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**Media Release**      **Contact: Allison Swisher**      [aswisher@joliet.gov](mailto:aswisher@joliet.gov)      **815-724-4220**

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**VIRTUAL OUTREACH ON LAKE MICHIGAN WATER SOURCE**  
*Public invited to participate*

City of Joliet staff have been working with their consultants on evaluating two Lake Michigan sources to supply the City with water in the future. They are now ready to present these results to the public before the City Council makes their decision in January 2021.

The public has the opportunity to participate in live virtual meetings and an online virtual event. There will be two live virtual meetings that will include the same presentation but allow the public alternate days and times to participate. The first event will be held on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 PM and the second will be held on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM. Those wishing to participate in the live virtual meeting can do so by registering at [www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org](http://www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org).

The online virtual event will run from Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup> until Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. This option gives everyone the opportunity to participate at their convenience. The event will be hosted on the program website at [www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org](http://www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org) and will include a brief video, displays to view and a newsletter that can be downloaded to print.

The City is interested in hearing from the public. “This is one of the biggest decisions facing the City,” said Mayor O’Dekirk. “As your elected voice, we need to hear your thoughts as the Council moves forward with a selection of a water source.” Participants at both live virtual events will have the opportunity to comment during the event. Comments will also be accepted at the online virtual event, through email to [rethinkwater@joliet.gov](mailto:rethinkwater@joliet.gov) or by calling 815-724-4220. All comments will be provided to the City Council for consideration in making their decision.

Faced with a water supply that will no longer be sustainable by 2030, the City of Joliet launched a study of alternative sources of water in August 2018. In January 2020, the City Council selected Lake Michigan as the preferred source and directed staff to evaluate two alternatives – purchasing water from the Chicago Department of Water Management or constructing a new intake in Indiana.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to learn more about the alternative water source program at [www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org](http://www.RethinkWaterJoliet.org), or by following the initiative through [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Visitors to the website can also sign-up for e-mail updates for the latest news on the initiative.

**Jim Hock**  
**Interim City Manager**

The City of Joliet is the third largest city in the state of Illinois and home to over 149,000 residents. Joliet sits 35 miles southwest of Chicago and is easily accessible by auto, train and bus; making it the perfect place to live, work and play. Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit [www.joliet.gov](http://www.joliet.gov) or call 815-724-4000. The City of Joliet’s Media Releases are always available on our website.