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Another city supports inclusion of augmentation in bonding bill

MAHTOMEDI — Like its neighbor on the lake, the City Council approved a resolution "supporting inclusion of a project to augment White Bear Lake with surface water in the Legislature's 2016 bonding bill" at its March 15 meeting.

The resolution text was verbatim to one passed by the city of White Bear Lake March 8. Noteworthy in the first of three qualifiers in support of the bill: "That the ongoing costs of operating and maintaining the augmentation project be funded by all benefiting jurisdictions and parties in a fair and

equitable manner that takes into consideration tax incidence and benefit, recognizing that White Bear Lake is a regional natural resource asset benefiting residents throughout the state."

A second qualification read: "That the implementation of the augmentation project will have no adverse effect on water quality and other environmental factors relating to White Bear Lake" and third, "that design and implementation achieve supplementation of the aquifer to avoid adverse effects upon all lakes, wetlands and natural resources."

Councilman Joel Schilling said the conversation at the last meeting provided a good, candid discussion. "I'm not uncomfortable with the language," he said, and thanked the city attorney for putting it together. Staff was directed to provide copies of the resolution to Sens. Chuck Wiger and Roger Chamberlain and Reps. Matt Dean and Peter Fischer.

Debra Neutkens