CITY OF IOWA CITY
MEMORANDUM

07-23-09
IP8

Date: July 23, 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:

- Working with staff to develop the applications for the Community Disaster Grants.
- Working with staff to develop the applications for I-JOBS Funding.
- Working with staff to develop the applications for CDBG Funding.
- Contractor working on the Iowa Avenue Inverted Siphon Sewer Project.
- Flood repair projects for the Highway 6 Bridge, Highway 1 Bridge and North Riverside Drive were bid in the July 21st DOT letting.
- Met with the Water Division and Howard R. Green Company to determine repair and replacement plans for the Iowa River water main crossings. Terracon performing soil borings.
- Working with the Iowa DOT to reallocate the FHWA emergency repairs funds for Park Road Bridge and Dubuque Street to the elevation Project.
- Reviewing the University of Iowa Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan.
- 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.
- Developing the plans and specifications for the demolitions in regards to the HMGP Buyout homes. Special council meetings have been scheduled.
- Staff is preparing for the first round of demolitions to occur. This is required to be completed by September 28th for seven of the nine homes purchased.
- Contract with MMS Consultants approved for the design of the levee along Baculis and Thatcher Mobile Home Parks and Commercial Court was approved.
- The City technical advisory committee met to discuss the relocation of the North Waste Water Plant.

Water Division

- Continued replacing meters in flooded areas (Idyllwild & Parkview Terrace) – only 5 left.
- Continued working with Engineering & Howard R. Green (HRG) 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. If the permanent repair can proceed in a timely manner we may forgo the temporary repair.
    2. Terracon, has started and will complete soil and bed rock borings on the banks and in the Iowa River this week to supplement the completion of the geotechnical study by HRG.

3. Upon completion of the study FEMA will complete the PW and Hazard Mitigation to replace both river crossings

- Information clarifying the PW and Hazard Mitigation funding for the Peninsula well houses and respective electrical equipment has been accepted by FEMA. We are still awaiting the 'obligation' stage.
- A Draft of the Hazard Mitigation report from Howard R. Green has been reviewed by PW staff. Comments will be incorporated in the final report. The final report is expected to also incorporate expected FEMA funding for the projects.
- An additional funding request for hazard mitigation for plant site well houses will be submitted through Steve Long in mid August.

Planning and Community Development:

- Planning and JCCOG Staff continue to apply for I-Jobs and CDBG Supplemental Disaster Grants. The details of those grant applications will be described at the July 27th Council work session.
- Nine homes have been acquired through the HMGP program and staff continues to close on homes in the HMGP program. Hearings are being scheduled for those in the HMGP buy-out program that want to appeal their offer amount.
- A letter was mailed to 71 property owners in Parkview Terrace to determine interest in the non-HMGP eligible CDBG funded buyout program. So far, 23 surveys have been returned and 15 property owners are interested in the buyout program.
- Staff will participate in a teleconference on July 23 with IDED on the Rental Rehabilitation Program for residential structures.
- Doug Ongie will participate in the Long-Term Recovery Case Management Subcommittee meeting on July 24.
- The 2nd round of funding provided by the Community Foundation of Johnson County for mortgage and rent assistance to flood-impacted families is now complete. In this round, 15 families were assisted with $39,838.34. When combining both rounds of assistance, 39 families were assisted with $97,340.32. Staff would like to extend their thanks to Mike Stoffregen and the Community Foundation for providing much needed assistance to those who were affected by the flood.
- 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. Several weeks ago, HUD gave their approval to the State for the program, but the State is still waiting for HUD to approve the budget for the program. The process of HUD's first approving the program and waiting to approve the budget has proven frustrating for applicants, for the regions and cities and for the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED). We have been in contact with our applicants locally, so they are apprised of the situation. As soon as we have our grant contracts from the state, will execute them immediately and be able to request and prepare 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.