



# CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

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09-10-09

IP8

Date: September 10, 2009  
To: City Council  
From: Jeff Davidson, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Re: **Update: Flood-related activities**

## **Engineering and Public Works Administration**

- The contractor is working on the Iowa Avenue Inverted Siphon Sewer Project. The pilot bores have been completed for the three pipes.
- Working with staff to develop the application for TIGER Funding for the Park Road Bridge and Dubuque Street Project.
- The contract has been awarded to D.W. Zinser Company for the first nine residential demolitions. The demolitions are not likely to occur prior to Labor Day. Bids for asbestos abatement were taken on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The demolitions must occur prior to September 28<sup>th</sup> for seven of the nine properties.
- MMS Consultants are completing the survey necessary for the design of the levee along Baculis and Thatcher Mobile Home Parks and Commercial Court was approved. They will also be pursuing the redelineation of the floodway by FEMA in this area.
- Working with staff to develop the applications for the Community Disaster Grants.
- Working with staff to develop the applications for CDBG Funding.
- Working with staff to develop the application for TIGER Funding for the Park Road Bridge and Dubuque Street 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 of a volunteer clean-up effort of the property purchased from the Park View Church.

## **Water Division**

- 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 HRG Hazard Mitigation Study is complete.
- The PW and Hazard Mitigation Plan for CW 3, CW 4, SW 4 and the respective electrical systems was 'obligated' by FEMA this week. We are awaiting a design contract for the projects from HRG.
- The HRG Hazard Mitigation Study is being used for additional funding request for hazard mitigation for plant site well houses. We are currently working with Dave Purdy.

## **Planning and Community Development**

- Doug Ongie attended the Long Term Recovery Case Management Subcommittee Meeting on Friday, September 4.
- Staff participated in a disaster recovery teleconference on Wednesday, September 9 with staff from the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Rebuild Iowa Office.
- Staff continues to review and rank Jumpstart applications in preparation for disbursing State Jumpstart 3 funding.
- Several more closings of homes in the HMGP buyout program will occur in the next few weeks. FEMA has been approving duplication of benefits on a more reliable basis.
- Asbestos removal began on September 2<sup>nd</sup> for the homes acquired through HMGP and the demolition of the first nine homes will begin on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Steve Long and Sarah Walz were on a KXIC radio show on September 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the UniverCity Neighborhood Partnerships program and the \$1 million I-Jobs award.
- Staff began distributing the first round of checks from the \$1 million CDBG Business Rental Assistance Program on Tuesday, Sept. 8. This program pays 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 44 applications for more than \$700,000.
- A Request for Proposals was sent out two weeks ago to consultants for a study to determine the feasibility of creating a downtown business incubator for creative technology-related businesses. The EDA (Economic Development Administration) recently approved a \$60,000 grant request for the study. 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.
- 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.