

# GLENCOE NEWS

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## Water plant decision could be a year away

**By Daniel I. Dorfman For Sun-Times Media | @dandorfman**

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Glencoe Village Manager Phil Kiraly recently revealed that the complex state of affairs tied into the village water plant's future will not be resolved any time soon as discussions continue with some rather obscure government agencies.

A decision on how to proceed with what could be a multimillion dollar capital expenditure could be as far as 12-18 months away.

"Unfortunately, while a great deal of investigation has taken place, there is still a significant amount of work that needs to be completed before a presentation can be made not just to the Village Board, but the village as a whole," Kiraly said.

One of the main sticking points in the matter is the deliberation between Glencoe officials and the Northwest Water Commission, the agency that supplies water to Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Wheeling and Palatine. The two entities have considered some type of cooperative venture that conceivably could serve both parties well because Glencoe theoretically would avoid spending millions by replacing the water plant while the NWC would get the redundant supply line that it is seeking.

"It provides a possible opportunity for the community to reduce the expected capital replacement costs of this water facility," Kiraly said.

While the NWC speaks with Glencoe, the NWC has hired an engineering firm to do a joint study with yet another little known governmental organization – the Northwest Suburban Municipal Joint Action Water Agency – to gather information on ways to get a second supply line, and that report is not expected to be due back until early December.

John DuRocher, executive director of the NWC, said he speaks with Kiraly once a month and is not dismayed by the slow nature of the talks.

"This is too important of a process to rush through it," he said.

Meanwhile, Glencoe has a separate engineering study taking place to assess the situation, which is not expected to be completed until later in 2014 or early 2015.

“This is an ongoing topic that isn’t going anywhere anytime soon,” Kiraly conceded. “There are a lot of balls in the air.”

Those are just some of the variables in a situation where Glencoe officials believe the aging water plant will not be useful all that much longer to a community where the water has won awards.

Another main question hovering over the situation is what will happen at Glencoe Beach, the home of the existing plant.

One of the ideas discussed is some type of land swap with the Glencoe Park District as a new water plant could be constructed on Glencoe Park District property a few hundred yards away.

Kiraly did not rule out any possibilities moving forward. “We believe all the alternatives would require some lakefront presence including a pumping station but there is no recommendation at this time and there won’t be for a number of months as we continue to assess this,” he said.

The future of the beach specifically concerns residents John and Tamara Dempsey, who own the property on land that was donated to Glencoe in 1967 with a covenant they believe states their view shall not be obstructed.

After some heated rhetoric was exchanged late last year, Tamara Dempsey had no comment on Kiraly’s recent assessment given the vagueness of the situation.

What has also been delayed is the implementation of a new component of the village’s Web site where specific information regarding the water plant situation has been promised.

“It is not as far along as I had hoped,” wrote Village Board President Larry Levin in an e-mail, but he expects it to be operational in one to two weeks.

As for the situation as a whole, Glencoe board members who asked for a thorough study did not object to the methodical pace of the examination of the issue.

“This is exactly what we asked for,” noted Trustee Bruce Cowans.