WAUKESHA COUNTY
BUSINESS ALLIANCE
Advocate Develop Network Promote

Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Dear Waukesha Common Council Members,

As you continue your efforts to ensure sustainable radium compliant water for the City of Waukesha, the Waukesha County Business Alliance reiterates its support for a Lake Michigan water source. We applaud your efforts to appoint a unified water negotiation team to represent the city's interests with potential supplier communities. We believe it is important for the negotiations to move forward in good faith as quickly as possible.

Several Waukesha employers appeared before you two weeks ago because they want safe, reliable and sustainable water for their employees and the community as a whole. Collectively, our members employ several thousand people in the City of Waukesha, many of whom are residents.

Recent comments made by Mayor Scrima to the press suggest that the Business Alliance has a hidden agenda to get Waukesha off the aquifer so the rest of Waukesha County can grow at the expense of the City. There is no basis for this allegation.

Just under 50% of our members are located in the City of Waukesha. To suggest that the Business Alliance would take a position that would be detrimental to almost half of its members makes no sense. The purpose of such an allegation must be to "muddy the waters" over the real issue: what is the most sustainable, cost-effective solution for the City of Waukesha to receive radium-compliant water over the long-term?

It is important to again review several facts central to the Business Alliance's ongoing support of the City of Waukesha's pursuit of Great Lakes water.

When did the Business Alliance first support the City's effort to pursue Great Lakes Water?
In 2007, the Business Alliance (then called the Waukesha County Chamber of Commerce) adopted a resolution supporting the Great Lakes Compact, and in-turn the City of Waukesha's effort to secure Great Lakes water as a sustainable and cost-effective means for addressing the City's critical water needs. The resolution was reviewed and approved by the Business Alliance's advocacy committee, executive committee and board of directors. We also hosted a well-attended public meeting in which proponents and opponents of the plan were given the opportunity to debate the issue and share their views.

When does the City have to be radium compliant?
The City must be radium compliant by 2018—as ordered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and reaffirmed by the courts. While this may seem a distant date, the reality is many

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steps still need to be taken before a Lake Michigan water source can be made available to Waukesha residents and businesses – including approvals from the other Great Lakes states, negotiations with a provider such as Milwaukee, Oak Creek or Racine, and the planning and building of the new water system. We believe it is critical to move forward with the application now if the EPA's 2018 deadline is to be met.

What happens if the City isn't radium compliant by 2018?
If the City isn't radium compliant by 2018, it faces fines of up to $80,000 per day until it achieves compliance.

How extensively has the water issue been examined?
Addressing the City's water needs has involved countless hours and resources, both internal and external. Specifically:

- Waukesha Water Utility:
  - Held 41 open, public meetings.
  - Contracted with six different engineering firms to analyze the water issue, including the various options from a sustainability and cost perspective.
    - Results: A 2,000-page analysis, from which the City's application for Great Lakes water was derived.
- SEWRPC:
  - Leading the effort to develop a regional water plan, SEWRPC organized a regional advisory committee of 32 experts, which met 21 times to discuss water supply. Experts included environmentalists, planners, water experts, scientists, as well as leaders in the academic community.
- City Council:
  - Held numerous public information sessions and thoroughly reviewed the data prepared by the Waukesha Water Utility and SEWRPC.
  - After years of study and public input, the Council ultimately concluded the Lake Michigan water was the only cost-effective and sustainable source of water for the City and voted 14-1 this past April to advance the application.
  - On June 7, the Council voted 12-3 to establish a Water Negotiation Team that includes as permanent members Water Utility Manager Dan Duchniak, City Administrator Lori Luther and Community Development Director Steve Crandell, with additional members to be pulled in as needed
- WI DNR:
  - Currently reviewing the City's application. Once it is deemed complete, DNR will hold at least two public hearings, before making the determination on whether to forward the application to the other Great Lakes states for review and approval.

- Water Negotiation Team:
    - Charged with conducting negotiations with potential supplier communities – Milwaukee, Oak Creek and Racine. Negotiations will be overseen by the full Common Council, including the Mayor, in closed session meetings both before and after negotiating sessions. The Council, including the Mayor, will have the ultimate voting authority over whether to accept or reject any deal brought forward by the negotiation team.

The Waukesha County Business Alliance engaged in the Waukesha water issue almost five years ago with a sole objective – to help the City attain the best water source for the long run. We continue to believe safe reliable water is important to the health of Waukesha's citizens and workers. We also believe it is important to the future economic vitality of the City. We further believe an economically strong City of Waukesha makes for an economically vibrant Waukesha County as a whole. We believe this is a case where the City's and County's objectives – safe, sustainable water and a healthy economy – are aligned and mutually beneficial.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Kelley

Suzanne Kelley, President
Waukesha County Business Alliance