

What is the Alternative Water Source Program?

The City of Joliet's existing groundwater source is being depleted and will no longer be able to meet the City's water demands by 2030. The Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP) consists of the planning, design and construction of a new water source for the City of Joliet by 2030. In January 2020 following a comprehensive, two phased study, the City Council selected Lake Michigan as the City's new water source. The program activities in 2020 are focused on the evaluation of two Lake Michigan Water Alternatives – purchasing treated Lake Michigan water from the City of Chicago or going straight to the lake and constructing a new intake and water treatment plant. The 2020 evaluation will further define the alternatives and cost estimates in order to allow the City Council to select one of the alternatives at the end of 2020.

Alternative Water Source Program Highlights

The August 25th City Council Workshop was a significant milestone in the Alternative Water Source Program, 2020 Evaluation. Three areas of evaluation were presented to the City Council for their comment and concurrence on the Project Team's recommendations, as follows:

- ◆ **Governance Strategy for Regional Water Option** – The Regional Water System Development focused in two areas: Regional Outreach and Regional Governance Evaluation. Through regional outreach by Joliet staff and project team members, 13 communities expressed interest in continuing discussion on a regional water supply and 11 of the 13 preferred that a Water Commission be formed (versus Joliet selling water to them on a customer basis). The Regional Governance Evaluation investigated water system governance structures currently available by state statutes and their advantages & disadvantages. Five major types of water entities were evaluated with the recommendation to form a Water Commission with some modifications to state statutes to allow for proportional voting.
- ◆ **Water Treatment Process Evaluation** – For the New Indiana Intake alternative being evaluated, surface water treatment of the raw Lake Michigan water is required. A water treatment process evaluation was completed looking at process considerations, water quality goals, and potential for treating emerging contaminants. Three water treatment process alternatives were evaluated. Advanced Water Treatment (conventional treatment with granular activated carbon filters and ozonation) was recommended because it will meet all treated water quality goals, provide for effective taste and odor control and allow for treatment of emerging contaminants.
- ◆ **Level 1 Water Transmission Main Routing Evaluation** – The Level 1 Evaluation built off the transmission main routing from the Phase II Study and identified additional potential transmission main routes and then rated the potential routes using cost, complexity and risk ratings. Five routes were evaluated for the Chicago Department of Water Management (CDWM) alternative and four routes were evaluated for the New Indiana Intake Alternative. One route for each alternative was recommended to advance to the Level 2 Transmission Main Routing Evaluation.

Visit the project website RethinkWaterJoliet.org to view the City Council Workshop presentation and watch the video recording of the meeting.

Program Calendar

Recent and Upcoming Program Activities:

- August 12th - Meeting with IDOT
- August 17th - Meeting with Will County Forest Preserve District
- August 18th - Quarterly Update to Finance Committee Meeting
- August 21st - Follow-up Meeting with IEPA
- August 25th - City Council Workshop
- September 1st - Regional Governance Workshop
- September 9th - Level 2 Transmission Main Workshop
- September 29th - Stakeholder Meeting

While most of these meetings are project team meetings, the meetings highlighted in **gray** are public meetings. To attend these meetings, visit the [website](#) for more information.

While not specifically listed in the calendar, project team members have been meeting weekly with potential water supply and water access providers including Chicago, Hammond (IN), Gary (IN) and Whiting (IN).

Educational Topic

As part of the Alternative Water Source Program (AWSP), various educational topics will be highlighted each month. Follow the link to find out more information on the Educational Topic this month:

- ◆ **Water Loss Audit and Non-Revenue Water Reduction Strategy** [Click here](#)

Copies of all Educational Topics for the Alternative Water Source Program can be found in the Information Center on the website at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org.



Public Outreach

So far in 2020, there have been two Stakeholder Meetings (May, July) and two City Council Workshops (June, August). If you have missed any of these public outreach events, they are available for viewing on the project website at RethinkWaterJoliet.org.

The second City Council Workshop, held on August 25th, represented a significant milestone in the 2020 Evaluation as described on the first page of this Newsletter.

The third (and final) virtual Stakeholder Meeting in 2020 will be held on Tuesday, September 29th from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. To register for the event visit RethinkWaterJoliet.org. While you are there, sign up for the mailing list to receive emails on upcoming public outreach events.

The third City Council Workshop this year is planned for November. At this workshop the Project Team will present the results of the 2020 evaluation.

There will be a Public Forum held in December to give the public an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments ahead of the City Council's selection of an alternative at the end of 2020.

Existing Water System Initiatives

The City of Joliet is dedicated to ensuring that its residents are provided with safe, drinkable water. To keep residents informed, the City publishes a Drinking Water Quality Report annually. These reports contain important information regarding drinking water quality, system management, source water assessment, testing data, lead service lines, and the Alternative Water Source Program.

The 2019 Joliet Drinking Water Quality Report was published in June 2020 and is available on the City's website at:

<https://www.joliet.gov/departments/public-utilities/our-water>. Tap water was tested according to all drinking water regulatory standards and there were no violations in the past year.

GET INVOLVED IN 2020

Be sure to stay informed by reading our program newsletter which will be published on a monthly basis. Stay up-to-date with public meetings and receive the monthly newsletter in your inbox by joining the mailing list at www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org

Water Conservation – WaterSense Partner

The City of Joliet has become a WaterSense Partner!

As mentioned in the August Newsletter, there are several updated water conservation oriented regulations in the City Code that the City of Joliet City Council approved on August 18th in order to become a Lake Michigan Water user. One of the regulations includes a provision that "Plumbing fixtures and fittings in all new and remodeled construction must be a labeled WaterSense product, as specified by the United State Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)." WaterSense is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the USEPA which labels water-efficient products to make it simple to find products that help save water. WaterSense-labeled products are certified to use at least 20 percent less water. WaterSense partners are ambassadors that promote the value of water efficiency and Water-Sense labeled products, new homes and programs.

What do WaterSense Partners do?

- Promote indoor and outdoor water efficiency and WaterSense-labeled products and programs.
- Participate in national outreach campaigns, such as Fix a Leak Week, Sprinkler Spruce-Up, and quarterly partner-only webinars.
- Provide input to the WaterSense Program by submitting a brief annual update on water-efficiency activities.

In becoming a WaterSense Partner, the City of Joliet has further confirmed its commitment to water conservation.

The Water Conservation Subcommittee meets the first Wednesday of every month at 3:30 pm in the Executive Conference Room – 2nd Floor, City Hall. Please check the City's website at www.joliet.gov to confirm meeting dates and times. These meetings are open to the public.

For more information on water conservation, contact Amy Ferris, at 815-724-4220 or aferris@joliet.gov.

To learn more check us out at RethinkWaterJoliet.org



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