

Brico Fund Contacts:

Anne Summers
aes@bricofund.org
(414) 272-2747

Peter McAvoy
peter.mcavoy@sschc.org
(414) 672-1315 x154

Brico Fund, LLC



University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Contacts:

Doug Cherkauer
aquadoc@uwm.edu
(414) 229-4563
Department of Geosciences

Tim Grundl
grundl@uwm.edu
(414) 229-4765
Department of Geosciences

Val Klump
vklump@uwm.edu
(414) 382-1700
Great Lakes WATER Institute

Nancy Frank
frankn@uwm.edu
(414) 229-5372
Department of Urban Planning



Brico Fund Joins University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee To Help Region Budget Ground Water

MILWAUKEE - Most of us start to budget the day we receive our first five dollar allowance. We know how much money is in our pocket or bank account. We manage our financial resources to meet our present needs while investing for the future.

It is time to apply the same common sense approach to water. Water resources seem boundless in Southeastern Wisconsin, but we need to budget our supplies to protect these resources for the future.

With the exception of communities along Lake Michigan, most residents and nearly all farms and industries in Southeastern Wisconsin depend on ground water pumped from wells that tap aquifers deep underground. We are pumping our region's deep aquifers much faster than nature can refill them, creating a ground water deficit.

This deficit, along with rising populations and contamination in some ground water supplies, is pushing communities to find new water sources. Continuing to over-pump deep ground water will have economic and ecological consequences, and merely transferring water demands to a new source without adequate research could also have big economic, ecological and legal impacts.

Because of these risks, it is critical to bring a common sense, scientific approach to regional water management. Faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) and the Great Lakes WATER Institute with the assistance of the Brico Fund, are today announcing a research program to help Southeastern Wisconsin communities better manage water supplies, protect our resources and enhance our region's quality of life.

The WATER Institute and UWM will carry out the initiative, “**Sustainable Management of Water Resources: Southeastern Wisconsin and Beyond,**” with Brico Fund support. It will combine public education, ground water resource research, and policy investigations for potential implementation.

As part of the initiative, WATER Institute director Val Klump will oversee publication of a series of fact sheets titled “The State and Future of Our Waters” to bring the region up to date on water issues. The fact sheets and a final report will be distributed region-wide, as well as accessible online.

Studies by UWM geoscientists Doug Cherkauer and Tim Grundl will expand knowledge of regional ground water supplies and help communities choose water sources that can support their long term needs.

Cherkauer will complete a “ground water budget” this summer for most communities in Southeastern Wisconsin.

These budgets will analyze the “inflows” that seep into aquifers from rain, surface waters, or underground flow, and the “withdrawals” from the aquifer by local wells, or ground water flow to surface waters or other areas of the aquifer. After comparing budgets for the year 2000 to pre-development conditions (150 years ago), Cherkauer will evaluate each community's impact on ground water supplies and suggest science-based management options.

Grundl will use chemical parameters to map the flow of regional ground water – and potential pollution – through shallow aquifers.

Many communities will increase their pumping of shallow ground water to avoid radium contamination and the severe deficit in our region's deep aquifers. Grundl's research will help these communities predict and protect the long term water quality of their shallow ground water.

Nancy Frank, department chair of Urban Planning at UWM, will use Cherkauer's and Grundl's findings on water budgets and ground water flow to analyze possible regional water management strategies.

Frank will work with an advisory group representing communities, stakeholders and governing bodies involved in water policy decisions to integrate science with management options in developing more effective approaches to managing the region's water resource assets.

###

About the project contributors for Sustainable Management of Water Resources: Southeastern Wisconsin and Beyond:

The mission of the **Brico Fund** is to effect systemic change - to change attitudes, policies and societal patterns. The Brico Fund awards grants to programs that support women and girls, the environment and a just and equitable society. Find the Brico Fund online at www.bricofund.org.

The **Great Lakes WATER (Wisconsin Aquatic Technology and Environmental Research) Institute's** mission is to further understanding of freshwater resources with multidisciplinary research, education and outreach.

Find the Great Lakes WATER Institute online at www.glwi.uwm.edu.

Find "*The State and Future of Our Waters*" publications online at www.glwi.uwm.edu/ourwaters.

Faculty in the **UWM Department of Geosciences** research ground water resources and geologic processes that form aquifer systems. Geosciences and WATER offer a collaborative PhD program in Earth and Freshwater Systems.

Find the Department of Geosciences online at www.uwm.edu/Dept/Geosciences.

The **UWM Department of Urban Planning** strives to revive urban areas, design future communities and promote sustainable development.

Find the Department of Urban Planning online at www.uwm.edu/SARUP.