

## Are You Water Savvy? Test Your H<sub>2</sub>O Knowledge with WDMWW

So just how much do you know about the world's fresh water supply? Up your trivia knowledge with this brief quiz.

### What is the longest river in the world?

The Nile at 4,132 miles flowing through Northeast Africa is the longest river in the world, and it has 132 miles on the next longest—the Amazon.

### How many bridges are there on the Amazon River?

Zero. The Amazon flows through South America's rainforests where there are no roads or cities.

### What is the longest river in the United States?

The Missouri is the longest at 2,540, outstretching the legendary Mississippi by 200 miles. The Missouri flows into the Mississippi and together they constitute the world's fourth largest river system.

### What is Iowa's longest River?

The Des Moines River flows for 525 miles, of which 485 are in Iowa.

### How many continental divides are there in the U.S.?

Four. A divide is an imaginary line that separates the flow of water, east and west or north and south. The most well-known divide in the U.S. lies in the Rocky Mountains and, it is often referred to as *The* Great Continental Divide as if only one exists. The others

are: the **Eastern Divide** found in the crest of the Appalachian Mountains, the **Northern or Laurentian Divide**, which extends from Montana through Minnesota, and the **St. Lawrence Seaway Divide**, which starts in Minnesota and dips down to Oak Park, Ill., before ending in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.



### What's the most popular mixed drink in the world?

It's two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen (water). Yes, this is sort of a trick question. But for those of you guessing libations, according to TheRichest.com, the Bloody Mary grabs the No. 1 spot for top-selling cocktail in the world.

### Where do Iowa Rivers flow?

The Gulf of Mexico via the Mississippi River.

*"Quiz" continued on page 2*

## WDMWW's Operational Strength Plays Well with Wall Street

West Des Moines Water Works took advantage of lower interest rates recently to issue \$6.65 million in water revenue

bonds. The new bond issue lowers the utility's overall borrowing costs and provides approximately \$2 million in low-cost funding for capital projects now under way.

The bonds, which carry an interest rate of 1.604 percent, will save WDMWW \$467,202.89 in interest costs as a result of paying down higher priced bonds from previous issues. Moody's Investor Service rated the bonds Aa2.

"This is an excellent rating for a utility—top of its peer group," noted Larry Burger of Speer Finan-

cial. "We had a very good showing of interest for these bonds, and that's a testament to the operational strength and stability of the Water Works."

“... a testament to the operational strength and stability of West Des Moines Water Works.”

Burger was further impressed that a total of nine underwriters participated in five competitive bids for the water revenue bond project. Hutchinson, Schokey, Erley & Co. of Chicago won the business.

The funds from bonds issued on December 2, 2013 are already at work, financing the construction of new mains and a pumping station to serve the southwest quadrant of the city.

DID  
YOU  
KNOW



Water covers the earth's surface with only a mere pittance, 2.5%, considered to be "fresh" water fit for human use and consumption. Even more alarming is the fact that most of that water is locked away in polar icecaps, leaving just 0.7 percent of the world's total water to be used and shared by 7.1 billion people.



## Board Approves Rate Adjustment; WDMWW Water Rates Continue to be Among the Lowest in the Metro

**A**fter conducting an extensive study of water revenues and projections for future expansion, the West Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees approved a modest rate adjustment effective January 1, 2014. Even with the adjustment of slightly more than 1 percent, West Des Moines water rates continue to be among the lowest in the metro.

The rates for non-irrigation accounts—will remain the same at \$4.45 per thousand gallons of water consumed. The basic service charge for residential customers will increase by 30 cents a month to \$3.90.

"We take any adjustments in rates quite seriously," said **Diana Wilson**, general manager of the Water Works. "Not only is quality, affordable water essential for the health of citizens living here, it serves a key role in attracting industry and providing aesthetic beauty and recreational opportunities."

### STUDY SHOWS IRRIGATION BIGGEST USE

Rather than adjusting rates across the board, Wilson explained that the Water Works contracted for a third-party study of water rates and critical factors influencing supply and demand—the first such study for the utility since 1997.

"The study confirmed that by far our largest volume users are consuming water for irrigation during the summer when overall consumption peaks and our water costs are the highest," Wilson noted. "This adjustment, approved by the board, shifts the increase to those using the most water."

The rates for irrigation users will increase 30 cents or 6.7 percent, to \$4.75 per thousand gallons of water consumed.

### ADJUSTMENT SHIFTS RATES TO LARGE IRRIGATION USERS

Water consumption peaks in the summer for a variety of reasons: People take more showers, drink more water and wash laundry more often. These uses pale in comparison to commercial and residential irrigation users. In 2013, for example, water usage among commercial irrigation users averaged 126,322 gallons a month from June through September. While residential irrigation is significantly less than commercial, these customers used an average of 15,423 gallons of water a month.



*A typical residential water meter in West Des Moines.*

Overall, this adjustment amounts to a 1.12 percent increase while providing the Water Works with the revenues necessary to cover the anticipated cost increases for water treatment and distribution.

"Our charge from the board of trustees is to maintain affordable water rates, while managing our treatment and production assets to deliver water services that comply with, and preferably exceed, all standards for health and safety," Wilson added. "With this adjustment, our rates remain among the lowest in the metro area."

## So ... How Savvy is Your Water Knowledge Thus Far?

*"Quiz" continued from page 1*

### What is Iowa's largest lake?

At 5,684 acres, Big Spirit Lake is the largest *natural* lake in Iowa. Red Rock Reservoir is the largest man-made lake at 15,250 acres.

### What's the average rainfall in Iowa in a year?

34 inches, with a range of 26 in the northwest to 38 in the southeast.

### What month is it most likely to flood in Iowa?

June, which has the highest average rainfall of any month – 4.64 inches.

### What's the most rainfall in one day in Iowa?

13.18 inches in Atlantic on June 14, 1998.

### What is the peak month for thunderstorms in Iowa?

June.

### Where is the oldest water tower in Iowa?

The oldest water tower in Iowa, and ninth oldest in the U.S., is in Scranton.

### How many gallons of water does the average West Des Moines household use in a year, not including irrigation?

Approximately 72,000 gallons.

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