

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

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

3:30 p.m.

The Meeting was conducted by video conference.

Present (by Video or Audio Conference Link):

Board Members: Mr. Joel Aschbrenner, Ms. Andrea Boulton, and Ms. Diane Munns.

Staff Members: Theresa Braden, Pat Bruner, Nathan Casey, Ted Corrigan, Kyle Danley, Doug Garnett, Amy Kahler, Mike McCurnin, Jenny Puffer, Laura Sarcone, Jennifer Terry, and Michelle Watson.

Also in Attendance: John Lande (legal counsel)

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

1. TCE South Plume

Mr. McCurnin provided an update on what staff refers to as the “TCE South Plume” (TCE contamination in the broad area south of George Flagg Parkway and north of Bell Avenue (between Fleur Drive and SW 30th). State regulators (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) have been investigating this area since 2004. There had been a known solvent release in the vicinity and a variety of monitoring wells were initially installed to assess the situation. After several years of monitoring and evaluating, IDNR believes the most elevated source concentrations are present at a property at 2201 Bell Ave., the location of the former Stone Container operation which is currently owned by Mid-America Development Company. In February of 2020, IDNR submitted a Request for Federal Action to the U.S. EPA., placing the site into a further investigation phase to be completed by U.S. EPA with possible removal and remediation by a determined responsible party.

In January of 2021 U.S. EPA and its contractor (Tetra Tech) made an initial visit to Des Moines and DMWW to take samples at various locations within the infiltration gallery system. While this is a lone test date, staff can report that detection of cis-1,2-dichloroethene (DCE) at very low concentrations (near 1 part per billion) was found at the gallery Valve Chamber #4, the intercept shaft, and the north shaft. The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for cis-1,2-dichloroethene is 70 parts per billion. Significantly, there was no detection in Valve Chambers 3, 5, 7 and 8, which indicates that the pollutant was not present in western and northern collection elements of the infiltration gallery. Staff will continue to coordinate with U.S. EPA and monitor this situation.

2. 2021 Park Events (DMWW and DMWWPF)

In light of ongoing pandemic concerns and City of Des Moines’ Mayoral proclamations regarding outdoor gatherings, Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) staff and Des Moines Water Works Park Foundation (DMWWPF) personnel have developed guidelines and concepts to govern outdoor events held in Water Works Park. The intention with the guidelines is to balance enjoyment and promotion of the park and its amenities by the public with the need of safety of park patrons attending larger events. Mr. McCurnin shared that guidelines have been developed for the following types of events: races/runs/walks, small performances/dances/dinners, recitals/small performances, and Lauridsen Amphitheater & Killinger Family Stage events.

3. CEO and General Manager's Comments

Mr. Corrigan reported that the Ironman Foundation intends to hold its triathlon in Des Moines on June 20th, which includes a transition at the amphitheater. The five-year CIP will be reviewed at the April 13th Finance and Audit Committee meeting. HDR's Long Range Plan Update will be shared with suburban customers at a meeting on April 15th. Strategic planning efforts are moving forward, and Mr. Corrigan will be seeking board members' input/recommendations on members for the Community Advisory Group. He also advised that we are moving toward resumption of in-person Board and Board Committee meetings in the month of July with Zoom links available to allow for virtual attendance.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.