

Another city joins targeted 10 in challenging court order

STILLWATER — When the level of White Bear Lake dropped so low that docks didn't reach the water, few Stillwater residents had any idea that the DNR would be ordered to restrict their use of water to help replenish the lake. But on Aug. 30, 2017, in a Ramsey County Court trial, Judge Margaret Marrinan ordered that the DNR, through the use of water appropriation permits, begin restricting water use from any municipal well located within a 5-mile radius of White Bear Lake. That includes White Bear Township and the cities of Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, Mahtomedi, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Stillwater, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Lake. St. Paul Regional Water Services also has wells within the radius.

According to TKDA Engineer Matt Ellingson, who represents the three-member Stillwater Water Board, Stillwater's Well No. 11 — the city's westernmost well — is situated approximately 4.99

miles from White Bear Lake. The Stillwater Board of Water Commissioners, which oversees the Water Board, contends that recent studies conducted by TKDA indicate Stillwater Well 11 pumps water from an aquifer plume that flows east toward the St. Croix River, not west toward White Bear Lake, and thus should not be included in the White Bear Lake ruling. The board unanimously voted at its March 23 meeting to request a contested case hearing with the DNR.

Under the Aug. 30, 2017 ruling, the Stillwater Water Board would have to comply with several amendments to its DNR water appropriation permit, including

- Implementation of a residential watering ban
- Preparation of a plan to reduce per capita water use citywide
- Preparation of a plan to convert to surface water supplies — likely the St. Croix River — for drinking

water, rather than continued reliance on groundwater

- Participation in an annual report prepared by the 11 affected communities included in the ruling

According to a March 27 press release, the Board of Water Commissioners planned to request a contested case hearing to the DNR by the deadline of March 30, 2018. The required amendments outlined above and added to the water appropriation permit will not be put into effect until after the completion of the contested case hearing process.

The Stillwater Water Board was created by City Charter in 1915, when the city purchased the original privately-owned water utility, which was established around 1865. Current commissioners, appointed by the City Council, include Steve Speedling, serving as board president; George Vania and Karen Jensen.

Compiled from press release

Another city joins targeted 10 in challenging court order

STILLWATER — When the level of White Bear Lake dropped so low that docks didn't reach the water, few Stillwater residents had any idea that the DNR would be ordered to restrict their use of water to help replenish the lake. But on Aug. 30, 2017, in a Ramsey County Court trial, Judge Margaret Marrinan ordered that the DNR, through the use of water appropriation permits, begin restricting water use from any municipal well located within a 5-mile radius of White Bear Lake. That includes White Bear Township and the cities of Hugo, Lake Elmo, Lino Lakes, Mahtomedi, North St. Paul, Oakdale, Stillwater, Vadnais Heights and White Bear Lake. St. Paul Regional Water Services also has wells within the radius.

According to TKDA Engineer Matt Ellingson, who represents the three-member Stillwater Water Board, Stillwater's Well No. 11 — the city's westernmost well — is situated approximately 4.99

miles from White Bear Lake. The Stillwater Board of Water Commissioners, which oversees the Water Board, contends that recent studies conducted by TKDA indicate Stillwater Well 11 pumps water from an aquifer plume that flows east toward the St. Croix River, not west toward White Bear Lake, and thus should not be included in the White Bear Lake ruling. The board unanimously voted at its March 23 meeting to request a contested case hearing with the DNR.

Under the Aug. 30, 2017 ruling, the Stillwater Water Board would have to comply with several amendments to its DNR water appropriation permit, including

- Implementation of a residential watering ban
- Preparation of a plan to reduce per capita water use citywide
- Preparation of a plan to convert to surface water supplies — likely the St. Croix River — for drinking

water, rather than continued reliance on groundwater

- Participation in an annual report prepared by the 11 affected communities included in the ruling

According to a March 27 press release, the Board of Water Commissioners planned to request a contested case hearing to the DNR by the deadline of March 30, 2018. The required amendments outlined above and added to the water appropriation permit will not be put into effect until after the completion of the contested case hearing process.

The Stillwater Water Board was created by City Charter in 1915, when the city purchased the original privately-owned water utility, which was established around 1865. Current commissioners, appointed by the City Council, include Steve Speedling, serving as board president; George Vania and Karen Jensen.

Compiled from press release