

July - August 2010

## GRANTS AWARDED

The following grants were written by INRCOG and awarded in May and June 2010. If you would like more information, please contact [Sharon Juon](#).

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project</u>
EDA	City of Waverly	\$3,167,923	Inflatable Dam
Single Family New Production	Nine Communities	\$1,619,580	Single Family Home Construction/ Homebuyer Assistance

## INSIDE. . .

*Readlyn and Sumner  
Awarded Housing  
Fund Grants*

*City of Waverly  
Receives EDA  
Funding*

*I-JOBS II Program  
Announced*

## DED WITHDRAWS CDBG PROPOSAL

A recent proposal offered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development (DED) addressed how the department would allocate future Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The DED proposal eliminated all Housing programs currently funded with CDBG dollars. The biggest impact of this proposal would have been the elimination of funding for the very popular and competitive Housing Rehabilitation program as an eligible activity.

In response to the proposal, both the INRCOG Board and the Iowa Northland Regional Housing Council (INRHC) passed Resolutions opposing the DED's recommended changes. These Resolutions were sent to INRCOG members, Legislators and other interested groups.

Thanks to everyone who let the State know they opposed their proposal, DED withdrew their proposal to eliminate all Housing programs. They have indicated that they will work with the Iowa Association of Regional Councils, who sent a composite letter of opposition from all 17 COGs in the State, to "explore ideas about future CDBG allocations and how CDBG funds can best be spent to meet the needs of all Iowans."

DED's response to opposition of their proposal certainly proves that our input is valued. Anyone wanting additional information may contact [Sharon Juon](#).

## INRCOG STAFF RAISES FUNDS FOR NORTHEAST IOWA FOOD BANK

On June 24th, the INRCOG Staff showcased their baking skills by holding a Bake Sale to raise funds for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank (NEIFB). A total of \$228.70 was raised through the sale.

In addition, between May 17th and July 1st, 227 lbs. of food and personal items were also collected for the NEIFB.



## HOUSING

### Communities Awarded IDED Housing Fund Grants

The Iowa Department of Economic Development announced in early May the Iowa communities who were awarded Housing Fund grants for 2010. Two communities in our region whose grant applications were written by INRCOG received funding. These two communities will receive a total of \$479,538 from the Housing Fund, requiring a total matching contribution of \$17,700 from local funds to assist in the rehabilitation of 14 low- to moderate-income owner-occupied homes.

In Bremer County, the City of Readlyn was awarded funding for their first owner/occupied rehabilitation program. The City plans to rehab six homes at a cost of \$210,269 in Housing Funds and \$5,000 in local funds. Also in Bremer County, the City of Sumner was awarded funds for their first owner/occupied rehabilitation program. Sumner intends to rehab a minimum of eight homes using \$269,269 in Housing Funds and \$12,700 of local match funds.

INRCOG will be working with both of these communities to administer the programs and anticipates accepting applications from homeowners late in the summer or early fall after all of the preliminary paperwork has been completed.

## TRANSPORTATION

### FY2011-2014 TIPs to be Considered for Approval

The Black Hawk County Metropolitan Area Transportation Policy Board (MPO) and the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) held joint open houses on their Draft 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) on June 15th and 17th. The TIPs are the basis for programming federal aid transportation funding in the MPO and the RTA, including highway, enhancement, and transit projects. A list of projects in the draft TIPs can be found at [www.inrcog.org](http://www.inrcog.org). Citizens were able to view projects in the draft programs and give comments on the projects and any other transportation issues. The Policy Boards will review these comments before they consider approval of the final TIPs at their July meetings. The MPO's meeting will be at 10:00 a.m. on July 8th, and the RTA's meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on July 21st. Both meetings will be held at the INRCOG Center. Any questions on the Transportation Improvement Programs can be directed to [Kevin Blanshan](#), [Andrea White](#), or [Brock Grenis](#).



### Iowa Trails Summit held in Waterloo/Cedar Falls

The first annual Iowa Trails Summit was held on the University of Northern Iowa campus in Cedar Falls on June 18, with a day of outdoor trail events at Riverview Recreation Area in Waterloo on June 19. The summit involved a diverse group of trail-related organizations representing a wide range of trail user groups, including motorized and non-motorized, equestrian, and water sports. Four sessions were held on June 18, with panelists discussing the following topics: Planning a Healthy Community; Diversity and Accessibility; Trail Planning, Development and Funding; and Multi-Use and Shared Trails. The summit was attended by a wide range of planning, engineering, health, and environmental professionals, as well as many trail users from across the state.

## REGIONAL TRANSIT COMMISSION

### RTC Receives Grant to Paint EPI Buses

The Iowa Northland Regional Transit Commission received an Iowa Department of Transportation Special Project grant for re-painting, signing, and striping twelve Exceptional Persons, Inc., (EPI) buses. This project ensures that EPI buses will be consistent with the current paint, striping, and signage scheme for RTC vehicles and will allow RTC to continue to coordinate their services with EPI, which will afford EPI the opportunity to continue providing services to persons with disabilities that are subsidized under a contract with RTC. The IDOT grant will pay for 80 percent of the cost of the project, and the remaining 20 percent will be shared equally by EPI and RTC. Shortly following award of the grant, RTC conducted an RFP process and selected Harrison Truck Center for the project. If you have any questions, regarding this project, please contact [Brian Schoon](#) or [Ed Holm](#).



### 2010 Executive Board

Mark Schildroth ..... Chair  
*Grundy County Supervisor*  
Maurice Welsh ..... Vice-Chair  
*Mayor of Fairbank*  
Darwin Sittig ..... Secretary  
*Mayor of New Hampton*  
Jon Crews ..... Treasurer  
*Mayor of Cedar Falls*

### At-Large Members

Stan Van Hauen  
*Dike City Council*  
Ralph Kremer  
*Buchanan County Supervisor*  
Steve Reuter  
*Bremer County Supervisor*  
Larry Young  
*Mayor of Shell Rock*  
Buck Clark  
*Mayor of Waterloo*

## DEVELOPMENT

### EDA Awards Funds to the City of Waverly

The Economic Development Administration has announced the award of \$3.168 million to the City of Waverly to construct an inflatable dam across the Cedar River in downtown Waverly. This award is in addition to the \$1 million previously awarded to the city by the State of Iowa for the project. The city hopes to let bids for the project in the near future with construction to start this fall. State and federal funding after the 2008 floods made it possible for the city to qualify for funding for this project that the city has been working on for many years. The dam is expected to provide significant levels of increased protection for the downtown area as part of the City's comprehensive plans to reduce the risks of flooding in Waverly.

### Iowa Waste Exchange

There are many items listed through the Iowa Waste Exchange database which can be viewed by the public at [www.iowadnr.gov/waste/iwe/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.gov/waste/iwe/index.html). Below are a few items that are on the database as an example of items and material you might find through the Iowa Waste Exchange program.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| -used wheel chairs                                 | -office desks                    |
| -55 gallon drums                                   | -bleacher boards                 |
| -interior doors                                    | -metal folding chairs            |
| -3 decorative ceiling fans with leaf shaped blades | -kidney shaped school tables     |
| -commercial deep fat fryer                         | -school lockers                  |
| -wood scraps excellent for camp fires              | -slate lab tops from science lab |

If you have an interest in any of these items please call one of your IWE Area 3 Resource Specialists, [Ben Kvigne](#) or [Jeff Schlee](#) at the INRCOG office.

### Safety Program

#### Flood Clean-up

With all the rain we have been getting in the past month, it seems appropriate that concerns for flooding cleanup should be reviewed for those affected by flooding waters. Flood water often contains infectious organisms including intestinal bacteria such as E. coli, salmonella, and shigella; Hepatitis A virus; and agents of typhoid, paratyphoid and tetanus. Flooding can cause disruption of water purification and sewage disposal systems and release of chemicals, some toxic, which previously have been stored above ground. Although most floods do not cause serious outbreaks of infectious disease or chemical poisonings, they can cause sickness to persons who come in contact with contaminated floodwater. Protect yourself – it is often difficult to maintain good hygiene during clean-up operations. To avoid waterborne disease, it is important to wash your hands with soap and water prior to preparing and eating foods, after using the bathroom, after participating in flood cleanup activities, and after handling articles contaminated by floodwater. Persons should assume that any water in flooded and surrounding areas is not safe unless local or state authorities have specifically declared it to be safe. If no safe water is available, use bottled water, water that has been boiled for at least 10 minutes or chemically disinfected water (5 drops of bleach/gallon of water—allow to sit for 30 minutes). Water storage containers should be rinsed periodically with a bleach solution. If water is suspected of being contaminated, persons should wear chemical resistant clothing including plastic/rubber gloves, boots and protective clothing to avoid contact with the floodwater.

Additional tips to observe: wear long sleeves, long pants and use insect repellants—pools of standing or stagnant water become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, increasing the risk of encephalitis, West Nile virus or other mosquito-borne diseases; children's toys that may have come into contact with flood waters should be disinfected; be certain that your tetanus shot is current (within 10 years)—tetanus can be acquired from contaminated soil or water entering broken areas of the skin, such as cuts, abrasions, or puncture wounds; use extreme caution with potential chemical and electrical hazards; if the safety of a food or beverage is questionable, throw it out; and seek immediate medical care for broken skin injuries, animal bites, or signs and symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches, and fever experienced by victims of waterborne microorganisms.

Following flood cleanup there are several additional steps persons need to take to ensure that all areas have been properly disinfected and dehumidifiers are used to reduce/eliminate moisture that will cause mold and mildew growth.

## Calendar

### July

- 5 Monday  
Office Closed for Holiday
- 8 Thursday  
10:00 a.m.  
MPO Technical and Board
- 15 Thursday  
12:00 Noon  
INREDC Board
- 21 Wednesday  
12:00 Noon  
INRCOG Executive Committee
- 1:30 p.m.  
Regional Transportation Authority
- 28 Wednesday  
12:00 Noon  
City Clerks/County Auditors Assn.

### August

- 12 Thursday  
10:00 a.m.  
MPO Technical and Board
- 16 Wednesday  
12:00 Noon  
INRCOG Executive Committee
- 1:30 p.m.  
Regional Transportation Authority

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
I-Jobs II NOI	July 24, 2010
I-Jobs II Application	August 2, 2010
REAP	August 15, 2010
Statewide Enhancement	October 1, 2010
Federal Recreational Trails Program	October 1, 2010
CAT	October 15, 2010
RECAT	October 15, 2010

### **I-Jobs II Program**

Governor Culver's office and the Iowa Finance Authority recently announced a series of meetings to coincide with the creation of the I-Jobs II Program. Similar to last year's competitive I-Jobs grants, the new program focuses on assisting communities with implementing Disaster Prevention projects. Further, proposed and funded projects must demonstrate consistency with Iowa's new Smart Planning Principles, which were adopted by the State Legislature during their 2010 Session. As in the past, an online Notice of Interest (NOI) must first be filed with IFA before a formal application can be made. The deadline for NOIs is July 24, 2010. Once the NOIs are evaluated, selected projects will be invited to make a full application, which will then be completed online. Applications are due on August 2, 2010. In addition, the NOI, Administrative Rules, and template documents (contracts and resolutions) may be found at [www.ijobsiowa.gov](http://www.ijobsiowa.gov). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Brian Schoon](#) or [Colleen Simmons](#).

### **Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)**

Competitive applications for REAP's City Park and Opens Spaces program and the County Conservation program will be due to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources no later than August 15, 2010. Since its inception in 1989, the REAP program has provided millions of dollars towards the preservation of open space and the development of outdoor recreation projects throughout the state. Over the years, this portion of the REAP program has become a popular funding source for open space acquisition/preservation, park expansion and recreational trail development.

The amount of REAP grant money available to a city in the City Park and Open Spaces category in any one year depends on its population. There is no maximum on the amount of funds a County Conservation Board can apply for, however to be eligible counties must dedicate at least 22¢ per \$1,000 of the assessed value of taxable property in the county for county conservation purposes. If you have a project that you would like to discuss, contact [Kevin Blanshan](#). More information about the REAP program in general is available at [www.iowadnr.com/reap/cityopen.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/reap/cityopen.html).

### **Statewide Enhancement**

Eligible projects fall into the following transportation enhancement categories: Trails and bikeways, historic and archeological, or scenic and environmental. If an application is successful, the Iowa Department of Transportation will provide up to 70 percent of the eligible project costs. Funds do not become available until one year after submittal of the application. For example, an applicant awarded funds in October of 2010, will receive those funds beginning in October of 2011. Contact [Kevin Blanshan](#), [Andrea White](#), or [Brock Grenis](#) for more information.

### **Federal Recreational Trails Program**

The Federal Recreational Trails Program provides funding for the development and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and trail-related projects. Public agencies and private organizations are eligible to sponsor however, private sponsorship will require a public agency co-sponsor. A minimum 20 percent match is required and trails resulting from successful applications must be maintained as a public facility for a minimum of 20 years. Funds for projects awarded a grant during the October 1, 2010 cycle become available October 1, 2011. Contact [Kevin Blanshan](#), [Andrea White](#), or [Brock Grenis](#) if your community is interested in this program.

### **Community Attraction & Tourism Program (CAT)**

The Community Attraction & Tourism (CAT) Program is an opportunity for cities, counties and non-profit organizations to ask for financial assistance for vertical infrastructure projects including museums, recreation centers, aquatic centers, sports arenas and other attractions. Applications are submitted to the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Vision Iowa Board on a quarterly basis. Applicants are reminded that the Vision Iowa Board will require city, county and private funding for each project. Contact [Kevin Blanshan](#) for information.

### **River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT)**

The RECAT Program supports projects that promote and enhance recreational opportunities on and near rivers or lakes within cities. Applications are submitted to the Iowa Department of Economic Development and the Vision Iowa Board on a quarterly basis. Applicants are reminded that the Vision Iowa Board will require city, county and private funding for each project. Contact [Kevin Blanshan](#) or [Andrea White](#) for information.

## INRCOG Staff

Sharon Juon .....Executive Director  
Brian Schoon .....Director of Development & Transit  
Kevin Blanshan .....Director of Transportation & Data Services  
Jim Rodemeyer .....Director of Housing  
Sheri Alldredge .....Director of Administrative Services  
Lisa Crabbs .....Housing Planner  
Kyle Durant .....Disaster Recovery Planner  
Brock Grenis .....Transportation Planner  
Wade Heineman .....Housing Planner  
Ed Holm .....RTC Operations Manager  
Gary Iversen .....Economic Development Coordinator  
Cindy Knox .....Housing Planner  
Ben Kvigne .....Environmental Planner  
Brenda Ponto .....Accountant  
Jeff Schlee .....Safety Coordinator  
Dan Schlichtmann .....Data Services Coordinator  
Colleen Simmons .....Community Planner  
David Smesrud .....Community Planner  
Todd Trebon .....Disaster Assistance Coordinator  
Hayley Weiglein .....Secretary/Receptionist  
Andrea White .....Transportation Planner  
Jill Yuska .....Disaster Recovery Planner



**INRCOG**