

Draft letter to Water Works Board from Mayor Cownie

On January 7, 2008 the Des Moines City Council by a vote of _____ authorized me to send this letter to you regarding important issues affecting the future of the City of Des Moines and the Des Moines Water Works.

The DMWW has for many years demonstrated a strong commitment to providing quality water for the businesses and residents in Des Moines. As we look to the future, the provision of plentiful water at a low cost will most certainly be one of the essential elements of both the quality of life we all enjoy, as well as our ability to attract and retain new economic activity.

The DMWW and the City of Des Moines have enjoyed a positive long term relationship. The City appoints the members of the Water Works Board of Trustees, and we have numerous intergovernmental agreements which impact various aspects of our operation. Moreover, the construction and maintenance of water treatment and distribution systems within the City of Des Moines are of great importance to the future of our City.

Our respective organizations serve some of the same customers and we have opportunities (and obligations) to improve operating efficiencies through collaboration, to provide the lowest possible rates to the customers, and to ensure that the water infrastructure is sufficient to meet our future needs.

We would like to initiate a dialogue with you that would allow us to better understand the potential opportunities before us.

We ask that the Des Moines Water Works Board of Trustees conduct a comprehensive review of our water supply system. Our dialogue with you and this comprehensive review would be aided by an analysis of production and treatment facilities, distribution systems, maintenance practices, operating procedures, opportunities for the cooperation and collaboration, existing and contemplated agreements, and overall financial condition and administrative policies. This review should also address the need for an assessment of current and future infrastructure needs,

We offer the help and support of the Council and City Manager's Office as this study proceeds forward. Towards that end representatives of the Council and the City Manager are available to attend your meetings and provide support and assistance. It is important that our work be as open and transparent as possible. We suggest that this subject be the topic of a joint meeting of the Water Board and the City Council.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. If you have questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me or City Manager Richard Clark.

Mayor Cownie