

### **Groundwater Pumping Must be Managed**

We are disappointed in the comments of the Dairy Business Association (DBA) in its editorial published on February 26, 2016 demanding to pump groundwater without restriction and disparaging those who advocate for levels of pumping consistent with healthy lakes and streams.

DBA's John Holevoet started off by making reference to Arizona and how dry it is there. He apparently doesn't realize Arizona once had miles of permanent streams that supported fish, beavers, deer, and elk. 80% of these are dry now because of unmanaged groundwater pumping! It seems as if Mr. Holevoet is advocating that Wisconsin adopt the same unmanaged and unlimited groundwater pumping policies, without concerns for consequences on our lakes, streams and wetlands, to impoverish Wisconsin families, hunters, and fishers, solely to benefit a small group of large dairy producers.

Mr. Holevoet and DBA refuse to acknowledge over 50 years of scientific studies which prove that over-pumping of groundwater is already drying lakes and streams and poses a major problem for parts of our state. Long Lake, Plainfield Lake, Second Lake, and various wetlands near Plainfield have been dried by groundwater pumping. Pumping has crashed water levels at Pine Lake and Fish Lake near Hancock. Portage County's park at Wolf Lake no longer contains enough water for families to enjoy the beach. The Little Plover River and Stoltenberg Creek are drying. The Stoltenberg Creek saga is poignant, as this already impaired stream will receive the cumulative impacts of 4 more high capacity wells from a large dairy if and when DBA gets the law changed.

Mr. Holevoet's bogeyman is "uncertainty." Uncertainty to him is apparently being unable to drill a well and pump until lakes and streams dry. What's wrong with going through a permitting and analysis process first to be sure that our water resources can handle additional stress? Wisconsin has been doing this for nearly five decades for water pollution discharges and longer than that for surface water pumping.

To be clear, Central Sands Water Action Coalition supports groundwater pumping in amounts that do not diminish or deplete lakes, and streams and wetlands and private wells. All we are asking for is groundwater management laws and practices that protect our natural resources, property rights and property values, and Wisconsin's water tourism economy. Is that too much certainty to ask for?

Raymond "Skip" Hansen

Central Sands Water Action Coalition

*CSWAC represents over 20,800 families in lake districts, lake associations and organizations concerned about the negative impacts on water resources.*

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