availability
Planning Process	5	Will large land mass but low density result in a plan which injures agriculture? What is the definition of Agriculture related to planning? The process would eventually become a top-down, heavy regulated approach.
Land Management	2	Protection of farmland/water recharge areas
Quality	5	Nutrient management/irrigation/shallow well contamination Will water quality uses be the excuse to add regulations on water quality perceptions? Clean, safe water supply for all Susceptibility of shallow aquifers to water quality degradation due to present agricultural activities
Public Relations	5	Agricultural use of water should be recognized as vital to the people of Illinois and the region. It will be important for others (non-agricultural) to understand agricultural concerns. Public perception that agricultural use of water is taking water from private wells.
Water Demand	5	Use and potential use of agricultural irrigation in the region Adequate water supply for potential Illinois ethanol industry Water for ethanol plants - livestock and point source issues - maintain quality and quantity Sod farms considered agricultural, large quantities of water used by sod farms Find balance and allocation of water between urban and agricultural needs Adequate water for nature Keep Great Lakes (GL) basin water in GL basin, ensure its return to local aquifers and GL

Cluster	Votes	Environmental Advocacy
		Issue or Concern
Water Quality	4	Ensure water quality (for drinking, swimming, etc.)
		Contamination of groundwater
		Adverse impact of pollutants on groundwater
		Adequate good water for residents and others.
Recreation	1	Include recreation as important water use
Process	1	How will we address conflicts between regions for water supply?
		Adequate funding
		How large of role will environmental impacts play in the decision process?
Planning for Sustainability	3	Concern: Lowering of flows in rivers so that aquatic life is not sustainable
		Incorporating water supply planning into comprehensive plans
		Long-range thinking about water - working for our grandchildren and other living beings
		Water conservation needs to be key component of planning
		Making sure water supply issues are included in CMAP responsibilities going forward
		Sustainable water supplies for Chicago region
		How do we deal with draught and with deluge?
		Concerns: Over-reliance on Lake Michigan water as solution to problem
		Concern: Withdrawals from deep bed river aquifer beyond sustainable land
		Land-use Connection
Concern - municipal plans for development outstrip sustainable groundwater supplies		
Concern that new development is taking place where water supply is inadequate		
Public Education on Water Issues	1	Need for "water I.Q." programs - basic understanding of issues
		Difficulty in getting individuals to conserve water - i.e. how to get behavior change
		Stop calling it "storm water runoff" - its our drinking water!
Need for More Data on Use/Yield.		Concern - we are paving over recharge areas - need map & protect recharge areas
		Need to ID groundwater levels necessary to sustain rivers, streams, wetlands
		Impact on natural areas of development & over withdrawal from aquifers. How draw down will affect natural areas ex. Wetlands.
Conservation Techniques	3	Designing water conservation methods that fit into urban/suburban esthetics e.g. attractive rain barrels
		Reduce water use & increase reuse by utilities
		How best to use groundwater
		SUSTAINABILITY (Returning H2O to aquifer via permeable pavement, reuse of water, promoting rainwater harvesting, etc.)
		Promoting H2O conservation as a water management strategy
Miscellaneous		Incorporating water resource concerns into protection building & zoning codes.
		How do we best deal with rainwater and the homeless?

Free Writing (Environmental Advocacy)

- Brainstorming: Criteria to consider when selecting delegates
- Regional Representatives
- Time Available
- Good Communicator
- Familiarity with issues
- Geography
- Diversity