



## City Council Agenda Memo

Crest Hill, IL

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**Meeting Date:** 1/30/2023  
**Submitter:** Mark Siefert, Director of Public Works  
**Department:** Public Works  
**Agenda Item:** Regional Water Commission Formation Update

### Summary:

Just over one year ago the City of Crest Hill made the decision to partner with the City of Joliet and Villages of Romeoville, Channahon, Shorewood, and Minooka to form a water commission to bring Lake Michigan water to the southwest corner of Will County to provide a sustainable water source for over 200,000 residents between our communities. Since the signing of the original preliminary agreement staff has been meeting twice a month while the mayors meet monthly.

This memo is brought council up to date on the progress that staff has been making in regard to the formation of the Grand Prairie Water Commission:

- Mission and Values Statement
  - The first step that was taken by the group was to develop a mission and values statement for us to abide by as we continue to develop and serve our residents but also those of the partnering communities.
  - *The vision is to be recognized as a leader in providing sustainable, reliable, and high-quality water in an innovative, collaborative, fiscally responsible and efficient manner for our communities.*
  - *The mission is to provide a sustainable, reliable, and high-quality water supply for our communities by 2030 and beyond in order to support public health, safety, economic interests and quality of life.*
- Naming and Branding
  - To move forward as a Water Commission another key component is a name and logo which is also required to apply for the federal funding that we find key.
  - The name Grand Prairie Water Commission as an homage to the key environmental features of this area prior to the development and urbanization of this collar area of Chicago.

- One of the interesting aspects of the logo that you may notice is the six pieces of grass inside the water droplet. The six pieces of grass signify the six communities coming together to form the commission under the one mission of water.
- Our website was also built- [www.gpwc-il.org](http://www.gpwc-il.org)
- Financial Ability
  - July of 2022 saw the financial team of the water commission verify that each community had the financial ability to join the commission and repay the commission once it was formed. A 30-year pro-forma was performed and submitted on behalf of the city by Burns and McDonnell, the same firm who also completed our water/sewer rate study.
  - The financial team of the commission had no issue with the City of Crest Hill's financial plan and no rework was needed.
- WIFIA loans
  - Currently as the project manager the City of Joliet is taking out WIFIA loans to pay for development of the commission system, which includes engineering, land acquisition, public outreach, government affairs, and legal services. Joliet has also taken out WIFIA loans to pay for engineering and construction of their own projects. The commission will only need to pay for the costs related to development of the commission system.
  - The Commission will take out WIFIA loans to fund construction of the Commission system. This is anticipated to occur in 2024., WIFIA loans may be used for up to 49.9% of the entire project cost. 50.1% of the total funding must come from other sources such as low interest loans from the State Revolving Fund and revenue bonds.
- Independent Review
  - As part of the commission development, the commission has retained Burns and McDonnell as a third-party Independent Reviewer.
  - Burns and McDonnell have now given three reviews, and all have given suggestions on value engineering which the commission has accepted and will move forward with.
  - All three reviews have also shown that the project is on schedule and developing as anticipated.
- Transmission Main Review
  - One of the main components of the entire project is the route that the transmission main will take from the south side of Chicago through numerous non-member communities and then finally through our communities. This is the largest cost of the entire project as it is roughly 66 miles long.
  - Each community that has commission water main running through it, commission member or not, has sat down with the design team to go over the route including coming up with alternatives in the event there are conflicts that the pipe can not go through, around, over or under.
  - The final transmission main route will have final design in the first quarter of 2024
- Mega Crossings/South Side Pump Station/Intermediate Pump Station
  - Design is progressing rapidly on some of the more intricate portions of the projects. Those include the above-named projects.

- “Mega-Crossings”
  - The two mega crossings include the Cal-Sag River and the Des Plaines River.
  - Both crossings will be accomplished by drilling/and digging 50’ wide shafts to a depth of 20’ under the river.
  - Then tunnels will be constructed under the river to another shaft on the other side.
- Chicago Connection Facilities
  - This is where the project kicks off and the GPWC will begin ownership of the water from the City of Chicago.
  - This project includes a tunnel extension of the Chicago Water Tunnel System, a reservoir and two pumping stations.
  - This portion of the project also includes the rehabilitation of the park where the reservoir will be constructed.
- Intermediate Pump Station
  - About halfway between the South Side pump station and the communities in the commission the commission will need to build an intermediate pump station that will take the water coming in and pressurize it so that it will be able to flow to the furthest point in our commission transmission main.
  - This pump station is under design and will have the ability to boost chlorine, and it will also have two standpipes to absorb pressure spikes.
  - The commission is currently still in the process of placing where this will finally go.
- First Amendment
  - Due to the length of time that the allocations are taking it will be necessary to pass a first amendment of the preliminary agreement that was signed last January.
    - The first amendment will consist of the following items:
      - New date for formation of the commission
      - Clean up of language regarding payments before commission formation
    - Legal is still working on the other language that needs to be addressed before we can move forward.

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**Recommended Council Action:**

N/A

**Financial Impact: N/A**

**Funding Source:**

**Budgeted Amount:**

**Cost:**

**Attachments:**

N/A