

GROUNDWATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2007 CONSENSUS ITEMS TABLE

GPA TASKS	
<p>A. Definition of a Spring—what is it we are trying to protect via this classification? Is the 1 CFS the correct threshold? How many springs in WI would be protected/unprotected? Assessment of alternative definitions/thresholds. Establish monitoring requirements to determine impact of high-cap well on GW or SW bodies and/or to quantify depleted baseflow.</p>	
<p>B. High-Capacity Well Approval Process for GPAs and Springs—(i) identify strategies and regulations that would facilitate an adaptive management approach; (ii) outline high-cap permit criteria, including testing, quantitative analysis, and numerical simulation requirements; (iii) determine the level of assessment needed for permits - -e.g. if complex (multiple wells, SW depletion, boundary conditions), a groundwater flow model should be required; and (iv) recommendations for statutory authorization to enable adaptation of high-cap well regulation as new information becomes available or conditions change; and (v) consideration of potential use of general permits.</p>	
<p>C. “Significant environmental impact”—identification/assessment of the factors that the DNR should consider in rules used to determine whether a high-cap well will cause a “significant environmental impact.” Include effects of high (>95%) water loss.</p>	
<p>D. Gaps and Opportunities under Act 310—evaluation of the GPA’s parameters in terms of gaps or shortcomings in protection, sustainability and coordinated water resource management.</p>	
<p>E. Funding – Prioritization of Resources</p>	
Task A – Springs	Consensus Date
1. <i>The definition of a spring should be revised.</i>	
Task B – High Capacity Well Approval Process for GPAs and Springs	Consensus Date
1. Water withdrawals in a GPA may be limited through the approval process if there is significant adverse environmental impact in the area.	
a. Existing high capacity wells in a GPA may have their approvals modified.	
i. Existing high capacity wells in GPAs shall have their approvals reviewed and renewed 10 years from the enactment of the legislation.	
b. The Department will only approve high capacity well applications that are consistent with the standard (no significant environmental impact)	
i. The Department will make their approval determinations based on the EA/EIS provided by the well approval applicant.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Department must consider the following in the approval process, at a minimum: proposed rate and timing of pumping, cumulative annual extraction, fate of extracted water, what surface waters and reaches of surface waters might be affected, and the cumulative effects of other groundwater extractors in determining if there will be a significant adverse environmental impact. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ High capacity well permit applications should include a quantitative analysis of the impact on groundwater and surface water of pumping in the proposed well. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Guidance manuals should be developed for high capacity well applicants/owners/operators addressing the issues and requirements of the EA/EIS. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approval conditions may include: location of extraction well; rate and timing of extraction; cumulative annual extraction; fate of extracted water; and, requirements for monitoring groundwater elevations, surface water elevations, and stream flows where there is a reasonable need for this information. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. High-cap well approvals in GPAs shall state the conditions of groundwater withdrawal, including but not limited to rate, duration, timing, cumulative withdrawal per unit time, and allowable water usage. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Changes in these conditions will require another review and approval. 	
<p>c. All approvals for high capacity wells must include a process for adaptive management that incorporates new information into the next round of approval renewal.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. All active approval holders are required to measure and report their water use. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Department shall create rules that specify the measuring methods and devices. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Approval recipients shall report annually the amount of groundwater extracted. The report shall include the amount of groundwater pumped, location of pumping, water use, and water fate. The department may require more detailed reporting as an approval condition. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. All active approval holders must monitor and report water levels between their pumping well and the protected surface water and within the protected surface water. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Whenever possible, high capacity well approval reviews shall be performed concurrently for wells in rational geographical areas such as the groundwater or surface water basin. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. High capacity well approvals in GPAs shall be issued for a limited time period. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This will generally be for a period of 10 years but may be issued for shorter periods if local conditions indicate. 	
<p>d. Applicants for high capacity well approvals must demonstrate conservation</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Conservation plans must be consistent with the "Great Lakes Compact" 	
<p>2. There should a streamlined process that facilitates</p>	

approvals for temporary pumping of high capacity wells in a GPA.	
a. The streamlined facilitated approval process should be available for temporary projects that meet certain criteria.	
i. The existing temporary approval process will be used.	
b. The streamlined facilitated approval process should be available for temporary projects for certain purposes.	
i. The existing temporary approval process will be used.	
3. The Department shall collect a review fee from approval holders for high capacity wells in a GPA.	
a. The fee will be sufficient to cover the administrative costs of the program.	
b. The fee will be based on measured water use.	
i. The fee will be collected annually	
ii. Fees will be structured to encourage conservation.	
<i>4. High capacity well approvals should not be granted if they would cause a significant impact on springs.</i>	
Task C – “Significant Environmental Impact” and effects of high (>95%) water loss.	Consensus Date
<i>1. The definition of “significant environmental impact” in NR 820 should be revised.</i>	
<i>2. High capacity wells with high (>95%) water loss should be restricted.</i>	
Task D – Gaps and Opportunities under Act 310	Consensus Date
<i>1. The scope of “protected waters” under the GPA definition should be revised.</i>	

2. Designation of GPAs should not be restricted to 1,200 feet from the target surface water body.	
a. Boundaries of GPAs should be based on the surface water and groundwater basin boundaries. OR	
b. Boundaries of GPAs should be some other distance from the target surface water body or spring	
c.	
3. Well approvals in a GPA should be required for all wells, not just high capacity wells.	
4. Water withdrawals from non-high capacity wells can be restricted in a GPA	
5. Cost-of-service disparities among utilities must be addressed by the PSC, especially upon interconnection and sharing of services under cooperative agreements.	
6. Model management agreements and ordinances should be prepared for use by cooperating organizations (water utilities and well-owners).	
7. A groundwater management agency with an approved and adopted plan is empowered to collect fees and assessments for groundwater management activities.	
8. Development/promulgation of regulations to require conservation for high capacity well approval holders under the Groundwater Quantity Act.	
9. Enactment of legislation precluding large-scale water users from opting out of available public water utility systems – e.g. by means of mandatory connection provisions or high capacity well permit conditions	
10. Recommendations that the Public Service Commission apply an increasing block rate structure or other conservation-oriented structure to the state's GPAs and promote water conservation measures statewide.	

<p>11. Development of a regulatory and institutional framework addressing/promoting the use of reclaimed water as a means to recharge groundwater supplies and to decrease water demand.</p>	
<p>12. Amendment of Wisconsin Statute section 281.35 to require all entities seeking new or increased water withdrawal in excess of 100,000 gallons per day (v. the 2 mgd trigger under the current statute) to have implemented conservation measures prior to approval, consistent with the high capacity well permit threshold under the Groundwater Quantity Act. [Coordinate with Great Lakes Compact]</p>	

Task E – Funding	Consensus Date
<p>1. DNR should develop rules for funding local aids and mitigation in GPAs.</p>	
<p>a. The administrative rules will establish funding guidelines.</p>	
<p>b. Funds dedicated to mitigation activities in GPAs shall be distributed in accordance with the funding guidelines established by the DNR.</p>	
<p>a. In developing the funding guidelines, DNR should consider funding of mitigation in GPAs on a cost-sharing basis.</p>	
<p>b.</p>	