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## Water commission approves Milwaukee contract

WAUKESHA — The Waukesha Water Utility came out of closed session and unanimously approved a \$286 million Great Lakes water contract with the city of Milwaukee on Thursday.

The contract — the product of months of negotiations — is expected to become available to the public this afternoon.

Common Council members will have a final review and vote at the Dec. 5 meeting.

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City Administrator Kevin Lahner was invited to the meeting Thursday and said he is analyzing the costs and “unintended consequences” of creating a return flow utility, as well as its impact on city residents, but the city is so far “not fully on board.”

Lahner said he first heard about the plan about a month ago, while the commission and water utility have been investigating the concept for three or four months. The Common Council has not dis-

cussed return flow at all.

Meanwhile, Duchniak said the utility would like the return flow utility to be created and implemented by the beginning of next year and the utility’s budgeting process has already been held up awaiting approval of the new utility.

“We need to afford [the city] the time to do their own investigation,” Duchniak said. “We’ve been investigating this for the last three to four months. The city has not had that luxury.”