

## **Company chosen for managing Lake Michigan water project**

WAUKESHA — Greeley and Hansen has been selected by the Waukesha Water Utility Commission as the program manager for the switch to a Lake Michigan water supply. The environmental engineering firm specializes in water and wastewater engineering.

The design, permitting and construction of the project, along with route studies, land and easement acquisitions and public outreach, will all be handled by Greeley and Hansen.

“This is another major milestone on our path to a safe and reliable water supply for our families and employers,” Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly said in a press release. According to the release, Reilly said the commissioners wanted an experienced management team. The project will cost approximately \$206 million to complete.

“With a project of this size, we need to make sure we have the best experts available to make sure that the project is done right and the money is spent wisely,” Reilly continued.

CH2M, the lead engineer for Waukesha’s application to use and return Great Lakes water, will be one of the sub-consultants of the project.

In June the eight Great Lakes governors unanimously approved Waukesha’s application to borrow Lake Michigan water through the Great Lakes Compact. The approval followed six years of review by Wisconsin regulators and other Great Lakes states and provinces.

Waukesha was given approval to withdraw up to an average of 8.2 million gallons of Lake Michigan water per day. The used water will then undergo high levels of treatment and will be returned to the Great Lakes. Less than one percent of Great Lakes water will be borrowed and returned.

Waukesha’s current water supply is contaminated with radium, and longterm use of Waukesha’s current aquifer water supply is environmentally unstable due to a layer of shale rock that inhibits recharge of the groundwater.

— Freeman Staff