



# CITY OF IOWA CITY MEMORANDUM

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07-16-09

IP4

Date: July 16, 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.
- Work with staff to develop the applications for I-JOBS Funding.
- Contractor started to work on the Iowa Avenue Inverted Siphon Sewer Project.
- Flood repair plans have been submitted to the DOT for the Highway 6 Bridge, Highway 1 Bridge and North Riverside Drive.
- Met with the Water Division and Howard R. Green Company 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 City Hazard Mitigation Plan committee to discuss the latest draft.
- 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.
- Contract with MMS Consultants approved for the design of the levee along Baculis and Thatcher Mobile Home Parks and Commercial Court was approved.

## **Water Division**

- Continued replacing meters in flooded areas (Idyllwild & Parkview Terrace) – in-house project
- 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. FEMA has completed the PW for a Geo-Technical Study for the River Crossings and it has been 'obligated'
  3. A contract for HRG to oversee the Geo-Technical Study has been signed by the City Manager. Preparations will be made to complete borings in the Iowa River at the Old Plant and Hwy 6 River crossing locations. Upon completion of the Geo-Technical 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:**

- Staff submitted an application for I-Jobs funding on July 7 for \$1.2 million in State Jumpstart 3 funding for housing assistance. The State Jumpstart 3 funds will be used to bring all State Jumpstart 2 recipients to \$24,999. Once all of the Jumpstart 2 households have received at least \$24,999 in assistance, then funding will be used to bring these households up to \$50,000 so the level of assistance is equal to households that received State Jumpstart 1 funding. This funding will also be used to aid households that are over 150% area median income and have not received Jumpstart funding. Households over 150% of area median income will receive up to \$24,999.
- Several more HMGP buy-out closings will occur later this week and the beginning of next week.
- Staff is working on preparing an application to IDED for a second round of buy-outs (CDBG funded and non-HMGP eligible) for homes located in the 500-year floodplain and significantly damaged by the flood. A letter went out to eligible homeowners this week to determine their interest in a buyout.
- Staff members from the Community Development Division, Urban Planning Division and JCCOG are preparing four I-Jobs (construction of Fire Station 4, relocation of North Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dubuque Street/Park Rd bridge project and UniverCity Partnership housing acquisition and rehab program) and six CDBG Public Infrastructure funding applications (relocation of North Wastewater Treatment Plant, Dubuque Street/Park Rd bridge project, Riley lift station and Rocky Shore Dr flood gate, levee between McCollister Blvd and the railroad tracks on the west side of the river, levee between Highway 6 and the railroad tracks on the east side of the Iowa River and the elevation of Taft Speedway/No Name Road). The I-Jobs applications are due on August 3 and the CDBG applications are due on July 31. More details will be provided at the July 27 City Council Work Session.
- 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). Deputy Director of IDED, Vince Lintz, visited with HUD last week who indicated to him that they may be able to approve the budget for the program this week or next. In any case, IDED is providing draft contracts to the regions and cities so that locally, we can draft contracts for recipients and be ready to implement this program. 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.
- The second allocation of mortgage and rental assistance funds from the Community Foundation of Johnson County provided for up to \$39,000 in assistance. To date 14 families have been assisted with \$37,222.34. Staff is currently awaiting approval from the Community Foundation for the last award, after which, the program will be completed.