DNR addresses White Bear Lake water settlement questions

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An open letter to residents in the northeast Twin Cities about a lawsuit settlement over low water levels in White Bear Lake is meant to address the community’s questions.

Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Landwehr's letter is meant to answer questions residents and community leaders have posed, according to DNR officials.

The lawsuit, filed by the White Bear Lake Restoration Association and the White Bear Lake Homeowners Association, contended that overuse of the Prairie du Chien-Jordan aquifer in the northeast metro area caused the lake level to recede.

The settlement looks to the state Legislature to provide at least $155 million to begin to create a system to use more water from the Mississippi River and less from the aquifer. It also sets a goal for a 17 percent reduction in water use.

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