

Tour, public hearing scheduled next week for Great Lakes diversion app

WAUKESHA — While the public comment period began nearly a month ago, next week marks the beginning of what should be the final round of public hearings before a decision is made on the city of Waukesha's Great Lakes diversion application.

On Wednesday, interested parties can join local officials and members of the Great Lakes Regional Body and Compact Coalition for a tour of selected sites in Waukesha and Southeastern Wisconsin.

The tour, which will begin no earlier than 8:30 a.m., will leave from the Carroll University Campus Center, 101 N. East Ave. Transportation will not be provided to the general public, but attendees are welcome to follow the tour's main bus.

Specific sites and locations on the tour are expected to be released later this week.

Following the tour, a briefing on the diversion application will be presented by city officials to members of the Regional Body and Compact Council, who will then be allowed to ask questions about the proposal. This will be held in room 214 of the Campus Center.

Beginning at 2 p.m. the following day, the joint Regional Body and Compact Council will hold a public information meeting in Carroll's Shattuck Music Center, 218 N. East Ave., Room 122, followed by a public hearing in that same room starting at 3 p.m.

Under the city's proposal, it is seeking to divert up to an annual average of 10.1 million gallons of Lake Michigan water per day for its water supply service area.

Waukesha remains under a court-ordered June 2018 deadline to find and implement a sustainable, radium-compliant water source. If approved, the Lake Michigan water would be obtained from the Oak Creek Water Utility and treated wastewater would be discharged back into the Root River.

The state Department of Natural Resources forwarded the city's application to the Regional Body and Compact Council in January following its own multiyear review.

The council — comprised of the governors of the eight Great Lakes states — is expected to issue a decision on the application sometime this spring.

For more information on the review process, visit www.waukeshadiversion.org.

— Matt Masterson, Freeman Staff