

## **RESOLUTION NO. 63-R-2022-2023**

### **WATER CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE CITY OF STORM LAKE**

As part of the Water Use Permit issued by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, communities are required to adopt a water conservation plan to address their water needs and usage. It is important to note that the State of Iowa owns the water in Iowa and permits the use. Although water conservation plans are mandated by state legislation for water use permits, communities are encouraged to continue practicing conservation measures even when drought conditions do not exist. This will ensure that future Water Use Permits are authorized.

Due to drought conditions, water shortages have occurred which present a hazard to the health, safety and welfare of the residents of this community. The following Water Conservation Plan is prepared for all the users of the City of Storm Lake water system to conserve water and cut water usage. This plan provides practical alternatives for daily water usage and consumption. Water usage can be minimized, and the unnecessary waste of water can be eliminated if the plan is followed.

Users of the City of Storm Lake water system shall follow this plan to preserve this precious resource. The plan's goal is to increase awareness of the water shortage to ensure that an adequate supply of quality water will be available to meet Storm Lake's drinking water demands.

The intent of this plan is to educate Storm Lake's water system users about water efficiency and conservation and to cut water usage. Steps will be taken to monitor water usage. If water usage does not decrease as a result of this plan, the City will mandate that water conservation measures are taken in order to ensure adequate water supply is available for the health and safety of water system users.

#### Level 1- Education and Public Information Water Efficiency

Starting May of each year there will be an increase of public outreach through print media, radio, Facebook, and City Website. Efforts may include partnerships with home builders, local nurseries, Iowa Central Community College, Buena Vista University, Tyson Foods, Storm Lake Community School District, and/or others.

Water saving appliances, installing water saving devices, repairing leaks and reusing water for other purposes are easy and effective practices to reduce water use.

#### LAWN and GARDEN

Water use on the lawn and garden naturally increases during the summer months. Much of this water is wasted due to poor watering methods. Between 20-50% of water used on outdoor landscape either evaporates or runs off. To reduce the frequency of lawn watering, the following methods should be used:

#### WATERING

To protect lawns from permanent damage, a light watering of about ½ inch every two weeks will be adequate. This practice may not keep the lawn green, but it will give the lawn enough moisture to keep the roots and crowns alive. The lawn will go dormant protecting itself by

stopping growth and concentrating the moisture in its buds and other vital plant parts. A lawn can remain dormant for several months under this type of maintenance and recover reasonably well in the fall. If you must water the lawn, the best time to do so is early in the morning or early evening when evaporation is at a minimum.

### MOWING

To minimize stress on your lawn during drought conditions, raise the height of your mower. The taller grass provides more protection for the moisture holding buds from the sun. This will result in less water for the lawn.

### WEED CONTROL

Spot treatment of broadleaf weeds will reduce stress on your lawn. Avoid blanket applications to kill these weeds because this adds more stress to the lawn and requires more watering.

### MULCH

Use mulch to conserve moisture in your garden, planting beds, and around newly set trees. An organic mulch two to three inches deep will keep the soil damp and cool.

### WATER SAVING HORTICULTURE

When you plant, plant hearty species that don't require as much water. Native plants usually don't require as much water and can withstand bright sunlight better.

### BACKYARD POOLS

Cover pools when not in use to prevent evaporation and to keep them clean. Avoid filling pools too full to prevent splashing. Re-use water for watering plants, shrubs, and lawns when changing water in the pool.

### WASHING VEHICLES

Another big user of water is washing cars. This activity should be kept at a minimum. Use a hose with an automatic shut-off and wash vehicles in grass so water is not wasted on concrete.

### RAIN COLLECTION

Capture and recycle rainwater by placing barrels or buckets beneath your downspouts. Use it to water your lawn and landscape plants.

### Level 2- Voluntary Water Conservation Emergency

The City's Average Daily flow is 3.5 Million Gallons a Day. Voluntary measures will go into effect starting when there is a consecutive five (5) day period that the water plant operates at 4.6 MGD or if the City Manager deems an emergency. If these voluntary steps do not achieve 15% reduction in water usage, the City will invoke Level 3. A Voluntary Water Emergency will be issued by a Mayoral or City Manager Proclamation.

The City will:

- Minimize hydrant flushing
- Minimize street flushing
- Minimize sewer flushing

- Minimize washing City vehicles
- Minimize fire flow test and fire training
- Reduce lawn sprinkling on City property, ballfields and golf course using City Water
  - No watering allowed on days proclaimed by the Mayor
  - Lawns and flower beds should NOT be watered between the hours of 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Lawns and flower beds should NOT be watered between the hours of 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Issue permits to residents for new sod or grass seed
- Issue permits for power washing buildings and concrete
- Issue permits for outdoor swimming pool filling
- Notify contract water users of voluntary measures

Storm Lake Water Users shall:

- Minimize Car washing . If washing vehicles is necessary, use a hose that is equipped with an automatic shut-off nozzle and wash vehicles on lawns to ensure water is not wasted on concrete.
- No watering allowed on days and times proclaimed by the Mayor
- Lawns and flower beds should NOT be watered between the hours of 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Permits will be needed for outdoor swimming pools. Pools may be filled between the hours of 8:00 p.m.-8:00 a.m.
- No watering during rain or high wind
- Minimize power washing sidewalks, buildings and driveways

Level 3- Mandatory Water Conservation- Municipal infractions will be issued for violations

Mandatory measures will go into effect starting when there is consecutive five (5) day period that the water plant operates at over 4.6 MGD or when the City Manager deems an emergency. If these mandatory steps do not achieve 20% reduction in water usage, the City will invoke Level 4. A Mandatory Water Emergency will be issued by a Mayoral or City Manager Proclamation.

The City Will:

- Curtail all street flushing (except for emergencies)
- Curtail sewer flushing (except for emergencies)
- Curtail hydrant flushing(except for emergencies)
- Curtail washing City vehicles
- Curtail fire flow tests and fire training
- Curtail various fountains
- Curtail lawn sprinkling on City Property and ballfields
- Minimally water golf course greens
- No permit will be issued for new sod or grass seed
- No permit will be issued for power washing building and concrete
- Issue municipal infraction for violators

Storm Lake Water Users Shall:

- Water on days proclaimed by the Mayor
- Minimize car washing.
- No water shall be used to clean driveways and sidewalks. Use a broom instead of water to clean patios, sidewalks and driveways.
- No water shall be used to power wash buildings
- No Watering lawns or flower beds between the hours of 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
- Outdoor pools may only be filled between the hours of 8:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m. with a permit
- Minimize power washing sidewalks, buildings and driveways
- Using drinking water resources for dust control or construction purposes
- Automatic car washes will assist the City as best they can at reducing water usage.

Level 4- Declaration of Water Emergency will be declared by the City Manager

When the plant reaches maximum capacity 5MGD a water emergency will be declared.

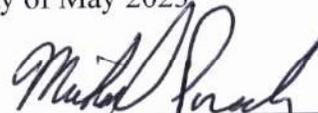
The City Shall:

- Eliminate all street flushing (except for emergencies)
- Eliminate sewer flushing (except for emergencies)
- Eliminate hydrant flushing (except for emergencies)
- Eliminate washing City vehicle.
- Eliminate fire flow tests and fire training.
- Eliminate use of fountains
- Eliminate lawn sprinkling on City Property and ballfields.
- Issue municipal infractions for violators

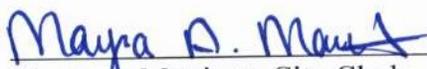
Storm Lake Water Users Shall:

- Eliminate all lawn and flower bed watering.
- Eliminate filling outdoor swimming pools.
- Eliminate car washing.
- Eliminate water for cleaning driveways and sidewalks
- Eliminate use of fountains
- Automatic car washes will be asked to shut down or cut back on production

PASSED AND APPROVED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023.

  
 Michael Porsch, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
 Mayra A. Martinez, City Clerk