

Time running out to submit comments on Waukesha's Lake Michigan water application

WAUKESHA — While the process of approving the city of Waukesha's **Great Lakes** diversion application has taken several years, the time for residents to voice their opinions on the plan is quickly coming to a close.

The period to submit public comments to the **Great Lakes** Regional Body and Compact Council — the groups currently reviewing the city's application — will end on March 14.

On Monday evening, the Compact Implementation Coalition — a collection of nonprofits opposed to Waukesha's application — held a regional town hall meeting online to allow listeners to offer their opinions and remind them of the impending deadline.

The Compact Council and Regional Body held multiple public events in Waukesha over the last month, including a public information hearing and public hearing at Carroll University, which drew more than 100 attendees.

The city is looking to divert up to an annual average of 10.1 million gallons of Lake Michigan water per day for its water supply service area. The water would be obtained from the Oak Creek Water Utility and treated wastewater would be discharged back into the Root River.

Written comments may be submitted at www.waukeshadiversion.org/comments/ or emailed to comments@waukeshadiversion.org.

Comments can also be mailed to: Waukesha Diversion Comments, c/o Conference of **Great Lakes** and St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, 20 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 2700, Chicago, Ill., 60606.

All submitted comments will be posted to the Waukesha diversion site by March 22.

Following the public comment period, the bodies will hold additional public meetings in Chicago.

A unanimous decision from the Compact Council — comprised of the governors of the eight **Great Lakes** states — is necessary for the city's application to be approved.

A final decision is expected sometime this spring.

— Matt Masterson, Freeman Staff