

(Prepared by/Return to: Amy Kahler, Des Moines Water Works, 2201 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines, IA 50321, 515-283-8760)

**Meeting**  
**CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL DRINKING WATER COMMISSION**  
**Technical Advisory Committee**  
**Des Moines Water Works Board Room**  
**April 27, 2017**  
**10:00 a.m.**

**Attendees:** Shane Kinsey, Jeff May, Karen Oppelt, Dan Klopfer, Ted Corrigan, Jim Utter, Amy Kahler, Stan Ripperger, Nathan Casey, Bill Stowe, Vern Willey, Diana Wilson, Dale Acheson

**Public:** Don Petersen, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation

**DMWW Long Range Plan: Areas of Focus in Review Process**

Nathan Casey provided a brief update of the long range planning process, reminding CIRDWC members that DMWW has asked communities to review and affirm a map showing where water will be needed. Meters have been assigned demands based on demand projections developed by the Technical Advisory Committee. Des Moines Water Works has received comment from Ankeny, Altoona, Johnston, and Urbandale Water Utility.

Since the last committee meeting update, Nathan indicated one of the transmission improvements is to connect DMWW's Saylorville Water Treatment Plant to the Des Moines area with a small pipe, and connect to the western suburbs with a larger pipe, so Saylorville water could be pushed farther west. In light of that, Jeff May asked about differences in water quality between McMullen and SWTP, and asked if residents will notice a difference in the blended water. Shane Kinsey reported Johnston has had blended water since connecting to Saylorville, and have received a couple chlorine inquiries, but otherwise, the blending has not been noticeable to customers.

Mr. Casey reported DMWW's recent review has focused on prioritizing projects, segmenting improvements by region affected, and finalizing costs. A final draft is expected in early May. Dan Klopfer stated DMWW plans to take the final draft to DMWW's Finance & Audit Committee meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in June, and the plan will be reviewed in conjunction with DMWW's 5-year CIP. The final report will be shared during the June Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

**Waukee/WDMWW Source Water Availability Study Update**

Diana Wilson reported a draft report is expected by May 3. The West Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees has scheduled a board workshop on May 4<sup>th</sup> to review the report.

**Urbandale Water Utility Update**

Dale Acheson reported discussions with Des Moines Water Works have occurred on how an Urbandale plant could fit with the regional system. He indicated the time is approaching for decisions to be made.

### **Water Distribution Apprenticeship Program**

DMWW would like to offer a 3-year apprenticeship program that would culminate in participants being qualified to take and pass the Grade 2 Distribution license. Ted Corrigan reported that he has discussed this idea with Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), and a three-year curriculum has been developed a curriculum for water distribution operators. Because the apprenticeship would be a federally recognized program, Mr. Corrigan also met recently with Department of Labor (DOL). He learned a federally recognized Water Treatment operator apprenticeship already existed when DMWW launched their existing Water Treatment apprenticeship program; however, a federally recognized Water Distribution program does not already exist. There is a process to become federally recognized, including 1) support from 8 industry organizations (i.e., AWWA, AMWA, IDNR, etc.), 2) agreement from 5 educational institutions to offer the program, or identify education centers who already offer a program, and 3) final DOL approval. The DOL representative was optimistic a federally recognized Distribution Apprenticeship could be accomplished.

Mr. Corrigan indicated there are several advantages to a potential Water Distribution apprenticeship, including:

- 1) Indenture agreements signify a commitment to utility distribution operations
- 2) The training program creates a well-qualified labor force in the water industry
- 3) The training program offers quicker advancement opportunities for employees

Mr. Corrigan indicated it will take some time to initiate the program with the Department of Labor, and the program will not be up and running by fall 2017. DMACC has minimum enrollment requirement for the program in order to offer the program. Ted encouraged members to consider sending staff through any potential program in order to make the program viable and sustainable.

### **Des Moines Water Works Board Activities for April**

Dan Klopfer retrospectively reviewed the agenda for the April 25<sup>th</sup> Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees meeting:

- Nitrate Removal Process – DMWW has made arrangements with the City of Des Moines and WRA to take nitrate regen waste, rather than DMWW discharging the waste to the river. The board awarded the contract for the pumping station, which came in slightly under bid. A separate piping project (MLK to High Street) will discharge to the city's sanitary sewer. The bid opening for the piping project is May 12, and that contract will be presented for approval at the May board meeting.
- Polk County Water System Improvements – DMWW awarded a contract for water main replacement in the Polk County service area to contractor, J & K. This contract came in at the engineer's estimate.
- Termination of Nextel Lease Agreement – A cell tower contract with Nextel has terminated with the removal of their equipment.

Mr. Klopfer reported DMWW issued RFPs to update and expand the nitrate removal facility from 10 MGD to 20 MGD. Design would be completed by early spring 2018, with intent to make improvements in 2018.

**Open**

None

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2017 at Des Moines Water Works.

Meeting adjourned at 10:52.