
From: Muchmore, Dennis (GOV)
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 4:04 PM
To: Andy Leavitt (aleavitt@senate.michigan.gov)
Subject: FW: Flint Water

I thought you might be interested in this article from early 2013.

Flint City Council approves resolution to buy water from Karegnondi, state approval still needed

By Dominic Adams | dadams5@mlive.com

on March 25, 2013 at 10:45 PM, updated March 26, 2013 at 1:28 AM

FLINT, MI – Flint is one step closer to getting its water from Lake Huron as part of the Karegnondi Water Authority.

The vote, approved 7-1 at the Flint City Council meeting Monday, March 25, may have set in motion the end to Flint paying to get its water from Detroit.

Under the proposal, Flint would get 16 million gallons per day of raw water from Lake Huron, pipe it to Flint for treatment and then sell it to customers throughout the city. Another 2 million gallons per day would come from the Flint River and will be treated in Flint.

Mayor Dayne Walling said the Department of Environmental Quality must approve Flint's getting 2 million gallons per day from the Flint River.

Tuesday's meeting followed weeks of discussions and special meetings surrounding the resolution.

"We got there," Councilman Joshua Freeman said. "That's the important thing."

There were more than 50 people at Monday's meeting.

"Going with Karegnondi is the best decision. We have no opinion on the economics of the decision," said Rebecca Fedewa, Flint River Watershed Coalition executive director. "If we start drawing water out of the Flint River, we are at risk of having to start releasing water from our reservoirs."

Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright said the decision must still be approved by a county water and waste advisory board. The KWA board will then be reconvened for final approval.

Wright said construction could start in May.

State treasury officials still must approve the city council's move because Flint has an emergency financial manager. All expenditures over \$50,000 must be approved.

Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright has said that Flint would pay roughly \$6.4 million annually for water service if it joined the pipeline – a nearly \$4 million savings on what it pays Detroit for water.

Walling previously said the city would save \$19 million over eight years by getting water from the KWA.

"It's a historic night in the City of Flint," Walling said. "The savings will be less with the capacity level approved by city council because there will be increased treatment cost for the river water."

He said the DEQ told the city it needed to get 18 million gallons per day or there would have to be additional work done at Flint's water plant.

Flint's water plant and the Flint River is currently the backup for Flint and Genesee County, however, the plant only operates four times per year.

Councilman Bryant Nolden was the lone dissenting vote.

“It was a protest vote,” Nolden said. “I knew they had enough votes. I just feel like the Flint River is our best option.”

Karegnondi is the regional water authority that includes Genesee, Lapeer and Sanilac counties and the cities of Flint and Lapeer.

Flint is the second municipality, behind Genesee County, to officially decide to purchase raw water through the KWA. Lapeer city officials said they intend to purchase water, but an agreement has been finalized.

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