

Press Release  
Village of Volo  
July 14, 2010

The Village of Volo, at its July 13, 2010 Regular Board of Trustees meeting, unanimously approved the First Amended and Restated Memorandum of Understanding as part of Volo's participation in the Northern Lake County Lake Michigan Water Planning Group. This is another step forward in the process of Volo and the other participating communities being able to access Lake Michigan water.

There are many positive reasons why each Group member in the Northern Lake County Lake Michigan Water Group is interested in receiving Lake Michigan water as opposed to each continuing the use of the present municipal wells.

Currently underground aquifers are serving each of the Group member communities, but the use of underground aquifers, including shallow wells and the deep aquifers, will be limited in the future.

Some of the deep wells, 1,300 or more feet deep, have problems with impurities and contaminants. Volo has thoroughly investigated an alternate process to remove the contaminants from our deep wells. We are capable of treating the water to remove the impurities now, but as usage increases, the cost to continue removal and disposal of the impurities and contaminants is going to quickly become prohibitive.

This may be the only opportunity the Group members will have to make Lake Michigan water available to their communities. As each member of the Group analyzes its own needs, Volo believes that Lake Michigan water will be a workable answer as opposed to continuing with the present wells. There are significant capital costs to provide distribution of Lake Michigan water to our residents, but the final goal greatly outperforms the present water systems.

I believe the decision should be made by the residents of each of the participating Villages; either by survey, referendum, attending village board meetings or other methods of the residents participating in the decision-making process.

Initially, Lake County provided the staff to take a leadership role in the Planning Group. However, this is a co-operative process not dictated by Lake County. Lake County is a member, just as all of the rest of us are. An independent project manager, Bill Balling, has been selected by the Group members to head up the effort going forward.

Volo, along with the other members of the Lake Michigan Water Planning Group, has applied for a Lake Michigan water allocation, and we are hopeful of receiving an affirmative response in August.

This is a positive move for Volo and the other members of the Planning Group. Together, we should strive to work out the solutions as we move forward.