



## What's Happening 2024

While things have been busy in 2023 behind the scenes finalizing plans, developing the infrastructure designs, completing legal requirements for Commission formation, and crafting a financing plan, 2024 will see shovels in the ground as construction on the first Commission project begins.

As additional projects move forward in 2025 and beyond, construction will take place simultaneously in multiple locations and a number of contractors will be needed to complete this work. To get the word out to potential firms, a Contractor outreach event was held in Joliet on November 16, 2023. This event provided an overview of the upcoming opportunities, the anticipated procurement schedule, and contracting provisions that bidders will need to comply with. Information was provided on both Commission projects and projects that will be implemented by member communities.

The event was well attended with over 45 firms represented. Following the formal presentation, a question-and-answer session was held. Materials from the outreach event, including a full list of attendees, are posted to the Grand Prairie Water Commission website at [www.gpwc-il.org/doing-business](http://www.gpwc-il.org/doing-business).

## Detective Work

**Did you know that before construction can begin there is detective work that must take place?** Our team has been working along the anticipated transmission main route to explore the area and identify features that could impact design or construction. This includes both review of conditions above ground (surface surveys) and below ground (subsurface investigations). The subsurface investigations include soil borings performed to characterize the soil and rock that will be encountered during construction.

Once the soil borings are completed, samples of the soil and rock are sent to a laboratory for testing. Lab analysis provides the design team with important information on the physical properties of the materials and any features that might require special handling or disposal. Information from the investigations is provided to contractors for their use in construction of the new infrastructure.



# Procurement of Construction Manager At-Risk

## FOR CHICAGO CONNECTION FACILITIES

Early in 2023 the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC) Mayors and Managers Advisory Working Group approved a recommendation from the program team to adopt a Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) model for the delivery of infrastructure required to establish a connection between the City of Chicago water system and the proposed GPWC regional system. Under the CMAR model, a contractor is selected and engaged before the design is completed. This allows final decisions related to design and construction of the improvements to be made collaboratively and with greater consideration of how the work will be accomplished. The early involvement of a contractor was judged to be very important for the Chicago Connection Facilities work. This work consists of multiple components including a water tunnel, storage reservoir, and two pump stations that need to be constructed within a limited work site located in a densely developed residential neighborhood on the southwest side of Chicago.

In November, the Program Team completed the process of procuring a CMAR contractor, and the Joliet City Council approved award of this contract to Walsh Construction Company. This selection was the culmination of a lengthy evaluation process that included public advertisement for statements of qualifications (SOQ) from interested contractors, pre-qualification of potential contractors based on their SOQ submittals, and solicitation and evaluation of detailed proposals for provision of the CMAR services from each pre-qualified team. The final recommendation also considered interactions with Walsh Construction Company staff through in-person interviews and follow-up discussions on scope and contract terms.

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**The program team and CMAR Contractor are now working through the preconstruction phase of the Chicago Connection Facilities Project. Negotiation of a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the work is expected to occur during the second quarter of 2024, and initial construction at the Connection Facilities site is planned to begin in the third quarter of 2024.**

### Community SPOTLIGHT

#### CHANNAHON

- Channahon Public Works has developed a multi-year, multi-million-dollar water main improvement program. This proposed program will provide missing connections within the system as well as provide an enhanced looped system. The proposed program consists of 17,480 feet of 12-inch water main and 5,480 feet of 16-inch water main.
- Engineering design for a new water distribution pumping and receiving station on a recently acquired Village owned site at the Southwest corner of Ridge Road and US Rt 6 is underway. GPWC owned facilities at this site will begin construction as soon as 2024. This new facility will feature a 1.0 MG above ground storage and GPWC delivery structure.
- The Village has adopted the use of ultrasonic water meters in all new commercial development projects within the Village to provide a high level of accuracy. These meters feature no moving components, eliminating frozen meters which previously resulted in water usage that was unmetered.
- Other projects planned include a multi-million-dollar roadway resurfacing and reconstruction project, a robust pavement preservation and maintenance program and multi-use trail improvements throughout the Village.

### Conservation CORNER

Winter months are the PERFECT time to do some indoor home improvements. Start saving water by installing low flow fixtures such as toilets, showerheads, and faucets. Replacing one old, inefficient toilet with a WaterSense labeled model can reduce the amount of water used for that toilet by 20 to 60 percent. That is about 13,000 gallons of water saved every year! On average, a WaterSense showerhead will save 2,800 gallons of water and a faucet will save about 700 gallons of water annually.



Look for the WaterSense label