Public Meetings in the Time of COVID-19

with Jeff Berckes
The Tick Tock *(not Tik Tok)*...

- 2012 Vision for Iowa – Develop Statewide Beach Bacteria TMDL
- 2014-2017 Develop and execute monitoring plan
- 2018 Develop document
- 2019 Work with EPA for unofficial review...
The Tick Tock *(not Tik Tok)*...

- 3/5/2020 Press Release! Public Meetings Planned for:
  - March 18 in Southern Iowa
  - March 24 Central Iowa
  - April 1 Northern Iowa

- 3/16/2020 – Work from home... meetings cancelled
The Day After Tomorrow

- Quickly extended the public notice period
- Started evaluating options...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Live (Go-To Mtg)</th>
<th>Recorded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:1 Replacement</td>
<td>Editing ability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeps Schedule</td>
<td>More access</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closest to normal</td>
<td>Total control</td>
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<tr>
<td>Access tricky</td>
<td>New &amp; scary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difficult to control</td>
<td>More hurdles...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set time &amp; date</td>
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A Very Particular Set of Skills...

- Record in Zoom, Google hangouts, etc. with present feature
A Very Particular Set of Skills

- Record in Zoom, Google hangouts, etc. with present feature
- Native software or open source program like Blender to combine multiple presentations
  - Important for balancing sound levels
- Or, present together for “crowd”
- Upload to YouTube (Note: YouTube auto-creates transcript but need to edit)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjdzYlH5i6Q&feature=youtu.be
Silver Linings Playbook...

- TMDL meeting attendance range 0-120+
- Typical meeting size 5-10
- YouTube views within Public Notice period >150
- Second Presentation over 90 views in 5 days
- Compliments from...
  - DNR Leadership
  - Natural Resource Commissioner
  - Interest groups
Silver Linings Playbook...

- We made a change due to a global pandemic situation
- We found a better way to reach more people
- We changed a process for the better
- Stay safe!