



## Wisconsin, We Have a BIG Water Problem

One you may not be aware of, but it will impact your family sooner than you think. The problem is overuse of our water resources. The causes vary by region; Kewaunee has quality issues resulting from pollution from large dairy operations, the Central Sands 6 county area is experiencing water level reductions in both surface and groundwater from excessive pumping by High Capacity irrigation wells. Western Wisconsin has issues with quantity and quality as result of Frac sand mining.

Current results of over pumping in the Central Sands region:

- In some areas of the state water quality has declined to the point of not having safe water to cook, drink or bathe in
- The Little Plover River has dried up several times over the last 10 years.
- Long Lake in Waushara County has had only a couple feet of water for the last nine years (it was 12 feet deep).
- Portage County beach at Wolf Lake has been un-swimmable for 12 years.
- Sustained water level reductions in Huron, Plainfield, Pleasant and Thomas lakes plus Stoltenburg Creek and many other water bodies throughout the Central Sands Region.

This is not speculation; all of the above are currently happening in Central Wisconsin!

Currently, several bills have been introduced in the legislature regarding these issues. The problem is they do nothing to protect citizens' water rights. These bills will affect current **and** future generations. These bills favor certain special interest groups at the expense of Wisconsin's citizens. Large dairy operations, potato and vegetable growers and some large corporate farm operations stand to benefit greatly. These bills will assure the slow but steady decline of our most valuable natural state resource... water.

What will these bills do?

- Remove the DNR's ability to consider the cumulative impact from all wells in areas where there's an over-pumping problem.
- Remove current protections of wetlands, streams and springs by changing the definition of waters from "Waters of the State" to "Navigable Waters".
- Reverses Wisconsin's "Public Trust Doctrine" which says the waters of the State belong to all of the citizens and in essence creates a water ownership position for existing Hi-Cap well owners.

What will happen when water protections are eliminated?

- Wetlands will disappear.

- Lakes and rivers will continue to decline.
- Private and municipal wells will see reduced flow until they go dry.
- Recreational water use, boating, fishing, hunting will go down.
- Gas taxes, permit & license fees will decline.
- The many jobs created and supported by Recreation will start to disappear.
- Property values, therefore property tax revenue will decline.
- Reduced property tax revenue means less tax money is available for schools, road and infrastructure.
- Lake front property owners will lose equity in their homes.

How will this affect YOUR Family outside these impacted areas?

- The lost tax revenues will have to be made up from somewhere. Guess where... from YOU.
- Oh... and YOUR FAMILY'S recreational use of the water will also slowly disappear.

CSWAC strongly supports the use of groundwater for farming and other purposes provided it maintains healthy stream-flows and lake levels. But we draw the line when ALL OF OUR lakes and streams are being so severely impacted.

We ask you to contact your Senators and Assemblyman and ask them to remove the job killing and resource depleting provisions from both the Gudex Bill (SB239) and Cowles Bill (SB291/AB477).

Wisconsin, we have a BIG water problem and need your help to get it fixed!