

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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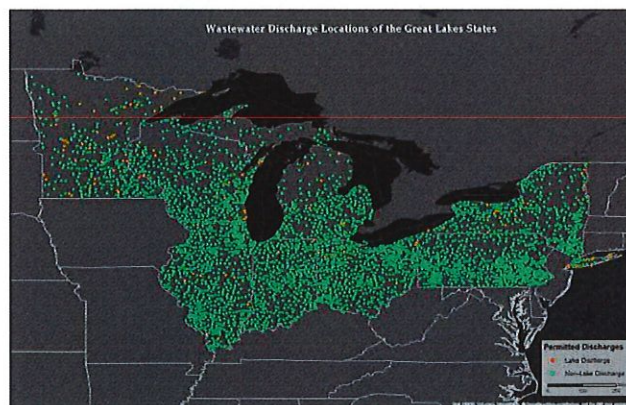
Shawn N. Reilly
sreilly@waukesha-wi.gov

TO: Members, Racine Common Council
CC: Waukesha Mayor John Dickert
FM: Waukesha Mayor Shawn Reilly
DT: June 13, 2017
RE: Presentation to Racine Common Council

The Racine Common Council's Committee of the Whole has been asked to determine whether to invite the Department of Natural Resources and the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission to make a presentation regarding Waukesha's plans to borrow Lake Michigan water and to return it via the Root River. Mayor Dickert has also suggested that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (the group he is resigning to head) and non-governmental agencies be included.

We believe a presentation by state regulators and planners will give council members a good understanding of our project. However, we would like to respectfully ask that Waukesha also be included in such a presentation. Waukesha officials are in the best position to describe our plans, our operations, our current data collection for the Root River, and other relevant topics. We also believe it is important for our communities to have a dialogue.

Municipal discharges to rivers are not unusual. The overwhelming majority of municipal discharges are to rivers in Wisconsin, as is the case in other Great Lakes states. In this map, discharges to rivers are marked in blue-green, while those to lakes are in orange.



However, the quality of our advanced wastewater treatment systems is matched by only a handful of utilities in the state. The additional clean water from our return water will improve the Root River by providing needed additional flow and fish passage during dry months. We understand that there may be initial concerns about flooding, but our water is an insignificant amount of flow in comparison to river volumes during storm events.

The Great Lakes Compact Council recently reaffirmed its unanimous approval of Waukesha's project, following the appeal by GLSLCI. The Great Lakes governors have studied the return flow and concluded that it will be environmentally beneficially to the river.

We would welcome any Common Council members that also want to visit our wastewater facility – as the Compact Council did – to see firsthand how advanced our wastewater treatment actually is. During your visit, I would also invite you to observe the Fox River, which flows through Waukesha's downtown. Two of our upstream neighboring municipalities discharge to the Fox River. Their wastewater discharge can comprise up to 70% of the river's flow. That does not prevent our residents from water skiing, kayaking, fishing and otherwise enjoying the river.

Whether in the Racine Common Council Chambers or at our Clean Water Plant, we look forward to meeting with you in order to have a productive dialogue. In the meantime, please visit <http://greatwateralliance.com> to learn more about our project.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shawn R. Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shawn Reilly
Mayor
City of Waukesha