



ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) 2022 State Policy/Legislative Successes

- **Legislative Engagement**
 - Defeated annual effort to reform tenant delinquency process
 - Maintain annual state funding for water quality programs which help support community partnerships on watershed projects
 - Provided DMWW's perspective on One Call bill language leading to substantial changes heading into the 2023 session

- **Reputation and Relationship Development**
 - Continue to establish DMWW as the leading voice in Iowa's water industry among legislators and partners
 - Enhanced collaborative policy relationships with both the Iowa Rural Water Association (IRWA) and the Iowa Association of Water Agencies (IAWA)
 - Assist in facilitating relationships between DMWW's leadership and key community and business leaders, as well as congressional district staff, to build broad-based support for water quality initiatives
 - Collaborated with IRWA and IAWA to host legislative education programs, both of which received high praise (Rathbun Regional Water Roundtable & New Legislator Briefing Webinar)

- **Administrative and Agency Engagement**
 - As a direct result of DMWW's engagement with the Governor's office, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa Finance Authority, changes are being considered to the definition of disadvantaged community. DMWW is working to ensure the tool used to calculate disadvantaged community status by census tract is fair and provides DMWW customers access to the funds. Ideally, changes will result in access to lead service line replacement dollars for DMWW customers through a grant program facilitated by DMWW.

Des Moines Water Works 2023 State Legislative Priorities

- Advocate for the continuation of current state Water Quality Initiative (WQI) project funding for source water protection and improvement with a focus on the Des Moines and Raccoon River watersheds.
- Support the investment of state funds to expand the Urban Ag Seeding Partnership which supports the purchase and leasing of cover crop seeders and efforts to study and treat Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs) and their impacts on Iowa's streams, lakes, and rivers.
- Advocate for increased accessibility to Federal lead service line (LSL) replacement dollars being allocated through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) mechanism. All LSL funds should be made into forgivable grants or loans ensuring access to these funds for disadvantaged individuals across the state.
- Support legislative efforts to further improve Iowa's One Call system.
- Promote increased state resources for cybersecurity enhancements and protection while taking into consideration increased administrative burdens new cybersecurity requirements could have on entities across the state.



To: Ted Corrigan, CEO & General Manager
From: Woodberry Associates
Re: 2022 End of Year Review
Date: December 23, 2022

Woodberry Associates is proud to have partnered with the leadership team at Des Moines Water Works to advance their federal policy agenda. Key successes from 2022 include:

- Iowa Delegation Engagement – Helped strengthen and grow DMWW’s relationships with calls, information sharing, Washington D.C. visits and facility tours.
- Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) – DMWW encouraged Senators Grassley and Ernst to change federal law to provide the Army Corps of Engineers authority to research HAB’s at Saylorville Reservoir, a key reserve water source. Senators Grassley and Ernst secured language in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022 that adds the “Upper Mississippi River Basin” to the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program.
- PFAS – Following up on the National Defense Authorization Act of 2021 provisions that prioritized Iowa, DMWW partnered with the delegation to ensure the Department of Defense issued a report on potential contamination at the airport. DMWW educated stakeholders about the expected EPA rulemaking creating a national drinking water standard for PFAS. DMWW partnered with national water associations on these concerns.
- Infrastructure and Lead Service Line Replacement Funding - DMWW continued to make progress to raise awareness about challenges securing infrastructure funding from various aid packages, including those addressing lead service line inventories and the expected 2024 rule establishing requirements for lead service line replacement. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provided unprecedented funding for State Revolving Funds and DMWW has made progress educating federal officials of challenges ensuring those funds flow as Congress intended.
- Water Utility Stakeholder Engagement – DMWW utilized its relationships with several trade associations to find alignment on several of the previously mentioned issues. Woodberry Associates drafted a Member-to-Member Inquiry for AMWA to learn if similar organizations had faced eligibility barriers to receiving funds from the various COVID response and infrastructure funding packages and what strategies were successful to ensure parity. Woodberry followed up with individual calls to survey respondents to gather information to inform DMWW’s strategic goals and strengthen partnerships with other utilities.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this update on the progress made in 2022 and look forward to continuing these efforts in 2023.

Des Moines Water Works 2023 Federal Priorities

Infrastructure Funding

- Ensure Congress is aware of the need to provide robust funding for the State Revolving Water funds, permitting more Iowa water providers access to grants, forgivable loans, and low interest revolving loans.
- Urge Congress and the EPA to support state flexibility in implementing funding to water systems.
- If appropriate, seek Congressionally Directed Spending to support infrastructure needs.

Lead Service Line Replacement

- Monitor EPA's progress in establishing final rules regarding lead service line replacement and the October 16, 2024 date for completion of lead service line inventory. Work with federal delegation on implementation of inventory and replacement needs.
- Support work to secure State Revolving Fund lead service line replacement funding.

Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

- Support partnership with US Army Corps of Engineers on implementation of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022 language naming the "Upper Mississippi River Basin" in the Harmful Algal Bloom Demonstration Program. This is critical for research on the Saylorville Reservoir.
- Support the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA's) Regional Resiliency Assessment Program project in Iowa on the impact of HABs on water treatment infrastructure.

PFAS

- Support Air National Guard effort to understand and remediate any PFAS contamination. Seek appropriations of approximately \$2.9 million if needed to support ongoing efforts.
- Monitor and support comment period on EPA rule creating a National Drinking Water Standard for PFOA and PFOS.
- Raise PFAS liability concerns.

Cybersecurity Compliance

- Monitor federal cybersecurity developments and provide DMWW with early information to assist with internal compliance to changing mandates.