

Bethlehem Moment: City Council's historic water move

The Bethlehem Gadfly Bethlehem Moments, Fun Stuff November 7, 2019

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Bethlehem Moment: July 26, 1938

It was July 26, 1938, when the Bethlehem City Council created the Bethlehem Municipal Water Authority, the first one ever established in the Commonwealth. The first Authority members included Mayor Pfieffle and the City Council who submitted the application to the State for use of the waters in the Wild Creek Watershed. Once that was approved, they applied for and subsequently received funding from the federal government for the construction of the Wild Creek Dam and Reservoir and transmission pipeline.

In April of 1939 construction began, two tunnels were dug

through mountains in the foothills of Poconos, the dam was built and starting filling, and in October 1941, the Wild Creek Reservoir was dedicated and water began flowing to the residents of the City.

And to this day the water still flows from the Wild Creek Reservoir to the City and eleven surrounding municipalities and is considered by many to be the best water in the region, if not the entire state.

Cheers!

We'll toast to that!