

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

**Meeting**  
**CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL DRINKING WATER COMMISSION**  
**Urbandale Library**  
**Tuesday, October 21, 2008**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**1. Chair Items** - Commission Chairman Scott Cirksena called the meeting of the Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission to order at 6:05 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), Jim McKenna (Alt-Ex-O)

City of Bondurant – None

City of Carlisle – None

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

City of Cumming – Jim Gifford (Rep)

City of Johnston – Rick Tingley (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 – None

City of Polk City - None

City of St. Charles - None

City of Waukee – Don Bailey (Rep)

City of Windsor Heights – Louise Moon (Rep)

Des Moines Water Works – Bob Riley (Rep), Dave Carlson (Alt. Rep), Gary Benjamin (Alt-EX-O), Amy Kahler (Staff), Peggy Freese (Staff), Jenny Puffer (Staff), Chris Jones (Staff), Linda Kinman (Staff), Lu Feldman, (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 – Jim Mumford (Rep)

West Des Moines Water Works – Jim Wallace (Rep)

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

It was determined that a quorum was present at the meeting.

Motion was made by John McCune, seconded by Jim Gifford, to approve minutes of the July 22, 2008, meeting, as amended. Upon vote, motion carried. Motion was made by Louise Moon, seconded, by Jim Wallace to approve minutes of the August 26, 2008, meeting. Upon vote, motion carried.

**2. Metro Group Update** – Amy Kahler, Metro Group liaison brought forward the Metro Group’s question if development of a watershed plan would be a worthwhile undertaking for the Metro Group to pursue. It appeared affirmation was provided by the Commission members that a regional approach would be worthwhile to pursue further. Questions were raised related to the cost of such an undertaking; how it would be funded; and if grants were available for which applications could be submitted. The Chairman stated he would meet with Bart Weller, Karen Oppelt, Linda Kinman and Amy Kahler further pursuing the issue and would report back to the Commission.

**3. 2008 Key Initiatives – Des Moines Water Works** – The Chairperson requested a report on **Public Policy/Legislative Initiatives** from Linda Kinman. Referencing her report at the August 26 Commission meeting regarding the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) meeting in which a permit for two animal confinement facilities in northwestern Dallas County were denied. She stated after the EPC’s initial denial in August, a law suit was filed by the producer. On advice of the Attorney General’s office the EPC, in October re-voted in closed session and approved the permits. She stated she was working with Chris Jones to request rule-making with the Department of Natural Resources, with the intent to require consideration of drinking source waters when granting/denying such facilities. She stated the draft request would be brought to CIRDWC in January to ascertain the Commission’s willingness to support the request.

Jenny Puffer provided an update on the **Water Resource Long-Range Plan**. She stated a sub-committee, consisting of Rich Foust, Bart Weller, Jerry Stevens was appointed to provide input to the Plan being drafted by Des Moines Water Works for determination of water resource option(s) most feasible and economical to pursue. She provided Plan updates as follows:

- Original population and water use projections were projected downward due to current economic conditions and slowing in the housing market.
- Considering future sources for water for DMWW’s treatment plants, she reported:
  - USGS had been contracted to analyze the mean and low-flow data for the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers to provide data to ascertain if there is sufficient flow to meet future water resource demands.
  - Saylorville Reservoir water storage space
    - Consideration given to modifying the contract to increase DMWW’s storage limit.
      - This would require a costly feasibility study and impact storage during flooding events
      - The dredging sediment alternative was determined too costly as well
  - She identified possible additional sources at each of the utility’s three treatment plant locations
  - She discussed briefly the role of conservation as a possible additional water resource

- She reviewed the recommended timetable through the year 2020 for project completion as set out in the plan together with estimated costs.

**4. Des Moines Water Works 2009 Wholesale Water Rate Increases** – Peggy Freese referenced the Cost of Service Study (COS) reflecting the utility’s costs and revenues for the year ended 2007 discussed by Randy Beavers at the August Commission meeting. She stated the 2007 COS revealed a deficit including return on investment and depreciation, indicating that DMWW is not losing money, but rather not collecting the full cost of service to its customers to cover the utility’s reinvestment in infrastructure. She stated it was deemed prudent to reverse this trend and to do so would indicate the necessity for raising rates. She discussed the intention that the rates set for each rate classification would fund the cost of providing service to the customers within that rate classification at the end of three years. She discussed the recommendation for accomplishing that goal with a 15% rate increase the first year, a 10% rate increase the second year and a 10% rate increase the third year. She stated the proposed increases would be evaluated each year for appropriateness and adjustment, if required. A discussion followed relative to capital project prioritization and funding as well as a request that a restricted fund be established designated for capital replacement. She stated the DMWW Board would take action on the proposed water rates at its October 28 meeting.

**5. Discussion of letter drafted by Rich Foust** - The Chairman referenced letter drafted by Rich Foust to the Board of Water Works Trustees of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, from the Commission regarding proposed water rates resulting from the 2007 Cost of Service Study. He stated he had made some revisions to the letter and was bringing it to Commission members at this meeting for discussion and to determine that its content was the message the Commission wished to send to the Des Moines Water Works Board. Commission members discussed at considerable length the October 15 version draft identifying the areas of greatest interest/concern to be expressed to Des Moines Water Works Board. Recommendation was received that the letter include a statement indicating the Commission would welcome the opportunity to work with members of the Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees to resolve the issues brought forth in the letter. The Chairperson stated he and Amy Kahler would finalize the letter, capturing the significant issues and concerns from discussion during the meeting. He stated the revisions would be made and the final draft forwarded to Des Moines Water Works Trustees ahead of the October 28 Board meeting. He requested to be advised if anyone else was interested in working with Amy and him as a part of that subcommittee. A communication from Lawrence R. McDowell, Deputy City Attorney (City of Des Moines) providing comments in response to Mr. Foust’s letter was discounted as unofficial as it was not written on letterhead, nor dated, and therefore was deemed unnecessary for the Commission to further consider its contents .

**6. Saylorville Water Treatment Plant Update** – In providing a status report on the Saylorville Water Treatment Plant, Gary Benjamin stated the project was in somewhat of a lull. He discussed project delays resulting from incomplete information provided by membrane manufacturer delaying design completion, redesign of the interior piping system to counter excessive steel prices; and additional time necessary to insure reliability of complicated membrane treatment process. He stated the feeder main was in service providing additional water capacity to Ankeny; two collector wells were nearing completion; and the building and water holding structures, including pretreatment basin and finished water clearwell were completed. He stated the team was dedicated to complete the design by late November or early December, with bids to be received in February or March. Assuming a 12-month construction, he said the new plant would be ready for start-up in the spring of 2010 in time to work out all of the bugs before the peak pumpage demands.

**7. Pharmaceuticals in Drinking Water** – The Chairman stated due to the late hour, this topic would be held over until the next meeting.

**8. Appoint Nominating Committee for 2009 Officers** – The Chairman requested volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for proposing a slate of officers to serve during 2009. John McCune, Louise Moon and Michelle Sloan volunteered after which the Chairman announced in addition the committee would consist of some resource person appointees as well. (Following the meeting, Mr. Cirksena in addition appointed Randy Beavers, Rich Foust and Jerry Stevens as resource persons to the Nominating Committee).

**9. Determine Meeting Locations for 2009** – Representatives volunteered to host the quarterly 2009 Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission meetings each commencing at 6:00 p.m. as follows:

|         |    |                  |
|---------|----|------------------|
| January | 27 | City of Johnston |
| April   | 28 | City of Clive    |
| July    | 28 | City of Ankeny   |
| October | 27 | City of Waukee   |

10. **General Discussion** – No further discussion occurred.

11. **Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:21 p.m.