

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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PRESS RELEASE**GPWC CELEBRATES MORE THAN \$1 MILLION FEDERAL INVESTMENT SECURED BY CONGRESSWOMAN LAUREN UNDERWOOD**

MINOOKA, IL — Yesterday, leaders from the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC) joined Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (IL-14) to celebrate the announcement of \$1.092 million in federal funds to help GPWC bring an alternative water source to the region. Congresswoman Underwood secured the funds as Community Project Funding in the federal spending bill for Fiscal Year 2026. The leaders also toured a construction site that marks another milestone in the development of a new regional water system that will serve more than 250,000 residents.

“Congresswoman Underwood understands that reliable water infrastructure is essential to our health, quality of life and economic future,” said Shorewood Mayor Clarence “C.C.” DeBold, chairman of the Grand Prairie Water Commission. “We are tremendously grateful for Congresswoman Underwood’s leadership and unwavering support for this transformative regional project. Her efforts helped secure an investment that will benefit residents and businesses across our communities for generations. This grant will help build the infrastructure needed to provide a sustainable, reliable and high-quality water supply.”

The celebration was held at the site of a water delivery structure currently under construction along Wildy Road, west of Ridge Road in Minooka. The structure will serve as one of Minooka’s connections to the new regional system and represents one of thirteen locations where Lake Michigan water will be delivered to GPWC member communities.

“Clean and safe drinking water is the foundation of a healthy community,” said Rep. Underwood. “I am so proud to secure these federal funds to strengthen our infrastructure in northern Illinois, support the Grand Prairie Water Commission, and make sure that our families have a healthy and reliable water source for generations to come.”



GPWC has awarded two contracts for the construction of eight water delivery structures to date, with structures planned throughout the six member communities. The facilities are part of an approximately \$1.5 billion regional transmission system being constructed to deliver treated Lake Michigan water purchased from the City of Chicago. The system is scheduled to begin serving member communities by 2030.

Communities in the region began evaluating alternative water sources in response to water quantity and quality challenges affecting their existing groundwater supplies. Lake Michigan water was selected as the most sustainable and reliable source for meeting the region's current and long-term needs.

Construction is underway on several other major elements of the system, including a water tunnel, water storage facility and two pump stations at the Chicago site where GPWC will obtain Lake Michigan water. During the next 12 months, GPWC expects to award nearly 20 additional construction contracts for more than 62 miles of water transmission main and other essential facilities. With construction already underway on multiple project components and dozens of additional contracts expected in the coming year, the regional water system is moving steadily from vision to reality.

The grant represents another important milestone in a historic regional partnership among six communities working together to secure a sustainable water future for the region.

"This project demonstrates what can be accomplished when communities come together around a shared challenge and federal, regional and local leaders work toward a common solution," DeBold said. "Congresswoman Underwood's support brings us another important step closer to delivering a dependable water supply that will protect public health, strengthen economic development, and enhance quality of life throughout our region."

About the Grand Prairie Water Commission

The Grand Prairie Water Commission was established by the communities of Channahon, Crest Hill, Joliet, Minooka, Romeoville and Shorewood to provide a sustainable, reliable and high-quality water supply by 2030 and beyond. GPWC is constructing a regional system that will deliver treated Lake Michigan water purchased from the City of Chicago to more than 250,000 residents. For additional information, visit www.gpwc-il.org.

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