



For Immediate Release

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Contacts

Allison Swisher, 815-724-4220

aswisher@joliet.gov

PRESS RELEASE

MAYOR O'DEKIRK CELEBRATES THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GRAND PRAIRIE WATER COMMISSION

JOLIET — Mayor O'Dekirk joined with the participating communities to reveal *Grand Prairie Water Commission* as the name of the new regional water commission that is in the process of being formed. The name was announced at a press conference held at the Will County Court House on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

"Today the Commission feels real, a milestone several years in the making," said Mayor Bob O'Dekirk. "I look forward to continue working with the partner communities to ensure a quality system is built to provide safe and reliable water to our residents by 2030."

The water commission is being formed to allow six municipalities – Channahon, Crest Hill, Joliet, Minooka, Romeoville, and Shorewood – to act as one to deliver Lake Michigan water to their communities. Due to the quality and quantity of their current water supplies, a new reliable and sustainable source of water is necessary.

Mayor O'Dekirk was joined by many dignitaries including Congresswoman Lauren Underwood, Congressman Bill Foster, State Senators Meg Loughran Cappel, and Eric Matteson, former State Senator John Connor, State Representatives Dee Avelar, Larry Walsh, Jr, and David Welter, and Mayors Clarence "CC" DeBold, John Noak, Missey Moorman Schumacher, and Raymond Soliman and Minooka Trustee Barry Thompson.

While the event was focused on the region, the efforts by Joliet to replace water main and lead service lines was commended.

"Clean, safe, and reliable drinking water is a human right," said Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14). "That's why I worked with Senator Durbin and Representative Foster to secure \$3.5 million for Joliet to replace aged, leaking water mains and ensure Joliet has a reliable water source for generations to come. Solving Joliet's water shortage takes cooperation among federal, state, and local partners, and I am glad to advocate for federal resources that meet the essential needs of Joliet's families and economy."

"Every household – no matter their zip code – deserves access to clean and safe drinking water. I was proud to work with Rep. Underwood to secure \$3.5 million in federal funding to support the work being done to replace aging service lines, including lead lines, in Joliet," said Congressman Bill Foster. "In addition, I'm proud to be advocating for over \$3 million in funding to support the regional water commission's project to tap into Lake Michigan as its primary source of drinking water, which will help ensure clean, reliable, and sustainable drinking water for the Joliet area for decades to come."

Mayor O'Dekirk added, "I want to thank our state and federal elected officials for their show of support. From the \$3.5 million secured by Senator Durbin and Representatives Foster and Underwood to the state legislation that enabled this commission, the City of Joliet is deeply appreciative of their efforts."



Residents and businesses are encouraged to learn more about the Grand Prairie Water Commission at www.GPWC-IL.org and Joliet's Alternative Water Source Program at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org, or by following the initiative through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Visitors to the website can also sign-up to receive e-mail updates for the latest news on the Program.

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ABOUT JOLIET

The City of Joliet is the third largest city in the state of Illinois and home to over 149,000 residents. Joliet sits 35 miles southwest of Chicago and is easily accessible by auto, train and bus, making it the perfect place to live, work and play. Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.joliet.gov or call 815-724-4000. The City of Joliet's media releases are always available on our website.