



NEWS RELEASE

BOARD RESOLUTION RESCHEDULED TO LATE JANUARY 2022

WDMWW Adds Public Meetings on Regionalization

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (Dec. 9, 2021) — The West Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees is delaying action on a vote to decide the path forward for future water supply. The recommendation from the subcommittee to move forward with a resolution to begin with negotiations toward a 28E/F as a first step towards full regionalization remains on the table and will be considered on January 26.

The board decision comes after recent public meetings and outreach had yielded relatively few comments from residents and ratepayers. To achieve a more robust public discussion, the trustees have added three additional opportunities for comments and questions. These additional public meetings are scheduled for after the holidays when it may be more convenient for ratepayers to share their input. The following public meetings are scheduled:

- **Tuesday, Dec. 14, at 5:30 p.m.**, West Des Moines City Council Chambers
- **Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 4 p.m.**, regularly scheduled board of trustees meeting, A.C. Ward Municipal Water Treatment Plant boardroom, 1505 Railroad Ave., West Des Moines
- **NEW Saturday, Jan. 15, 2022, at 9 a.m.**, Valley Junction Activity Center, 217 5th St., West Des Moines (parking behind the building)
- **NEW Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, at 4 p.m.**, regularly scheduled board of trustees meeting, A.C. Ward Municipal Water Treatment Plant boardroom, 1505 Railroad Ave., West Des Moines
- **NEW Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, at 4 p.m.**, special meeting to consider a resolution A.C. Ward Municipal Water Treatment Plant boardroom, 1505 Railroad Ave., West Des Moines

“At this point, we have heard from very few people; some at both of the public meetings held so far,” said **Christina Murphy**, general manager. “The board is providing more opportunities to hear from more people before voting on this initial resolution, which allows for negotiations of the 28E/F agreement.”

The resolution is but a first step necessary to pursue the pathway of full metro regionalization. Should the resolution pass, regionalization will still be far from a “done deal,” as noted by WDMWW Board Chair **Scott Brennan**.

“Over the past several years, many proposals for regionalization have failed for a variety of reasons. The current framework provides communities and utilities such as WDMWW with a seat at the table for shared governance of source water and water treatment and production,” Brennan explained. “We maintain our independence and control over our distribution and gain a level of transparency and important input we have never had in our purchased water contracts with Des Moines Water Works.”

The 28E/F agreements will establish Central Iowa Water Works, a regional utility owned by its metro participants for the purpose of treating and producing water, managing source water, setting wholesale rates and selling water to the owner participants, all of whom agree to buy all of their water from CIWW. The board-governed utilities—Des Moines Water Works, WDMWW and the Urbandale Water Utility—as well as metro communities and rural water providers may be joining the regional effort.

Multiple Options Studied

West Des Moines Water Works produces up to 10 million gallons of water daily through its production facility and secures additional capacity—approximately 30 percent of its total water—from Des Moines Water Works. WDMWW has contracts for capacity of up to 9 million gallons per day with DMWW through the year 2045, providing the water is available.

“Our growth estimates and patterns tell us that we will need additional water in 10 years,” Murphy emphasized. “You can’t build a new treatment plant overnight. It takes years for planning, design and construction after you identify source water. The board understands this and has examined several pathways in this process.”

In addition to full metro regionalization, the WDMWW trustees studied and secured permits for western treatment plant with Van Meter and Waukee. This 8-mgd reverse-osmosis, shallow well treatment plant will add capacity, but is insufficient to serve all future growth and needs. Moving forward, the western treatment plant—estimated to cost at least \$100 million pre-Covid—would cost WDMWW more than 30 percent more over 40 years than full metro regionalization.

The board also entertained regionalization with the western suburbs. The idea was not pursued since all the utilities and communities involved purchase some or all of their water from DMWW.

“Right now, we merely have a framework for negotiations and discussions for full regionalization, and we are sharing this information with the public and our ratepayers,” Brennan added. “We have a long way to go and there will be multiple public meetings along the way.”

Public Comment Sought

In addition to the forums, the public may also provide information and opinions by emailing the board at comments@wdmww.com. More information related to regionalization and the options considered can be found at www.wdmww.com/ciww.

The West Des Moines Water Works is owned by the citizens of West Des Moines and governed by a five-member Board of Trustees. Appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council for staggered six-year terms, the trustees formulate policies and govern the operations of the water utility. Managed by a professional staff, West Des Moines Water Works is supported solely by the revenues it generates by supplying water to the community’s residents and businesses. The utility treats up to 10 million gallons of water per day, sourced from a combination of four deep wells and 17 shallow wells. The board of trustees is composed of: Scott Brennan, chair; Gretchen Tegeler, vice chair; Jody Smith; Mary Thompson; and Erin Sheriff.

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