



Area water utilities reviewing options for partnering *SPLASH Study to identify new opportunities for collaboration*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 23, 2019

(Brown County, WI) Driven by a regional need to continue providing affordable, quality drinking water to their customers, the Green Bay Water Utility and Central Brown County Water Authority are completing a full review of their operations to identify areas of potential collaboration and cost savings.

The **Sustainable Partnership Linking Area Services and H2O** or, SPLASH Study, will evaluate mutually beneficial opportunities and alternatives to take advantage of economies of scale, information sharing, improved services and shared use of staff, equipment and other resources.

“We’ve realized the benefits of previous collaborative efforts among the utilities, and we see great value in exploring additional opportunities to share resources and work together,” said Authority Manager Nic Sparacio. “With that in mind, we initiated the SPLASH Study to identify additional opportunities.”

“There are many resources required to provide quality, reliable drinking water to our customers,” said Green Bay Water Utility General Manager Nancy Quirk. “To varying degrees, every water utility’s needs are similar including employee skillsets and the types of materials and equipment needed. Working cooperatively, we can find additional ways to share knowledge, pool resources, and create greater capacity within each of our utilities.”

In 2018, Central Brown County Water Authority and its member communities and the Green Bay Water Utility and its wholesale customer communities joined forces to launch the study. The local water utilities involved include the Cities of De Pere and Green Bay, the Villages of Allouez, Ashwaubenon, Bellevue, and Howard, and the Towns of Lawrence, Ledgeview, and Scott. The Central Brown County Water Authority and Green Bay Water Utility jointly engaged Raftelis, an experienced utility and public sector consulting firm, to assist with the process.

“The consultants are performing a focused examination of each entity’s operations and maintenance activities to identify areas of opportunity,” Quirk explained. “Ultimately, our goal is to create sustainable solutions that best serve our water customers.”

-more-

SPLASH Study cont'd

Page 2 of 2

Initial findings have identified several areas where partnering could be mutually beneficial, including leak detection; cross-connection inspections, on-call staffing, and joint staff training. A full report, detailing top priority areas of potential collaboration will be created upon completion of the study.

“Some of the ideas can be implemented relatively quickly,” Sparacio said. “Others may involve multiple steps and take further review and planning before determining how best to implement the idea.”

The next step is to evaluate the practical feasibility and potential cost-savings around each of the top priority collaboration areas. Ideas worthy of implementation must preserve water quality and reduce or avoid costs over the long term.

####

Media Contacts:

Andrea Hay, Director of Communications
Green Bay Water Utility
(920) 785-7886
andreaaha@greenbaywi.gov

Cole Buergi
Leonard & Finco Public Relations
(920) 965-7750 ext. 168
cbuergi@lpublicrelations.com