



THE WINDMILL

The Southern Iowa Council of Governments
Electronic Newsletter

SICOG Executive Board Holds Meeting January 5, 2010

Vice-Chairperson Amy Lampe called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
Members present: Acela, Burhans, Cornett, Ferris, Gibbs, King, Lampe,
Norland, Olive, Shaha, Trickey and Waddle. Staff present: Brimm and Nardy.
Guest present: Willets, CPA

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Planning & Zoning Workshops

Iowa State University Extension is offering *Introduction to Planning and Zoning for Local Officials*, a workshop designed as “basic training” for local officials in Iowa around the state beginning in March. Using a highly interactive format, the workshop highlights issues frequently faced in the land-use process. Subjects covered include roles and responsibilities of decision makers, the planning and zoning commission, the zoning board of adjustment, common legal issues, nonconforming uses, variances and special uses, and conflict of interest procedures. Registration is \$55 per person or \$45 per person if a city or county registers five or more people. Workshops in this part of the state will be held in **Carroll on March 25** and **Red Oak on March 30**.

Please contact SICOG if your organization has not received registration materials, or if you would like more information about this opportunity.

EECBG Funds Available for Energy Projects

The Iowa Office of Energy Independence (OEI) is accepting RFPs for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants until March 5th, 2010. All communities and counties in the SICOG region are eligible to apply to the OEI and compete for \$5,756,100 in Iowa EECBG grants. An additional \$2,878,300 in grants will be available for all of Iowa’s cities and counties (both Entitlement and Non-Entitlement Communities), with \$1,400,000 of that amount designated specifically for transportation programs and traffic synchronization. There is a dollar for dollar matching requirement but utility rebates and other non-cash sources may be used to meet the match. Please contact Jeremy Rounds at the SICOG office for more information about this unique opportunity and for a list of eligible project categories.

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SICOG Annual Meeting
March 31st 1:00pm

A VIEW FROM THE FIRST TEE



February is full with special occasions days – Chinese New Year (the New Year, is known as the year of the Tiger. Anyone that is born in the Year of the Tiger is usually straightforward and outgoing by nature. They will never give up no matter how aggravated they may become. But, they are also full of suspicion and at times will take hasty action. It is Year 4708 by Chinese calendar) – The first of Muharram – Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday – George Washington’s Birthday – Valentine’s Day and Presidents Day.



The 2010 CDBG’s should be announced before you next read my very informative column. Announcement date is March 1st (probable February 26). I am very confident that this area will receive “many” awards for very deserving projects.

I understand that the movie produced in part in Lenox, Iowa will be released February 26. I have been seeing movie trailers on some of the cable channels and on the Internet. I normally would not go to this type of movie (I get scared easily) but one of our board members (Dave Ferris) will be starting in the film (unless his part is on the cutting room floor). I am told that many others from the area will be featured in the film as extras. I am sure that the action on the baseball field will not be remembered as the “field of dreams”.



Your SICOG staff is continually working to gain partners for the development of our eight county area. We have developed a working relationship with many agencies some are listed below (in no particular order):

- | | |
|--|---|
| Economic Development Administration (EDA) | Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IHSEM) |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) | Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (IDCA) |
| Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) | Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) |
| United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) | Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) |
| Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) | State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) |
| Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) | Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) |
| Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) | |

A copy of the audit report is available for review on SICOGs web site (publications). Special Note: ever since the beginning of the Windmill there has been one constant– my image on this page. Today is a guest photo, one-month-old Savannah Ossian. As we were all enduring this dreadful winter, my gorgeous wife has just returned from a week in Florida!!

As always, if there is anything I can do, please let me know. Our phone number is 641.782.8491. Remember, we are working for you.



Timothy Ostroski



This month’s question

What was the site gag in every Episode of Wild Kingdom?

The answer to last months question – What was the site gag in every episode of WKRP?

A bandage.

SICOG Executive Board Meeting continued

Waddle moved to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting. Norland seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Olive moved to approve the bills for the month of December. Gibbs seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Ferris moved to accept the audit report. Cornett seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Waddle moved to adopt the priorities for 2010. Lampe seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Other items discussed included: annual meeting, budget update, grant report, board appointments, Adair County membership, pending litigation, local dues, Business & Community Resources workshop, and county project board meetings.

Olive moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:52 p.m. Cornett seconded the motion. All ayes motion carried. The next meeting will be held February 2nd at 1:00 p.m. at the SICOG office.

Minutes Submitted by Nardy



New Housing Production

As some of you may already know, the State of Iowa has provided new housing production incentives as a part of the overall 2008 flood disaster recovery efforts. This housing funding is primarily to encourage new, replacement housing to be built in communities that lost housing units as a result of the flood and subsequent buyout activities. To date, \$20 million has been allocated across Iowa. The SICOG region did not receive any of these funds because eligible communities did not have any developers ready or able to submit competitive applications during the first funding round.

In the second round of funding, the state allocated over \$725,000 to support new housing development in the SICOG region. The revised rules also allow “relocated” homes to qualify for the program. By March 1, 2010, SICOG must submit a proposal to the state detailing which projects will utilize the full \$725,000 grant award.

The \$30 million allocated by the State across Iowa provides a 25% mortgage down payment or write-down to homebuyers with incomes between 80-100% of the county median income. The purchase price of a housing unit is limited to \$150,000 for 100% median income buyers. The \$725,000 that our region will receive translates to approximately fifteen new housing units that could be built to receive the 25% buyer subsidy. Thus, a \$150,000 house will be discounted \$37,500 and would carry a \$112,500 mortgage; a \$180,000 house will be discounted \$45,000 and carry a \$135,000 mortgage for qualified buyers.

Please contact Doug Davidson (davidson@sicog.com) at the SICOG office (641.782.6491) for more information. In summary, key program points are as follows:

1. Units must be single family dwelling units, but can be detached, attached, or condominium-style structures;
2. Units can be stick built or manufactured housing;
3. Maximum per unit development cost (sales price) between \$150,000 and \$180,000;
4. 25% purchase price subsidy to the home buyer;
5. Home buyer must meet 80-100% median income eligibility requirements;
6. Units must be under construction by 12/31/2011;
7. Developers are allowed a 15% developer fee, included in the unit development cost.



I-Jobs Water Quality Fund

The I-Jobs bill (SF 376) allocated \$55 million to a new Water Quality Financial Assistance Program administered by IFA. The following is a *brief* overview of the program:

- 1. Every grant recipient also receives a SRF loan.**
- 2. All projects will be prioritized based on the environmental benefit of the project. This ensures that grants go to those projects with the most impact on water quality.**
- 3. There are two funds:**
 - a. One for communities under 10,000 population
 - b. One for communities over 10,000 population
- 4. For the small community fund:**
 - a. Projects must be eligible for SRF (drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, etc.)
 - b. The funds will go to communities based on “affordability” criteria. The criteria will be the same as that used for the federal ARRA funds:
 - i. Median household income
 - ii. Estimated user rates as a percentage of household income
 - iii. Per capita debt of the system
 - iv. Unemployment rate
 - c. No small community can get a grant of more than \$2 million.
 - d. One application round with an application deadline of March 30 – awards will be announced in June.
- 5. For the larger community fund:**
 - a. Projects must be eligible for SRF (drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, etc.)
 - b. No affordability criteria – just the environmental scoring
 - c. One application round with an application deadline of October 30 – awards will be announced in January.

For more information, contact: Lori Beary at 515-725-4965 or lori.beary@iowa.gov

Certification Available for Municipal Officials

Numerous City Clerks throughout the SICOG region have taken advantage of training available through the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association (IMFOA) in order to become Certified Municipal Clerks. This program, launched in 2005, was designed to recognize the professionalization and improve the performance of the local municipal officials. Program requirements and course information are available online at <http://www.iowaleague.org> by clicking on the Municipal Leadership Academy (MLA) link.

Congratulations to **Lisa Williamson of Creston** and **Pamella Poore of Mount Ayr** for completing this certification program in recent weeks!

Housing Rehabilitation Activities



Creston – we are still accepting applications from homeowners.

Mount Ayr – we are working on completing the feasibility studies.

Winterset – we are still accepting application from homeowners. The first four (4) projects will be ready to bid by March.

SICOG is still looking for additional contractors and homeowners for these programs.

Please contact Doug Davidson at the SICOG office 641.782.8491 or by email at Davidson@sicog.com

Transportation Enhancement Grants

The ATURA Transportation Planning Affiliation is accepting applications for Regional Transportation Enhancement Grants. Applications may be submitted by cities or counties in the ATURA region (Adams, Taylor, Union, Ringgold and Adair Counties) and are due at the SICOG office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13. It is anticipated that \$189,435 will be available to the ATURA region for use through FY2011. There are many federal aid requirements when using these funds and it is advisable that applicants using these funds include the costs of professional engineering/consulting services in their project budgets.

1. **Projects eligible for Regional Transportation Enhancement funds fall into at least one of the identified categories: (not all categories are listed)**
 - Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles
 - Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicycles
 - Acquisition of scenic easements and historic sites
 - Landscaping and other scenic beautification
 - Historic preservation, rehabilitation, use of historic structures
 - Preservation of abandoned railroad corridors (including the conversion and use of pedestrian or bicycle trails)
 - Control and removal of outdoor advertising
2. **Projects must have an *assured* local match (non-federal funds) of at least 20 percent of the estimated total cost of the proposed project.**
3. **Sponsors must assure they will operate and maintain the project for the useful life of the improvement (Generally 20 years).**
4. **Projects must demonstrate a relationship to transportation.**
 - The proposed project has a functional relationship to an existing or planned transportation facility and will be a part of that facility.
 - The proposed project is in the proximity of an existing or planned transportation facility.
 - The proposed project has an impact on an existing or planned transportation facility.

To obtain additional information, a complete list of eligible project types, or to obtain an application form please contact Becky Nardy at your SICOG office or at nardy@sicog.com.

Census Day is Fast Approaching



Before we know it, it will be mid-March and 2010 Census forms will be arriving in our mailboxes so we can fill them out and return them by Census Day April 1. This year the forms are all short and will take only about ten minutes for the average household to complete. No households will receive long forms as in past censuses because all the long-form data is now being collected annually by means of the American Community Survey. A census of the population is mandated by the U.S. Constitution every ten years.

The census is important because first and foremost Census data determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Also, every year the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data. Census data guide local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers, schools and more, and businesses use census data to locate supermarkets, new housing and other facilities.



When you receive your census form, fill it out right away and mail it back so census workers won't have to come to your residence and get it. It will save the government money and make for a more accurate count.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

SICOG Regional Planner's Jeremy Rounds and Michael Helgerson are currently preparing seven (7) Hazard Mitigation Plans.

These applications have been funded by:

- 85% from FEMA and State
- 15% from local match (typically in-kind)

It usually takes 18-24 months to complete a countywide plan. The plans are in various stages of progress at this time. There are many variables to take into consideration when completing a plan, including the number of cities within the county.

Adair County: 5% complete

Adams County: 1% complete

Clarke County: 100% complete, closeout process

Decatur County: 68% complete

Marion County: Just Contracted

Taylor County: 16% complete

Warren County: 56% complete

Contact Jeremy Rounds and Michael Helgerson at 641.782.8491 or at rounds@sicog.com and helgerson@sicog.com

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Source/Program	Funding Uses	Eligible Applicants	Due Date
Iowa Arts Council Grants	Arts in schools, museums, and many other projects	Non-profits, local governments, schools, artists	Monthly and quarterly
IFA Wastewater Assistance Program	Specific sewer improvements for small communities deficient on new EPA standards	Towns under 3,000 population can receive up to 90% grant	Ongoing as long as funding remains
USDA Renewable Energy for America Program	Funding for renewable energy projects and energy efficiency projects	Businesses, farmers, and farm-related operations	FY 2010 ongoing
Paint Iowa Beautiful	Donated paint for community beautification projects	Community Organizations	February 27
Alliant Energy Foundation	Small typically non-capital projects, such as signage, exhibits, landscaping, computers, program support	Local governments and nonprofits in Alliant's service area	Early spring for next round
Local EECBG Program	Energy Efficiency Projects (see article)	Local Governments	March 5
Watershed Planning & Implementation Grants (IDNR)	Watershed planning and water quality	Local Governments, watershed organizations	April 2010
Paint Iowa Beautiful	Donated paint for community painting/beautification projects	Community organizations	February 27
HMGP Mitigation Project Application	Projects that protect life and property from floods, fire, storms, and other hazards	Local governments, certain non-profits	Notice of Intent: March 15 Final app: May 1
Land and Water Conservation Fund	IDNR funds for conservation and recreation projects and land acquisition	Local governments	March 15
I-Jobs Water and Sewer SRF Water Quality Fund	\$35 million available for major water and sewer projects in small communities	Local governments and system owners	March 30
Solid Waste Alternatives Program	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives	Local governments, non-profits, for-profits	March 31
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) and River Enhancement (RECAT)	Tourism, recreation	Local governments, non-profits	April 15
Peter Kiewit Foundation	Varied: including arts, education, and community development	Governments, 501 (c)(3) nonprofits	April 15
Iowa West Foundation	Varied: including arts, education, beautification, economic development	Governments, 501 (c)(3) nonprofits	April 15
Iowa Community Cultural Grant	Staffing support for cultural organizations and projects	Local governments, tax exempt non-profits, others with a willing fiscal agent	May 1
Iowa Historic Resources Development Programs	Matching funds for documentaries, collections, historic preservation projects, and museums	Local governments, tax exempt non-profits, some for profits	May 15
Iowa Snowmobile Trail Grant (IDOT)	Funds for construction and maintenance of snowmobile trails	Local governments and incorporated private organizations	July 1
State Recreational Trail Grant (IDOT)	Trail development projects	Local governments	July 1

We cannot list all the grants here. Many other grants are available on an "open window" basis. Typical open window grants include foundation and corporate grants, economic development (job creation) grants, and some transportation grants. Please contact SICOG about your project and we can see what other options you may have.



Southern Iowa Council of Governments

Is Proud to Identify those who
Participated in the

Partnership Program 2009



PLATINUM \$2,500

Creston City Waterworks of Creston



DIAMOND \$1,500

Iowa State Savings Bank of Creston



GOLD \$1,000

Clarke County State Bank of Osceola

First National Bank of Creston and Afton

Lenox Municipal Utilities of Lenox

Osceola Water Board of Osceola

Southern Iowa Rural Water Association



SILVER \$500

Bradley Angus Farms of Lenox

Clarke County Development Corporation of Osceola

Clarke Electric Cooperative of Osceola

Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Winterset

Garden and Associates of Oskaloosa & Creston

Greater Regional Medical Center of Creston

Heartland Energy Solutions of Mount Ayr

Howard R. Green Company of Des Moines

Majona Steel Corporation of Osceola

Michael Foods of Lenox

Okey Vernon First National Bank of Corning

Paul Mueller Company of Osceola

Tyler Insurance Services of Creston



BRONZE \$250

Adams Community Economic Development Corp. of Corning

American State Bank of Osceola

Astoria Industries of Iowa, Inc of Osceola

Bedford Area Development Center of Bedford

Corning Municipal Utilities of Corning

First National Bank of Fontanelle & Greenfield

Lenox Development Corporation of Lenox

R.E. Lewis Refrigeration of Creston

Ringgold County Development & Tourism of Mount Ayr

Saylor Realty of Osceola

Southwestern Community College

State Bank of Brooks of Corning

Union County Development of Creston

Union State Bank of Greenfield

Union State Bank of Winterset

To become a Partner of the Southern Iowa Council of Governments, please go to our website and download the partnership form. Or simply call us and we will discuss the process. Thanks to all that have contributed in the past and for your support over the years.



Southern Iowa Council of Governments Electronic Windmill



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Becky Nardy, Transportation/Planner
Douglas Davidson, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist
Michael Helgerson, Disaster Recovery Coordinator

Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG) is a non-profit organization that provides and coordinates community and economic development services primarily through the delivery of planning services, technical program assistance, grant writing and grant administration to assist local governments and others in their efforts to improve the social and economic well-being of its eight-county service area.

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