

Waukesha highlights water conservation efforts to DNR

WAUKESHA – In its latest attempt to keep its application for Lake Michigan water moving forward, the Waukesha Water Utility is highlighting its numerous water conservation efforts to the Department of Natural Resources.

In a letter dated Feb. 11, Waukesha Water Utility General Manager Dan Duchniak outlines everything from small conservation efforts like implementing a water conservation award for local businesses to larger efforts like replacing MetalTek's turbines with compound meters to more accurately measure water use.

Additionally, Golden Guernsey implemented changes to its water-lubricated systems, saving 1.85 million gallons annually, and Navistar replaced hard water in its cooling tower with soft water, saving 15 million gallons per year.

The city's conservation efforts date back to 2009 and span the business and residential communities, according to the letter.

It also outlined residential incentives such as lowflow toilet rebates and "My Brown Lawn is Green" yard signs.

Waukesha has until June 2018 to implement a sustainable, radium-compliant water source and has selected a Lake Michigan diversion as the best option. However, since the city is outside the Great Lakes basin, it must get approval from the governors of all eight Great Lakes states.

Waukesha has decreased its initial request of an average of 10.9 million gallons of water per day to 10.1 million gallons per day by 2050, thanks in part to studies that more accurately predict future development in the city's water service area, as well as the effect of conservation.

-Sarah Pryor, Freeman Staff