

MEMO TO: Mike Kenyon and Bill Olthoff
FROM: Nancy Erickson
RE: Thanks and Comments on RWSPG Report

Thanks again for being involved in the conference call last week. I think it went well and I appreciated all of the thoughts both of you had!

Here are some quick comments on the RWSPG report, version #10. Overall, the report is a good one and both of you have done a great job of carrying agriculture's message! Here are a few thoughts I have.

In General:

I agree with the statements you made on the conference call and during the committee meetings that the rural/agricultural areas of the region need to be given more credit for recharge. I know the draft refers to problems with impervious surfaces (page vi) but it needs to state the importance of the agricultural areas for recharge. In most of the region the shallow aquifers benefit and in the DeKalb/Boone areas the deep aquifers may also benefit from that recharge.

Specific comments:

Page v

As far as I know, the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS), *Opportunities and Challenges of Meeting Water Demand in Northeastern Illinois* (referred to as the Groundwater Report), has not been finalized.

Page vi or other pages

This section talks about recharge, and here again, I agree with you that the report needs to state the positive influence agricultural lands have on aquifer recharge.

Page 32

Point 4 does not seem to be relevant to the report.

Page 42

According to law passed during the 2009 General Assembly session, agriculture will report use in the aggregate. Also, in other parts of the state, ag use is already reported. Therefore it may be good to delete or change the paragraph beginning "The process" on page 42.

Page 53

No other industry is specifically named in this section except agriculture. Also, the Illinois Conservation and Climate Initiative recognizes the positive carbon sequestering of agricultural tillage practices. It would be good if the report could state ag's positives.

Page 64

USDA and state agencies also have programs for nps, but those programs have historically been underfunded, as have the funding for staff to administer those programs.

Page 69

The soils of Illinois also are naturally rich.

Page 70

Are the personal care products used by cat and dog owners also included in this issue? If so, should pet care products be included since NE Illinois has large numbers of pets.

Page 72

Wetlands in agricultural areas have actually increased over the past few years. It may be good to therefore delete the phrase "Including conversion to agriculture" on the fifth line on page 72 since this seems to be the only group listed. In such a highly urbanized area, wouldn't most of the former wetlands be in areas now supporting roads, houses, and businesses?

Page 98 and 99

Ensure the following paragraphs remain deleted. The language was new in version 9 and then deleted in version 10. It was great that they were deleted in version 10 so it's just a matter of making sure they stay deleted.

- Paragraph beginning "The link" page 98
- And the paragraph beginning "More recently" page 99.

Page 148

Does the metering for landscapes larger than 2 acres also refer to agriculture? Meters in ag settings do not work.

Thanks again for the chance to share my thoughts on the draft report and thanks for all of your work on this issue!! Please call me if you have questions.

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