

News and Updates from  
Des Moines Water Works

**MAY 2023**

# H<sub>2</sub>O LINE

**THINK DOWNSTREAM**

## Regional Drinking Water System Sees Progress

### Second Draft of Agreement sent to potential member agencies



**T**he metro's three board-governed water utilities moved a step closer to creating a regional drinking water system that will ensure resiliency and redundancy of central Iowa's water production system and provide collaborative management of water resources both now and in the future.

Des Moines Water Works, Urbandale Water Utility and West Des Moines Water Works jointly released a second draft of the regional governance agreement that, if approved, would establish Central Iowa Water Works (CIWW), a wholesale regional water production entity.

"We remain hopeful that this agreement will be finalized by the end of 2023 and development of Central Iowa Water Works can begin," said Ted Corrigan, CEO and General Manager of DMWW.

CIWW would not replace or eliminate DMWW or the water boards or water departments in any community. Under the proposed agreement, a member agency would supply water it purchases from CIWW to its retail customers, set its own water rates, operate and maintain its local distribution system, and provide all of its own customer service.

Discussions about developing a regional drinking water authority have been ongoing in the metro for more than a decade, becoming more serious and productive among the three board-governed water utilities in 2020.

CIWW's governing board will work collaboratively to facilitate the growth of the metro's water system for years to come. Coordinated planning of treatment plant expansions and new treatment

plants will benefit the entire region. A collaborative regional approach will provide safeguards against natural disasters and more resiliency within the water system during times of drought or water quality challenges. It also provides economies of scale, allowing utilities and providers to deliver water at a lower cost than working independently.

Sue Huppert, Vice Chair and long-time member of the DMWW Board of Trustees, applauds the efforts and the discipline of the development process.

"Des Moines and the entire region have grown significantly since DMWW first started providing water to other communities," she said. "Looking forward, we are better able to meet the challenge of providing safe drinking water to 600,000 central Iowans if we work together. The benefits for customers and regional partners have been at the forefront of developing this agreement and remain the driving force."

Potential founding partners for CIWW, including other metro communities and water districts, are expected to review the regional governance agreement and return comments with the goal of a final agreement being established by the end of 2023.

**Des Moines**  
**Water Works**  
Water You Can Trust for **Life**

## Meet a Trustee: Chairwoman Andrea Boulton

Andrea is chairwoman of the Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees. Des Moines Mayor Frank Cownie appointed her in 2019 to fill two months of a term and subsequently reappointed her to serve a six-year term that runs through April 1, 2025.



### Where's home?

Central New York. I attended Drake University for my undergraduate and master's degrees in public administration.

### Tell us about your work:

I work for the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation as the Trails and Community Conservation Director. I help develop and acquire the land for multi-use trails across Iowa, write grants and help inform our residents about conservation and recreation.

### Why the DMWW

**Board?** I'm excited to put this next phase of regional governance (Central Iowa Water

Works) into practice and to be part of this collaboration. Not only that, but to be part of the leadership Des Moines Water Works has shown when it comes to the resource of water and advocating for water quality and the care shown for our customers, now and moving into the future. Des Moines Water Works is key in helping customers understand why they should care about water quality. When you're good at your job, people don't realize you have water quality problems or the cost and the work that goes into treating water so it's safe to drink.

**Family:** Husband, Nate, and daughters Gwyn and Alys.

## 30 Years Later: DMWW Collects Flood of '93 Stories

**O**n July 11, 1993, the Raccoon River crested at 26.7 feet, 14.7 feet above flood stage and flooded Des Moines Water Works' Fleur Drive Treatment Plant. The plant shut down, and residents were without water service for 11 days and potable (drinkable) water for 18 days.

Thirty years later, our community is served by two additional water treatment plants and has made numerous other investments in flood protection to ensure water resiliency.

### 30 Years Later

Take a trip down memory lane with us. Des Moines Water Works wants your stories and photos of the 1993 Flood. Please email images and stories, along with your name and phone number to: [floodof93@dmww.com](mailto:floodof93@dmww.com). Deadline is June 1.

## DMWW Joins Iowa Learning Farms for Conservation on Tap event series

**L**ocal farmers, landowners and metro residents are invited to join Des Moines Water Works and Iowa State University in a casual conversation about conservation topics and water quality.

Our first "Conservation on Tap" event will be from 6 to 7 p.m. May 18 at Firetrucker Brewery in Ankeny. To ensure adequate space and food, please RSVP by calling 515-294-5429 or email [ilf@iastate.edu](mailto:ilf@iastate.edu).

Hosts include Ted Corrigan, DMWW CEO and General Manager; Dr. Mark Licht, associate professor and extension cropping systems specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach; and Liz Ripley, who works through Iowa Learning Farms with farmers and landowners to explore conservation practices that best align with their farming practices. Staff from Firetrucker Brewery will also join in the conversations as to why water quality matters for brewing.

Future Conservation on Tap events will be from 6 to 7 p.m. Aug. 31 and Oct. 19 at other breweries in the Des Moines metro area.

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