



## **CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL DRINKING WATER COMMISSION**

**Worksession  
Clive City Hall  
1900 NW 114<sup>th</sup> St.  
Thursday, February 28, 2008  
4:00 p.m.**

### **1. Introductions**

Commission Chairman Scott Cirksena welcomed those in attendance at the Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission Worksession at 4:08 p.m. All attendees introduced themselves. Present were:

City Of Altoona –Karen Oppelt (Alt-EX-O)

City of Ankeny – Tom Strait (Rep)

City of Clive – Scott Cirksena (Rep), Bart Weller (EX-O)

Des Moines Water Works – Bob Riley (Rep), Randy Beavers (EX-O), Amy Kahler (Staff),  
Linda Kinman (Staff)

City of Norwalk – Dean Yordi (EX-O)

Urbandale Water Utility – Rich Foust (EX-O), Dale Acheson (Alt-EX-O)

City of Waukee – Don Bailey (Rep)

City of West Des Moines – Jim Wallace (Rep)

City of Windsor Heights – Louise Moon (Rep)

Xenia Rural Water – Dorman Otte (Alt-EX-O)

Also attending was David Carlson, Des Moines Water Works Board Member.

### **2. Purpose of Worksession**

Chair Scott Cirksena began the meeting by stating the purpose of the worksession, which was to re-examine the purpose and function of the CIRDC through an analysis of the current mission statement and bylaws, and through such an analysis, reconfirm and/or offer suggestions for potential changes as it relates to the roles and responsibilities of the Commission.

### **3. Examination of CIRDC Mission Statement**

*To improve Central Iowa through coordinated planning and cooperation in an effort to promote the wise use of resources with the goal of providing efficient, effective infrastructure and operations to deliver adequate, safe, and affordable drinking water to the region.*

Attendees participated in a discussion related to the Commission's mission statement, specifically whether the mission statement accurately reflects the current role of the Commission. Ideas offered included:

- The current mission statement lacks action, and focuses on planning and water safety. While planning and water safety are important, there may be other priorities the Commission could be addressing as well.
- All member utilities face legislative/regulatory issues, and these should be one of the Commission's top priorities. A legislative/regulatory update should be a standing agenda item at Commission meetings, and CIRDWC should be included in Linda Kinman's weekly legislative/regulatory email updates. In addition, CIRDWC should be responding and challenging legislative/regulatory changes, and stating a position on relevant issues as a unified water community.
- The Commission would benefit from more communication between Ex-Officios and Councils or member Boards. The Ex-Officios often have the technical expertise to identify and recommend joint partnerships, such as ASR wells, shared towers, feeder mains, etc., but the Commission consists of the policy makers who can spur such cooperation to action. A suggestion was made that Commission representatives should take relevant information from CIRDWC meetings back to their respective Councils and Boards to pass resolutions demonstrating support for issues and positions. In addition, it was suggested that Metro Group, a group consisting primarily of Ex-Officios who discuss operational and technical issues, could be better leveraged, and an operations report from Metro Group could be a standing agenda item at CIRDWC meetings.
- There was discussion on whether the Commission should focus on policy issues or operating issues. Policy issues would include planning for the future (i.e., capacity, resources, etc.) and realizing efficiencies through cooperation.

At the end of discussion, the following mission statement was proposed (with changes bolded and underlined):

*To improve Central Iowa **and influence public policy** through coordinated planning and cooperation in an effort to promote the wise use of resources with the goal of providing efficient, effective infrastructure and operations to deliver adequate, safe, and affordable drinking water to the region.*

Due to limited time, further discussion was postponed. Another meeting will be scheduled to revisit the proposed mission statement, discuss the by-laws and 28E, and identify meaningful activities to focus on in 2008 and beyond.