



THE WINDMILL

The Southern Iowa Council of Governments
Newsletter

SICOG Executive Board Holds Meeting December 7, 2010

Chairperson Amy Lampe called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. Members present: Acela, Cornett, Higdon, Lampe, Olive, Scott, Shaha, Trickey, Tullberg, and Waddle. Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm.

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SICOG Board Presents Outstanding Service Award



Chairperson Amy Lampe presenting Mike King with his award.

On January 4th, 2011, the SICOG Board of Directors presented former Union County Supervisor Mike King with an Outstanding Service Recognition Award.

This award was presented in recognition of King's extensive experience on the SICOG board. King is leaving the SICOG board after 10 years of service.

Board Chairperson Amy Lampe presented the award to King at the monthly meeting of the SICOG Board of Directors.

On behalf of the SICOG Board of Directors and SICOG staff, we would like to say thank you to Mike King for generously offering his time in service of SICOG's mission.

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A VIEW FROM THE FIRST TEE



Happy New Year! I know that every article that is written this time of year starts out that way, but in my case I really mean it. 2010 was an excellent year with your SICOG assisting with many projects and many grant applications.

A couple of personal shout-outs to start the New Year: HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Savannah, my granddaughter. She turned one (1) on January 5th. Her mother is busy preparing for the "Birthday Bash". I think the "greatest Christmas present ever" for my son-in-law Chass was a success (see picture). Needless to say he was surprised. My retired wife is enjoying her time away from the State of Iowa, and is reading with interest about the changes that may occur. Ashley is busy finalizing the materials and paper work necessary to obtain her license for providing therapy in the State of Iowa.



I would like to welcome Robert Jansen of Union County and Kirk Macumber of Madison County to the Executive Board. These new members will serve due to election results and reorganization by those two counties. The total number of board members and staff over the years may be of interest to some Windmill readers. Here is some interesting numbers:

- | | |
|---|--|
| Number of Board members - 68 | Longest tenure of service by a staff person - 31 years |
| Number of Executive Board Chairpersons - 31 | Number of Executive Directors - 5 |
| Number of Staff members - 57 | Grant Funds Received by members - \$129,144,282 |

Speaking of money, Ted Willets of the Willets Accounting Firm has completed the agency-wide audit of SICOG and its affiliated organizations for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2010. The audit shows the expenditures and revenues for SICOG and its wholly affiliated organizations. An audit is completed annually and includes our Housing Revolving Loan Fund, Industrial Revolving Loan Fund, Community Revolving Loan Fund, EDA Assistance Grant, State Assistance Grant and all administrative contracts and sub-recipient agreements. A copy of the audit report will be available for review on SICOG's website (February 1, 2011).



Speaking of even MORE money, here is a tabulation of our grant activities from 2010:

TOTAL Submitted	\$15,845,247.00
TOTAL FUNDED	\$5,935,337.00
TOTAL Denied	\$6,479,341.00
PENDING	\$3,431,047.00

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 Coffee Cup question:



In what year was the first New Year's Eve ball drop held in Times Square?

Answer to last month's question:
In which country did the tradition of exchanging gifts at Christmas begin
Answer: Italy

SICOG Executive Board *(Continued from page 1)*



Cornett made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2010 meeting. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Olive made a motion to approve the bills for the month of November. Higdon seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Cornett made a motion to table the proposed policy regarding Distribution of Unrestricted Non-Public Funds until the next meeting. Acela seconded the motion. Olive and Scott voted no, all others voted yes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Scott to cover the expenses for two (2) staff members to attend the NADO Washington Policy Conference as presented. Higdon seconded the motion, all ayes motion carried.

Other items discussed included: Board Member Recognition, County Project Board Meetings, Annual Meeting, Board of Directors Handbook, Conflict of Interest Policy, Audit, Grant Activities, Personnel, State Legislature/IARC Agenda, Federal Legislature, and Board Vacancies.

A motion was made by Cornett to adjourn the meeting at 2:28 p.m. Tullberg seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held January 4th at 1:00 p.m. at the SICOG office.

– Minutes submitted by Brimm

Housing Rehabilitation Activities



Jeremy Rounds and Becky Nardy have been slowly passing CDBG housing projects off to Lucas Young, the recently hired Housing Planner & Rehabilitation Specialist, over the past two months. Lucas is now ramping up to hit the ground running this spring to get all of the housing rehabilitation projects done on schedule. As many of you know, the owner-occupied housing rehabilitation grants are funded with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The program is designed to improve the housing stock in the participating cities by making the homes more livable for the income eligible applicants. In turn there is an incentive for others in the neighborhoods to improve or maintain their properties. Below is a status update for each of our current projects.

Creston – Evaluation of the submitted applications will begin this month to determine which properties will be rehabilitated. Inspections of the selected properties will also take place this month so we can get the eight homes completed as soon as possible.

Mount Ayr – Construction has been begun on the last of the five homes. The construction is scheduled to be complete by March 5th.

Winterset – Applications are still being accepted from homeowners for the remaining four homes. Construction was completed on four homes last summer.



Truro & Lenox – Applications are due by February 15th to the SICOG office.

Please contact Lucas Young at the SICOG office 641.782.8491 or by email at young@sicog.com.

SICOG Presents Winterset Schools with \$10,000 grant

On Tuesday, December 21, 2010, the Winterset Elementary & Middle Schools were presented with a check for \$10,000 by representatives of the Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG) and the Iowa Department of Public Health as a part of the state's Healthy Iowans Initiative.

The IDPH contracted with the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (in which SICOG is a member) to select 6 six pilot communities across the state to implement this two-year project, and Winterset was chosen as an awardee in 2009. Each awardee was tasked with developing food or fitness-related

projects to benefit the community and an elementary school. Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG) has been working with Winterset over the past 12 months as a part of these activities.

The second year of this project has focused on implementing nutrition-related curriculum into the Winterset elementary school, and on developing a plan to spend a \$10,000 grant to support healthy eating or physical activity projects in the school. The Iowa Department of Public Health recently approved the Winterset School's proposal for the use of the \$10,000.

During the current school year, the Winterset Elementary and Middle School has implemented a number of nutrition-related lesson plans, activities, and has provided incentives for students to complete "bingo scorecards" that encourage the children to try healthy foods that may be new to them.

Other projects proposed by the school district include the construction of playground equipment at the Winterset Elementary & Middle School, additional curriculum related to the muscles of the human body, and a "School Board Challenge" to encourage physical activity.



From left, Michael Helgerson (SICOG), Matt Young (PE Instructor), Principal Wendy Sawyer, Becky Nardy (SICOG), and Carol Voss (IDPH)

RISE Local Development Program

This Iowa DOT program was established to promote economic development in Iowa through construction or improvement of roads and streets. Funding may be provided as a grant, loan or a combination thereof. Projects must involve construction of or improvement to a public roadway. Local development projects support local economic development but do not require an immediate commitment of funds (i.e. industrial parks, tourist attractions).

Eligible projects include, but are not limited to the following: roadway resurfacing, rehabilitation or modernization; bridge and culvert repair or modernization; right-of-way purchase; construction or improvement of motorist rest areas; and storm drainage and storm sewer costs necessary for draining the roadway.

Projects are evaluated using the following factors: development potential, economic impact, local commitment and initiative, transportation need, and area economic need. Local match is typically 50 percent. These grants are due February 1, 2011. Please contact Becky Nardy or Jeremy Rounds at your SICOG office for assistance with applications for grants under this program.



Three Fire Grants Awarded in December

To date, three 2010 Assistance to Firefighters Grants written by SICOG have been awarded. Creston Fire Dept. was awarded \$28,116 to fund training and personal protection equipment for all firefighters. Weldon Fire Dept. received two grants. The department was awarded \$21,052 to fund training, personal protection equipment, and firefighting equipment for all firefighters, and \$95,950 for purchase of a modern but used fire truck. Congratulations to these departments! As of this writing, only nine awards have been made in Iowa. Additional awards will be made for the current year, and we anticipate more awards in the region. The Department of Homeland Security will likely open the Fiscal Year 2011 AFG grant round in March or April.

Please read future Windmills to learn of award announcements or go to www.firegrantsupport.com

First Census Data Released

The first data from the 2010 Census was delivered to the President on December 21. By law the Census population counts for the nation and each state have to be in the President's hands by December 31 of the year in which the decennial Census was conducted. This data is used to determine the reapportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, and tells each state how many representatives it will have in Congress. Federal, state, and local voting districts will be realigned based on redistricting data that must be delivered to states no later than April 1.

The method utilized to calculate the apportionment of U.S. House districts is decided by Congress in accordance with the provisions of the Method of Equal Proportions— Title 2, US Code. Each state is assigned one seat, and the remaining 385 seats are allocated one at a time until all 435 have been assigned. You can learn more about the apportionment process through a video, *The Amazing Apportionment Machine*, by following a YouTube link from the Census Bureau's web site, www.census.gov.

Based on the numbers provided to the President in December, Iowa will lose one of its seats in Congress, and will only have four members in the House of Representatives as opposed to five. We have included some helpful definitions to keep in mind as the redistricting process continues in the coming year.

Apportionment is the process of determining the number of seats for each state in the U.S. House of Representatives based on the decennial census.

Redistricting is the process of revising the geographic boundaries within a state from which people elect their representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislature, county or city councils, school board, etc.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

SICOG Regional Planners Jeremy Rounds and Michael Helgerson are currently preparing six (6) Hazard Mitigation Plans.

These applications have been funded by:

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

Countywide plans usually take 18-24 months to complete. The plans are in various stages of progress at this time.

Adair County: 16% complete

Adams County: 15% complete

Decatur County: 100% complete, in close-out

Marion County: 5% complete

Ringgold County: Will begin when others are completed

Taylor County: 36% complete

Union County: Will begin when others are completed

Warren County: 87% 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 2011 ongoing
Alliant Energy Hometown Challenge Grant	Matching dollar for dollar funds raised for fire, EMS, and rescue equipment	Local response agencies in Alliant's service area	Ongoing
Dekko Foundation	Various investments impacting youth and families, capital and programs	Local governments, non-profits in the Dekko counties	Ongoing
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	January, 2011
IDNR Water Access Cost Share Grant	Construction or upgrading of water access projects, such as boat ramps	Local governments	January 31, 2011
Rise –Local Development Program	Road construction and development in support of economic development projects	Local governments	February 1, 2011
Land and Water Conservation Fund	IDNR funds for conservation and recreation projects and land acquisition	Local governments	March 15, 2011
Solid Waste Alternatives Program	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives	Local governments, non-profits, for-profits	March 31, 2011
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) and River Enhancement CAT	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects	Local governments, non-profits	April 15, 2011
Peter Kiewit Foundation	Varied: including arts, education, and community development	Governments, 501 (c)(3) nonprofits in west half of region	April 15, 2011
Iowa West Foundation	Varied: including arts, education, beautification, economic development	Governments, 501 (c)(3) nonprofits in west half of region	April 15, 2011
HMGP Mitigation Project Application	Projects that protect life and property from floods, fire, storms, and other hazards	Local governments, certain non-profits	Final app: June 2011

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 2010



PLATINUM \$2,500

Creston Water Board

Greater Regional Medical Center of Creston
Heartland Energy Solutions of Mount Ayr
Howard R. Green & Company of Des Moines
Michael Foods of Lenox
Okey Vernon First National Bank of Corning
Paul Mueller Company of Osceola
Tyler Insurance Services of Creston



DIAMOND \$1,500

Iowa State Savings Bank of Creston



BRONZE \$250



GOLD \$1,000

Clarke County State Bank of Osceola
First National Bank of Creston and Afton
Lenox Municipal Utilities of Lenox
Southern Iowa Rural Water Association

Adams Community Economic Development Corp. of Corning
American State Bank of Osceola
Bedford Area Development Center of Bedford
Bradley Angus Farms of Lenox
Corning Municipal Utilities of Corning
Lenox Development Corporation of Lenox
Ringgold County Development & Tourism of Mount Ayr
Saylor Realty of Osceola
State Bank of Brooks of Corning
Union County Development of Creston
Union State Bank of Winterset



SILVER \$500

Clarke County Development Corporation of Osceola
Clarke Electric Cooperative of Osceola
Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Winterset
Garden and Associates of Oskaloosa & Creston

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 Windmill



SICOG EXECUTIVE BOARD

Amy Lampe, Clarke County, Chairperson
Mark Olive, Adams County - Vice-Chair
Dave Ferris, Taylor County - Treasurer
Kurt Shaha, Ringgold County
Kirk Macumber, Madison County
J. R. Cornett, Decatur County
Robert Jansen, Union County
John Twombly, Adair, Bridgewater, Fontanelle, & Orient
Beth Waddle, Private Sector Representative
Michelle Tullberg, Private Sector Representative
Doyle Scott, Private Sector Representative
William Trickey, Private Sector Representative
William T. Higdon, Member-At-Large

SICOG STAFF

Timothy Ostroski, Executive Director
Judy Brimm, Finance Director
Jeremy Rounds, Regional Planner
Becky Nardy, Transportation/Planner
Lucas Young, Housing Rehabilitation Specialist
Michael Helgerson, Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Mary Fleming, Office Manager/HRLF Specialist

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.

Southern Iowa Council of Governments

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