

CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL WATER UTILITY MEETING

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

7:30 a.m.

Urbandale City Hall

3600 86th St, Urbandale, IA 50322

Present:

City of Ankeny – City Manager David Jones

City of Des Moines – Mayor Frank Cownie

City of Johnston – Mayor Paula Dierenfeld

City of Urbandale – Mayor Bob Andeweg

City of West Des Moines – Mayor Steve Gaer

Des Moines Water Works – Susan Huppert, Board Chair; Bill Stowe, staff

Urbandale Water Works – Dale Acheson, staff; John McCune, Board Chair

West Des Moines Water Works – Karen Novak-Swalwell, Board Member; Diana Wilson, staff

Also in attendance: Jason Mumm, FCS Group; Nathan Casey, Des Moines Water Works

1. Welcome – Mayor Gaer welcomed everyone and introduced the participants of the meeting.
2. Central Iowa 2040 Long Range Plan – Mr. Nathan Casey provided an overview of Des Moines Water Works' Long Range Plan. With assistance from consultants, HDR and CH2M, the plan includes service area population projections and projected average and max day water demands. The plan is staged in five year increments, through 2040. Throughout the plan, there are base improvements needed for treatment, pumping, storage and transmission, including: rehabilitation of Fleur Drive Treatment Plant; expansion of Saylorville Water Treatment Plant to 20 million gallons day (MGD); expansion of LD McMullen Treatment Plant to 37.5 MDG; and additional Aquifer Storage and Recovery wells. Beyond the base improvements, there are three alternatives to meet the future water needs: 1) expansion of Fleur Drive Treatment Plant to 100 MGD; 2) expansion of Saylorville Water Treatment Plant to 45 MGD; 3) A fourth water treatment plant built for 25 MGD. Des Moines Water Works will use the plan as a roadmap; however, work will be completed based on demand, not calendar. Final comments from Des Moines Water Works and Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission Technical Committee have been submitted. The Board of Water Works Trustees is expected to receive and file the Long Range Plan at their September Board meeting. A copy of the Long Range Plan PowerPoint will be sent to all participants and posted on public websites. Mayor Cownie inquired about meeting existing and future water quality standards, including nitrate and cyanotoxins. Mr. Bill Stowe noted the Long Range Plan includes capital investments needed for treatment of increasing nitrate concentration in source waters.
3. Guiding Principles – Mayor Gaer introduced the collectively agreed upon Guiding Principles to assist in the formal regional governance process that will take place this fall. Guiding Principles examples include: the three existing water boards remain intact with a larger regional governance structure created that will oversee water production expansion and wholesale water rates; independent distribution systems would continue, as well as setting

retail water rates for their communities; no transfer of assets; and exclusivity to the regional structure and Long Range Plan investments.

4. Discussion – Ms. Susan Huppert provided details on the early process of the regional governance discussions, including looking at other regional governance structures within the community. The three water board chairs and general managers jointly agreed upon a framework for Guiding Principles and then expanded the discussion to the six mayors of the largest water consumers. Mr. John McCune provided details on the facilitator search. Ms. Karen Novak-Swalwell stated FCS Group has been selected as facilitator. Jason Mumm from FCS has already been meeting with the three utilities and community members.

Mr. Jason Mumm spoke on his vision for a structure that will provide the best possible service for the lowest price that can serve the whole region. The process is fraught with challenges. He stated the culmination of the process would be a business plan-type document by the end of December, with detailed steps for implementation.

Mayor Gaer thanked the three water board chairs and general managers for the progress so far, and noted the region does not need the Iowa Legislature solving this for us. This process sends a message to current residents, future residents and economic development opportunities that the region has a plan in place for high quality, reliable and cost-effective water.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 27, 7:30 a.m., at Urbandale City Hall.

5. Public Comments – None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 a.m.