

Groundwater Management Area Recommendations (**APPROVED ITEMS ONLY**)
by the
Groundwater Advisory Committee:
Report to the Wisconsin Legislature
Pursuant to 2003 Act 310
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2.2.a Background

Regional Hydrogeology and Other Water Sources

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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 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 must include a conservation component. (14k)
- The GMP should identify important recharge areas and identify the standard related to quality and quantity to which they will be managed. (14j)
- The GMP should include an implementation plan. (14i ii)
- The GMP should include progress reporting to the DNR as established by rule. (14f)

2.3.d Other Recommendations for Implementation

- **High capacity well approval criteria in GMAs will include testing, quantitative analysis and numerical simulation requirements and conservation considerations. (31)**
- **Within GMAs, New high capacity well approvals must be consistent with the Groundwater Management Plan adopted for the GMA. (32)**
- **After 10 years, existing high capacity well approvals in GMAs may be modified to be consistent with the Groundwater Management Plan adopted for the GMA. (32')**

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3.3 Recommendations for Legislation for Groundwater Attention 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: Groundwater Attention Areas (6)**
- **Areas designated as Groundwater Attention Areas shall be eligible to receive funding to support research, pilot programs, management strategies and planning activities. (36)**
- **The Legislature should designate the following as Groundwater Attention Areas:**
 - a. **Dane County**
 - b. **Little Plover River Watershed (16, 16a, 16b)**

3.4 Recommendations for Administrative Rules for Groundwater Attention Areas

- **A process or mechanism needs to be created to determine when an area should be classified as a GMA or Groundwater Attention Area and also when it is appropriate to change the classification of an area. (37)**

- **The rules shall designate Groundwater Attention Areas, consistent with those in item 16, and shall delineate a funding program to support research management strategies and planning activities in those areas. (38)**

3.5 Funding

Chapter 4: Mitigation Program for Groundwater Management Areas

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- **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

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Map of Southeast Wisconsin GMA

Map of Northeast Wisconsin GMA

Map of Dane County GAA

Map of Little Plover River Watershed GAA

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Committee membership.

Workgroups (Including Non-Members).

Local Governmental Units in designated GMAs

Local Governmental Units in GAAs

References