

(Amy Kahler, Des Moines Water Works, 2201 George Flagg Pkwy., Des Moines, IA 50321, 515-283-8760)

**Meeting**  
**CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL DRINKING WATER COMMISSION**  
**Des Moines Water Works**  
**Tuesday, January 24, 2012**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**1. Chair Items** - Commission Chair E.J. Giovannetti called the meeting of the Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Present were:

City of Altoona – Michelle Sloan (Rep), Karen Oppelt (Alt-EX-O)

City of Ankeny – Jim McKenna (Rep), Jolee Belzung (EX-O)

City of Bondurant – None

City of Carlisle – None

City of Clive – Bart Weller (EX-O), Ted Weaver (Alt Rep)

City of Cumming – Lori Ann Lynch (Alt Rep)

City of Johnston – David Lindeman (Rep), Shane Kinsey (Staff)

City of Mitchellville – None

City of New Virginia – None

City of Norwalk – None

City of Pleasant Hill – Mike Daspit (Rep)

City of Polk City – Mike Schulte (EX-O)

City of St. Charles – None

City of Waukee – Casey Harvey (Rep), John Gibson (EX-O)

City of Windsor Heights – Louise Moon (Rep)

Des Moines Water Works – Dave Carlson (Rep), Randy Beavers (EX-O), Gary Benjamin (Alt-EX-O), Ted Corrigan (Staff), Amy Kahler (Staff), Linda Kinman (Staff),

Indianola Municipal Utilities – Todd Kielkopf (EX-O)

Polk County – E.J. Giovannetti (Rep)

Urbandale Water Utility – John McCune (Rep)

Warren Water District – None

West Des Moines Water Works – Karen Novak Swalwell (Rep), Jim Wallace (Alt Rep)

Xenia Rural Water District – Jean Bromert (Rep)

**Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by David Lindeman, seconded by Mike Daspit, to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2011, CIRDW meeting, and the January 12, 2012, Executive Committee meeting. Upon vote, the motion carried.

**Financial Statements** – Amy Kahler reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter expenses, consisting of \$30 in legal fees related to recording the quarterly minutes, 1.5 hours of DMWW staff time related to recording collection of fees and preparation of the financial statements, and a \$5.30 bank charge. All fees have been paid by Governing Members, and the fund balance is \$7,432.30. John McCune made a motion to approve the financial statements, seconded by Casey Harvey. Upon vote, the motion carried.

**Parkitecture** – Ted Corrigan gave an overview of the history of Water Works Park. Land was first purchased in 1897 and continued to be purchased for the next 30 years, eventually amassing 1,500 acres in what is now known as Water Works Park. The park was initially established to protect source water that feeds the infiltration gallery, which was the only water source at the time of the first land purchase in 1897 (today, about 1/3 of DMWW's source water comes from the gallery). In 1933, the park was opened to the public, and still serves a mixed purpose of recreation and source water protection today.

Ted outlined several challenges within the park:

- Flooding has become more frequent and severe
- Overcrowding in the arboretum
- Traffic at park entrance
- Pedestrians, bicyclists, and cars share the same paths
- Limited parking
- No master plan

To resolve those challenges, several goals were developed:

- Develop a master plan for the park
- Raise awareness of the value and importance of the Raccoon River to citizens and the metro area
- Stimulate interest in water quality and water resources

To achieve those goals, DMWW partnered with Iowa State University Department of Landscape Architecture to initiate a design competition. The design competition was largely managed and guided by students and staff at Iowa State University. There were 19 professional entries and 25 student entries, and a distinguished jury consisting of Water Works representatives, professional designers, and members of the community selected 5 professional entries as finalists. Finalists were invited to visit the park in December and refined their concepts based on that visit. A public forum was held at the Art Center and the finalists made oral presentations to the jury in December. The jury selected a design by Sasaki Associates from Watertown, Massachusetts. In creating their design concept, Sasaki partnered with RDG Planning & Design (Des Moines) and Applied Ecological Services. The public also chose Sasaki's design as a heavy favorite at the public forum.

The jury liked Sasaki's balance of "untouched" native park land with enhanced recreational uses for the park. In addition, Sasaki emphasized operational aspects of the park, including ideas on how to make the infiltration galleries more productive water resources and creatively addressed park flooding in their design.

DMWW Board of Water Works Trustees has given approval to proceed with contracting Sasaki to develop a master plan for the park. During 2012, validation of the concept will occur, with the master plan following in 2013.

**Raccoon River Master Plan Update** – Linda Kinman provided a historical perspective of watershed efforts in recent years. In the past, the state has focused watershed efforts in the southern portion of the state, which does not benefit the northern and middle portion of the state. However, initiatives and partnerships have increased in recent years such that the entire state is better represented. Partners include Agriculture Clean Water Alliance, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, and American Water Works

Association. Recent initiatives include the Raccoon River Master Plan, Mississippi River Basin initiative, and more dialogue with congressional delegates and agriculture associations.

In 2009, the state legislature passed a bill that allows for watershed authorities to be formed. In 2011, CIRDWC supported a grant application by Dallas County to form a watershed authority, and that application was approved. Linda has been working with the Dallas County Board of Supervisors to establish a watershed authority and explore additional funding to implement watershed best practices identified in the Raccoon River Master Plan. There also exists some possibility of funding by the Iowa Flood Center. Linda will continue to report back to the group on progress and funding opportunities.

**Legislative Forecast** – Linda Kinman reported no water quality bills have been introduced at this time. Water utilities are proposing legislation to better protect customer information. Updates will be provided via Linda's weekly legislative updates and at the next CIRDWC meeting.

**Election of Officers** – On behalf of the nominating committee, Louise Moon recommended that the bylaws be revised to allow for the Immediate Past Chair to be an officer. The nominating committee feels this will allow continuity and historical perspective to be passed along as officers change. A bylaw revision will be proposed at the April meeting.

The nominating Committee proposed the following slate of officers for 2012:

Chair – John McCune, Urbandale Water Utility  
Vice Chair – David Lindeman, City of Johnston  
Secretary/Treasurer – Michelle Sloan

Chair E.J. Giovannetti asked for nominations from the floor, receiving none. Louise Moon made a motion to approve the aforementioned slate of officers, seconded by Karen Novak-Swalwell. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Giovannetti expressed appreciation for the Commission's involvement in important issues and encouraged the new officers and representatives to continue participating and showing interest in water issues.

**Executive Committee Report** – Mr. Giovannetti referred to the minutes of the January 12 Executive meeting and noted the discussion centered on the agenda for the January quarterly meeting.

**General Discussion** – Mike Daspit suggested CIRDWC consider an outreach program to educate the public about water issues. Randy Beavers indicated DMWW has recently developed a strategic marketing plan and will have a stronger presence at community events, including Farmer's Markets, walks/runs, festivals, etc. In addition, DMWW has a robust education program to reach students and adults alike and emphasize the importance of quality source water, provide an overview of the treatment process, etc. Water Children's Festival is also a great outreach effort currently underway. Amy Kahler indicated Water Day at the Capitol was held January 17, and CIRDWC was represented at that venue, which provided an opportunity to talk with legislators about water issues and challenges. If CIRDWC representatives are aware of an opportunity to perform outreach, they are encouraged to contact Amy Kahler.

Louise Moon inquired whether water utilities work together with storm water utilities, and questioned if more could be done to educate the public on storm water issues that ultimately affect source water quality. There was consensus that some communication efforts are underway and are in fact required as part of the permitting process, but resources are limited to do more than is required. Jolee Belzung provided an overview of Ankeny's program, which includes reimbursement for rain gardens, permeable driveways, rain barrels, etc. She indicated the program has been hugely successful and they hope to increase budget funding to this initiative.

**Adjournment** – David Lindeman made motion to adjourn at 7:20, seconded by John McCune.