WATER TAKING

Better controls on water taking in Ontario are required. It is important because misuse has the potential to leave individuals and communities who rely on the same aquifers high and dry.

 WHY GREN

GREN is well suited for action on this because of the work it has already done on water and because the impacts fall well within the Grand River Watershed.

 BENEFITS

Expands GREN’s reach beyond Waterloo Region. Elora is facing a contentious request for water taking now and places like White’s Creek often face water shortages.

 DRAWBACKS

Don’t see any.

 ACTION

1…Write the environment minister asking him to implement a full cost recovery for water used by the bottled water companies and others who have permits to take water.

Of the $16.2 million the province spends on water management programs, it recovers only 1.2 per cent from business and the $16 million is a drop in the bucket compared to what is needed according to the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

3…Write a letter of support for the Elora group opposing Nestles’s plan to buy a well in that area that would supply the company with water to sell.

Consider having a rep from the Elora group speak to GREN or make contact with the group to see how we could help. (Timing might be a factor here)

4…We could also consider some form of public meeting that would highlight the problems with water taking as it is practiced now.