

CENTRAL IOWA REGIONAL WATER UTILITY MEETING

Wednesday, September 27, 2017

7:30 a.m.

Urbandale City Hall

3600 86th St, Urbandale, IA 50322

Present:

City of Ankeny – Mayor Gary Lorenz

City of Des Moines – City Manager Scott Sanders

City of Johnston – City Councilmember David Lindeman

City of Urbandale – Mayor Bob Andeweg

City of Waukee – Mayor Bob Peard

City of West Des Moines – City Manager Tom Hadden

Des Moines Water Works – Susan Huppert, Board Chair; Bill Stowe, staff

Urbandale Water Works – John McCune, Board Chair

West Des Moines Water Works – Diana Wilson, staff

Also in attendance: Jason Mumm, FCS Group; and several members of the public.

1. Welcome – At 7:35 a.m., Mayor Andeweg welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Huppert stated that a series of public workshops will be scheduled on October 9 and 10, with designees from each entity of this work group asked to participate.
2. Defined Look at the Process – Mr. Mumm discussed the overview of the process. We are currently in the defining phase with gathering data. The final phase is the enabling phase, to charter people and teams to take actions necessary to put the solutions to work. Mr. Mumm is currently organizing preliminary categories of issues, including: needs, wants and obstacles, and then prioritizing the preliminary issues, including: level of service, economic, and governance. Mr. Mumm detailed the first order of issues and priorities:
 - Level of Service:
 - Priority 1: Obligation to service, right to serve, meeting regulatory requirements
 - Priority 2: Regional asset inventory
 - Economic:
 - Priority 1: Capitalization of Regional Entity
 - Priority 2: Accounting framework
 - Governance:
 - Priority 1: Authorities of Board, 28E/F
 - Priority 2: Regional representation

Mr. Mumm described his tracking system to fill with documents and notes throughout the process. He noted the level of engagement is high and optimistic. Ms. Huppert stated that there is not a pre-determined solution how to approach the process or a final outcome. She encourages as much participation as possible at the upcoming workshops. Mr. Sanders inquired where in the process current contracts will be assessed. Mayor Lorenz also inquired about current contracts (i.e. purchased capacity agreements). Mr. Mumm noted this can likely be discussed in the “Obligation to Service” category.

3. Discussion – Ms. Huppert stated that it is recommended that local legal counsel be retained to work closely with the facilitator. The three water board chairs will discuss and report back to the group. Ms. Huppert noted that Mayor Gaer received a call from the Mayor of Grimes. It is this group’s intent to be inclusive of the process. Mayor Andeweg also noted that extending information and participation to the business community would be a good idea. Ms. Huppert stated that the facilitator met with Greater Des Moines Partnership early on, and that she and Ms. Novak-Swalwell will be presenting an update to Partnership’s executive board. Ms. Huppert commented that the meeting schedule for November may be amended, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Please plan for November 8 and November 15.
4. Public Comments – Mr. Vern Willey, City of Altoona, inquired about involvement of minority interests. Mayor Andeweg noted that the beginning framework was set up as a manageable group, but now with a facilitator, it will be expanding.

Ms. Gretchen Tegler, Central Iowa Taxpayers Association, expressed appreciation for the efforts thus far and inquired about the mechanism for posting meetings agendas and materials. It was noted that Des Moines Water Works, West Des Moines Water Works, and Urbandale Water Utility have been posting meeting agendas, materials, and minutes. In addition, Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission will post to their website.

Mayor Andeweg stated the next meeting will be Wednesday, October 11, 7:30 a.m., at Urbandale City Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 a.m.