

## **Waukesha water planning kicks off**

WAUKESHA — Waukesha Water Utility staff members met with consultants Monday who will help the company gain permits, begin construction and implement a public outreach strategy for its switch to a water supply provided by Lake Michigan.

The meeting, held at Citizens Bank at 2109 Corporate Drive, was led by engineering firm Greeley and Hansen, which was hired earlier this month to manage the project.

In total, the water project is estimated to take about five years. Greeley and Hansen have been tasked to oversee the permitting, design and construction of the project while also conducting route studies in addition to various other duties.

“This was really a kickoff meeting for the permitting and planning stage of our water supply project,” Waukesha Water Utility General Manager Dan Duchniak said. “It was a chance for about 30 consultants, including sub-consultants, to meet each other and discuss projects, goals and their roles.”

Waukesha’s current water supply is contaminated with radium and use of its current aquifer is unstable due to a layer of rock which prohibits recharge of groundwater.

On June 22, Waukesha’s application to borrow water from Lake Michigan under the Great Lakes Compact was unanimously approved after six years of review from the board. The approval allows Waukesha to withdraw up to an average of 8.2 million gallons of water per day from the lake, though it’s going to return about 100 percent of it back to the Great Lakes after its use and treatment.

— Freeman Staff