

Groundwater Management Area Recommendations (**APPROVED ITEMS ONLY**)  
by the  
Groundwater Advisory Committee:  
Report to the Wisconsin Legislature  
Pursuant to 2003 Act 310  
December 31, 2006

Table of Contents

## **Executive Summary**

### **Chapter 1: Introduction**

Background  
Legislative Charge

### **Chapter 2: Designated Groundwater Management Areas**

#### **2.1 Southeast GMA**

##### **2.1.a Background**

Regional Hydrogeology and Other Water Sources

#### **2.2 Northeast GMA**

##### **2.2.a Background**

Regional Hydrogeology and Other Water Sources

#### **2.3 Groundwater Management Plans**

**2.3.a Strategy** (coordinated strategy for addressing groundwater management issues by affected local governmental units and regional planning commissions, role of DNR, role of other agencies)

- **Designated Groundwater Management Areas (GMAs) are required to have Groundwater Management Plans. (1)**
- **Groundwater management planning must integrate water use and system planning within land use planning. (4)**
- **Groundwater management planning needs to balance the need for local control of water use and land-use zoning with the lack of synchronization of water resource boundaries with political boundaries. (3)**
- **Groundwater management should balance human health, environmental, economic, and social benefits for the long term, using flexible and adaptive approaches. (10)**
- **The Groundwater Management Plan will manage all of the aquifers in the area concurrently to minimize ecological impact, to limit impacts on base flow of streams, and to sustain groundwater quality and quantity for future generations. (8)**
- **Groundwater management planning in Wisconsin must recognize the constraints of regulations and policies relating to the ability to obtain water from the Great Lakes Basins and the groundwater aquifers. (13)**

##### **2.3.b Recommendations for Legislation**

- **The requirements of a GMP will be established by Administrative Rule. (14)**

- Different planning entities may do the planning in different parts of the state. (5)
- The department will authorize a planning agency for each GMA. Those planning agencies will: (5a)
  - Be a regional planning commission or a representative organization that includes elected officials or their designees, having jurisdiction in the GMA. (5a i)
  - To the extent possible, be supported by resolutions from local government units. (5a ii)
  - Be technically capable to complete the plan in a timely manner. (5a iii)
- The department can withdraw or modify the authorization of a planning agency for cause with public input. (5b)
- If the department withdraws authorization of a planning agency, then it must authorize an alternative planning agency. (5c)
- The department will approve or disapprove each groundwater management plan after the public hearing for the plan. (22)

### **2.3.c Recommendations for Administrative Rules**

- GMPs may be different in different areas but all GMPs must meet requirements set by the administrative rule. (14a)
- Groundwater management plans will identify groundwater management goals specific to the GMA. (21)
- Groundwater management plans will be written documents developed with the participation of local government units, owners of high capacity wells, and other interested parties. (20)
- Best Management Practices that must be considered in the GMP will be identified in the administrative rule. (14c)
- The rule will identify the standard that is being managed to. (14d)
- The administrative rule will identify the type of information that must be reviewed and considered in the GMP. (14b)
- Groundwater management planning must recognize the need to promote local planning and regulation to protect: (9)
  - Important groundwater recharge areas (9a)
  - Existing and future well zone-of-contribution areas, and (9b)
  - Areas most susceptible to groundwater contamination. (9c)
- The GMP must include a monitoring component. (14e)
- The GMP should include progress reporting to the DNR as established by rule. (14f)
- The GMP must include a process for adaptive management. (14g)
- The GMP should include a public participation process (14h)
- The GMP should include inventory and forecast information as appropriate to the study area. (14i i)
- The GMP should include an implementation plan. (14i ii)
- The GMP should identify important recharge areas and identify the standard related to quality and quantity to which they will be managed. (14j)

## **2.3.d Other Recommendations for Implementation**

### **2.4 Funding**

## **Chapter 3: Other Areas Considered for Coordinated Management**

### **3.1 Description of Other Areas Considered for Coordinated Management**

**3.1.a Central Sands Area**

**3.1.b Dane County**

**3.1.c St. Croix County**

**3.1.d Recommendations (Dane and LPR Watershed as Coord. Manag. Areas)**

### **3.2 Consideration of Future GMA Designation and Removal of Designation**

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### **3.3 Recommendations for Legislation for Other Areas**

- The State should encourage coordinated groundwater management planning in order to avoid or reduce future groundwater problems. (2)
- To facilitate proactive planning and mitigation strategies, a process short of GMA-designation should be developed to identify areas that are likely to have future groundwater problems. (6)
- Areas designated as “other areas needing coordinated management” shall be eligible to receive funding to support research, pilot programs, management strategies and planning activities. (36)
- The Legislature should designate the following as an area considered for coordinated groundwater management:
  - a. Dane County
  - b. Little Plover River Watershed (16, 16a, 16b)

### **3.4 Recommendations for Administrative Rules for Other Areas**

- A process or mechanism needs to be created to determine when an area should be classified as a GMA or “other areas needing coordinated management” and also when it is appropriate to change the classification of an area. (37)

### **3.5 Funding**

## **Chapter 4: Mitigation Program for Groundwater Management Areas**

### **4.1 Background and Discussion**

### **4.2 Recommendations for Legislation**

### **4.3 Recommendations for Administrative Rules**

### **4.4 Funding**

***Chapter 5: Other Recommendations***

- **The Legislature should provide a structure for renewable funding for the long-term operation and maintenance of groundwater level and surface water level monitoring and data management systems throughout the state. The monitoring effort should consist of two elements; a base level monitoring system that covers the state, and targeted monitoring systems in existing or potential GMAs that are designed to support the specific needs and management objectives of the area. The targeted monitoring programs should be designed with substantial support and guidance from the GMA or potential GMA. (15)**

## Chapter 6: Summary of Recommendations

6.1 Legislative Recommendations

6.2 Recommendations for Administrative Rules

## Figures

Map of Southeast Wisconsin GMA

Map of Northeast Wisconsin GMA

*Other*

## Tables

## Appendices

Committee membership.

Workgroups (Including Non-Members).

Local Governmental Units in designated GMAs

Local Governmental Units in Other Areas Considered for GMAs