

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: August 1, 2019

TO: Ted Corrigan, Interim CEO and General Manager

FROM: Laura Sarcone, Public Affairs Manager  
(Historical Assistance by Doug Oscarson)

SUBJECT: History of Des Moines Water Works Named Facilities and Properties  
Considerations for Honoring William G. Stowe

**History of Des Moines Water Works Named Facilities and Properties**

Namesakes of properties and facilities owned by Des Moines Water Works include former general managers, Board of Trustees members, and non-employees, whose strategic visions helped the water utility evolve into the industry leader it is today.

**Charles Sing Denman Woods**

Charles Sing Denman’s 37-year career began in 1896 when the water company was privately owned. He was the first general manager, appointed in 1919, when the water company became municipally owned. During his tenure, the water system experienced tremendous growth and many of the facilities in use today were constructed under his direction, including the construction of the Infiltration Gallery System and acquiring property along the Raccoon River to protect the water source. Mr. Denman died on May 4, 1933. “A complication of diseases and pneumonia, following an attack of influenza,” was given as the cause of his death by Dr. A. C. Page, attending physician. On May 8, 1933, the Board of Trustees made the resolution: the water works grounds designated to be known as "Charles Sing Denman Woods." On May 25, 1933, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to name the water works grounds "Charles Sing Denman Woods." It is commonly thought that the tract of land that extends along both sides of the Raccoon River in Water Works Park was designated as Denman Woods. Unless the Board of Trustees has acted since, Water Works Park is not the official name. More correctly, Charles Sing Denman Woods, commonly called Water Works Park, includes the Fleur Drive Treatment Plant, General Office Facility, and the Arie den Boer Arboretum. A concrete bench was erected in his memory in 1937 inside the Fleur Drive Treatment Plant, which was moved to its current location at Water Works Park in the late 1970s when the Charles Sing Denman Memorial Garden was dedicated. The bench plaque reads:

*1862-1933*

*In memory of Charles Sing Denman  
whose vision lofty ideals and love  
of nature inspired the development of  
this water system and its environment*

### **Arie den Boer Arboretum**

In 1928, Arie den Boer, a horticulturist, was hired by Mr. Denman to beautify the water works grounds and create a park, which was opened to the public in 1933. Mr. den Boer introduced several hundred varieties of crabapple trees and won numerous prestigious awards for his work in horticulture. The crabapple arboretum was named in Mr. den Boer's honor by the Board of Trustees when he retired in 1961, after serving as grounds superintendent for 33 years.

### **Allen Hazen Tower**

The water tower at 48<sup>th</sup> and Hickman is a memorial to Allen Hazen who designed the tower and unexpectedly died on July 26, 1930 (while on vacation with Mr. Denman), before construction was completed. Mr. Hazen was a prominent New York engineer of international reputation and a pioneer in the area of water treatment. On August 14, 1930, the Board of Trustees decided as a tribute to Mr. Hazen, the new water tower be named the Allen Hazen Tower.

### **Dale L. Maffitt Reservoir and Arboretum**

Dale L. Maffitt was the general manager from 1933-1955, when 650 acres southwest of Des Moines were purchased in 1942, to construct a dam and water storage reservoir to be used as an emergency water supply. Mr. Maffitt died the morning of October 26, 1955, at Iowa Methodist Hospital at age 63. Mr. Maffitt suffered a severe stroke October 14, at his home at 649 Harwood Drive. He had suffered a slight stroke in December 1954, but had continued to work until the second stroke. On November 23, 1955, the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed that the impounding reservoir and the surrounding area connected with the reservoir be named the Dale L. Maffitt Reservoir in honor of Mr. Maffitt's 41 years of employment, 22 of which he led the utility as general manager.

### **Henry S. Nollen Standpipe and Norman M. Wilchinski Standpipe**

Henry S. Nollen and Norman M. Wilchinski were long-term Board of Trustees members, both of whom served on the first water board of 1919. Two water storage facilities built in 1955 were named after them. The Henry S. Nollen Standpipe is at 26<sup>th</sup> and Hull and the Norman M. Wilchinski Standpipe is at SE 9<sup>th</sup> and Pleasantview Drive.

### **Morris Karel Tenny Standpipe**

The Morris Karel Tenny Standpipe at Merle Hay Road, which was built in 1959, is a tribute to Morris K. Tenny. A 44-year employee, Mr. Tenny held the positions of chemist and assistant manager, prior to serving as general manager for 13 years, from 1955-1968. The Board named the standpipe in Mr. Tenny's honor on December 18, 1973.

### **Carney Park**

Kriegh G. Carney was appointed to the Board of Trustees on May 7, 1942, and served through April 1, 1957. Mr. Carney died in 1969, and is buried at Glendale Cemetery. A piece of Des Moines Water Works property (a portion of the Bogenwright Tract purchased in 1908), is maintained by City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department for softball fields on SW 30<sup>th</sup> Street. On February 14, 1974, the Des Moines Park Board submitted suggestions to the City Council for naming smaller parks in Des Moines. The list included Carney Park, named after Kriegh G. Carney. The City Council approved the name at their February 25, 1974 meeting.

### **Maurice A. King Intake and Pumping Station**

Maurice King's employment with Des Moines Water Works spanned nearly 43 years. The Maurice A. King Intake and Pumping Station facility on the Des Moines River was named by the Board of Trustees on March 27, 1990, after Mr. King who served as General Manager from 1968-1977.

### **Lee A. Dallager Prairie**

The prairie in Maffitt Reservoir Arboretum was established in 1999. CEO and General Manager L.D. McMullen advised the Board of Water Works Trustees in April 1999 of the \$8,700 sponsorship of the prairie section of the Dale Maffitt Reservoir project by the Izaak Walton League jointly with the family of Lee A. Dallager. The prairie, located on 23 acres in the Arboretum, is sponsored by Izaak Walton League in memory of Lee A. Dallager. Mr. Dallager was honored by Izaak Walton League for his past dedication as president of the League both nationally and Des Moines Chapter. Mr. Dallager was highly respected for his many contribution to the League and the environment. The Lee A. Dallager Prairie was dedicated in July 2001.

### **Louise P. Moon Storage and Pumping Facility**

Located in Clive, this west side facility was placed online in 1996. Louise P. Moon was appointed to the Board in 1985, and served until she moved to Windsor Heights in mid-2002. The City Council denied her request for a waiver of the residency requirement so she could finish out her term that was to expire April 1, 2003. At the November 2002 Board Meeting, CEO and General Manager L.D. McMullen recommended and requested Board approval for the Westside Storage Facility to be renamed and designated the "Louise P. Moon Storage and Pumping Facility." The motion passed unanimously.

### **L.D. McMullen Water Treatment Facility**

In May of 2000, the Water Treatment Plant at Maffitt Reservoir, a 25 million gallon per day facility, began operation using six radial collector wells for its main water source, but also drawing from Maffitt Reservoir for additional water resources. In 2007, the Board of Water Works Trustees renamed the treatment plant in honor of L.D. McMullen, a 30-year employee who served as general manager from 1985-2007 and was instrumental in construction of the water treatment plant.

### **Randy Beavers Tree**

The Board of Water Works Trustees asked staff to assist in selecting a memorial to honor CEO and General Manager, Randy Beavers. After much consideration, it was suggested that a Swamp White Oak tree be planted in Randy's honor for 32 years of service to Des Moines Water Works, with the last 4 years as CEO and General Manager. The tree was planted in a prominent location, just southwest of the General Office. The tree is accompanied by a rock plaque that reads:

*This oak tree has been planted in honor of Randall R. Beavers.  
32 years of dedicated service to Des Moines Water Works, 1980-2012.  
CEO and General Manager, 2008-2012*

## Considerations for Honoring William G. Stowe

William (Bill) G. Stowe dedicated his life to public service, most recently serving as CEO and General Manager of Des Moines Water Works. He began his tenure at the utility in 2012, and stayed until illness forced him to retire on April 2, 2019. Bill was a dedicated and well-liked leader who met the numerous challenges of running Iowa's largest drinking water utility. He was a visible and vocal advocate for environmental protection, public health, social justice and water quality in our state. As such, DMWW staff, Board, friends and family are considering ways to honor Bill's life and legacy.

### Potential Characteristics of a Bill Stowe Memorial:

- A recognition vehicle that refreshes/stimulates Bill's legacy
- A call-to-action annually
- Flexible to focus on current issue(s)
- Hold up action/person(s)/organization(s) that continue the "fight"
- A rally point or respite and reflection area
- Focus on different aspects of Bill's life: personal, political, environmental, etc.

### Considerations:

- Family, staff, Board, Park Foundation involvement
- Evaluation of memorials
- How many memorials in total?
- Cohesive and complementary memorials
- Appropriate location(s)
- Sponsor guidelines
- How Bill's name should be listed/displayed?
- Types of tribute is not appropriate (use of non-environmentally-friendly materials, etc.)?

Staff has received memorial ideas suggested by Des Moines Water Works Park Foundation, DMWW employees, and public. This is not a comprehensive list as there are likely more ideas out there that we have not received. In addition, most of these ideas are conceptual and have not been formally vetted.

<b>New concepts, programs, etc.</b>	
<b>Idea</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Stowe Environmental Warrior Award</b>	Annual. Tied in with "Ring of Honor" program.
<b>Stowe Ring of Honor</b>	DMWW Park Foundation circle around the Great Lawn. Annual programming.
<b>Stowe Talks Lecture Series</b>	Ted Talks type series. Annually (or more often). Could tie in with other related ideas.
<b>Stowe Brew – Canned Des Moines Water</b>	Daily and reinforced at events. Recyclable cans vs. plastic. Messaging like you see with other local microbrew cans. Partner with an Exile or Confluence.
<b>Stowe Stout</b>	Continuous or seasonal. Allows messaging on can.
<b>Stowe Water Quality Meter</b>	Educational tool in Water Works Park – live water quality monitoring in high traffic area (big splash area)

<b>New facilities, properties</b>	
<b>Idea</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Stowe Circuit</b>	Phase II – Joint DMWW/DMWWPF investment. Educational messaging and demo spots along water production enhancement to Water Works Park.
<b>Stowe Labyrinth</b>	An earthen maze created by natural elements, located in the Killdeer Area of Water Works Park. The Stowe Labyrinth is a place in which a person can engage in quiet reflection. The maze element of the labyrinth represents Bill’s ability to navigate the complex issues surrounding his work. The sanctuary element of the labyrinth, in the center of the structure, represents Bill’s private, quiet and spiritual life where he found respite and grounding.
<b>Stowe Gallery</b>	Outside messaging, like Stone Hinge. Create a destination spot in Koehn Garden/Gazebo area in the East Node.

<b>Renaming of existing programs, facilities, properties</b>	
<b>Idea</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Stowe Stations</b>	“Fill with Bill” – renaming of DMWW mobile water stations.
<b>Stowe Academy</b>	Renaming of DMWW Citizen Water Academy.
<b>Stowe Circle</b>	Renaming of Killdeer Area/Reservoir (back western loop of Water Works Park where the stone fire place remnants remain and Des Moines Water Works Retiree Grove).
<b>Des Moines Water Works Administration Building</b>	Renaming of DMWW General Office Facility.
<b>Bill Stowe Park</b>	Renaming of Des Moines Water Works Park.