

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY OUTREACH **July 20-August 16, 2016**

“Raccoon River & Beyond” Water Quality Consortium

Continuing a long-standing tradition of collaboration in our watersheds, Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) had the pleasure of organizing and co-hosting a water quality consortium on July 28, 2016. The discussion was moderated by Christopher Atchison, Director of the State Hygienic Laboratory at the University of Iowa. The consortium was an effort to reclaim the water quality dialogue and place it squarely and appropriately in the *public health arena*.

Forty participants from a diverse mix of water stakeholder groups discussed the historical nexus between public health and water quality; how the public health sector attacks problems (monitor; diagnose/investigate; educate; develop policy and mobilize; enforce laws and regulations; measure results; manage appropriately); how the integrative, holistic public health approach can be used to solve water quality problems; and ways the diverse groups may collaborate. DMWW is working to ensure public health entities get a seat at the table in water quality discussions (for example, with the Greater Des Moines Partnership Soil and Water Task Force), and we are actively engaging our consortium partners in potential partnership opportunities.

“Recycling Recharge”

Jennifer Terry has been raising awareness and working to recruit recycling champions from across the utility. Metro Waste Authority presented “Recycling 101” educational programs for all DMWW departments this summer; last week 30 additional office recycling bins arrived—which will hopefully result in reduced waste to the landfill from DMWW.

Outreach Summary:

Jennifer Terry met with designees from the following groups/organizations and presented ideas about how DMWW may be able to partner to clean up our watersheds:

- United Suppliers/Land O’ Lakes
- Associated Press
- Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture
- Iowa Rivers Revival
- Walnut Creek Watershed Coalition
- Martin Duffy, candidate for Iowa House of Representatives
- Iowa Environmental Council Board Members
- Raccoon River Watershed Board of Directors Meeting
- Exhibited at Iowa Alliance for Retired Americans conference
- Presented at a meeting of the Wisconsin River Alliance/Wisconsin Land + Water
- Presented at a meeting of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife/Minnesota DNR
- Hosted a DMWW tour for Iowa State University Agronomy grad students