

DES MOINES WATER WORKS
Board of Water Works Trustees



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2019
TO: William Stowe, CEO and General Manager
FROM: Laura Sarcone, Public Affairs Manager
SUBJECT: Government Outreach Update

Thank you to staff and Board members who attended Des Moines Water Works' legislative breakfast on February 28. Our lobby team said it was a successful event. This social breakfast provided an opportunity to meet with legislators within in our service area, as well as legislators outside our service area, both sides of the aisle and both chambers.

The first funnel deadline has passed. The first funnel wipes out hundreds of bills (well over half of all bills introduced) for further consideration. We remain prepared for surprises and ready to respond on any bill that may be introduced into existing bills.

DMWW is monitoring one Iowa DNR bill and one soil conservation bill that remain "alive," that *could* have an increased focus on water management/planning and soil health. However, water quality likely remains a non-issue for the rest of the session, unless the 3/8 cent sales tax for the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund (IWLL) is a part of an over-all tax discussion.

The second funnel deadline in April 5. Both chambers are working through bills and an increase in floor debate. The session's late start pushes the 110th day (when per diem expires) to May 3, and most legislators, especially those who farm, want session over before then. Our lobby team doesn't like to predict about adjournment, but recognize how quickly this session is moving.

As a reminder, we will be hosting a press event at Fleur Drive Treatment Plant on **April 22 (Earth Day), at 1:00 pm**. This event will highlight DMWW's new process to redirect nitrate removal facility waste from the Raccoon River to the Des Moines WRA facility for treatment. Both DMWW and Des Moines WRA consider and view this venture as a major step towards environmental stewardship and fully committed to the positive results it will yield: safe drinking water for customers, with a major reduction of containments being discharged into our waterways. We encourage and challenge all Iowans to **Think Downstream** and consider what they may do or implement to improve the quality of our waterways for everyone downstream.