

CITY OF DUBUQUE - COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

GOVERNMENTAL BODY: Resilient Community Advisory Commission (RCAC)

DATE: 10/30/2025

TIME: 5:00 pm

LOCATION: Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robin Kennicker, Jake Kohlhaas, Nolan Bielinski, Dave McDermott, Rachel Schmidt Boeke, and Lalith Jayawickrama

MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

STAFF PRESENT: Gina Bell and Michelle Kim

Kohlhaas called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm

TEST AGENDA

MINUTES APPROVAL:

- Kennicker motions to approve, McDermott seconds
 - Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NA

New Business:

- **PFAS & Water quality update from the City of Dubuque Water Department**
 - In August 2022 the City of Dubuque water department participated in a voluntary sampling collection and testing with the Iowa DNR.
 - Samples were taken from DBQ's finished water and two shallow wells
 - They detected some PFAS in the shallow wells, but not in the deep wells.
 - This resulted in the development of a utilization strategy to prioritize drawing water from the deep wells and only pull from the shallow wells when needed to meet water demands.
 - The City stopped drawing water from the two wells, notified the public, and tested the rest of the wells
 - In 2024 the EPA announced regulations for 6 PFAS for drinking water
 - Public water systems must monitor for these 6 PFAS and have 3 years to complete initial monitoring (2027 deadline)
 - The City is has started to budget for a new deep well to be able to meet water demand without utilizing the shallow wells
 - Currently looking to finalize the location

- ETA 2028
- The Water Department is monitoring the levels consistently and matching specific shallow wells with spikes in PFAS concentration to help make decisions on which shallow wells to use if the need arises
- Water department to rehab the existing filters and put granular activated carbon to help “absorb” the PFAS out of the water. This is budget for FY 2028-29
- PFAS is NOT a by product of anything that the Water Department or the WRRC are doing.

Old Business:

- Leases for farmland – next steps
 - Commissions consensus: First steps are to figure out where the farmland is and how much farmland the City has which will help us determine next steps
 - A potential recommendation to council to consolidate all lease agreements in one place
 - Look at what Cedar Rapids did with the farmland and see if any of their practices are translatable to Dubuque

Commissioner Reports: How Did I Show Up?

- Bielinski – Discussing AI in various groups at UD (storage, data centers, water usage, electricity usage) to development a preemptive policy (with demands/regulations) for potential businesses that come forward and ask to build a data center in Dubuque. Expressed that we need to draft a policy to prepare, especially around energy and water usage.
 - Crosswalks are needed on UD campus, what can he do to get this started?
- Kennicker – Parks and Rec was granted money to put into Eagle Point Park
- Kohlhaas – Gathered student volunteers to clean up trees in a prairie

Important Dates

Staff updates

- SD grants have not gone to council because there is some concern with one of the proposals. It will be on the November 3rd council agenda.
- Gina is going to Brazil to the World Leaders and Local Leaders summit Mayor Cavanaugh will not be attending.

Next meeting date: The next commission meeting will occur on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 5pm at the Jule Operations and Training Center (JOTC) in the Circle Conference Room, 949 Kerper Blvd

ADJOURNMENT: The Commission adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Minutes approved by: _____

Jacob Kohlhaas, Commission Chair

Prepared by: _____

Michelle Kim, Climate Action Coordinator