



CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

06-18-09

IP5

Date: June 18, 2009
To: City Council
From: Rick Fosse, Director of Public Works
Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development
Re: Update: Flood-related activities

Engineering and Public Works Administration

- Work with staff to develop the applications for the Community Disaster Grants.
- Set up the pre-construction meeting for the Iowa Avenue Inverted Siphon Sewer Project.
- Sent letter to request the Army Corps of Engineers to conduct a reconnaissance study for multiple projects along the Iowa River.
- Developing plans for the repair of flood damaged infrastructure.
- Work with Water Division to determine repair and replacement plans for the Iowa River water main crossings.
- Working with the Iowa DOT to reallocate the FHWA emergency repairs funds for Park Road Bridge and Dubuque Street to the elevation Project.
- Met with the University regarding plans for mitigation of steam tunnels with regards to the Burlington Street Median Project.
- Discussion with the Army Corps of Engineers in regards to the construction plans and schedule for the Section 14 Iowa River Bank Stabilization along Dubuque Street downstream from the Park Road Bridge.
- Discussion of a volunteer clean-up effort of the property purchased from the Park View Church.

Water

- Continued replacing meters in flooded areas (Idyllwild & Parkview Terrace) – in-house project – (9 left in Idyllwild and 9 left in Park View Terrace)
- Continue to work with Engineering for design and schedule on the 12" river crossing repairs (Old Plant and Hwy 6)
 1. HRG will provide design, specifications and inspection bid documents for the two projects (temporary and permanent repair). A preliminary estimated cost for the projects has been forwarded to FEMA. We're awaiting HRG's scope of services contract and fee for these projects.
 2. FEMA has completed the PW for the temporary repair and it has been 'obligated'
 3. FEMA has completed the PW for a Geo-Technical Study for the River Crossings and it has been 'obligated'
 4. Upon completion of the Geo-Technical Study FEMA will complete the PW and Hazard Mitigation to replace both river crossings
 - Terracon will be a subcontractor for HRG on the Geo Tech Study. River bed borings are being defined and scheduled.
- Information clarifying the PW and Hazard Mitigation funding for the Peninsula well houses and respective electrical equipment has been accepted by FEMA. We are awaiting the 'obligation' stage.
- We continue to wait for a technical opinion on the potential negative impact of the flood on the capacity of CW 3 & CW 4 in order to submit to FEMA

- A Draft of the Hazard Mitigation report from Howard R. Green is being reviewed by PW staff. Comments will be shared and incorporated for the final report.
- The HRG Hazard Mitigation report will demark the projects covered by FEMA funding and those that will need other funding. We will work with Steve Long to identify funding for additional Hazard Mitigation Projects.

Planning and Community Development

- The City began taking applications for the Business Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) on April 16. This program will assist businesses who pay rent in formerly flooded buildings with 6 months of lease payments. Last week HUD gave their approval to the State for the program so we should have our grant contracts from the state shortly. As soon as we have signed contracts, we can begin preparing contract documents and checks for qualified applicants. To date, we have 38 applications for a total of \$646,000.
- The Jumpstart Small Business Assistance Program closed on April 15. Businesses were eligible for up to \$50,000 in forgivable loan funds plus an additional \$5,000 for reimbursement of new energy efficient equipment. We distributed \$1.25 million to 44 participants. Of the \$1.25 million, \$45,000 was for reimbursement of energy efficient equipment.
- The Iowa City Flood Recovery program, instituted very shortly after the flood, provided up to \$5,000 in grant funds to businesses for flood related clean up expenses. We distributed almost \$75,000 to 18 applicants.
- When the BRAP program begins, we will have assisted 74 businesses to date. Of the 74 business, 74% participated in only one of the 3 programs, 16% in 2 programs and 10% in all 3 programs.
- Staff has assisted 70 households and are still working with approximately 10 additional income eligible households to distribute a total of \$1.6 million in state and federal funds for housing rehabilitation/repair, interim mortgage assistance and downpayment assistance.
- Staff anticipates distributing \$400,000 to households over 150% median income from Community Disaster Grants in the upcoming months.
- In early July, staff anticipates receiving additional state funds (amount currently unknown) in State Jumpstart 3 dollars.
- Approximately 58% of non-buyout residents in Park View Terrace have rebuilt and are living in their homes; at Idyllwild 50% of residents are back at home and the association predicts 90% will be back in their homes by September 1, 2009.
- The HMGP application for the acquisition of 40 properties was submitted to FEMA in January 2009 and was approved in May. The total amount of the application was \$11,529,588. Staff is working with FEMA officials to finish the duplication of benefits review for the first group of applicants submitted to them. Staff is still hoping to do the first closings for HMGP properties by July 1st.
- Eight Community Disaster grants were submitted to Iowa Homeland Security on April 1, 2009. The total amount that Iowa City received was \$2,561,301. The grants are being used to purchase properties in the 100 year flood plain, housing repair for homeowners not eligible for CDBG Jumpstart housing repair money, designing a levee for the Baculis and Thatcher mobile home parks, and reimbursing the city for flood related expenses not covered by other sources.

- The Community Foundation of Johnson County originally allocated \$57,000 to assist flood-affected homeowners with mortgage and rental assistance, with City staff in charge of administering the program. Eventually, 24 families were assisted with \$57,501.98 with many others still waiting for help. Due to the continued need, the Community Foundation approved another funding allocation not to exceed \$39,000. To date we have assisted 13 families with \$34,477.19, with 1 household still to be assisted with this allocation. The total amount of assistance has been \$91,979.17 for 37 families.
- 52 applications were received for the Single-Family New Homes program. We have funding for acquisition assistance for 40 new homes so a drawing will be held on Monday, June 22 at Noon in Emma Harvat Hall to pick the homeowners and to set the priority for the homeowners to choose their home. Mike O'Donnell, Mayor Pro Tem, will be drawing the names.
- City staff helped push for the passage of several pieces of flood related legislation in the Iowa legislature including a bill that reduced the pay back period for forgivable loans for housing repair from 10 years to 5 years.
- Staff will be coordinating the I-JOBS applications to be submitted by to the state by August 3rd. The funding would assist with the costs of relocating the Wastewater Treatment Plant, building Fire Station #4 and assisting with the construction of affordable housing at the city-owned site across from the old St. Patrick's church site.
- Planning staff continue to write grants for the CDBG public infrastructure program.
- Planning staff participated in a conference call on Thursday, May 11 with staff from the Environmental Protection Agency, Rebuild Iowa Office and the Iowa Dept. of Economic Development to discuss the EPA Smart Growth award and the planning process for the redevelopment of the flood affected area between Highway 6 and the CRANDIC railroad tracks and S. Gilbert Street and the Iowa River.
- Nasseem Hesler, Jeff Vanatter and Steve Long attended flood commemoration events at the Idyllwild and Park View Terrace neighborhoods on Saturday, May 13.
- Nasseem Hesler, Doug Ongie and Steve Long attended the University of Iowa flood commemoration event on Monday, May 15.
- Jeff Davidson was part of two flood related call in shows on KXIC over the last week.
- Friday, June 19 is Nasseem Hesler's last day. Nasseem was hired to assist with flood recovery and she specifically worked with the Jumpstart residential and business programs. Nasseem was the main City contact person for most flood affected homeowners in Iowa City and she represented the City well. She is moving out of the Iowa City area and on to another adventure.
- Doug Ongie will replace Nasseem and will handle flood recovery programs for residences, businesses and will assist with grant writing for additional recovery projects. Doug was formerly an intern in the Planning and Community Development Department and recently received his Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning.