



Waukesha, Wisconsin: Putting the Great Lakes Compact to the Test

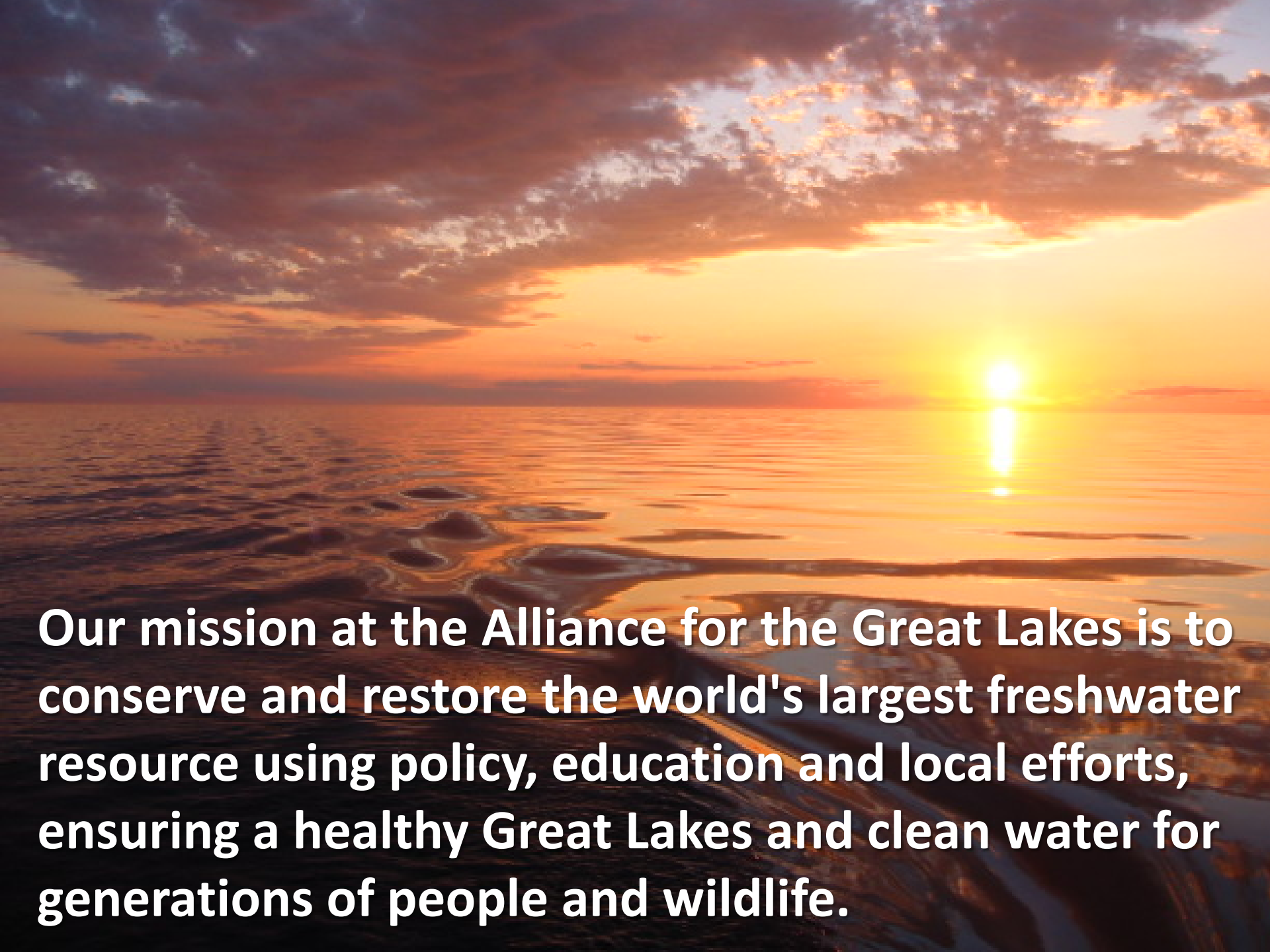
Nate Drag
Alliance for the Great Lakes



ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES
ENSURING A LIVING RESOURCE FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Outline

1. The Alliance for the Great Lakes
2. Great Lakes – A Precious Resource
3. Waukesha, WI – A Precedent Setting Diversion Application
4. Each Great Lakes Governor has a role to play
5. Role for state legislators



Our mission at the Alliance for the Great Lakes is to conserve and restore the world's largest freshwater resource using policy, education and local efforts, ensuring a healthy Great Lakes and clean water for generations of people and wildlife.

THE GREAT LAKES ARE
THE LARGEST
SURFACE FRESHWATER SYSTEM
IN THE WORLD



...including **18%** of the world's supply.

THE
GREAT
LAKES
HOLD
5,500
CUBIC
MILES

...including **90%** of
North America's supply.

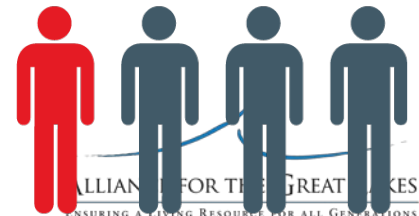


CREDIT: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

THE GREAT LAKES PROVIDE DRINKING WATER TO OVER **40 MILLION** PEOPLE



...including **1 in 10** Americans



ALLIANCE FOR THE GREAT LAKES
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...and **1 in 4** Canadians. ⁴

The Great Lakes Basin



Diverting across the divide

Waukesha is asking Wisconsin for permission to divert Lake Michigan water across the subcontinental divide. Potential suppliers are Milwaukee, Oak Creek and Racine. If the state agrees, Waukesha must obtain the approval of each of the other seven Great Lakes states before it could buy lake water.



Waukesha's Diversion Request

- Radium contaminated groundwater – current source of water
- Under a court order to comply with EPA radium limits by 2018
- Currently using approximately 6 million gallons of water per day on average
- Requesting 16.7 million gallons per day max capacity from Lake Michigan, 10.1 million gallons per day on average
- Extended Service Area – Covers areas beyond the City of Waukesha

**This Decision
Will Set a
Precedent for the
Compact**

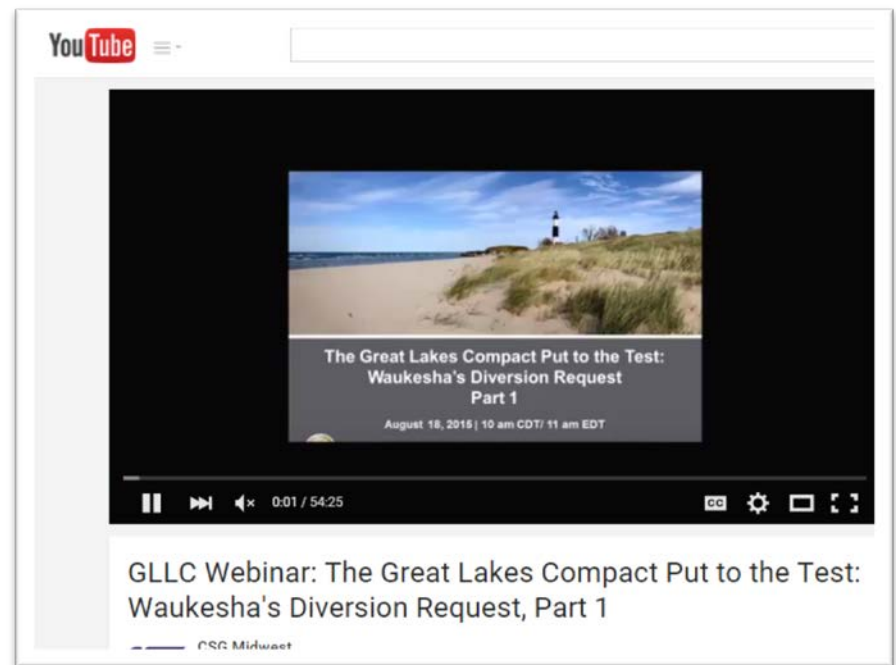


Photo: USGS

Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Webinars

The Great Lakes Legislative Caucus held two webinars on this subject:

- Informational webinar, online here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MYSfrehMeAY>
- Opposing presentations by the City of Waukesha and by the Compact Implementation Coalition, online here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdT6e1f65PI>

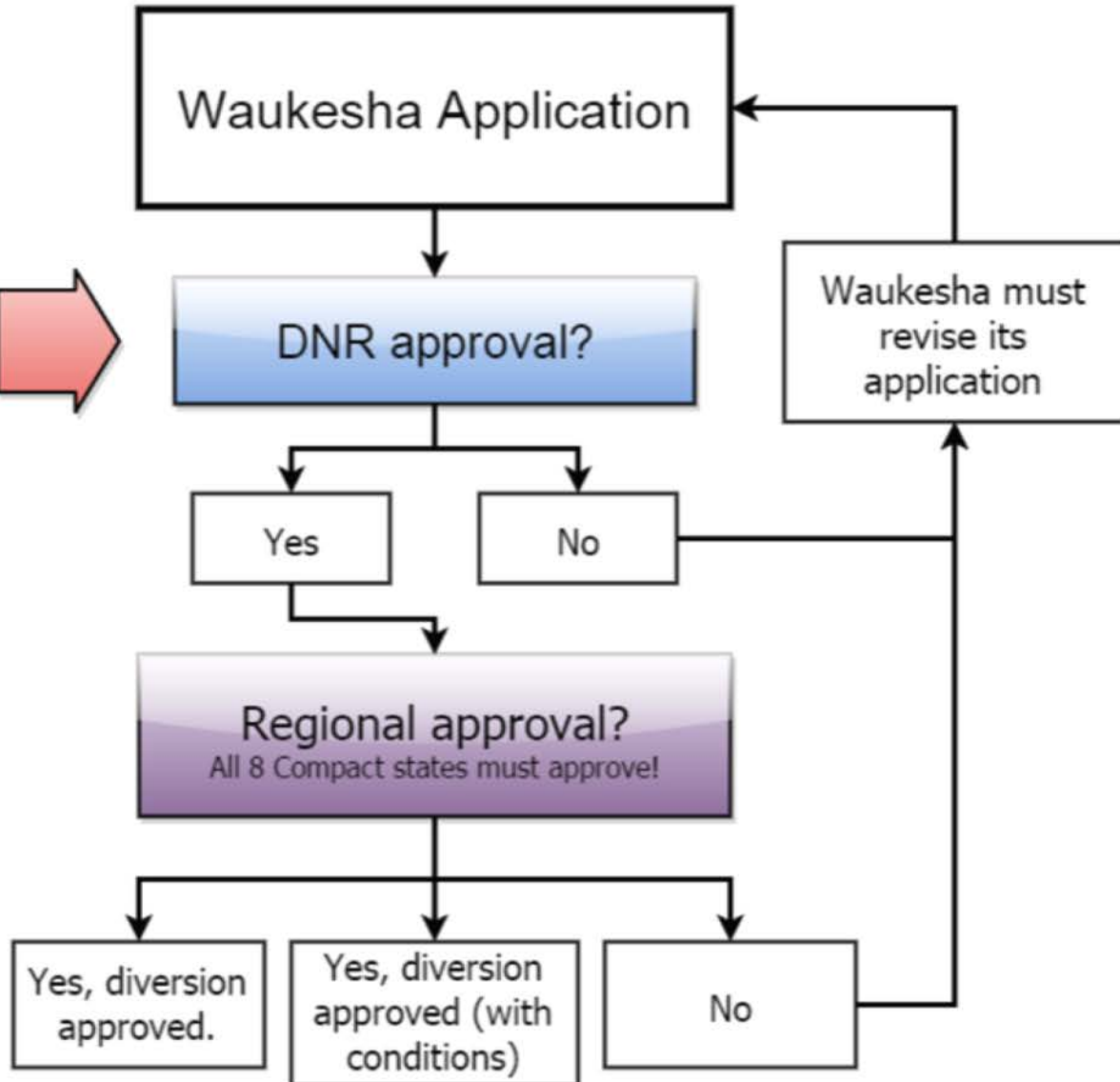


Key concerns about Waukesha's application

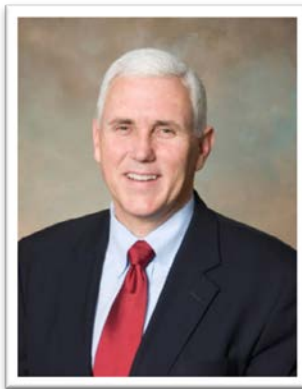
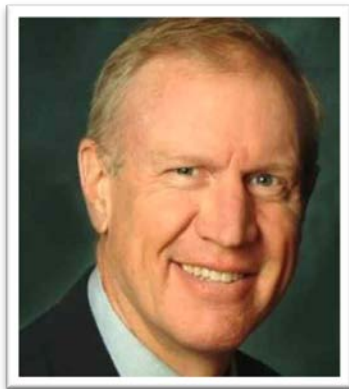
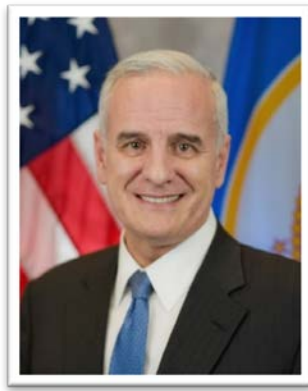
1. Waukesha wants to divert Great Lakes water for **towns that don't need it** and have **not requested water**
2. Diverting Great Lakes water should be a **last resort**
3. Waukesha **failed to demonstrate that it needs** Lake Michigan water
4. Waukesha has a **feasible alternative** to meet its water needs
5. Waukesha's **plan to return water** to the Great Lakes **could damage the Root River**

What's Next?

WE ARE
HERE!



Each Great Lakes Governor Gets a Say in the Waukesha Diversion Application Decision



Role for State Legislators

Now:

- Briefings for your colleagues
- State Resolutions
- Comments to your Governor and Administration
- Letters to the Editor or other Media Outreach
- Great Lakes Legislative Caucus Policy Workshop



Questions?

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