

Groundwater Advisory Committee
Options Paper
for
November 15 Ballot

Date: November 13, 2007

From (list GAC members): Lawrie Kobza

Title (Subject): Development of a Comprehensive State Water Supply Policy

DISCUSSION:

Numerous water management discussions are taking place in Wisconsin. This includes discussions about high capacity wells and groundwater quantity, the Great Lakes Compact, water conservation, source water protection and well construction. The Groundwater Advisory Committee believes it is important that decisions on these issues be consistent, complementary, and further good water management in Wisconsin.

RECOMMENDATION:

To that end, the Groundwater Advisory Committee recommends that as the State develops water management legislation, that it concurrently develop a comprehensive statewide water management policy. The policy should establish a vision and priorities for the long-term management of the state's groundwater and surface water resources. This policy should:

- balance competing water uses, including environmental protection;
- rely on sound science and the principles of adaptive management;
- encourage efficient water use while discouraging waste;
- provide for coordination among state and local government agencies; and
- seek to ensure adequate water supplies for future generations.

The Groundwater Advisory Committee also recommends that changes made to the groundwater law be consistent with and made in the context of this statewide water management policy.