

Stakeholder Workgroup Charter: *Groundwater Quantity Issues*

Scope

This workgroup will consider competing uses of shared aquifers and the potential to reduce conflicts within communities. The workgroup will focus on the water quantity issues in the “Central Sands” region and other areas in Wisconsin experiencing groundwater use conflicts.

Background

The workgroup will review key background information, including:

- Groundwater Coordinating Council report at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/groundwater/GCC/GroundwaterQuantity.html>
- Excerpts from Wisconsin Water Law in the 21st Century (Paul Kent, author) <http://wisconsinlandwater.org/files/events/BookandPreclude.pdf>.
- Little Plover River Groundwater Modelling: <http://fyi.uwex.edu/littleplovermodel/>
- Sustaining Central Wisconsin Groundwater: [Groundwater Report - Central WI](#)
- Groundwater study commissioned by Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association: <http://wisconsinpotatoes.com/high-capacity-wells/>
- Example of market-based approach to groundwater allocation: <https://www.hcn.org/articles/after-years-of-drought-and-overuse-a-water-basin-refills-in-the-san-luis-valley>.
- Senate Bill 239: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/proposals/sb239>
- Senate Bill 291: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/proposals/sb291>
- Senate Bill 72: <http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2015/related/proposals/sb72>

Questions

The workgroup will consider the following questions:

- What are the current groundwater quantity issues of concern in Wisconsin, particularly in the “Central Sands”?
- Is the situation getting better or worse? Why?
- What are our “bottom-line” expectations for the fair and efficient allocation of shared groundwater resources?
- Currently, how are decisions made and by whom regarding new GW withdrawals in Wisconsin (decided from place to place, from region to region, from county to county)?
- Does the current high-capacity well permitting system achieve a fair and efficient allocation? Why or why not?
- Is there an alternative system that might achieve a fair and efficient allocation?
 - Will the system accommodate new uses or changing conditions?

- Are there market mechanisms that could encourage conservation and efficient resource allocation?
- How would the system be implemented?
- How will we know if our resource allocation system is successful? What are the signs of success?
- Where do we go from here?

Committee Co-Chairs:

- Andy Johnson, Environmental Resources Coordinator, Marathon County
- Mike Carter, CEO Bushman's Inc.
- Skip Hansen, Lake Shore Owner, Central Sands Water Action Coalition

Facilitator: Don Last, Emeritus Professor of Natural Resources, UWSP and UWEX.

Committee Members:

- Adam Freihofer, Section Chief for the Division of Environmental Management
- Allison Werner, Local Groups Director at River Alliance of Wisconsin
- Amber Meyer-Smith, Director of Programs and Govt Relations, Clean Wisconsin
- Andrew Aslesen, Source Water Specialist, Wisconsin Rural Water Association
- Andy Diercks, Potato farmer, WI ATCP Board
- Carl Sinderbrand, Attorney in environmental law, regulation and permitting
- George Kraft, Professor of Water Resources and Director of the Center for Watershed Science and Education
- Jakes Barnes,
- Jim Wysocki, CFO of Wysocki Family of Companies
- Jim Krohelski, USGS retired
- Jordan Lamb, Wisconsin Government Relations Attorney
- Justin Isherwood, Potato farmer
- Ken Bradbury, Director, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey
- Lawrie J Kobza, Municipal Water Utility
- Tamas Houlihan, Wisconsin Potato Vegetable Growers Association
- James Drought, Principal Hydrogeologist/VP of GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc.
- Elizabeth Wheeler, Staff Attorney - Clean Wisconsin