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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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February 1, 2007

Ald. Michael J. Murphy  
(414) 286-3763

## No Water? No Problem For Proposed New Berlin Water Park

### *Proposal to Build Largest Water Park in SE Wisconsin Calls Into Question New Berlin's Commitment to Conserve Possible Future Lake Michigan Water, Ald. Michael Murphy Says*

If approved by New Berlin city officials, Kitten's Deer Creek Inn & Conference Center on S. Moorland Rd. would use a huge amount of water daily, most of it splashing and cascading in the pools of its proposed 50,000-square-foot indoor water park.

For a water-thirsty community that has approached the City of Milwaukee with a request to purchase Lake Michigan water, the proposed Deer Creek Inn development is inconsistent and troubling, said Ald. Michael J. Murphy. "If this water park is New Berlin's idea of water conservation, then I'm very worried about how they plan on using the rest of the water we'd be providing to them," Ald. Murphy said.

The seven-story Deer Creek Inn & Conference Center would be the 4<sup>th</sup> largest hotel in southeastern Wisconsin, with more than 400 guest rooms and the largest indoor water park in southeastern Wisconsin. Its amenities would include two restaurants, a fitness center, retail shops and 24-hour business centers.

New Berlin and the proposed location of the development are west of the sub-continental divide, the natural formation separating the Great Lakes basin from the area where all watersheds empty into the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The wells and aquifers serving New Berlin and other communities in Waukesha County are being rapidly depleted, and some of those communities – like New Berlin – have indicated a desire to either purchase Lake Michigan water from Milwaukee or tap into it directly by receiving approval to do so.

-More-

## **New Berlin Water Park/ADD ONE**

However, any possible sale or use of Great Lakes water must first be reviewed by the bodies that are a part of the Great Lakes Charter Annex, an agreement signed by eight governors and the premiers of the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec to protect and conserve the environmental balance of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. The governors of the eight states that comprise the Great Lakes basin must unanimously approve any diversion proposed for outside the boundary before it can go forward.

Ald. Murphy said he thinks the Deer Creek Inn & Conference Center water park is inconsistent with the Annex agreement. “The project is exactly what we don’t need Lake Michigan water diverted for – commercial entertainment usage that will also add to the sprawl that has gone unchecked in Waukesha County for years,” said Ald. Murphy, the longest serving member of the Common Council and a vocal proponent of protecting Lake Michigan water from sprawling outlying communities.

The alderman and other Milwaukee officials have long held that Lake Michigan water diversion could be harmful to the city economically, as outlying communities could use the diverted water to develop business parks and other industrial sites to lure businesses and jobs out of Milwaukee County.

“With daily headlines pointing out threats to the Great Lakes, clearly diverting the lakes’ water for purely recreational purposes is unthinkable for those of us who are dedicated to protecting this treasured resource,” Ald. Murphy said.