



Beyond Showerheads and Sprinklers: Water Governance Solutions for Illinois

DOES ILLINOIS HAVE ENOUGH CLEAN WATER to sustain equitable economic development, agriculture, ecosystems, and population growth?

Not just another conference, “Beyond Showerheads and Sprinklers” is a rare and not-to-be-missed opportunity to shape recommendations for future water management in Illinois, so that the answer to this question is a resounding “Yes.”

THIS CONFERENCE IS SPONSORED BY OPENLANDS, METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL, AND THE PAUL SIMON PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE.

Friday, May 16, 2008 • Union League Club of Chicago • 65 West Jackson Boulevard • Chicago

A 2006 executive order required the Ill. Dept. of Natural Resources to create a statewide framework for regional water supply planning and launched two regional water supply planning initiatives in northeastern and central Illinois. The state framework is expected to delineate the appropriate roles and responsibilities of governments, utilities, and water users in creating effective water resource planning.

CONFERENCE GOALS

“Beyond Showerheads and Sprinklers” will spark discussion and decision-making about the complex public-private governance relationships needed to manage water supply. Expert speakers will provide intriguing perspectives that engage conference participants in the shared task of identifying workable water governance strategies for Illinois. These contributions will inform a white paper outlining possible courses of action as Illinois moves toward a statewide framework for regional water supply planning.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

“Beyond Showerheads and Sprinklers” is designed for state and local officials, agricultural and industrial water users, planners, utility representatives, conservation specialists, wastewater and stormwater management professionals, and other stakeholders.

OPENING REMARKS

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

ILLINOIS WATER SUPPLY PLANNING INITIATIVE AND CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

9:15 – 10:00 a.m.

WHERE DOES ILLINOIS STAND IN THE GLOBAL WATER PICTURE?

Peter Gleick, Ph.D., President, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, Oakland, Calif.

Dr. Gleick is an internationally recognized water expert on connections between water and human health, impacts of climate change, sustainable water use, privatization and globalization, and conflicts over water resources. He has been selected as a MacArthur Fellow and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

10:00 – 10:45 a.m.

MOVING FORWARD WITH THE ILLINOIS WATER SUPPLY PLANNING INITIATIVE

Developing a Framework for Illinois Water Supply Planning and Management

Gary Clark, Director, Ill. Office of Water Resources, Ill. Dept. of Natural Resources

Northeastern Illinois Water Supply Issues, Needs and Planning Status

Bonnie Thomson Carter, Chair, Regional Water Supply Planning Group of Northeastern Illinois

East Central Illinois and Mahomet Aquifer Issues, Needs and Planning Status

Brent O'Neill, Chair, East Central Illinois Water Supply Planning Committee

BEST PRACTICES

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

BEST PRACTICES FOR FUTURE USE AND FUTURE USERS

Effective Conservation Strategies: Suppliers, Users and Land Development Policy

Mary Ann Dickinson, Executive Director, Alliance for Water Efficiency

Ms. Dickinson has an extensive background with water resource management jurisdictions and water utilities. She is a founder of the Alliance for Water Efficiency, which promotes sustainable water use and conservation throughout the United States and Canada.

Agriculture and Biofuels: Advancing Water Management and Agricultural Sustainability in Illinois

Otto Doering, Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

Prof. Doering is a public policy specialist and served in several advisory capacities for the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. He has authored books on the 1996 Farm Bill and effects of climate change on agricultural production systems. He served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee for Water Implications of Biofuels Production in the United States.

Water Resource Governance: Metropolitan and Rural Area Experience in Minnesota

Kent Lokkesmoe, Director, Division of Water, Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

Mr. Lokkesmoe oversees water policy, research, technical assistance and planning, and resource management functions for the State of Minnesota. The development of Minnesota's approach to comprehensive water resource management can inform water supply planning and the development of public-private governance structures in Illinois.

LUNCHEON ADDRESS

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

THE GREAT LAKES: PROTECTING AND MANAGING AN IMPERILED INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE

Samuel W. Speck, Ph.D. former Director of the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources

Dr. Speck served as chair of the Great Lakes Commission, as well as chair of the Water Management Working Group of the Council of Great Lakes Governors. He played a pivotal role in the development of the Great Lakes Compact.

CONFERENCE WHITE PAPER PRESENTATION

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.

GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES FOR STATES AND REGIONS

Jack Wittman, Ph.D., President, Wittman Hydro Planning Associates, Inc., Bloomington, Ind.

Dr. Wittman is a nationally recognized watershed hydrologist and groundwater scientist who advises localities and water suppliers on policies and strategies for protecting and conserving water supplies. He serves on the Indiana State Water Shortage Task Force and is a member of the American Water Works Association's Water Utility Council. He has prepared a white paper that will be the subject of his presentation.

DEVELOPING CRITERIA AND NEXT STEPS

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

PUBLIC-PRIVATE WATER GOVERNANCE IN ILLINOIS

The audience will have the opportunity to interact with conference speakers to discuss and shape the white paper.

THE PROGRAM MAY BE ADJUSTED TO ACCOMMODATE COMMENTS BY CHICAGO MAYOR RICHARD M. DALEY AND U.S. SENATOR RICHARD J. DURBIN.



Openlands, Metropolitan Planning Council, and Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, with support from the Joyce Foundation and Lumpkin Family Foundation, are eager to see Illinois move forward with a statewide framework for regional water supply planning. “Beyond Showerheads and Sprinklers” is a unique opportunity for local and national experts and decision-makers to help determine the future of water management and design a model for efficient, equitable, effective water governance.



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