
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Michael Murphy
Ald. Robert Bauman
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Milwaukee Residents Deserve Hearing on Waukesha Water Diversion

Waukesha's plans to use the Menomonee River to return diverted Lake Michigan water to its source should trigger a Department of Natural Resources' public hearing in Milwaukee, **Alderman Michael J. Murphy** said today.

Alderman Murphy, whose 10th Aldermanic District includes the river as it flows through the Valley Park Neighborhood and into the Menomonee Valley, said the DNR's first round of public hearings this week were in Wauwatosa, Pewaukee and Sturtevant. "The plan submitted by the City of Waukesha includes returning wastewater via Underwood Creek, which flows into the Menomonee River and then into the harbor and back into Lake Michigan," Alderman Murphy said.

"Where's the public hearing for Milwaukee? Milwaukee residents also deserve a public hearing because they too have a right to know how the diversion and effluent via the Menomonee River will impact them in terms of water quality and possible flooding issues," he said.

On July 12 the DNR declared the City of Waukesha's application for Great Lakes water complete, triggering the start of an application review process. According to the DNR, an initial public comment period on the review process is open until August 13.

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Waukesha Water Diversion/ADD ONE

Alderman Robert J. Bauman, whose 4th District also includes a large swath of the lakefront and harbor area, said the fact that several Wauwatosa residents testified at a DNR hearing this week against the Waukesha plan to send wastewater back via Underwood Creek should “send up a red flag.”

“If the DNR is truly listening, and if the DNR truly believes in a transparent and complete public comment process, then they should immediately schedule an open public hearing in the City of Milwaukee,” Alderman Bauman said.

Lisa Emmons, president of the Valley Park Civic Association, noted that the DNR and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District have made naturalization and flood control investments in and along the Menomonee “in excess of \$12 million” over the past 10 years, yet she said city residents who may be affected by the plans “have heard little to nothing” so far.

“I just think it is very disrespectful to the residents based on the vast history of flooding and our long relationship with the river in the Valley Park neighborhood to not have some sort of public meeting where we can ask questions and receive information,” she said.

“I sure hope someone is listening to us at the DNR,” Ms. Emmons said.