



CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

08-13-09

IP14

Date: August 13, 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

- Senator Grassley's office has informed us that \$1.5 M has been earmarked in the FY 2010 HUD for the Dubuque Street / Park Road Project.
- 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.
- 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

- We are declaring the meter replacement in flooded areas complete (Idyllwild & Parkview Terrace).
- 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. We are awaiting the geotech report for the river crossings from HRG.
 3. Upon completion of the study FEMA will complete the PW and Hazard Mitigation to replace both river crossings

- The PW and Hazard Mitigation Plan for CW 3, CW 4, SW 4 and the respective electrical systems was 'obligated' by FEMA this week. The available funding will be incorporated into the HRG Hazard Mitigation Study. We are awaiting a design contract for the projects from HRG.
- 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 staff submitted \$54.5 million in Supplemental CDBG Disaster Infrastructure grant applications to the Iowa Department of Economic Development on July 30th.
- Planning and JCCOG staff submitted \$13.3 million in I-Jobs grant applications to the Iowa Finance Authority on August 3rd. Award letters are expected in early September.
- Planning staff submitted its application for the CDBG Property Acquisition Program (non-HMGP buyout) to the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) on July 31st. A total of \$12.6 million in funding was requested for the acquisition of 56 properties. Of the 56 properties that expressed interest in a buyout, 54 are located in Parkview Terrace, one in the Taft Speedway area, and along the Iowa River near the corner of Southgate Avenue and Gilbert Street. Award letters are expected to be released by IDED in September.
- The \$1 million UniverCity Neighborhood Partnerships grant application was submitted on July 31st.
- We have hit a slowdown with the duplication of benefits review by the State for the HMGP buyout program. Contacts have been made with several congressional offices to get the process moving again.
- The \$1 million CDBG Business Rental Assistance Program is up and running. This program will pay for up to six months rent (with a maximum of \$50,000) for businesses who are located or will locate in commercial buildings that were flooded. Contracts have been signed with the state and staff has begun verifying the eligibility of applicants. To date, we have 41 applications for a total of \$683,000.
- We recently received notice that the EDA (Economic Development Administration) has approved a \$60,000 grant request for a study on the feasibility of a downtown business incubator geared toward start up businesses in the creative technologies. The EDA determined the project eligible for disaster recovery funds, in part, because of the job creation potential in the creative technologies sector in downtown locations. A request for proposals seeking a consultant to conduct the study will be mailed out within days.
- 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.