Form 1100-001N (Rev. 09/15)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item

Item No. 5.A.1.

SUBJECT: Summary results of the Little Plover River Groundwater Modeling and Optimization study funded by the Department and conducted by the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and United States Geological Survey.

FOR: April 2016 Board meeting

TO BE PRESENTED BY: Dan Helsel, NR Manager, Environmental Management

SUMMARY:

The Little Plover River is a groundwater-fed stream in the sand plains region of central Wisconsin. The stream is located in an area with a significant density of high capacity wells used for agricultural irrigation, public water supplies and industrial uses. Over the past decade concerns have been raised about the impacts of the wells on flows in the Little Plover River. Diverse stakeholder groups, including well operators, environmental groups, local land owners, and regulatory and government officials have sought a better understanding of the local groundwater-surface water system. The Department contracted with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and U.S. Geological Survey to develop a groundwater flow model that could be used to demonstrate the relationships among groundwater, surface water, and well withdrawals and also be a tool for testing and evaluating alternative water management strategies . The department believes the modeling methodology developed during this study can be used as a foundation to expand our modeling capabilities and evaluation processes to apply to much of the larger central sands region of Wisconsin.

At the request of legislators, the Department will attend a public presentation and discussion of the model in Stevens Point on 4/12/2016.

RECOMMENDATION: Information Only

LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):

- ☐ Background memo
- ☐ Type name of attachment if applicable
- ☐ Type name of attachment if applicable
- ☐ Type name of attachment if applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Jill Jonas, Bureau Director Drinking and Ground Water	Jill D. Jonas	4.1.2016
Pat Stevens, Division Administrator Environmental Management	Erick. Eckenberger for	4.1.2016
Cathy Stepp, Secretary	[signature]	4/5/16

cc: Board Liaison – AD/8