

Minutes

Technical Committee
Central Iowa Water Works
June 25, 2025
Des Moines Water Works Board Room
2201 George Flagg Parkway
Des Moines, Iowa
11:00 a.m.

Present: Dustin Delvaux (CIWW), Aaron Vollmer (AE2S), Andy Fish (Warren Water District), Ben Champ, Candace Bell, Christina Murphy (WDMWW), Corey Iben (Xenia), Ted Corrigan (DMWW), Kyle Danley (DMWW), Jeff May (Clive), Jerry Freestone (Clive), Amy Kahler (DMWW), Kevin Hensley (Grimes), Lyle Hammes (WDMWW), Madeline Sturms, Tami Madsen (CIWW), Matt Ahrens (Grimes), Matt Greiner (Johnston), Matt Van Wyk (Warren Water District), Mike Schulte (Polk City), Royce Hammitt (Xenia), Ryan Curell (Wixted), Laura Sarcone, Shari Buehler, Shawn Buckner (Ankeny), Tim Royer (Waukee), Melissa Walker (DMWW), Matthew Jacob (Urbandale Water Utility), Neil Weiss (Urbandale Water Utility)

ITEM 1: Call to Order

Chair Kyle Danley called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

ITEM 2: Roll Call

ITEM 3: Stage III Update

ITEM 4: Other Business

The sod community is very upset and reaching out to law makers and representatives. The answer is very nuanced between the primary goal of providing drinking water that meets the safety standards while not hurting businesses or new homeowners.

Tami Madsen stated a potential solution of issuing sod permits. The permits would be issued to sod companies so that CIWW can track the water demand by issuing twenty-five permits per company and including an expiration date so they can be reissued if they go unused. Companies must bring in their business license to obtain permits. It is important to limit the number of initial permits and then add more as confidence to support more lawn watering for new sod installations. The sod installers are not responsible for the watering process. If demand reaches beyond capacity, then CIWW could reach out to the homeowner/property owner to reduce watering. She emphasized that this is just a proposal at this time.

Concern was voiced about what would happen if the nitrates rise quickly, demand isn't slowing down,

and now there are sod permits that say they have the right to water.

Historically nitrates decrease when entering July. The permit is about buying time until the nitrates decrease while allowing sod businesses to continue, even if to a lesser degree. One of the larger sod companies said they do about 75 properties over the month of July. Des Moines Water Works can handle about 1-2 MGD more on the system but not much beyond that at this time. Given the number of permits expected to be issued to sod companies, the estimated amount of water use is around 1 MGD which means the system can support it.

Neil Weiss stated that we should hold steady where we are and plan proposals for the next time, especially since we will have more data.

Matt Greiner was worried that if we don't do this now, and the data doesn't change next week, then we are a week behind where we could have been.

The Executive Committee has requested any decision in regard to this be brought to the board.

Christina Murphy motioned to implement a permitting process with a 1 MGD for new sod and ask that DMWW operator evaluate and make a report to the CIWW Executive Director. Tim Royer seconded the motion.

Roll Call vote: Aye – Ankeny, Des Moines Water Works, Johnston, Grimes, Warren Water District, Waukee, West Des Moines Water Works, Xenia. Nay – Clive, Urbandale. Absent – Norwalk.

ITEM 5: Adjourn

Chair Danley adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.