

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF PLANNING COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF WATER WORKS TRUSTEES
PURSUANT TO NOTICE**

Tuesday, July 6, 2021

3:30 p.m.

The Meeting was conducted by video conference.

Present (by Video or Audio Conference Link):

Board Members: Ms. Andrea Boulton and Ms. Diane Munns

Staff Members: Jessica Barnett, Rachel Brown, Pat Bruner, Ted Corrigan, Kyle Danley, Doug Garnett, Amy Kahler, Mike McCurnin, Jenny Puffer, Laura Sarcone, and Jennifer Terry

Also in Attendance: Andy Kellner (IDNR) and Melissa Walker (MW Media Consultants, LLC)

Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Goose Management Plan at Water Works Park

Ms. Barnett introduced Mr. Andy Kellner (IDNR) to discuss the conflicts created by Canadian Geese in urban areas and by their presence in Water Works Park. Due to our proximity to the Des Moines Airport, requests were made in the mid 2000's to decrease the number of geese in Water Works Park. DMWW's Grounds staff worked with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reduce the population numbers by conducting nest manipulations and lethal management. Each year in April nests are scouted near the banks of the Raccoon River and water basins around the park. When the program first initiated, eggs in nests were oiled and removed. In recent years staff has focused efforts on removing eggs during the goose's incubation period. Eggs are collected when the female begins sitting on her nest. This effort has been successful in reducing the number of goslings hatched each spring, but the goose population numbers remain higher than desired. An alternative approach, using buffer or prairie strips, has been suggested. This method focuses on eliminating the line of sight of the bird. Geese prefer long sight distances and ease of travel between their food and the water bodies they live in. Buffer strips along shorelines can reduce sight distances and impede goose movement, thereby deterring them from inhabiting the area. The strips have several other positive aspects including improving soil health, water quality, nutrient reduction, serving as a pollinator habitat, and maintenance cost savings. Staff, with the support of the Board, would propose to move forward with preparation and implementation of a buffer strip along the shoreline of the basin ponds in the east node of the park. The buffer strip will be an aesthetically pleasing addition to the landscape, while providing functionality for the recreational use of the park.

2. CEO and General Manager's Comments

Mr. Corrigan reported that for the first time this year detectable levels (.7 ppm) of microcystin were measured in the Raccoon River. DMWW's treatment has been effective at this level, as no toxins are being detected in the finished water, but the issue continues to be of concern.

3. Public Comments - There were no comments from the public.

Meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.