

# THE JOINT SOLICITATION – WISCONSIN’S GROUNDWATER RESEARCH AND MONITORING PARTNERSHIP

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## **Biographical Sketch of Authors**

Tim Asplund is a Water Resources Specialist in the WDNR Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, and serves as the staff person for the Groundwater Coordinating Council. Jim Hurley serves as the Assistant Director for Research and Outreach at the UW Aquatic Sciences Center. Both have primary responsibility in conducting Wisconsin's annual solicitation for groundwater research and monitoring projects, coordinating reviews, and administering the research funds for their respective institutions. In addition, both have advanced degrees in water related fields and participate in collaborative research and monitoring projects.

## **Abstract**

Since 1992, the State of Wisconsin has carried out a comprehensive groundwater monitoring and research program through a collaborative partnership between the University of Wisconsin System, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection and the Department of Commerce. This program, known as the "Joint Solicitation of Groundwater and Related Research & Monitoring Proposals," is facilitated by the Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC), an interagency coordination group, and the University of Wisconsin's Water Resources Institute (WRI). Over \$10 million has been spent on 250 projects covering all aspects of groundwater monitoring and research, including hydrogeologic characterization, sampling protocols, evaluation of best management practices, health risk assessment, and statewide and targeted monitoring for pesticides, nitrate, arsenic, and other contaminants. Final reports of the projects are available through WRI and research summaries are posted on a web page to provide wide access to key findings (<http://www.wri.wisc.edu/index.html>).

The "Joint Solicitation" has enabled Wisconsin to better manage its groundwater resource by providing a consistent funding mechanism for groundwater research and monitoring and establishing a strong connection between regulatory agencies and the academic community. Specific applications include development of rules for atrazine use, identifying naturally occurring arsenic as a potential health risk in northeastern Wisconsin, characterizing groundwater movement in fractured bedrock, testing innovative remediation strategies, monitoring alternative onsite wastewater treatment systems, and refining monitoring protocols for landfills.

The GCC was created by the state legislature in 1984 as part of comprehensive groundwater quality legislation. Its overall role is to increase the efficiency and facilitate the effective functioning of state agencies in activities related to groundwater management. In particular, the GCC is directed to advise and assist state agencies in the coordination of groundwater monitoring, data management, research activities and the appropriation and allocation of state funds for research.