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**Meeting**  
**CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL DRINKING WATER COMMISSION**  
**Altoona Public Library**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2010**  
**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 6:14 p.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Present were:

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

City of Ankeny – Tom Strait (Rep)

City of Bondurant – Mike Adams, Sr. (Rep), Mark Arentson (EX-O)

City of Carlisle – None

City of Clive – Scott Cirksena (Rep)

City of Cumming – None

City of Johnston – David Lindeman (Rep), Jim Sanders (Alt-Rep), 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 – Casey Harvey (Rep)

City of Windsor Heights – Louise Moon (Rep)

Des Moines Water Works – Robert Riley, Jr. (Rep), David Carlson (Alt-Rep), Randy Beavers (EX-O), Ted Corrigan (Staff), Amy Kahler (Staff), Linda Kinman (Staff), and Pat Ripley (Staff)

Indianola Municipal Utilities – None

Polk County – E.J. Giovannetti (Rep)

Urbandale Water Utility – John McCune (Rep), Rich Foust (EX-O), Dale Acheson (Alt. EX-O)

Warren Water District – None

West Des Moines Water Works – Jim Wallace (Alt-Rep)

Xenia Rural Water – None

Also attending was Rick Malm, Des Moines Water Works' legal counsel.

It was determined that a quorum of members was not present. Therefore, the minutes of the April 27, 2010, Regular Meeting could not be approved. Concern was expressed regarding representation of too few of members and the matter of public perception.

**2. Proposed Amendments to 28E** – Mr. Malm reviewed the Amended and Restated 28E Agreement, a copy of which was provided to those present. Discussion occurred regarding the proposed resolution, with no one opposing it. Since a quorum was not present, a vote to act upon the resolution could not be taken. Mr. Malm explained voting must be done during a public meeting which could include members participating via teleconference if they cannot attend in person. It was determined a special meeting will be held at Des Moines Water Works within the next couple weeks; the sole purpose will be to vote whether to proceed with the amended 28E Agreement. For those who cannot attend in person, teleconference instructions will be provided. Voting eligibility requirements were reviewed. An Alternate Rep is a voting member only if the Rep isn't present. Ex-Officios and Alternate Ex-Officios do not have voting privileges.

### **3. 2010 Key Initiatives**

- **Governance** – Mr. Giovannetti stated there was nothing new to report.
- **Managing Peak Water Demand** – A document from the Peak to Average Day Ratio Sub-Committee was distributed. Mr. Foust reviewed potential ideas for impacting peak to average water usage, such as charging higher rates for irrigation, asking customers to water on odd/even days during peak demand, etc. Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) appears to be an economical option. The sub-committee will provide another update after a future meeting is conducted to discuss the various ideas.
- **Legislative/Regulatory Threats** – Ms. Kinman summarized documents she provided to attendees: Public Policy Update; Expectation for Watershed Planning and Management to Improve and Protect the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers; and correspondence concerning the Iowa Drainage and Wetland Landscape Systems Initiative (which had been referred to as the "Iowa Plan").

### **4. Metro Group Report**

- **Impact of Residential Fire Sprinkling on Water Utilities** – Metro-area fire chiefs recently sponsored a meeting regarding efforts to require fire sprinklers in residential homes including single family dwellings. Mr. Corrigan reported how such a code would impact water systems, specifically water quality and usage. Any time water sits in a pipe for long periods, the quality degrades; it would be acceptable for firefighting but not for drinking. Backflow protection is another concern. It was also mentioned that the sprinklers would need to be metered to avoid unaccounted for water, but a couple attendees stated they are not aware of a dual use meter that would capture low flow as well as large flow for fire protection. Concerns expressed at the metro meeting by water system representatives also included freezing pipes, and liability issues. One option they offered was requiring sprinklers in multi-family units only. Mr. Daspit referred to a study that determined fire sprinklers to be very cost ineffective due to maintenance of the system. Mr. Giovannetti mentioned the Executive Committee has discussed this issue, and there are different schools of thought; some say we should not even discuss this while others argue there should be a uniform ordinance, and others say the legislature will take care of this.

**5. Executive Committee Report** – The 28E Agreement and legislative topics were previously discussed by the Executive Committee. Mr. Giovannetti indicated the Executive Committee meetings are really work sessions in preparation for the regular meetings.

**6. CIRDWC Education Series – "A Natural Utility"** – Mr. Riley spoke about the natural utility concept, which DMWW's Strategic Plan touches on. Water quality is the intent of the natural (biogenic) utility concept. A committee he serves on has discussed a riverine greenway system to connect recreation and park lands, as 92% of bank streams in Polk County are publically owned. Using switch grass and flora to slow the velocity of

the river (slow the flow) has been discussed, and a side benefit might be carbon sequestration. Funding might come from carbon credits and state funds, or by utilizing some of the money if the constitutional amendment to establish the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund passes, which Iowans will vote on this November. If it passes, theoretically, the natural utility could receive funds for managing river greenways since 80 percent of the Trust Fund would be earmarked for soil conservation and water quality. Mr. Riley will keep the Executive Committee updated.

**7. General Discussion –**

- Responding to a question regarding nitrate levels, Mr. Beavers advised the rivers have been below 10 ppm because of dilution as a result of the river flow being high. DMWW's nitrate removal facility has not been operated since June 2007.
- The next regular meeting has been scheduled for October 26, 2010, at the Waukee Public Library.

**8. Adjournment -** The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 7:45 p.m.