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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2009-10

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Environment...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
 - (**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
 - (**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (September 2013)

Senator Miller and Rep Black,

My name is Joan Byers. I live in New Haven, Adams County. I will not go into the technical aspects of groundwater. I will leave that to the experts. Although after dealing with Perrier, I feel like an expert. I know the ground water committee has worked hard and knows all of the reasons why we need to protect our water.

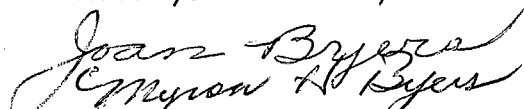
Several years ago we felt forced to put all of our time and a lot of money into protecting our township from Perrier. We were told "you cannot beat them". Little did we know, that they had the right to our water. Someone called me and told me they will lie, cheat and do whatever it takes. My thought was people don't do that. I didn't know anyone like that. We learned fast. The DNR did not have the authority to protect us. So the people in our area had to do it on our own. After law suits, town referendums and ordinances, recalling our Town Chairman, lots of fund raisers, faxing petitions to our Representative and Senator, the DNR, and Gov Thompson, Gov Thompson finally told Perrier "if the people don't want you, you had better leave". They left us with a threat of coming back in 5 years. As of yet we have not seen them, but we don't let our guard down?

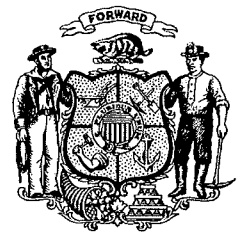
What Perrier AKA Great Springs of America has done to the people in Michigan is horrendous. They have been fighting for years and spent over a million dollars, raised one fund raiser at a time.

In Oxford Township a couple of townships away from us in Marquette County, Crystal Geyser was trying to take water for bottle water in 2009. Thanks to some fast objections by the residents, they backed off. But now in the village of Oxford, Crystal Geyser wants to purchase Neenah Springs. Neenah Springs has asked for an increase in the amount of water they can pump to conclude the purchase. The village had an ordinance about High Cap wells, but because the State controls HC wells and the villages have no authority, it is useless. Since we are not allowed to do anything locally, you must protect us. We need this water bill to be passed. In Adams and Marquette County we are just south of the Central Sands area. It is sickening to drive a few miles north and see the lowering of the lakes and streams. We do not want this to happen to our area.

My husband and I moved to our farm in 1995. We love the wild life. We wake up to birds singing. We watch the eagles soaring. We see the deer out our windows. We want to continue to hear and see the wildlife. We want to be able to turn on our faucets and drink the good water. We want this also for our granddaughter and everyone else in her generation. Lets leave Wisconsin a better place, when we are all gone. Thus we urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for all of your hard work.


Joan and Myron "Mike" Byers
393 Gale Drive
Wisconsin Dells, WI. 53965



Tues

SB 620 GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

My name is Don Hammes and I am here today on behalf of the Dane County Conservation League, the oldest conservation organization in the state. I would like to begin with some facts I recently learned from the Wisconsin River Alliance that will help everyone here today realize why SB 620 is such an important piece of legislation.

- * There are over 850,000 private wells throughout the state. Approximately 11,000 are high capacity wells with approximately 9,600 of those wells pumping over 100,000 gallons of water per day.
- * On average there are 300 new high capacity well approvals annually.
- * 99% of water used for crop irrigation and livestock production is groundwater.
- * 33% of water used for Wisconsin's industries is groundwater.
- * From 1950 to 1985, the amount of groundwater withdrawn for industrial uses increased six times, and the amount withdrawn for crop irrigation increased 32 times.
- * It is estimated that 90% of irrigation water never seeps back into groundwater aquifers.
- * Average annual rainfall in Wisconsin is 32 inches, but only 6 to 10 inches soak into the ground and replenish groundwater supplies.....far less in areas with high amounts of impervious surfaces.
- * 7 out of every 10 Wisconsinites and 97% of Wisconsin's inland communities rely on groundwater to supply everyday needs.

So why are we here today?

Currently, there is **very little oversight** for proposed new high capacity wells and few requirements for existing ones. We already know that over pumping of groundwater can lead to surface waters being drained dry or can threaten public health by exposing the groundwater to naturally occurring toxins like arsenic and radium.

Economic development depends on sustainable water use. Fishing, hunting, trapping, boating and other recreational activities which are at the heart of Wisconsin's \$13 billion dollar tourist industry depend on well-managed groundwater. Depleted groundwater levels translate directly to low lake levels, barely-flowing rivers, and dry wetlands that in turn lead to large losses of fish and wildlife.

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Under existing law there is no way to address areas where there has been too much pumping, so much that nearby surface waters have gone dry or local wells have been contaminated due to exposure to arsenic and radium. Or, even when hundreds or thousands of fish are lost in a lake or stream.

SB 620 gives Wisconsin the tools it needs to PREVENT the problems that come with the overuse of our groundwater supplies BEFORE we have problems. In areas that have already experienced problems such as the Central Sands region and Waukesha, SB 620 provides a framework to resolve the conflict between competing water uses to ensure that we are preserving our groundwater for the long-term.

SB 620 will help us protect our surface waters and all the communities, businesses, farms and wildlife that depend upon sustainable water supplies.

SB 620 is the culmination of years of work by the Groundwater Advisory Committee and it is supported by scientists and policy makers from throughout the state. It represents a balanced, flexible approach to protecting groundwater supplies for all and it deserves the full support of this committee.

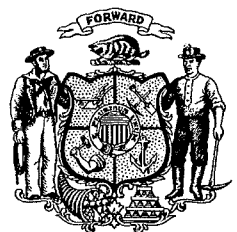
In conclusion, once upon a time the Legislature graciously adopted a Constitutional Amendment for residents to hunt, fish and trap in Wisconsin, however our constitutional right to hunt, fish and trap is a mere piece of paper unless the Legislature adopts stronger laws governing the withdrawal of groundwater which is vital to the fish and wildlife habitat in our lakes, streams and wetlands.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak in support of SB 620.

Don Hammes
Dane County Conservation League
March 23, 2010



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Good Morning, Chair Miller and Members of the Senate Environmental Committee. My name is Jerry Knuth from Plover, Wisconsin. I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. We are here today on behalf of the 168 groups we represent to enthusiastically support SB 620, the Groundwater Quantity Protection Bill.

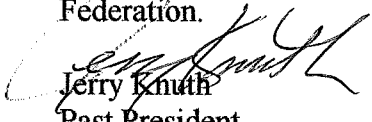
Whether you are a trout angler on a cold water stream, a duck hunter on a wind-swept marsh, a trapper checking his lines in a shallow swamp or a bass angler on a small Wisconsin lake, you know the importance of protecting our groundwater for the future of hunting, fishing and trapping. These recreational and commercial pursuits are critically dependent on groundwater levels being maintained. Without the continuing presence of groundwater, these marshes, swamps, streams and lakes dry up and the habitat for the fish and wildlife that we pursue is lost.

This is not an abstract situation. As I mentioned I live in Plover, Wisconsin. I have been closely involved with the efforts to rectify the damage caused to the Little Plover River, a class 1 trout stream, portions of which have dried up each of the last five years due to combined agriculture and municipal pumping from high capacity wells. This is not an isolated situation. We have also seen the loss of Long Lake in Waushara County and Bloody Run Creek near Wisconsin Rapids.

Wisconsin hunters, anglers and trappers pay over \$80 million a year in license and stamp fees in order to be able to hunt, fish and trap in this state. Hunting, fishing and trapping brings in billions of dollars in tourism revenue. It is the responsibility of the Legislature and the DNR to protect our lakes, streams and marshes so that there will be adequate water levels in the future for hunting, fishing and trapping. Maintaining ground water levels is critically important and that is why the Federation is supporting SB 620.

We thank all you in the Legislature that supported the Constitutional Amendment to Hunt, Fish and Trap. That amendment is designed to protect the important heritage of hunting, fishing and trapping in the state. However the Amendment cannot protect hunting, fishing and trapping if our lakes, streams and marshes are destroyed because groundwater is over pumped and our valuable waterways are dried up. A Constitutional Amendment to hunt, fish and trap is a hollow statement if there are not strong habitat protection laws such as SB 620 put into place.

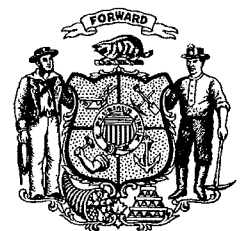
Thank you for the opportunity to testify here today on behalf of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.


Jerry Knuth
Past President
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

March 23, 2010



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Groundwater Protection Bill Introduction Press Conference
Statement by Mike Kuhr
Southeastern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
Conservation Chair

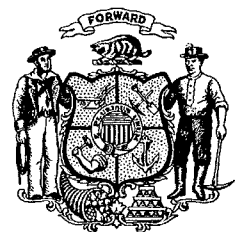
Some of my best childhood memories are times spent at a cabin on the lake with family and friends. My father taught me how to fish on the many lakes in Wisconsin's Northwoods. That's why I find the story of Long Lake in Waushara County so alarming. The lake just dried up over the course of several years. The image of cabins and boat docks without water just doesn't seem right.

Over the last 5 years I've been a dedicated volunteer for Trout Unlimited, the nation's leading coldwater conservation organization. I just returned from a weekend of trout fishing in the spring creeks of the Driftless Area in SW Wisconsin. When I'm standing in a trout stream, I can't help but think of the Little Plover River. The once productive trout stream now runs dry on a regular basis and fish kills are not uncommon.

I grew up in the Fox Valley, and I'm currently raising a family in the Milwaukee area. Water supplies in these areas have been depleted to point where concentrated toxins are now contaminating our drinking water. We need be smarter as we plan the future growth of our communities.

These examples show that we still haven't done enough to protect our most valuable resource... the water. We need to recognize that groundwater and surface water are all connected. The Groundwater Protection Act of 2004 was a good first step. Together with the Great Lakes Compact, we've laid a strong foundation for protecting water in Wisconsin. But we need to do more. I hope that this new Groundwater Protection Bill will be the next step in protecting our water supplies for the benefit of future generations.

Thank You.





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www.wisconsinwetlands.org

Wisconsin Wetlands Association Testimony on SB 620

Presented by Policy Director, Erin O'Brien

On behalf of our Board of Directors and our 1,500 members, Wisconsin Wetlands Association would like to express our support of SB 620. We would also like to take this opportunity to talk about the connections between groundwater and wetlands, and to discuss the wetland implications of this bill.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association has watched the legislature's process of developing this bill with great interest and hope. Like wetlands, Wisconsin's groundwater resources are critically important to our state's economy and ecology, but poorly understood by the general public and many policy makers. We appreciate the substantial effort Senators Miller and Kedzie, and the other members of the Legislative Groundwater Working Group, have made this year, and over the years, to improve their understanding of groundwater issues and apply that knowledge when drafting and debating bills.

Through our laws and natural resource programs, the state of Wisconsin has made a good effort to recognize the value of wetlands and protect them from outright destruction (i.e., fill/development). But we do a far less complete job of talking about and addressing wetland concerns when setting policies about how we manage our water resources. Thus far, our groundwater protection efforts are no exception.

Though the invited speakers who addressed the legislative working group covered many important topics, there were no presentations describing the interdependence of wetlands and groundwater or the extent to which current law fails to protect wetlands. As a result, the members of this committee may not be aware that the vast majority of Wisconsin's wetlands rely on groundwater inputs (i.e., discharge) for some, and in some cases most, of their water supply.

Our greatest concern with this bill is that it fails to acknowledge that there are groundwater dependent wetlands of exceptional quality that are not directly adjacent to a trout stream, a designated outstanding or exceptional resource water, or a high flowing spring, that need and deserve protection from groundwater pumping. Groundwater dependent calcareous fens, a rare wetland type that scientists do not yet know how to restore are one example. Wetlands that provide habitat for state threatened and endangered species are another.

A secondary concern we have with the proposed language of the bill is that because there is no mention of the word "wetlands" there is some ambiguity as to whether wetlands

will be covered in cases where WDNR must evaluate the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts to surface waters. Our scientific understanding is that the term "surface waters" includes lakes, rivers, streams, *and* wetlands; however, the term is not defined in this bill or elsewhere in state statute. The Department of Natural Resources does define surface waters to include wetlands in several sections of their Administrative Code. We would like to see this ambiguity clarified to demonstrate that this bill includes consideration of impacts to wetlands.

Wisconsin's groundwater law has evolved slowly to address identified gaps in the state's ability to protect and manage water resources. We support this bill and appreciate the substantial effort made to address the major gaps identified by the Groundwater Advisory Council following passage of Act 310 in 2004. But because the scope of the policy discussions has yet to include a formal inquiry into the impacts, or potential impacts, to the state's high quality wetland resources, or a technical and legal analysis of the extent to which this bill does and does not extend groundwater protections to wetlands, gaps still remain.

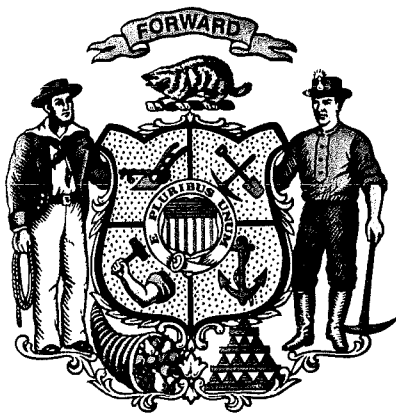
There is no doubt that a time will come when a proposed use of groundwater threatens a treasured wetland resource. Addressing such a threat could be left to the third iteration of groundwater protection legislation whenever that may come. There's also always the possibility that it will fall to the courts to consider in response to a controversial project. But the legislature has an opportunity here, today, to anticipate that likelihood and clarify the ways this bill could and should prevent significant adverse environmental impacts to Wisconsin's high quality wetland resources.

We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity and would be happy to answer any questions you may have about how to address this concern.

Wisconsin Wetlands Association is dedicated to the protection, restoration and enjoyment of wetlands and associated ecosystems through science-based programs, education and advocacy. WWA is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Questions about these comments should be directed to Wisconsin Wetlands Association's Policy Director, Erin O'Brien at 608-250-9971 / erin.obrien@wisconsinwetlands.org.

More information about Wisconsin's Wetlands can be found at www.wisconsinwetlands.org



Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 620:

Jodi Habush Sinykin, Of Counsel, Midwest Environmental Advocates

Good morning, I am Jodi Habush Sinykin, and I am testifying on behalf of Midwest Environmental Advocates, in support of Senate Bill 620.

As a former member of the Groundwater Advisory Committee, which worked long and hard in the years following Act 310's 2004 enactment, I came to understand both the need for protection of Wisconsin's valuable groundwater resource and the gaps in protections under Act 310 that needed remedying.

I understood that Act 310, as explained by Senator Kedzie himself, was intended as a "first step" in Groundwater protection and that our Committee's explicit statutory charge was to evaluate the law's effectiveness as a management tool and to identify areas where the input of available science and hydrogeology were (a) necessary and (b) valuable to enhance the initial regulatory framework established under Act 310.

The Committee worked in a dedicated manner throughout its three year tenure and, as was envisioned under Act 310, collaborated extensively with the scientists, academics and water resource experts on the Technical Advisory Committee. As a result, the Groundwater Advisory Committee came up with findings and recommendations in our two Reports that identified areas under Act 310 that were critical to the law's ability to protect, manage and sustain our state's Groundwater resources. These topics—which included Groundwater Management Areas, Groundwater Protection Areas, springs, the need for adaptive management, and water conservation—were studied, discussed and developed into "next step" recommendations.

Importantly, it is those recommendations—based on the science and which had the support of our state's experts in hydrogeology and resource management—which you will see in the bill, SB 620, before you today. The recommendations that lacked scientific grounding, that lacked support from our state's water resource experts, you will not see in the bill before you.

Accordingly, as supported by the science and best available data, this bill provides Groundwater protection to important numbers of springs—vital to our state’s trout streams and waterways—other than just those largest in size by lowering the regulatory threshold from 1 CFS to .25 CFS.

As recommended by the science and best available data, this bill allows for adaptive management by our state—a fancy way of saying that, where need be, when and where local conditions warrant, Wisconsin’s DNR can go in and recommend changes to existing high capacity well withdrawals in Groundwater Management Areas in order to ensure that continued use will not interfere with the uses of others and will not harm connected surface waters.

As recommended by the science and best available data, this bill includes changes to Groundwater Management Area definitions, and creates Groundwater Attention Areas, to allow for intelligent, collaborative solutions to groundwater draw-downs in parts of Wisconsin experiencing concerns but not affected by confined aquifers. This will provide some relief for places in the state like the Little Plover River and the lakes in Waushara County.

There will always be those who seek to avoid regulation of any kind, who see it as a short-term impediment to their interest in getting what they want *now*. But with a shared and finite resource like groundwater, you as our leaders must stay true to a long-term vision for our state’s resources and for the people and businesses and wildlife that depend on them *lasting*. You must think ahead—years into the future, and understand that what our state needs is Groundwater regulation that is proactive, that gets in front of supply problems BEFORE they become too serious, or too expensive, or too damaging to address easily and economically.

We need a statutory framework that allows “human eyes” to evaluate the risk of significant harm caused by proposed new high-capacity wells *before* they occur, in order to come up with reasonable well approval conditions to decrease the harm or eliminate it altogether. The bill before you—SB 620—will do exactly that. It *does* fill in the gaps in protection left by Act 310’s “first step” effort in 2004. It *will* protect more of the vitally important and valuable springs in our state than the very small number currently regulated under Act 310. It will enable the “Groundwater Management Areas” created under Act 310 to actually mean something, to perform

their intended, locally-based, collaborative function with regard to their area's chronic groundwater supply problem. SB 620 will provide for a process by which high-capacity wells proposed *outside* Groundwater Protection Areas *can* be evaluated, and appropriately managed, in those exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that a substantial risk of harm exists to a surface water of value to state citizens or sportsmen. SB 620 will provide for sustainable groundwater supplies into the future, thereby encouraging ongoing growth and opportunities within Wisconsin rather than costly problem-solving, litigation and remediation.

In closing, this bill before you deserves your support as it secures Act 310's value and legacy as a proactive—not reactive—approach to management of our state's precious groundwater and groundwater-dependent surface waters. It is the next step envisioned by Act 310. It is the product of the scientific expertise and study called for by Act 310's creation of the GWAC and Technical Advisory Committee. And, while the bill contains its share of compromises, and does not include a number of provisions our coalition had hoped to see, it is what our state needs to secure a sustainable groundwater supply to provide for current and future uses by Wisconsin communities, businesses, farmers, and families. Wisconsin need not be in the group of thirty-six states we read about in newspaper articles like this one, who are already in dire straits and scrambling to come up with Groundwater regulation that makes sense.

Before you today is a regulatory framework that fits the bill. SB 620 will protect Wisconsin's groundwater resource in the manner intended by Act 310 and is designed to deal with both today's and tomorrow's needs. Let's act now so that we don't have to act, far more aggressively, far more expensively, with far less gained, in the years to come.

Thank you.



My name is Susan Wolf. My husband, Brian, and I reside at 4818 41st Street in Kenosha, WI. We also have property at N6243 9th Ave, Plainfield on what was Long Lake. Brian, who has been very active on this issue, is unable to be here today.

We bought our property on Long Lake in April of 2005 and for the next year and a half watched the lake dry up. For all practical purposes, Long Lake which could have been designated as a trophy bass lake in the state of Wisconsin is gone. It was like watching water drain out of a bathtub after someone has pulled the plug. Not only have we lost our lake but the appraisal on our property has gone down by \$60,000. Neighbors on our lake have had to dig new wells because theirs went dry. We don't see many of our neighbors at the lake very often anymore which must have a negative impact on the local economy.

Over the course of time we have heard from some whom say that Long Lake has gone dry before and that it will come back again. Long Lake did go dry in the 50's, but individuals who make such statements fail to take into consideration the number of high capacity wells that have been dug in the Central Sands region since that time. How can a water table that is stressed by increasing numbers of high capacity wells replenish itself? We have 15 high capacity wells within approximately 1.5 miles of Long Lake alone. Within the last two years, two land owners in our very immediate area have cleared significant acreage of woods and put in high capacity wells for growing more crops.

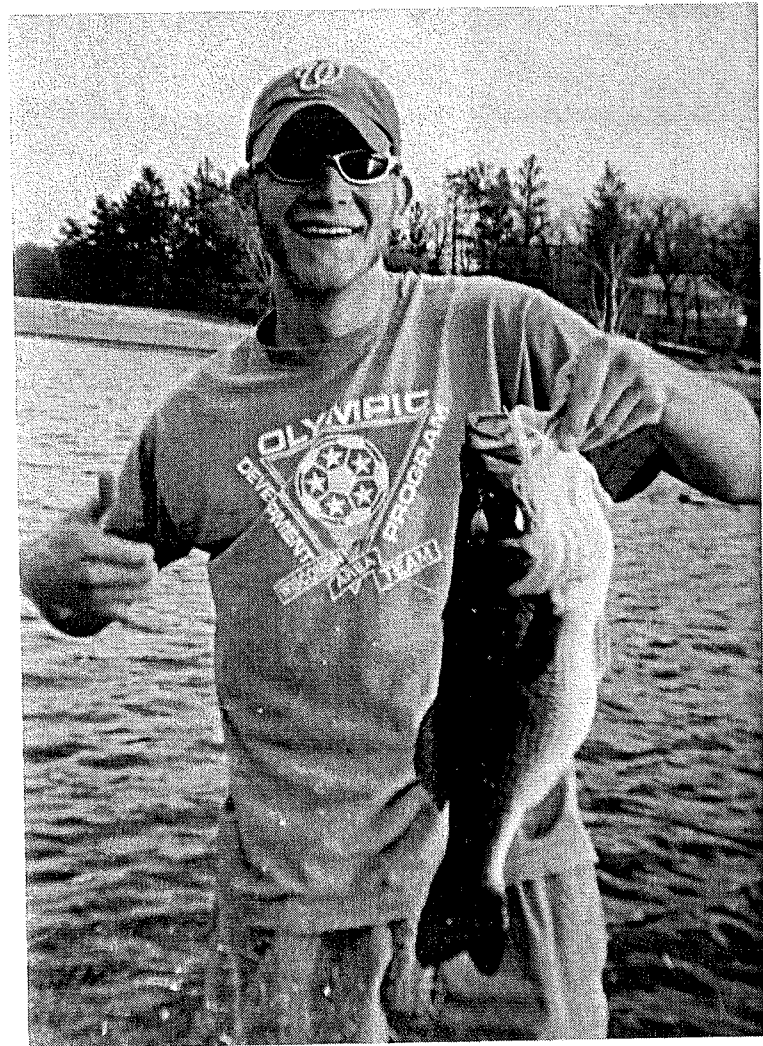
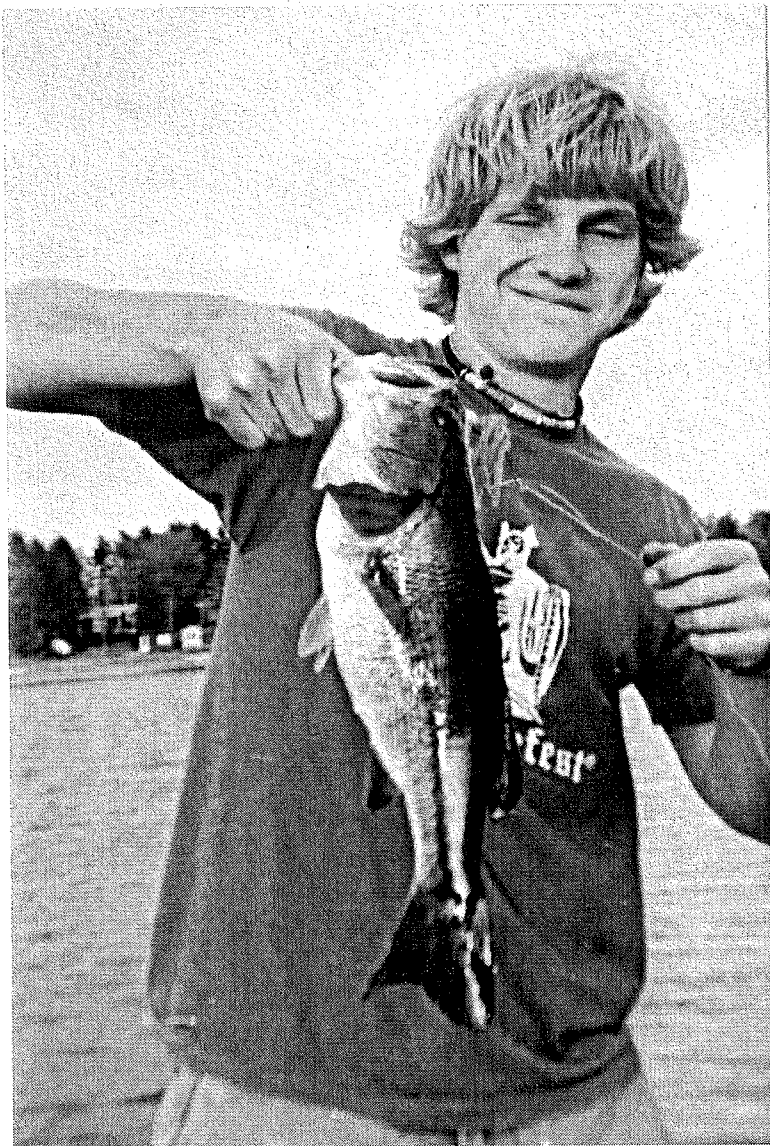
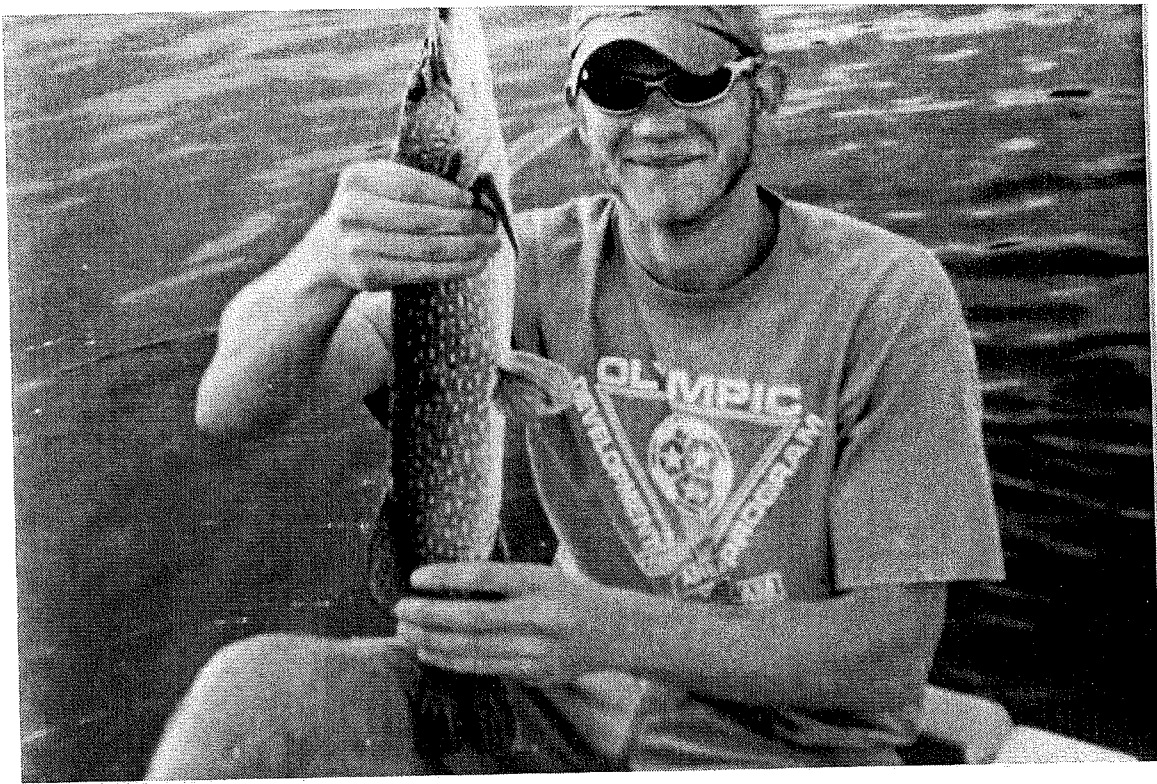
We now have scientific evidence that drought and environmental conditions alone do not account for the total loss of water in Long Lake at this time. We have been told that according to groundwater models, drought does not account for the total loss of water in Long Lake and it should still have water in it today.

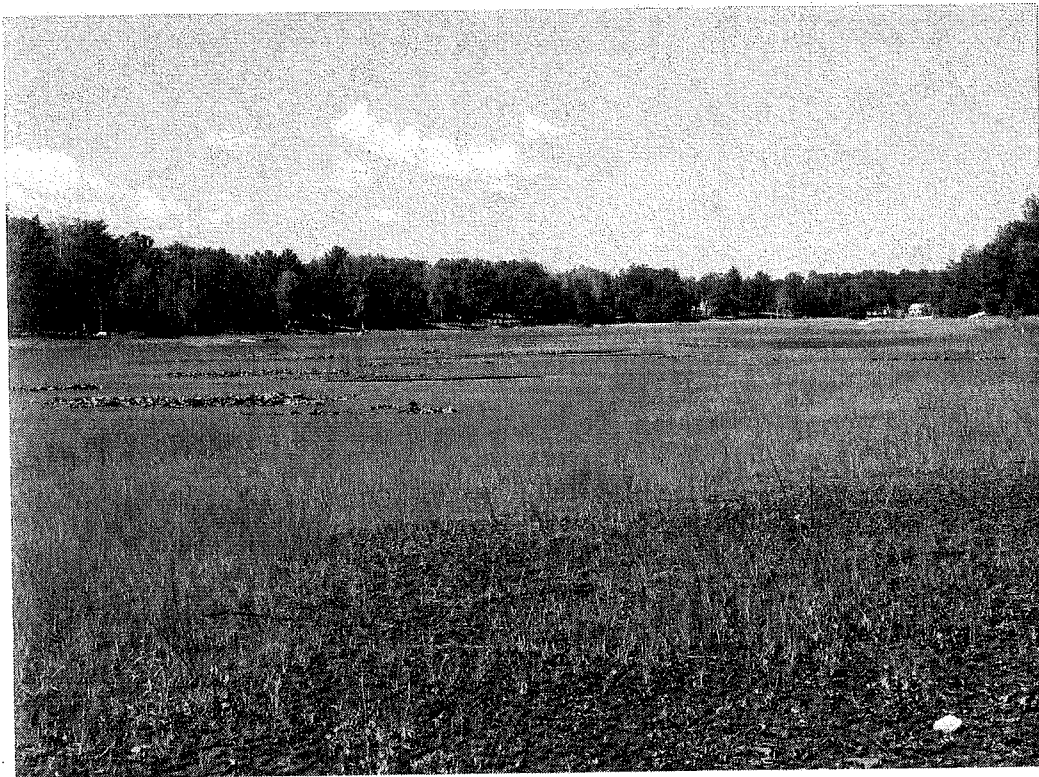
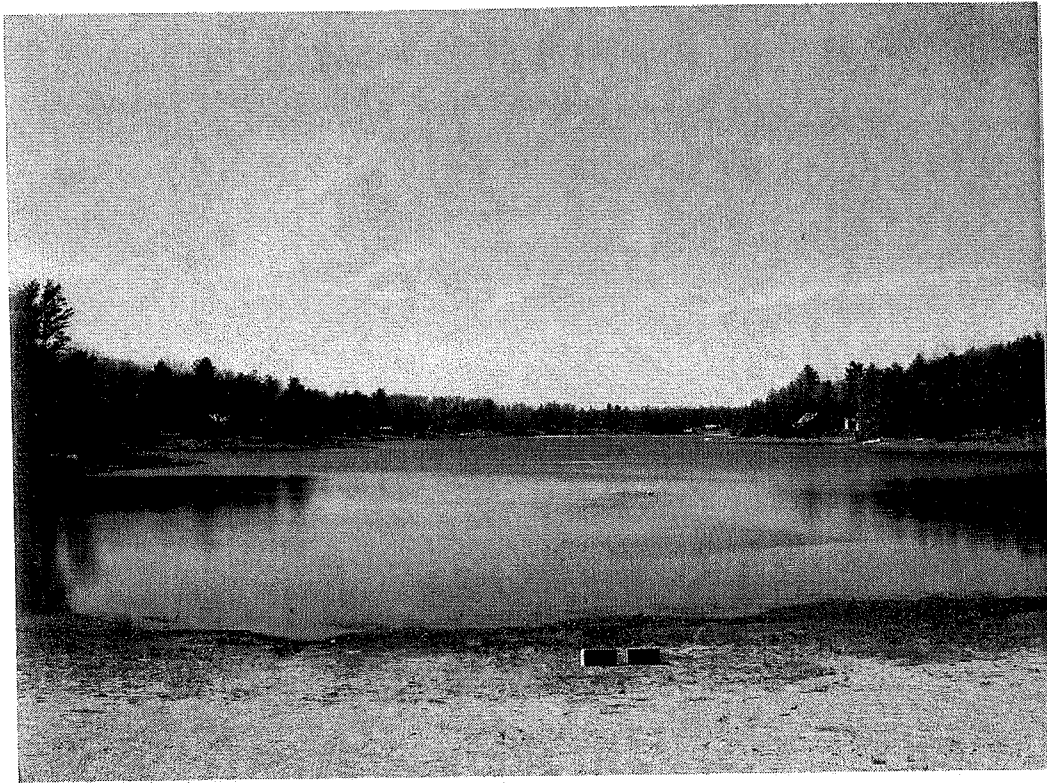
Studies done decades ago warned that if we were not cautious about the water supply in the Central Sands Region that there would be problems. We are certainly at that point today. Long Lake and others that have already gone dry are only the first of more to come if something is not done.

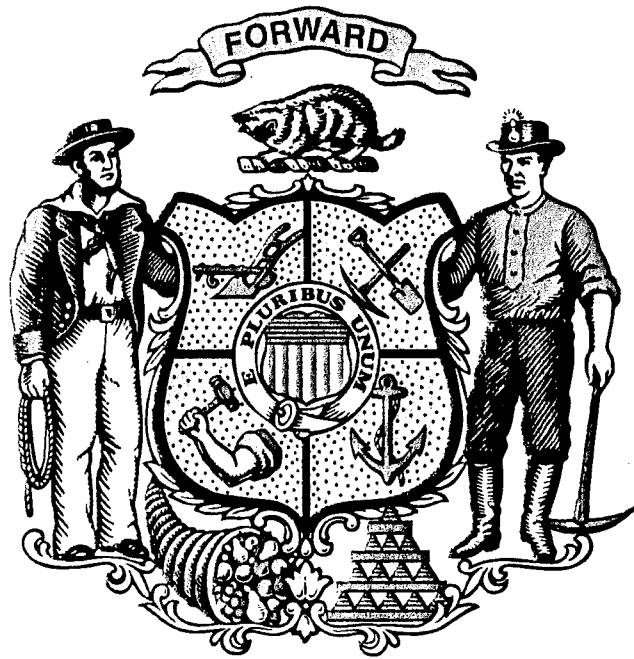
The groundwater bill we currently have does not go far enough to protect this valuable resource. We support this current Bill as we believe it provides the means for us to have water back in our lake. No one group should be

able to deplete a limited natural resource at the expense of others; a natural resource that should be available for all in Wisconsin to share.

Thank you.







101 Reasons For A Water Sample To Be "Unsafe"

by Mike Furstenberg, Clean Water Testing, Inc

Periodically, a well driller, a pump installer, a plumber or a water treatment professional will take a water test, and it will test bacteriologically "unsafe" for coliform bacteria (say: *CO LA FORM*). It is a documented fact that most aquifers are "safe," so why would a water sample be "unsafe"? Most of the time a sample is "unsafe" because of a plumbing problem – surface water is getting into the well or the pressure tank is causing a problem, etc. The following is a starter list of possible problems; the list is to get you thinking of what could be wrong. It is a trouble-shooting checklist to use on the job. As you find new problems with wells and water systems in the field, please share them with us and we will add them to the list.

1. Poor sampling technique – dirty hands, sample bottle cap set on ground or counter top, sample water poured from another container to sample bottle, water splashing off floor or bottom of sink while taking water sample, etc. (bacteria testing is *very* sensitive).
2. Dirty sampling faucet.
3. Leaking or dirty swing tap.
4. Plastic parts on sampling faucet – if it has a plastic throat, don't use it!
5. Sample taken through a faucet aerator.
6. Faucet not "flamed" (sterilized)—do not clean the faucet by wiping with bleach or an alcohol wipe. Alcohol wipes can be used as a small torch.
7. Insects in a frost-free hose bib—you know, the self-draining outside faucets.
8. Sampled through a garden hose—never, *ever*, take a sample from a hose.

9. Garden hose water line (to the garage, etc.)—bacteria *love* garden hoses (and, bacteria can move backwards through a water system).
10. Stagnant water in an unused well—if it hasn't been used, chlorinate it.
11. Bad pressure tank.
12. Buried pressure tank with pin hole leak
13. Standard pressure tank with contamination (bacteria) above the water line—always waterlog a standard tank when chlorinating a system.
14. Bladder or diaphragm in pressure tank leaking.
15. Bladder in captive air pressure tank fouled and the bacteria have turned anaerobic (septic).
16. Iron or sulfur bacteria have built-up a heavy bio-film (slime, algae) which is hiding and growing coliform bacteria—offer a service of cleaning customers wells once a year.
17. The well hasn't been cleaned in 20 years and just plain needs a good well cleaning (shocking, chlorination)
18. Unused, off-line water softener that is fouled—what a great place to grow bacteria.
19. Well casing too close to the ground—keep them 12" high—a lawnmower can blow dirt in the well.
20. Broken well cap—insect and vermin problems, ever see a kid throw a stick down a well.
21. No well cap at all—or a pail or coffee can over the well casing.
22. Insects in the well—anything crawling across the ground can contaminate a well.
23. Earwigs in the well—only way to clear earwigs is to “blow” the well (or drill and blow) and aggressively clean (chlorinate) the well.

24. Broken (leaking) lateral between the well and the house.
25. Crack in the well casing—or a bad weld at a seam.
26. Leak at the pitless adapter.
27. Poor grout job at the well casing, or no annular space seal—surface water running down along the outside of the well casing.
28. Depression at the well casing—surface water gathers there, saturates the soil and runs down next to the well casing.
29. Well casing has lifted with the frost—so pound it back down.
30. No back flow prevention device between the boiler (hot water heat) and the water system.
31. No check valve (or a leaker) between the water system and a solar panel
32. An electrical problem in the well—a skinned wire can provide an environment to enhance bacterial growth. Fix the electrical problem and the “unsafe” will go away. If you have “red” water out of the tap, you may have an electrical problem in the well.
33. Buried suction line—jet pump with no conduit or Standard Seal-Cross fitting.
34. No air gap at the dishwasher.
35. Sample taken with the pump off—it is best to take a sample with the pump running.
36. Sample not taken at the sample faucet—we don’t care what the water is like in the house as much as we care what the water is like out of the well. Even though your customer drinks water from the kitchen tap, we encourage you to sample the water as close to the well as possible.
37. Well housed in a non-complying well pit.
38. Rain gutter downspout directed at well casing.

39. Sump pump discharge directed at well casing.
40. Flowing well overflow discharge less than 8 feet from well
41. No overflow for seasonally flowing well—when it flows, it overflows over the top of the well and down the casing.
42. No air gap at flowing well overflow discharge—bacteria, vermin and fish can swim up the discharge pipe and into the well.
43. No screen on a flowing well discharge at the air-gap—if the water table drops or there is a big draw-down with a submersible pump, vermin can get sucked into the well.
44. No air gap at the surge tank of a flowing well.
45. An abandoned (un-abandoned) well (especially a pit well) in the vicinity of the present well.
46. A second, unused well on the property (or neighbors property)
47. Short cased well—especially in high bedrock or quarried areas.
48. Adjacent septic system constructed in coarse sand or gravel—coarse sand (especially in unapproved systems) may not filter out bacteria.
49. Well formation in high bedrock or coarse sand or gravel—there is no filtration of surface water; the bugs just go right on through!
50. Home made plumbing or plugs in the water system
51. Leaking, non-compliant or improperly installed yard hydrant.
52. Hydrant or hose bib without an anti-siphon device—and a watering trough has siphoned back into the well when the pump failed.
53. Check valve in well failing—water could back siphon from toilet, pool, garden hose, laundry tub, etc.
54. Hole in the drop pipe of a submersible pump drawing water back into the well

55. Water softener regeneration discharge line direct plumbed to soil pipe (sewer).
56. No air gap at end of water softener backwash line.
57. Sabotage! Ouch!
58. Nearby drainage well—there was a period when field tile could be drained to a drainage well.
59. Well drilled in field tile drainage bed.
60. Septic system drain field less than 50 feet from well—we have seen drain fields less than 2 feet from the well!
61. Dogs peeing on well casing—or worse.
62. Dirt or vermin sucked up short electrical conduit and into the well on wells with vermin proof well caps and an excessive well drawdown.
63. Laboratory error—*very* rare!
64. Non-sterile sample bottles—request sterile water sample bottles from your lab and do not store them in your truck. Do not boil canning jars or mayonnaise bottles.
65. Problem with an intrusive style pitless adapter—most of them leak!
66. Snifter valve or air injection unit sucking basement air into pressure tank.
67. Well in a flooded well pit, alcove, or basement.
- 68.
- 69..
- 70..
- 71..
- 72..

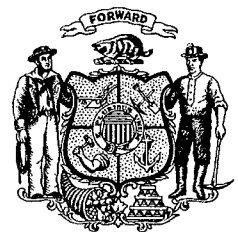
73.

74..

75. This is a never-ending list of well problems. It is as long as the number of wells that have "unsafe" water tests for coliform bacteria.



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

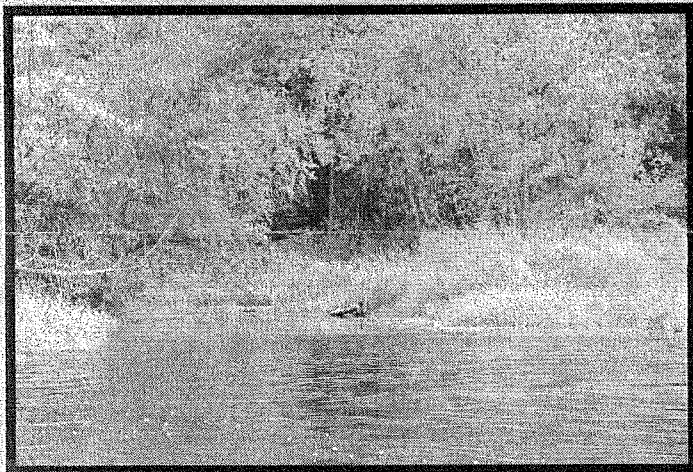




Little Plover River Community Currents

Volume IV, Issue 1

Winter 2009/2010



A picturesque, pristine LPR gently finds its way to its final destination—the Wisconsin River



Water levels are low even just upstream from the Wisconsin River

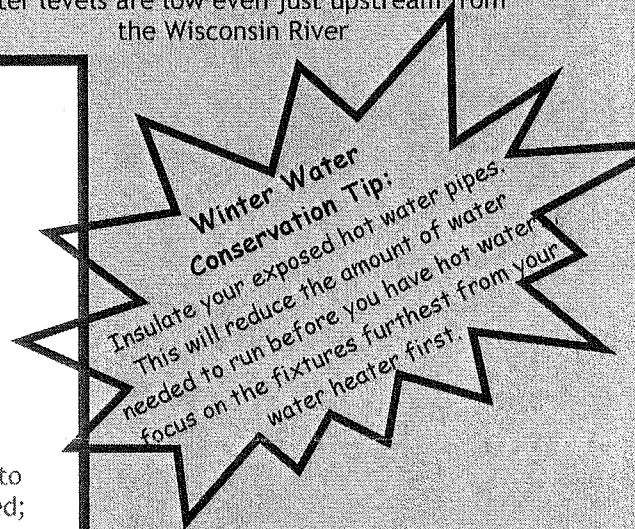
Again a Huge Success for the 3rd Annual Little Plover River Appreciation Day

On May 1, 2009, the Friends of the Little Plover River (FLPR) volunteers once again readied educational stations in preparation for over 140 fourth grade students from the nearby Roosevelt and Plover/Whiting Elementary Schools.

It was a cloudy morning with a chance of rain but volunteers were well prepared with tarps and rain gear. Just before the students were about to begin their walk to the Little Plover River Park, Mother Nature cooperated; the skies cleared and the much anticipated event proceeded under sunny skies. Each student was given a "Passport" to be stamped at every station plus a bag to hold handouts, LPR buttons, tree seedlings, and fishing lures, just to name a few goodies.

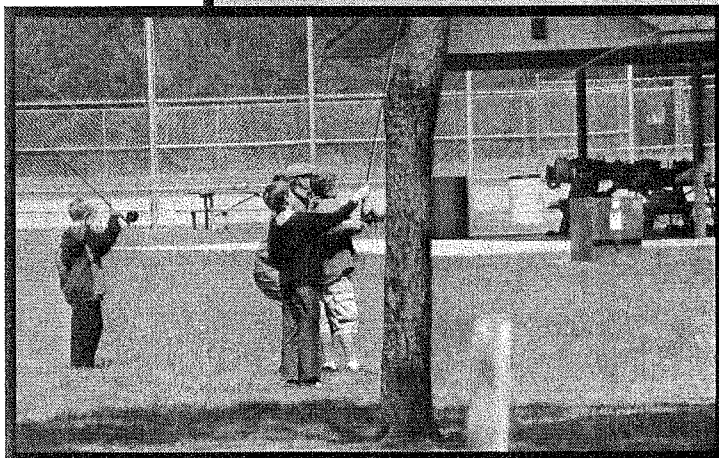
While at the Park, the 140 students, in groups of 20, walked the trails along the river, stopping at seven stations to participate in activities that had water conservation, education, and recreational themes.

- Station 1: Fly Casting
- Station 2: Fly Tying
- Station 3: Water Conservation
- Station 4: Would You Drink this Water?
- Station 5: Trout Shocking
- Station 6: Stream Flow Monitoring/Macro Invertebrates
- Station 7: The Incredible Journey



Winter Water Conservation Tip:
Insulate your exposed hot water pipes. This will reduce the amount of water needed to run before you have hot water focus on the fixtures furthest from your water heater first.

Students learning to cast fly fishing rods with Trout Unlimited Volunteers



APPRECIATION DAY Continued...

Continued from Page 1

Thank you to all organizations who prepared and staffed these activities:

Trout Unlimited
Village of Plover
UWSP—American Waters Resource Association
UWSP-Environmental Educators & Naturalists Assoc.
Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologists
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
Wisconsin Rural Water Association

By providing these educational programs the goal of the FLPR is to protect this valuable resource, the Little Plover River, and the ground water that gives it life. We hope not to leave these students, "Our Leaders of Tomorrow," without the water we enjoy today.

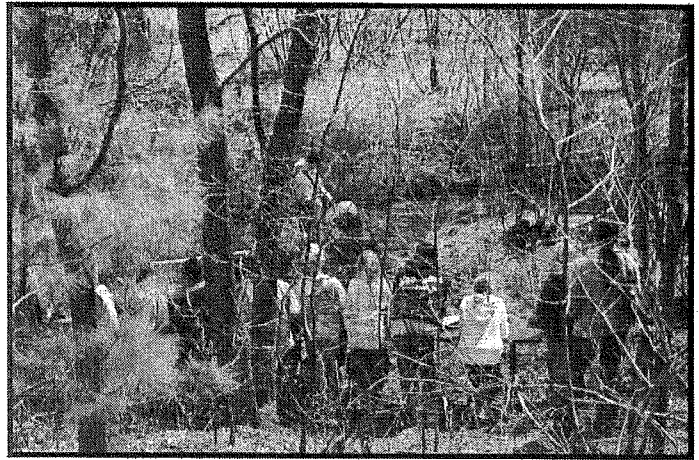
Roosevelt School teacher Faye Miller once again is very enthusiastic in her assessment: "A wonderful learning event for teaching today's students about preserving Wisconsin's most valuable resource, its rivers and lakes." She also said "The kids absolutely loved the day! They said it was their favorite field trip ever!!" Thank you to these Roosevelt students who sent delightful thank you notes and a poster to the FLPR organizers who greatly enjoyed reading each and every one.

We would like to thank the volunteers:

Barb Feltz	Barb Gifford	Jim Gifford
Stu Grimstad	Jodi Hermesen	Jerry Knuth
Lisa Ludwig	Tom Meronek	Al Kunst
Molly McKay	Tyler Groh	Alex Rausch
Duane Groshek	Jake Michelson	Judy Han
Patrick Harrington		

Special thanks to the Central Wisconsin Community Foundation and our sponsors who helped make this event possible:

Lensmire's Village Gardens
Portage County Land Conservation Committee
Stevens Point Women's Club
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation-District 4
Health Enhancement and Massage Therapy
Tom-Cin Metals
Spectra Print
Sue and Kent Hall



Students looking at Macro-invertebrates with help from the UWSP American Waters Resources Assoc.



Students looking on as Tom Meronek, DNR Fisheries biologist explains the tools used for shocking fish and explains why this method is used.

FLPR will sponsor another "Appreciation Day" for a whole new group of fourth graders in May 2010. Anyone wishing to volunteer for next year's event can contact

Barb Gifford
(715) 344-3539
email: barbaragifford@charter.net

Submitted by Barb Gifford



Students learn how to tie a Fly lure and hear stories about fly fishing.

Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine

Wisconsin's Waters Belong to Everyone
Wisconsin lakes and rivers are public resources, owned in common by all Wisconsin citizens under the state's Public Trust Doctrine. Based on the state constitution, this doctrine has been further defined by case law and statute. It declares that all navigable waters are "common highways and forever free," and held in trust by the Department of Natural Resources.

Source: Wisconsin Conservation July 2009

Conservation Lobby Day

The Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters is in the process of organizing the 2010 Conservation Lobby Day that will be held on January 26th. Each year citizens from across Wisconsin descend on the Capitol to share their conservation values with their Legislators. Since the first Conservation Lobby Day in 2005, it has grown from just 100 citizens to more than 600! As the 6th annual Conservation Lobby Day approaches, there is one thing we can guarantee: when citizens come together to make their conservation values known, legislators listen, and conservation victories soon follow! One of the priorities for this Conservation Lobby Day is "Preserve Groundwater: Wisconsin's Buried Treasure". For more information visit their website at: <http://www.conservationvoters.org/Public/index.php?custID=110>

Wisconsin Legislative Groundwater Workgroup

The Wisconsin Legislature assembled a Groundwater Work Group this year that has met six times since September 24th. The Work Group is Co-Chaired by Senator Mark Miller and Representative Spencer Black. The Goal of the Work Group is to "Establish a statewide water management policy that protects Wisconsin's water quantity and quality on a sustainable basis for the benefit of Wisconsin's residents and economy". For more information on the Legislative Groundwater Work Group activities you can visit their website at: <http://www.legis.wi.gov/senate/sen16/news/Issues/GroundwaterWorkgroup.asp>

Representative Louis Molepske is a member of this Work Group. You should contact him if you have any questions, concerns or comments regarding groundwater in the Little Plover River Watershed as it relates to the Work Group activities.

Submitted by Steve Bradley

LITTLE PLOVER RIVER WORKGROUP EFFORTS

The Little Plover River Workgroup continues to meet and implement projects to help restore a healthy flow to the River. The Workgroup is made up of: "Friends of the Little Plover River", Villages of Plover and Whiting, UWSP, DNR, Portage County, Trout Unlimited, Del Monte Inc., several area potato and vegetable growers and the River Alliance of WI.

The Workgroup has developed a list of Flow Management Plan Activities to restore flow to the River. Some of the activities that have been identified in the Plan are: wetland restoration, land acquisitions, land use changes, pumping alterations, water conservation, agricultural management changes, stormwater management, wastewater reuse and limiting new high capacity wells.

At the request of several Workgroup members, the DNR set a minimum Public Rights Flow in the river of 1.9 cfs at Kennedy Rd., 4 cfs at CTH R, 5.8 cfs at I39 and 6.8 cfs at Hoover Rd. These represent the minimum flows to protect public rights and interest in the river ecosystem.

Since the beginning of 2009, the Village of Plover has fluctuated pumping from their two wells (#1 & #2) closest to the river. The pumping of these two wells is 40 percent of their total pumping and 60 percent has come from well # 3, which is further from the river.

Two Workgroup members, Curt Soik (Soik Sales Inc.) and Worzella and Sons Inc., have used their irrigation wells to pump water into the River to prevent it from going dry this summer. The Village of Plover and Del Monte, Inc. have contributed funding to offset some of their cost for this augmentation.

For further information on Workgroup activities or if you have suggestions to include in the Flow Management Plan, contact Steve Bradley, Portage County Conservationist, at 715-346-1334.

Submitted by Steve Bradley

Thank you Donors!

Supporters

Joan and Storm North
Jake and Kris Barnes
Todd Ambs
John and Lynn Meyer
Mark and Kristen Wentzel

Benefactors

John and Patty Noel
N.E. Spangenberg

Friends of the Little Plover River



Your support will help the Friends of the Little Plover River continue their efforts to:

- ◆ Raise awareness of the Little Plover River
- ◆ Promote water quality and quantity issues
- ◆ Promote wise management of water and land resources
- ◆ Increase education of water resources through the Little Plover River Appreciation Day
- ◆ Protect the groundwater that recharges the Little Plover River and that residents drink every day

Select donation amount (Donations are tax deductible)

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In the memo line please put Friends of the Little Plover River or FLPR

Please send this form and checks to:

Friends of the Little Plover River

c/o Golden Sands RC&D

1462 Strongs Avenue

Stevens Point, WI 54481

*All donors will have their names published in the next edition of
Community Currents

JOIN US!

Improving the health of the Little Plover River is a community project. The Friends of the Little Plover River have come together to work towards the goal of protecting and educating the community about this gem of a stream for future generations.

Friends of the Little Plover River

Contact us:

Barb Gifford
715-344-3539

Barb Feltz
715-344-6319

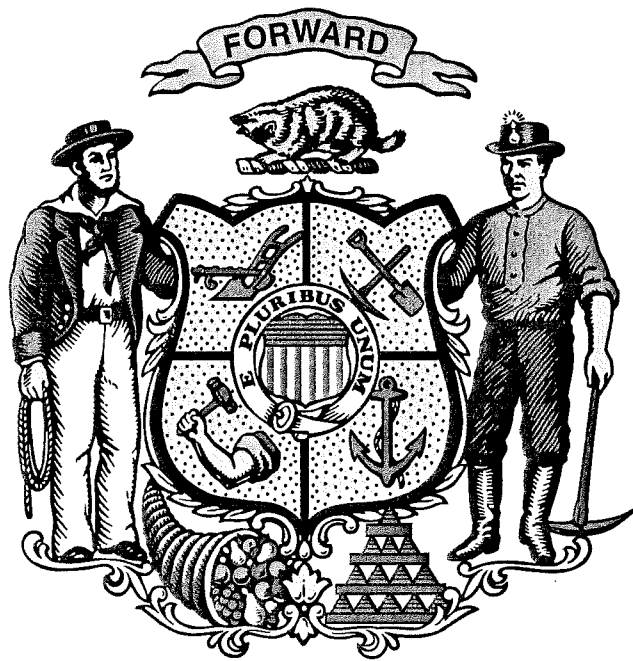
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At Least 36 U.S. States Face Water Shortage

By David Gutierrez, Natural News

Posted on April 15, 2008, Printed on March 22, 2010

<http://www.alternet.org/story/82378/>

At least 36 states are expected to face water shortages within the next five years, according to U.S. government estimates. Available freshwater supplies are dwindling across the country due to rising temperatures and droughts, while increasing sprawl, population and inefficient resource usage are leading to rising demand.

"Is it a crisis? If we don't do some decent water planning, it could be," said Jack Hoffbuhr, executive director of the American Water Works Association. Rising temperatures due to global warming have increased evaporation rates across the country and reduced the availability of important water sources. One of these is the Sierra Nevada snowpack, which supplies a significant portion of California's water. Across the West, similar trends are expected to reduce flows of the Colorado River, which supplies water for seven states.

Meanwhile, rising sea levels are expected to cause saltwater to infiltrate freshwater aquifers in coastal states, rendering that water unusable.

California uses about 23 trillion gallons of fresh water per year. The United States as a whole uses more than 148 trillion gallons for all purposes, including agriculture, manufacturing and other uses.

Other threatened regions include the Midwest, where the Great Lakes are shrinking, and upstate New York, where reservoir levels have fallen to record lows. Georgia's crisis has already arrived, and Florida's is expected to hit soon.

While Florida has no shortage of rainfall, widespread draining and paving of the region's natural wetlands has left the water unable to drain back into the soil. As a consequence, the state is forced to flush millions of gallons of water into the ocean per year to avert floods. The state's environmental chief, Michael Sole, has asked the Florida legislature to increase the use of reclaimed wastewater. Other states are encouraging measures such as desalinization, but it is widely accepted that conservation is the cheapest alternative.

Even with such measures, the forecast is not expected to improve. "Unfortunately, there's just not going to be any more cheap water," said Randy Brown, utilities director for Pompano Beach, Fla.

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View this story online at: <http://www.alternet.org/story/82378/>

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Revised: 12/05/2012



Inventory of Wisconsin's Springs

Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
Open File Report 2007-03

Jacob A. Macholl, Hydrogeologist
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
August 2007

Funded by the Joyce Foundation, Chicago, IL



Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
3817 Mineral Point Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53705-5100
TEL 608/263.7389 FAX 608/262.8086
<http://www.uwex.edu/wgnhs/>

James M. Robertson, Director and State Geologist

Inventory of Wisconsin's Springs



Prepared by:
Jacob A Macholl, Hydrogeologist
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
<http://www.wiwf.org>

2007

Open-File Report 2007-03

This report represents work performed by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey or colleagues and is released to the open files in the interest of making the information readily available. This report has not been edited or reviewed for conformity with Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey standards and nomenclature.

Table of Contents

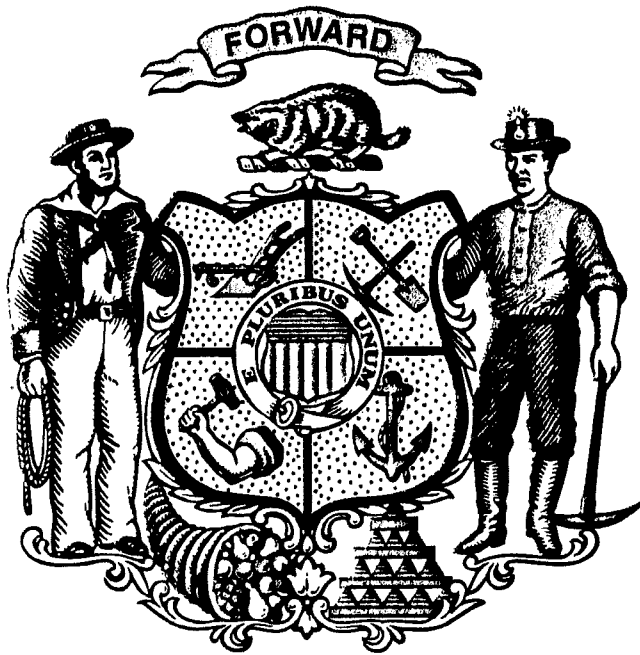
Title Page	1
Table of Contents	3
List of Figures	4
List of Tables	4
Introduction	5
Methods	7
<i>Data Sources</i>	7
<i>Data Compilation</i>	10
<i>Field Exploration</i>	11
Results	12
<i>Spring Distribution</i>	12
<i>Flow Rates</i>	14
<i>Physicochemical Data</i>	14
<i>Biota</i>	14
<i>Springs Database and ArcGIS Coverage</i>	15
Existing Protection of Springs	16
Potential Spring Protections	17
Conclusions	17
Recommendations	18
Acknowledgements	19
References Cited	20
Appendix A – Maps	
Appendix B – Springs Reporting Form	
Appendix C – Springs Working Group	
Appendix D – Springs Inventory Data CD	

List of Figures

Figure 1. Coverage of the 1956-1962 “Springs Survey.”.....	8
Figure 2. Photograph of a spring.....	11
Figure 3. a) Extent of glaciation in Wisconsin and b) known spring distribution..	12
Figure 4. A deteriorated springhouse.....	13
Figure 5. A screenshot of the ArcGIS coverage.....	15

List of Tables

Table 1. Largest known springs in Wisconsin.....	13
Table 2. Flow rate and corresponding number of springs.....	14
Table 3. Springs not associated with trout streams and O/ERWs.....	16





Capitol Headlines

from the Legislative Reference Bureau

Vol. 15, No. 18

Thursday, March 11, 2010 (Articles from March 6-11, 2010)

Bill boosts groundwater protections

Sponsors of the legislation cite water issues across the state.

By **RON SEELY**
rseely@madison.com
608-252-6131

Legislation proposed Monday would increase protections for Wisconsin's groundwater by providing more review of proposed large wells that could potentially draw down drinking water supplies and threaten connected surface waters such as streams, wetlands and lakes.

The bill would build on a landmark groundwater law that was passed in 2003. That law provided for some review of water withdrawals but left a large percentage

of waters unprotected.

Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison, and Sen. Mark Miller, D-Monona, who introduced the bill Monday, cited numerous water issues around the state as reasons for strengthening groundwater protections. Among the problems are lakes and streams drying up in Central Wisconsin, where municipal and agricultural wells threaten trout streams such as the Little Plover River. They also pointed to unhealthy levels of arsenic and radionuclides in some municipal wells in southeast Wisconsin, both of which are contaminants that become worse when groundwater levels decline.

The proposed law would:

- Authorize the state Department of Natural Resources to designate ground-

water management areas where continued withdrawals are threatening water supplies. Local councils would be created in those areas to create management plans under which future construction of wells and water withdrawals would be regulated.

- Increase the number of springs protected under groundwater laws by about 200.

- Authorize anyone to file a petition with the DNR requesting environmental review of a proposed high-capacity well if they can show the well could harm nearby surface waters.

- Require the DNR to report to the state Legislature on streamlining the high-capacity well permitting process for wells in low-risk areas.

Wisconsin State Journal March 9, 2010

Includes articles from March 6-11, 2010

Bill boosts groundwater protections (WSJ)	1	Bisphenol A: Phasing out BPA (MJS).....	29
Bill seeks to protect water supply (MJS)	2	Power of press must get credit for ban on BPA (ECLT)	30
Groundwater bill aims for sustainable use (RJT)	3	Transit: Missing the bus (MJS)	31
Hundreds seek right to raw milk (MJS)	4	We need RTA now (MJS).....	32
Raw milk bill will get a hearing in Eau Claire (LT)	5	Union process gets hearing (WSJ)	33
Differing views on raw milk debate (ECLT)	6	State insurance experts see flaw in health insurance plan (NYT) ..	34
5 accused of voter fraud in 2008 election (MJS)	7	Health care cost transparency helps consumers (APC)	36
ACORN workers face voter-fraud charges (WSJ)	8	Health care savings (ADP).....	36
Doyle drops plan on school funding (MJS)	9	Don't put onus on citizens to surf for public notices (CT)	37
National education standards would change curriculum (MJS) ...	11	WMC owes Doyle some kudos (CT)	38
Let teachers live where they want (WSJ)	12	Do the right thing and reform will follow (GBPG)	39
Where's the school funding fix? (WSJ)	13	Rep. Smith: Bill cracks down on payday lenders (ECLT)	40
Recession puts cap on teacher pay as QEO ends (APC).....	14	Bill to change state electoral votes wrong (APC)	41
Should schools use seclusion rooms, restraints? (CT)	16	Lothian to retire from Assembly (JG)	41
Seclusion and restraint bill stalls in Madison (RJT)	21	Grants to spread high-speed Internet deserve applause (JG)	42
Barrett would try to create 180,000 jobs (MJS).....	22	Senate unlikely to prohibit Indian names (JG).....	43
Candidates spar over jobs (WSJ)	23	How can we best stop repeat drunken drivers? (JG).....	44
Bill would restore vets' tuition benefits (WSJ)	24	Protect small businesses from automatic renewal clauses (RJT) .	45
Most state pensions take small hit (WSJ)	24	Workers need discrimination shield (RJT)	46
Public pensions are adding risk to raise returns (NYT)	25	Credit checks unfair for job applicants (APC).....	47
Sex offender bill draws fire (MJS)	27	Day care background check may not be constitutional (SE).....	47
Bill urged to support regional transit (GBPG)	28		

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Milwaukee Journal Sentinel March 9, 2010

Bill seeks to protect water supply

Legislation proposes reuse, well reviews

By **LEE BERGQUIST**
lbergquist@journalsentinel.com

Wisconsin is blessed with a rich supply of groundwater used by nearly 75% of state residents.

But water experts have been warning for years that supplies aren't inexhaustible — and it's that worry that is driving new groundwater protection legislation in Madison.

A bill introduced Monday will give new powers to the state Department of Natural Resources and local officials to protect groundwater supplies.

It also could potentially limit the construction of new high-capacity wells for industry, agriculture and municipalities, and it calls for greater use of water conservation in some areas.

Also, the bill would start the process to allow the reuse of water — so-called gray water — for non-drinking purposes such as watering lawns.

The bill is being introduced in the waning days of the 2010 session. Lawmakers are expected to adjourn April 22 and have only a handful of floor sessions before they leave for home.

But the legislation and water supply is-

sue aren't expected to disappear: Factors ranging from seasonal drought, growing water demand and rising use of agricultural irrigation are raising questions about the long-term viability of water supplies in some parts of the state.

Environmentalists and conservationists say the bill is needed to strengthen existing law by protecting water resources from growing demand.

But many Republicans and some business groups are sure to attack it.

Rep. Scott Gunderson (R-Waterford) said Monday that the bill "goes too far empowering environmental special interest groups to not only block new businesses, but also severely impact agriculture in Wisconsin."

Gunderson is a former chairman of the Assembly natural resources committee, and he said the sponsors ignored many recommendations from him and other Republicans.

But one of the authors of the bill, Rep. Spencer Black (D-Madison), said the legislation benefits from the work of scientists and a longstanding

groundwater advisory panel that tried to bridge the differences between disparate interests.

"This bill is important because some parts of the state are running up against the limits of their groundwater supply," said Black, who is co-sponsoring the legislation with Sen. Mark Miller (D-Monona).

Management areas

As proposed Monday, the bill envisions new groundwater management areas. Under current law, Waukesha and Brown counties are two counties where water conservation efforts must be considered when large wells are now drilled.

Waukesha County still would likely be included, but so would fast-growing Dane County and the Central

Sands region near Stevens Point where groundwater pumping by farmers has sharply lowered the water table.

The bill also would toughen 2004 legislation that requires the DNR to review the environmental effects of high-capacity wells if they lie within 1,200 feet of high-quality waters such as a pristine lake or a trout stream.

These wells — for factories, farming, bottling operations and municipalities — would come under regulation in new areas of the states where DNR inventories of the water table show springs could be harmed.

The DNR hasn't taken a position on the bill. But Todd Ambs, the top water regulator with the agency, said there are many features the DNR likes.

Racine Journal Times March 9, 2010

Groundwater bill aims for sustainable use

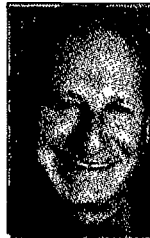
Waterford legislator worries that proposal could affect jobs

DAVID STEINKRAUS
dsteinkraus@journaltimes.com

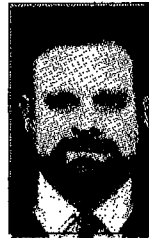
MADISON — Governments would gain new authority to regulate and protect Wisconsin's underground water supplies under a bill introduced by legislators on Monday.

"The reason why we undertook the study of groundwater issues was because there were significant problems cropping up in parts of the state," said Rep. Spencer Black, D-Madison. Black chairs the Natural Resources Committee in the Assembly and is co-chair of the Legislature's Groundwater Work Group which began studying the issue last summer.

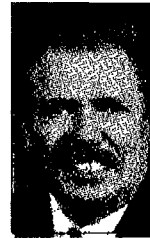
Groundwater is the term for



Black



Mason



Gunderson

underground water deposits that feed wells, streams, and lakes. A trout stream in the Stevens Point area dried up because groundwater fell too low, Black said, and in Taylor County some wells have stopped producing water.

In areas where groundwater is low, the bill would allow one or

more counties to establish groundwater management areas and plan how much water can be sustainably withdrawn from aquifers. The advantage of this bill, Black said, is that it emphasizes local control, flexibility, conservation, and science-based management of water.

The bill also would give the Department of Natural Resources expanded powers to regulate high-capacity wells such as those supplying bottled-water plants. Rep. Scott Gunderson, R-Waterford, said in a statement that by allowing anyone to question the need for a high-capacity well, the bill would allow environmentalists to block wells and thus block jobs.

Rep. Cory Mason, D-Racine, like Gunderson a member of the committee and work group, said the bill asks a couple of Wisconsin localities to consider whether they are using too much groundwater. For communities like Burlington and Waterford, he said, the bill would provide tools to ensure enough water for sustainable growth in the future.

Given the amount of preparatory work that has already been done on the legislation, Black said, he is hopeful that the Legislature can pass it before the end of its session on April 22.