

## Contractor Selected For Tunnel Extension



The GPWC Board recently approved a contract with **MICHELS TRENCHLESS, INC.** for construction of the first GPWC improvement project. This project includes construction of a 10-foot diameter, 520-foot-long tunnel that will connect the existing Chicago water system to a new pump station and the GPWC system. Work is anticipated to begin early in 2025.

Proposals for the tunnel extension project were solicited from contractors through a competitive bidding process. Twelve firms participated in a mandatory pre-bid meeting held on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. Sealed bids were received from three firms prior to the bid closing time on October 30, 2024. Evaluations of the bids determined that Michels Trenchless, Inc. was the lowest priced, compliant bidder. Michels' bid for the project was \$31.3 million.

The Program Team is continuing to promote construction opportunities with potential bidders through updates to the GPWC website and annual contractors forum events. The last contractor outreach event held in September attracted more than 60 participants.



**WHAT'S YOUR Type?**

When it comes to water storage, there are many types of structures to accomplish the task. The Grand Prairie Water Commission members will use several varieties that best fit their community's needs. Last quarter we introduced standpipes, this quarter we will introduce you to spheroids.

Spheroid water storage tanks are the most visible type of water tank in our region. The tanks include a large "ball" where water is stored that is situated on top of a slender column housing piping to convey water into and out of the tank. The elevated characteristic of the storage tank allows for the use of gravity to maintain water pressure and provide supplemental flow to the system during periods of high water demand.

Spheroid tanks can range in size depending on the water needs of a community. The GPWC plans to construct one 1.5 million gallon spheroid tank as part of the regional water system. Member communities plan to construct several additional spheroid tanks over the next few years to support storage and distribution of Lake Michigan water to their customers.



# Making a *Splash*

Grand Prairie Water Commission staff and consultant team partners have presented the work being completed to bring Lake Michigan water to the member communities at several conferences this year. Events included the Will County Water Summit held in Joliet in August, the American Public Works Association PWX24 national conference held in Atlanta in September, and the Underground Contractors Association Annual Meeting held in Addison in October.

Presenting at these events is raising awareness of the GPWC and the work being undertaken. Time at these events also allows the team to connect with industry experts and gather information regarding industry trends.

## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT *Romeoville*

Romeoville is focusing on projects that not only help with water loss but also strengthen the Village's infrastructure. This will help reduce the Village's non-revenue water to below 10% by 2030. In July 2024, the Village began replacement of approximately 2.6 miles of 1950/60's cast iron watermains with new PVC mains. The project has been going well and is on schedule. The Village's current 5-year watermain replacement plan calls for replacing a similar quantity of aging mains annually to prevent leaks and watermain breaks that contribute greatly to water loss.

Another area of focus is replacing the current drive-by water meter reading system and meters with the Sensus fixed base system. Installation of Sensus water meters began in May of 2023 and the Village has installed over 4000 new water meters to date. The on-demand Sensus reading system has proven to be very beneficial and allows instant information on customer water usage patterns versus having to send staff out to read the meters remotely.

Final design continues for the new Lake Michigan Water Receiving and Pumping Station. The new pumping station and two 1.5 million gallon above ground water storage tanks will be the Village's primary delivery location for Lake Michigan water. The Village's secondary delivery point will be at the existing Airport Road Water Pumping Station.

Several other projects in the works are a new Pressure Reducing Valve Station that will be installed in spring of 2025, two water tower painting projects, and a new 1-million-gallon water tower in the northern pressure zone.



January 10 is **National Cut Your Energy Costs Day**. This is a good time to think about things you can do like installing WaterSense labeled faucets and showerheads to save water, turn off the lights when you leave a room to save electricity, and put on a sweater and turn down the thermostat a degree or two. A few simple tasks can save energy and save you money.

Look for the WaterSense label!

