

Myth	Fact
<p><i>West Des Moines Water Works has a contract for all the water it needs with Des Moines Water Works through 2045. There is no need to rush into metro regionalization.</i></p>	<p>The Board of Trustees is acting because the utility needs to plan for future water needs now because the existing water contracts will NOT support the community’s projected growth. The wholesale contract with DMWW allows additional purchase of water outside our purchased capacity of 9.0 MGD providing the water is available. This capacity is very expensive and Des Moines Water Works does not want to go over our existing allowed purchase contract. Continued growth in metro means additional source, treatment, core main and pumping capacity is needed to serve our needs. WDMWW will need to have additional treated water in place in the next 10 years.</p> <p>Full Metro Regionalization is an alternative to the west regional plant with Waukee and Van Meter that would save WDMWW 30% over the next 40 years. The estimated cost for a new water treatment plant is over \$100 million dollars.</p>
<p><i>West Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees are making this decision behind closed doors without public input.</i></p>	<p>The WDMWW Board of Trustees has requested public input at multiple different forums before the proposed vote on a resolution enabling the negotiation of the 28E/F agreements necessary for Metro Regionalization and the formation of Central Iowa Water Works. In fact, the Board of Trustees is so committed to public discussion that it has delayed the resolution vote until Jan. 26, 2022, in order to provide added opportunities. The resolution proposed is not done deal or a final commitment to regionalization. Over the next several months, the trustees will hear public comments on this issue at a number of forums, including monthly board meetings.</p>
<p><i>The City of West Des Moines owns all of the assets of West Des Moines Water Works.</i></p>	<p>West Des Moines Water works is an independent water utility serving the water ratepayers of West Des Moines. The utility owns the A.C. Ward treatment plant, 4 deep wells and 17 shallow wells. While the land is titled in the City’s name for the benefit of the Water Works, the assets are managed by the Water Works. In accordance with Iowa Code, they have all authority to purchase, lease, sell or dispose of property and assets; this includes the management, control and operation of those assets.</p>

<p><i>The unelected WDMWW Board of Trustees believes it can sell/give away the assets without a public vote.</i></p>	<p>The Board of Trustees is appointed by the WDM Mayor and approved by the city council with staggered terms. The Board is entrusted with making the best long-term decisions for our rate payers. WDMWW consulted its legal counsel and received an opinion that no public vote is needed for either the construction of a new plant near Van Meter or full Metro Regionalization.</p>
<p><i>West Des Moines Water Works will lose its assets and its independence.</i></p>	<p>Under the metro plan, the WDMWW production and source water assets will be transferred over a five-year period to Central Iowa Water Works, the regional utility for treating, producing and selling water. As part of this transfer, WDMWW will then own its demand-based proportion of all the water producing assets in the metro. WDMWW and other utilities and communities will continue to own and operate their individual water distribution and storage resources as well as manage their business operations, finances, and billing.</p>
<p><i>Once the WDMWW Board of Trustees passes the resolution on January 26, there is no turning back.</i></p>	<p>The resolution on January 26 will allow negotiations to start. The necessary 28E/F agreements will take six months to a year to formulate. During this process, the board will continue to invite public comment. If these negotiations break down, the board will pursue other options for ensuring there will be ample quality drinking water to serve the growth of the community for decades to come.</p>
<p><i>Forming Central Iowa Water Works just centralizes assets and creates a new layer of bureaucracy.</i></p>	<p>CIWW is directed by the participants from metro communities and water utilities. The cost-savings, transparency, economies of scale and added voice in water policy, direction, development, and safety are key advantages over other options.</p>
<p><i>If other cities and utilities don't join CIWW, West Des Moines Water Works will be at the mercy of Des Moines Water Works and own none of its production and water source assets.</i></p>	<p>The WDMWW is an independent, board-operated utility that has made no commitment to CIWW. The vote on January 26 is a resolution to begin negotiations on the agreements necessary to form CIWW. Metro Regionalization has a long way to go before all participants come to agreement and any assets are transferred. If some communities choose not to participate, WDMWW/s board of trustees will continue to evaluate whether it still makes sense for our utility to participate.</p>

<p><i>Des Moines Water Works has crumbling infrastructure that will suck money and assets away from other communities and utilities.</i></p>	<p>DMWW announced its long-range plan for infrastructure improvements in 2017. The utility has spent \$40 million over the past five years on infrastructure and production facility maintenance.</p> <p>The CIWW will not be run by Des Moines Water Works and the assets transferred to it will not belong to DMWW but rather to every member community.</p> <p>More than three decades ago, WDMWW began a planned strategic replacement and upgrade of distribution and infrastructure assets. In fact, WDMWW leads its peer group in the condition of its water mains and distribution assets.</p>
<p><i>The Micro Group was just a fancy name for WDMWW, DMWW and the Urbandale Water Utility to have secret meetings on this regionalization plan that is now being pushed through in two weeks.</i></p>	<p>The three board-operated utilities met to see if there was a way to work together. The results of the meetings were published as The Central Iowa Water Works Micro Group: Report Out on Discussions, Outcomes and Considerations. The initial report was published in June 2021, and the revised version was published in November 2021—both are available to the public and contain the following disclosure.</p> <p>HOW THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE USED</p> <p><u>The concepts outlined in this document are strictly a culmination of the work of the individuals comprising the Micro Group and have not been formally or informally approved by any one of the associated Boards of Trustees.</u> The distribution of this document does not imply support or approval of the concepts by the associated Boards of Trustees. This framework should not be considered an offer or proposal; rather, based on feedback and follow up discussions, it may be used as the basis for a proposal or negotiated 28E/28F agreement which all participating regional agencies, including city councils and the three utility Boards, would review and formally approve before any regional entity would exist. Use of the term “Consensus” within this document refers only to the individuals within the Micro Group as it relates to evaluating a full regionalization option.</p>