From: Gilbertz, Susan
To: Mohr, Jason
Subject: RE: WPIC request for information
Date: Tuesday, November 03, 2015 1:10:59 PM

Hi Jason-

The residential and commercial development just west of Billings could be an excellent Case Study. Most of the sub-divisions are drawing groundwater from shallow aquifers that are less and less viable as more and more land is converted to housing as opposed to irrigated farmland. The groundwater study conducted in that area revealed some interesting findings; however, the County Commissioners have not done much to regulate how development should proceed. The "case" deserves fleshing out and the policy implications should also be addressed.

If the committee wishes to pursue this, you should begin with the Yellowstone County/City of Billings Planning Office (Wyeth Friday and Candi Millar). That office just finished updating the Growth Plan and they may have addressed these issues specifically.

If there is work that needs t be done in terms of gathering new data, it might be possible to involve some of the students from the Environmental Studies Program here at MSU- Billings.

Sincerely,
Dr. Susan J. Gilbertz
Assoc. Professor of Geography/Advisor to ENv. Studies
MSU-Billings

From: Jason Mohr [jmohr2@mt.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2015 3:52 PM
To: Gilbertz, Susan
Subject: WPIC request for information

All,

The Water Policy Interim Committee is seeking information for its interim study of Water Availability and Supply. Specifically, the committee seeks to evaluate four diverse cases of what you think works well and what doesn't related to supplying water for growing communities. For example, issues associated with the development of a subdivision next to city limits and the subsequent decision to use either individual groundwater wells or a municipal water supply.

Please tell the committee what you think works well, what doesn't, and what the issue is. Suggested, knowledgeable contacts with phone number and/or email address would be appreciated.

The WPIC hopes to use these case studies to explore how the Legislature might support successes and address issues, so feel free to provide suggestions, even if you don't have a specific case study.

The Water Policy Interim Committee is a bipartisan, eight-member committee that meets to discuss water issues and has oversight of state agencies where the primary concern is the quality and quantity of water. The committee's next meeting is Jan. 11-12.

To suggest a potential case study, please contact WPIC staffer Jason Mohr at jasonmohr@mt.gov or 444-1640.

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