



THE WINDMILL

The Southern Iowa Council of Governments Newsletter

SICOG Executive Board Holds Meeting February 1, 2011

Vice-Chairman Mark Olive called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. Members present: Cornett, Ferris, Olive, Scott, Trickey, Tullberg, Twombly, and Waddle. Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm.

Continued on Page 3

Affordability Assistance Program

The Southern Iowa Council of Governments Housing Trust Fund is proud to announce a new program designed to make purchasing a home more affordable for households with an income of 80% or less of the county median income.

The maximum amount available per household is up to \$15,000 or an amount that reduces the monthly payment (principle and interest only) to twenty percent (20%) of gross income for housing– whichever is less. This program is available to all homebuyers and is not limited to first-time buyers. These funds will be awarded as a forgivable loan amortized over a ten years. If the property is sold prior to the 10-years, funds are repaid at 10% per year remaining on the agreement.

Because the main purpose of this program is to make housing more affordable and not to allow borrowers purchase a bigger or more expensive home, each borrower must be pre-approved by a lender at an amount that is affordable. That is, the lender must be willing to make a loan for the home without this program's funding.

The Housing Trust Fund board members will review each application on a case-by-case basis and in the order in which they are received.

If you have any questions regarding the new Affordability Assistance Program, please contact Executive Director Timothy Ostroski at ostroski@sicog.com or by phone at 641-782-8491.

INDEX

Director's Comments – 2
SICOG Executive Board Meeting Minutes – 3
Housing Rehab – 3
Watershed Grants – 4
Draft CEDS Available – 4
State Energy Program – 5
Community Foundations – 5
Hazard Mitigation Plan Grants – 5
Available Grants – 6
SICOG Partners – 7

SICOG Annual Meeting

1:00 PM on March 29th, 2011
At the SICOG Office

A VIEW FROM THE FIRST TEE



I will take this opportunity to wish you a happy St. Patrick's Day, and it is my promise to you that by the next time you read this column the temperature will be above 60 degrees. Additionally, there will be NO MORE SNOW until next year. Everyone will owe me if I am correct.



On March 29 the SICOG Board of Directors will conduct SICOG's 37th Annual Meeting. The meeting will be the start of our 38th year as an organization. It was 37 years ago on September 12, 1973 that the Southern Iowa Planning Agency was incorporated. It has been a rewarding history with over **\$133,000,000+** dollars brought into the area by the grantsmanship and technical assistance this agency has provided to our members. Speaking of our Annual Board meeting, please mark it on your calendar if possible. The Board will be meeting on March 29, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the SICOG office in Creston, Iowa. See you there!!

I would like to thank the members of the SICOG County Boards, SICOG Project Board and the SICOG Executive Board for all their hard work, dedication and commitment to this area over the past year. In next month's newsletter I will report on the election of officers for the next year. I look forward to working with these individuals to create new and needed programs for the benefit of the area.

One major item that occurred in February was the release of the 2010 census numbers.

County	Population 2010	Change 2000-2010	% Change 2000-2010
Adair County	7682	-561	-6.81%
Adams County	4029	-453	-10.11%
Clarke County	9286	153	1.68%
Decatur County	8457	-232	-2.67%
Madison County	15679	1660	11.84%
Ringgold County	5131	-338	-6.18%
Taylor County	6317	-641	-9.21%
Union County	12534	225	1.83%
Region TOTAL	69115	-187	-0.27%

Your SICOG staff is continually swamped with requests for funding for housing, fire protection equipment, sewer improvement projects, energy grants, emergency shelters, sewer systems, water plants, library renovations, Healthy Iowans initiative, wastewater treatment facilities, street lighting, community centers, safe rooms and many more. We will continue to provide the excellent services we have provided in the past.



As always if there is anything we can do for you please do not hesitate to call us at 641782-8491. REMEMBER we are working for you. Timothy Ostroski



This month's Coffee Cup question:
 What gift is purportedly endowed on those who kiss the Blarney Stone?



Answer to last month's question:
 What phrase is abbreviated by the acronym RADAR?:
 Radio Detection and Ranging

SICOG Executive Board *(Continued from page 1)*



Waddle made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2011 meeting. Cornett seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Cornett made a motion to approve the bills for the month of January. Twombly seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Cornett made a motion to accept and file the audit report (for the period ending 09-30-10) and the Form 990. Waddle seconded the motion. All aye, motion carried.

Other items discussed included: Budget Committee, County Project Board Meetings, Annual Meeting, Board Manual, Membership, Grant Activities, Budget Update, FDIC Limit Change, State Legislature/IARC Agenda, and Federal Legislature.

A motion was made by Twombly to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 p.m. Waddle seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held March 1st at 1:00 p.m. at the SICOG office.

– *Minutes submitted by Brimm*

Housing Rehabilitation Activities



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.

Now is the time to budget for your city's 2012 owner-occupied housing rehabilitation Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Please contact the SICOG office if your community is interested in applying for one of these grants this year.

Below is a status update for each of our current projects:

Creston – Four properties have been inspected for work to start this spring.

Mount Ayr – The contractor is waiting for warmer weather before he finishes the yard work on the last home. The five homes in this neighborhood look great!

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



Truro & Lenox – Office review of applications is underway.

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

IDNR Watershed Planning & Implementation Grants

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has two application deadlines for two grant programs which may be of interest to communities in the SICOG region.

Watershed Planning Grants help local groups passionate about improving water quality get started. Grant funds go towards developing a Watershed Management Plan, which identifies problems in the watershed and proposes solutions for better water quality. Making changes in the watershed, which is the land that drains to a lake, river or stream, can reduce pollution reaching our waters.

This program seeks to empower Iowans working to revitalize the state's impaired rivers, lakes and streams through comprehensive planning and a long-term local commitment to make water quality improvements. The Watershed Planning Grants program helps support local groups with a vision to rejuvenate a lake or stream by providing them guidance and a substantial funding mechanism to create a Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

The IDNR Watershed Planning program awards funds to develop WMPs aimed at restoring lakes or streams on Iowa's impaired waters list. IDNR will award up to \$200,000 total in watershed Planning Grants this cycle, with individual grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. All awarded grants require a 50 percent local match, of which at least 20 percent of the local match must be in hard dollars.

Watershed Implementation Grants from the Iowa DNR watershed Improvement program intend to put an EPA-approved Watershed Management Plan (WMP) into action by providing access to Federal Section 319 grant dollars to local watershed groups. These WMPs must target nonpoint source pollution and must be consistent with Iowa's state Nonpoint Source Management Program (NPSMP), dated September 2000.

Eligible applicants for each of these programs include local or regional public and private organizations or agencies able to implement a Watershed Management Plan (WMP).

Applications must be submitted to the IDNR by 4:30 PM on April 1, 2011. Please contact Jeremy Rounds at your SICOG office, rounds@sicog.com for more information about this program and successful programs that have been implemented in the SICOG region in past years.

2011 Draft CEDS Available for Comment

SICOG staff members have been busy over the last few months working on the Draft Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that is designed to bring together public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen our regional economy. Development of the CEDS is required through the planning grant awarded to our region by the Economic Development Administration. It is a very detailed and thorough process that when completed provides many benefits for the SICOG region.

This year many cities, counties, economic development groups and the various SICOG committees and boards took advantage of our new on-line survey in order to communicate their goals and priorities for the coming year. Input from our member communities and various SICOG boards and committees have been extremely useful in creating this document. Thank you to those who contributed to this process.

The CEDS document includes background information on the region and outlines a plan of action that promotes economic development and opportunity. Evaluation of progress toward achieving goals that have been previously identified is also discussed. The draft CEDS is available for public review and comments. The draft CEDS document has been distributed to interested persons and is available at your SICOG office or at the SICOG website. Web direct link for download is: <http://www.sicog.com/PDF/Publications/CEDS%20Draft%20all.pdf>



State Energy Program Grants

The Iowa Office of Energy Independence (OEI) sets the strategic direction for Iowa's clean energy future by identifying goals to achieve desired results. As the state energy office, OEI works to protect the environment and stimulate the economy through energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy resources utilization. OEI provides information, resources and financial incentives to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

Round 2 of the State Energy Program (SEP) will grant funding for projects focusing on renewable fuels, education, outreach and infrastructure. As a part of the goals of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), projects that emphasize the creation or retention of jobs will be given additional consideration from the application reviewers. Eligible projects must be located within the State of Iowa and must be completed within one year (March 31, 2012).

The deadline for applications is March 21, 2011. For more information contact your SICOG office at 641.782.8491 or visit <http://www.state.ia.us/government/governor/energy>.

Community Foundation Grants

As spring approaches, many grant cycles for community foundations in the SICOG region are set to begin. Community foundations are a great source of funding for small or large projects that stand to have a substantial impact on a particular community or county.

Community foundations were established in each of the 85 Iowa counties that do not hold a state-issued gambling license to spread the impact of gambling revenue across the state. As part of the County Endowment Fund Program, these countywide community foundations provide grants to charitable projects in all areas of community life: from daycare and housing assistance programs to support for local food initiatives; from community center expansions to river cleanup projects; from leadership development to equipment upgrades for fire and police departments.

Application deadlines vary from county to county, but most foundations request applications by April or May each year.

If your community would like to discuss a potential project and to request SICOG's assistance in developing an application for these grant funds, please contact Jeremy Rounds or Mike Helgerson at the SICOG office, 641-782-8491.

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: 20% complete

Marion County: 10% complete

Ringgold County: Will begin when others are completed

Taylor County: 42% complete

Union County: Will begin when others are completed

Warren County: 92% 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
Solid Waste Alternatives Program	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives	Local governments, non-profits, for-profits	March 31
Keep Iowa Beautiful Community Grants	Community beautification, landscaping, litter prevention, education, nuisance abatement	Local governments, non-profits	March 31
IDNR Watershed Planning and Implementation Grants	Watershed improvement planning and then watershed implementation projects	Local interested "groups"	April 1
Build With Bags Grants	Park and playground equipment made from recycled plastic	Cities, schools, non-profits	April 8,
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) and River Enhancement CAT (RECAT)	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects	Local governments, non-profits	April 15
Peter Kiewit Foundation	Varied: including arts, education, and community development	Governments, 501 (c)(3) nonprofits in west half of region	April 15
Iowa West Foundation	Varied: including arts, education, beautification, economic development	Governments, 501 (c)(3) nonprofits in west half of region	April 15
Assistance to Firefighters Grants	Firefighting training, equipment, PPE, and vehicles	Fire departments	May
Iowa Community Cultural Grant Program	Staffing support for wide array of cultural organizations and projects	Local governments, tax exempt non-profits, others with a willing fiscal agent	May 2
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	May 15
Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing Program	Funding for housing projects, including rental, ownership, construction, and rehabilitation	Local governments, non-profit organizations, housing groups, private developers	Registration: April; Final application: June
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
Iowa Snowmobile Trail Grant (IDNR)	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 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

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



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



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

101 East Montgomery St.
PO Box 102
Creston, Iowa 50801-0102
Phone: 641.782.8491
Fax: 641.782.8492
E-Mail: sicog@sicog.com
Internet: <http://www.sicog.com>