

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

Meeting
CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL DRINKING WATER COMMISSION
Johnston Public Library
Tuesday, January 27, 2009
6:00 p.m.

1. Chair Items - Commission Chair Scott Cirksena called the meeting of the Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission to order at 6:10 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Present were:

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

City of Ankeny – Tom Strait (Rep), Jolee Belzung (EX-O)

City of Bondurant – None

City of Carlisle – None

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

City of Cumming – None

City of Johnston – Brian Wilson (Ex-O), Shane Kinsey (Staff)

City of Mitchellville - None

City of New Virginia - None

City of Norwalk – None

City of Panora - None

City of Pleasant Hill – Mike Daspit (Rep)

City of Polk City - None

City of St. Charles - None

City of Waukee – None

City of Windsor Heights – Louise Moon (Rep)

Des Moines Water Works – Robert Riley (Rep), Randy Beavers (EX-O), Gary Benjamin (Alt. EX-O), Amy Kahler (Staff), Ted Corrigan (Staff), Linda Kinman (Staff), and Luella Feldman (Staff)

Indianola Municipal Utilities - None

Polk County – E. J. Giovannetti (Rep)

Urbandale Water Utility – None

Warren Water District – Jim Mumford (Rep)

West Des Moines Water Works – Jim Wallace (Rep)

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

Motion was made by Jim Wallace, seconded by Tom Strait, to approve minutes of the October 21, 2008, Regular Meeting and December 2, 2008, Special Meeting (as amended). Upon vote, motion carried.

2. IOWARN – Ted Corrigan provided an overview of the Iowa Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (IOWARN) formalized system of “utilities helping utilities” to deliver mutual aid following major emergencies. He gave examples of emergencies in Iowa where this system could have effectively been utilized. He stressed that this was a completely voluntary arrangement and no costs were associated with participation and with no governmental coordination. He stated a preexisting written agreement (currently in Iowa-specific draft form) serves as the foundation to allow the quickest utility- to-utility response, which is particularly important due to the specialized operations and industry-specific regulations and hazards. He stated 34 states had an active program in place with Iowa being one of only three states without an agreement in place or pending.

3. Recap 2008 Accomplishments – The Chair provided a recap of the Commission’s 2008 activities and accomplishments, specifically mentioning the efforts expended to improve attendance, multiple working group sessions conducted, revision of the Commission’s bylaws and mission statement and achieving greater transparency with Des Moines Water Works’ Board through increased CIRDDWC participation. He stated his expectation that for 2009 a greater emphasis would be placed on legislative issues, including the possible formation of a legislative committee, and inquired if there was an interest to serve on the part of any of the Commission’s representatives.

4. 2008 Key Initiatives – Des Moines Water Works – The Chair requested a report on **Watershed Planning** and **Public Policy/Legislative Initiatives**. **Watershed Planning** – Ms. Kinman provided a summary of the proposed request for rulemaking when siting and permitting Animal Confinement Facilities and provided information relative to the Iowa Rulemaking Process. **Public Policy/Legislative Initiatives** - Indicating not a considerable amount of activity occurring in the legislature to date, Ms. Kinman discussed and provided an informational sheet regarding the proposed operating permit fee increase to the Department of Natural Resources. She identified and provided status information on regulatory issues – manure on frozen ground, anti-degradation, and chloride, sulfate, TDS. She stated the IAWA-IRWA Lobby Day at the Capitol was scheduled for February 16 and encouraged those present to take advantage of the opportunity to visit with their legislators. She further stated Senator Jack Hatch had offered to host an event at DMWW probably on some Saturday to provide information to legislators on water-related issues, which event could include a tour of the facility. As the event takes shape, she stated additional information would be provided to CIRDDWC members.

5. PILOT (DMWW/City of Des Moines) – The Chair moved this item forward to be discussed as the first item on the agenda. He stated he would develop a Commission position statement from comments following discussion at this meeting which he would deliver verbally and in writing to Des Moines Water Works’ Board as their decision ultimately affects the water rates of the Commission members. Randy Beavers provided background summary on the Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT) made by DMWW to the City of Des Moines over the past ten years. He reviewed the figures resulting from negotiations with the City of Des Moines for the proposed PILOT, which included an increase in the payment from the City of Des Moines to DMWW for billing and collection services. The Chair opened the topic to comments, which were received and are summarized as follows:

- Selection of insured value as basis for calculating the PILOT
 - Insured value should not include contents – taxes are not paid on contents
- Specific formula should be determined for calculation of PILOT currently and in to the future
- Insufficient credit given DMWW for Botanical Center operating losses and Fleur Median maintenance
- If the Botanical Center operations were assumed by a foundation, it is presumed the PILOT would increase
- City of Des Moines is not paying for all water it uses
- Determination of the PILOT amount should stand alone, without regard to Botanical Center, Fleur Medians, etc.
- What efforts are being made by the City to collect a PILOT from other non-profit entities – inconsistencies exist in amounts being paid, i.e. Airport Commission, hospitals.

Mr. Cirksena expressed appreciation for the comments and stated he would formulate a position letter incorporating the consensus of the Commission members. In addition to giving copies of the letter to the Des Moines Water Works Board members, he stated he would attend the February 24 meeting of the Des Moines Water Works Board, when it is anticipated the Board would take action on the proposed PILOT.

6. 2009 Officers' Report – Mr. Cirksena requested a report from the Nominating Committee. Members of the Nominating Committee were identified as John McCune, Chairperson, Louise Moon and Michelle Sloan. In the absence of Mr. McCune, Ms. Moon reported that all current officers had agreed to continue serving in their present capacities for 2009. Mr. Cirksena requested nominations from the floor, and hearing none, declared nominations closed. Ms. Moon moved election of Scott Cirksena for the position of Chair, Don Bailey for the position of Vice Chair and Tom Strait for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Jim Wallace provided a second to the motion, which upon vote carried.

7. General Discussion – Amy Kahler stated DMWW is beginning the process of developing a new five-year strategic plan using a six-phase approach, anticipating the process will be completed in approximately six months. She stated the process includes expanded stakeholder representation and indicated the desire that CIRDWC be represented. Mr. Cirksena stressed the importance of the Commission's involvement and asked that anyone having an interest in the strategic plan development should let him know and if no one volunteers, he stated he would seek a representative.

8. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:47 p.m.