

McHenry County Groundwater Protection Task force, subcommittee on Recognized Recharge Areas

Wed, Sep 14, 2011 at 11:48 AM

nburg719@aol.com

<nburg719@aol.com>

To: president@barringtonhills-il.gov, rkosin@barringtonhills-il.gov, clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov

Dear all, yesterday I attended the meeting on the Recognized Recharge Areas for McHenry County with Janet Agnoletti of BACOG on behalf of the Village of Barrington Hills. I wanted to summarize the meeting highlights and express my opinion on the importance of being involved in this sort of committee.

The subcommittee is being run by Cassandra McKinney the Water Resource Manager of McHenry County. the committee is made up of private individuals, community leaders, and stakeholders in McHenry County.

A Recognized Recharge Area is a protection element designed by the Illinois Pollution Board. RRA's are mandated by statute for this protection, but can only be established by a lesser government bodies impetus.

McHenry County is exploring the idea of establishing the county or alternately municipal choice for establishing these areas. They seem to be pursuing for a county-wide ordinance.

The strongest argument so far for RRA's is to have higher standards for clean-up if a contamination occurs from industry, or private ownership.

There are really only 2 dissenting voices in the room of about 15 people on this proposed ordinance, those would be myself and Janet.

Opinion: RRA's are very limiting in what they allow in developing areas. They also allow for the Illinois Pollution Board to require registration and monitoring of developments, an authority they do not currently have without direct mandate. What the committee does not realize or promote is that these elements of enforcement are already in place with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and with NPDES regulations, and MSDS contaminant regulations. There are also USDA regulations for farming operations that come under separate federal regulations that provide enforcement on farms. additionally, there is a little known regulation in Illinois that allows for citizens to file complaints to the EPA for noted violations and contamination's. The EPA generally acts upon these more readily because of the Clean Water Act. I think it is important to continue attendance at this sub-committee as I fear this ordinance would have a negative impact on the Village. I would like to bring information on the current regulations to the next meeting for the committee to understand what is already in existence.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Schumm
Schumm Consulting LLC
220 A Thornhill Ct.
Lake Barrington, IL 60010
(847)975-8391

**RESOLUTION
REQUESTING MCHENRY COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO REVIEW
AND CONSIDER THE MCHENRY COUNTY GROUNDWATER PROTECTION
PROGRAM MODEL POLICIES**

WHEREAS, studies suggest McHenry County will have a shortage of groundwater by 2030;
and

WHEREAS, the County Created the Groundwater Protection Program Task Force in July
2007; and

WHEREAS, the Groundwater Protection program Task Force represents local governments
and a variety of interest groups from throughout McHenry County; and

WHEREAS, the Groundwater Protection Program Task Force has been meeting monthly for
the last two years; and

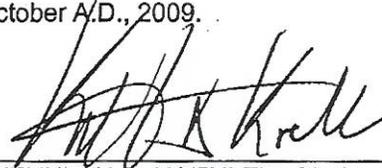
WHEREAS, only through intergovernmental cooperation can a water shortage be averted;
and

WHEREAS, the Groundwater Protection Program Task Force has developed recommended
model policies to protect water quality and quantity in McHenry County.

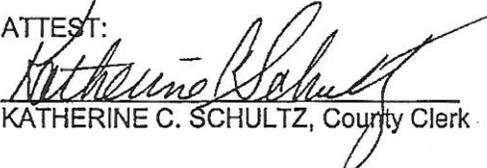
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by this County Board of McHenry County, Illinois
that we ask that all the governments of McHenry County thoughtfully review and consider the
McHenry County Groundwater Protection Program recommendations, and adopt and implement the
applicable model policies, where possible, over the next twelve months; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is hereby directed to distribute a
certified copy of this Resolution to the McHenry County Water Resources Manager and to all local
governments in McHenry County, Illinois.

DATED at Woodstock, Illinois, this 6th day of October A.D., 2009.



KENNETH D. KOEHLER, Chairman
McHenry County Board

ATTEST:


KATHERINE C. SCHULTZ, County Clerk