

CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL WATER MEETING

Thursday, January 30, 2020

4:45 p.m.

Des Moines Water Works

2201 George Flagg Parkway, Des Moines, IA 50321

Present:

City of Altoona – Councilmember Vern Willey
City of Ankeny – Mayor Gary Lorenz; David Jones, City Manager
City of Clive – Mayor Scott Cirksema; Matt McQuillan, City Manager
City of Cumming – Mayor Tom Becker
City of Des Moines – Mayor Frank Cownie; Scott Sanders, City Manager
Des Moines Water Works – Andrea Boulton (by phone), Sue Huppert, Graham Gillette, Diane Munns and Board Members; Ted Corrigan, staff
City of Johnston – Jim Sanders, City Manager
City of Norwalk – Luke Nelson, City Manager
City of Pleasant Hill – Ben Champ, City Manager
City of Polk City – Mike Schulte, staff
Polk County – Mark Wandro, County Administrator; Bob Rice, staff
City of Urbandale – Mayor Bob Andeweg; A.J. Johnson, City Manager
Urbandale Water Works – Dale Acheson, staff
Warren Water – Stan Ripperger, staff
City of West Des Moines – Tom Hadden, City Manager
West Des Moines Water Works – Brian Rickert and Jody Smith (by phone), Board Members; Christina Murphy, staff
City of Waukee – Rudy Koester, Director of Public Works

Members of the public were also in attendance.

Meeting began at 4:45 p.m.

1. Review of Regionalization Discussions to Date – Ms. Munns welcomed everyone. Mr. Corrigan reiterated the Board of Trustees commitment to pursue a regional entity with the shared benefit for the community. Working together is in the best interest for the management of the natural resource. Des Moines Water Works released a draft term sheet in September 2019, as a framework, and met with individual communities, entities and interested parties to discuss the term sheet and answer questions. In addition, Des Moines Water Works has offered the consultant’s assistance to review data. From those meetings, there were shared feedback on a number of items to be addressed, including: broader representation on the new Board would be desirable, possibly comparable to the WRA model; as well as communities waiting for results from the Western Regional Studies. What’s next? DMWW recommends establishing a “date of certain” – when will you be ready to be make a decision? Then move forward with participant decision and a possible resolution of participation. Mr. Corrigan stated there is a need for “critical mass” to move

forward. DMWW makes this proposal with the specific intent of maintaining a single, all-inclusive regional entity.

2. Open Discussion – Mayor Lorenz suggests a resolution of support of framework, then work on the details. Designate technical/financial and governance committees to work on the details. Mayor Cownie addressed the benefits of working together. Christina Murphy provided an update on the western regional studies – 5-8 weeks out. Ms. Murphy said full regionalization is still an option WDMWW is considering, but there are still outstanding issues in the framework that they would like to discuss. Dale Acheson stated he is going to do what's best for Urbandale in the long haul.

Waukee also has outstanding items on draft term sheet/framework and is meeting with DMWW to discuss.

Mark Wando suggested that DMWW draft a resolution to send to communities. WDMWW does not agree with passing a resolution, at this point.

DMWW is asking for a date from communities when they will be at a point to decide. DMWW will begin 2021 budgeting in July. DMWW asked what is the reasonable date for next steps? Ms. Murphy suggested three weeks from now she would be able to provide a better update on the status of the studies.

There was a commitment to working through outstanding items within the term sheet in a committee fashion. Entities/communities will select a representative(s) to attend a future meeting and commit to work through outstanding issues within the draft term sheet, simultaneously working towards a “date certain.”

3. Adjournment – Meeting ended at 5:43 p.m.