

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY OUTREACH MID-YEAR SUMMARY

As the mid-year point approaches, this summary report will reflect on the highlights of DMWW's environmental advocacy for the first half of 2016.

Engage diverse players in the water quality arena to clean up and protect source water

In order to advance rules, laws and policy that meaningfully address Iowa's water quality crisis, DMWW has developed and/or strengthened relationships with diverse water stakeholders. The list includes legislators, community organizations, paddling groups, environmental groups, agricultural commodity groups, the public health sector, as well as state and federal agencies.

Here are examples of DMWW outreach activity the past six months:

- Participated in crafting legislative priorities for the Greater Des Moines Partnership, Quality of Life subcommittee, which were shared with legislators and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack in Washington D.C.
- Provided feedback to Iowa's Soil and Water Task force and its co-chairs about adding accountability, timelines, and a holistic approach to water quality policy recommendations; DMWW hosted a tour for the Task Force members.
- 2016 legislative session: DMWW hosted a tour for legislators and provided valuable feedback on proposed water quality bills for both the House and the Senate members. Created a "water quality proposal" matrix to summarize and analyze proposed legislation.
- Collaborated with local Watershed Management Authorities and the Council of Watershed Management Authorities to advance policies and funding that engage the Raccoon River Watershed in restoration and protection of the watershed.
- Provided input to the Des Moines Metropolitan Planning Organization and Iowa Department of Natural Resources as they embark on the water trails campaign.
- Convened a meeting of scientists, hydrologists and eco-engineers to understand what it will take to advance the Raccoon River Watershed Master Plan for lasting results in our watershed.
- Submitted comments to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) during the recent rulemaking process for animal feeding operations—urging the agency to strengthen Iowa's manure management rules, rather than weaken them; additionally, DMWW joined with 20 groups in submitting a letter to the IDNR objecting to a breach in the formal rulemaking process.
- In order to engage and educate the public, Jennifer Terry has presented DMWW's messages approximately 15 groups since the beginning of the year; additionally, Jennifer has joined the "rotation" of DMWW employees who lead tours of the Fleur Drive Treatment Plant.
- Convened a diverse mix of co-hosts for a water quality/public health consortium to be held July 28, 2016, including: Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory; Environmental Health Sciences Research Center, University of Iowa; Iowa Public Health Association; Raccoon River Watershed Association; and United Suppliers (an agriculture crop nutrient wholesale company).

Reinvigorating DMWW's recycling efforts via a "recycling recharge" campaign

In order to continue the utility's goal of being good environmental stewards, this campaign will re-educate and re-engage all employees of the utility about recycling, which will result in increased recycling and reduced landfill waste. The campaign has, and will, include tours of the Mid America Recycling facility, increased access to recycling bins in convenient locations, presentations by Metro Waste Authority, increased signage near recycling receptacles, tips for recycling, a "sort" in which a waste auditing firm will take a "snapshot" of how many pounds DMWW is recycling on a given day, then assess progress later in the year.

Since the last report, Jennifer Terry has met with the following water quality stakeholders and attended the following events:

- Attended the Iowa Association of Water Agencies conference and provided an update on DMWW litigation.
- Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture conference call on IDNR rulemaking.
- Attended Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority meeting.
- Toured Mid America Recycling facility with a team from DMWW.
- Agriculture Clean Water Alliance and Iowa Soybean Association.
- Environmental Law & Policy Center.
- Christopher Atchison, Director of the State Hygienic Laboratory, Associate Dean for Public Health Practice and Clinical Professor in Health Management and Policy at the University of Iowa, College of Public Health; Mr. Atchison will moderate the water quality consortium on July 28.
- Represented DMWW on a water quality panel hosted in Fort Dodge by a radio station.
- Attended board meeting of Raccoon River Watershed Association.
- United Suppliers.
- EOR (Eco-engineering firm).
- Iowa Rivers Revival.
- Attended "Can Flint Happen Here?" drinking water symposium.
- Attended the United State Geological Survey "Iowa Science Water Group" meeting and updated the attendees on projects and litigation.