

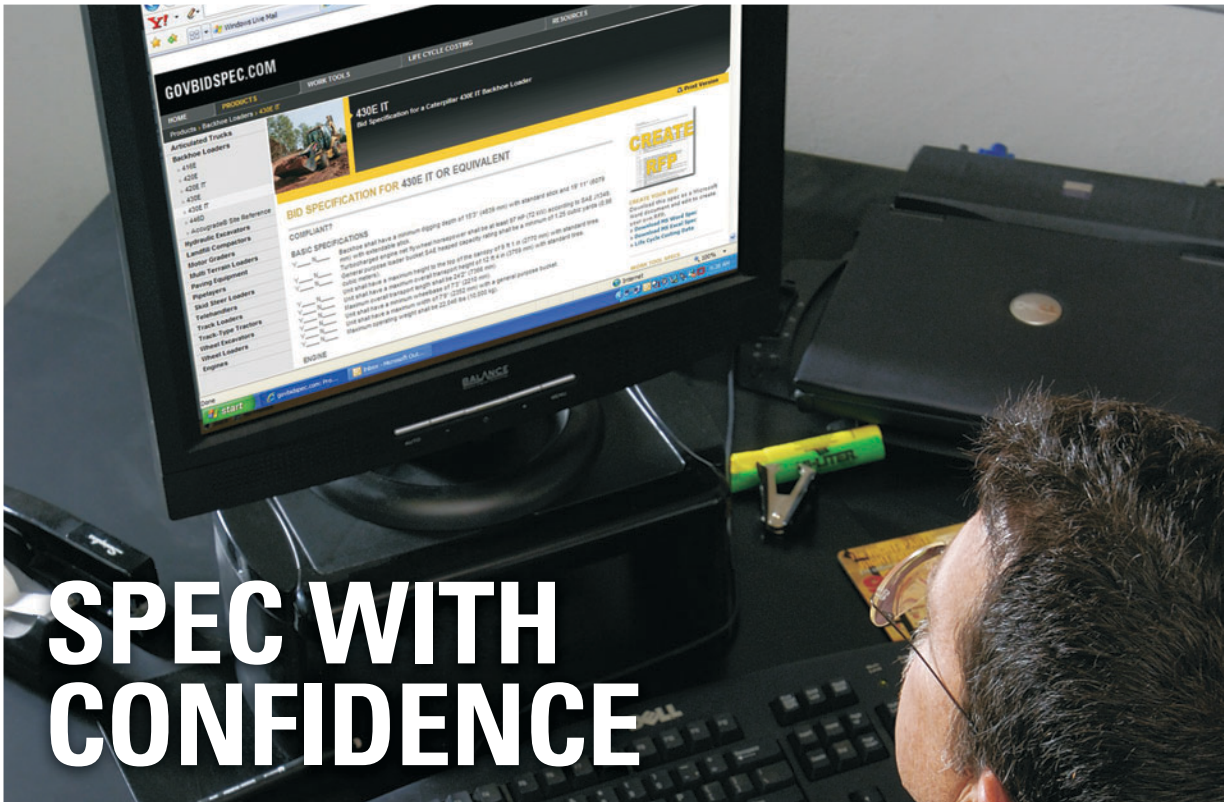


The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties

August 2008

The Iowa Floods and
Disasters of 2008



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www.iowacounties.org
Rachel E. Bicego, EDITOR

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ISAC's Mission:

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

ISAC's Vision:

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

Iowa's Flood Recovery

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." Dickens' opening from *A Tale of Two Cities* applies these days to many Iowa cities—and counties, too.

The "worst of times" part is readily apparent. Killer tornados, drenching rains, and devastating floods have ravaged much of the state. The tragic loss of life, the destruction of homes, businesses, and crops, the disruption to hundreds of thousands of lives, and the damage to public infrastructure have been heavy burdens to bear. With 86 of 99 counties declared state disaster areas and 80 of the 86 also getting federal disaster designations, Iowa is feeling the pain nearly everywhere.

"The best of times?" Yes, when you stop to think about it, the worst of disasters brings out the best of Iowans. With neighbors and strangers alike pitching in to help those forced from their homes, our communities have responded with the strength and compassion that defines our state. Over 50,000 volunteers, 4,000 Iowa National Guard personnel, and countless local, state, and federal public employees have filled sandbags and evacuated people before the flood, rescued people during the flood, and begun the cleanup afterward. Recovery will not be quick, easy, or cheap, but recover is exactly what we—together—are going to do.

Recent weeks have taught Iowa once again the importance of strong local government. We have relied on county and city officials to implement disaster plans, mobilize local law enforcement, and organize and coordinate local resources for the recovery effort. The state government has worked hard to deliver additional resources and National Guard support to the places they are needed most and to orchestrate the process of acquiring federal disaster relief funds, but there can be no doubt that local officials are on the front line. You prove your value every day.

Governor Culver has now set up a 15-member Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission, chaired by Adjutant General Ron Dardis of the Iowa Na-

By: Senator Herman Quirmbach

Local Government Committee Chair



tional Guard. The commission is setting up nine task forces focusing on major recovery and planning areas. Information regarding the commission is on the web at <http://rebuild.iowa.gov/>. They, of course, are seeking your input.

A special session of the Iowa Legislature may be called. One of the immediate tasks of the Rebuild Iowa Commission is to identify near-term issues that may require legislative action. While we don't want to have a special session just for show, my colleagues and I stand ready to convene and act promptly if such action is needed to support the recovery effort.

Rebuilding will not be cheap. Damage estimates run in the billions of dollars, and the true numbers will not be known for some time. With over \$200 million in damage at the University of Iowa alone and at least 125 miles of primary highways damaged, state assets have taken a major hit. Damage to local public infrastructure is also enormous, and the damage to private homes, businesses, and farms is even greater.

Clearly, we will have to rely on the federal government for most of the needed financial assistance. While the state's reserve funds—10% of our \$6 billion budget—are adequate for dealing with ordinary economic fluctuations (which we may also have to face), they are far exceeded by the unprecedented cost of the current natural disaster. State and local governments both will have to make tough decisions regarding reallocating immediate priorities, but neither we nor you can abdicate or abandon the ongoing needs in the other vital services we provide.

We're hurting, there's no doubt, but Iowa's communities and her people remain strong. Together we will prevail.

For more flood information, including state and FEMA disaster assistance links and phone numbers, see <http://flood2008.iowa.gov/>.



Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission

Mike King, ISAC President and Union County Supervisor, will be serving on the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC). RIAC is a 15-member non-partisan commission appointed by Governor Culver that is charged with assisting the Rebuild Iowa Office and the Governor in providing the vision, the creativity, and the leadership to identify, to prioritize, and to address the short- and long-term issues of recovery. President King will be co-chairing the Infrastructure/Transportation Task Force.

If you have any questions regarding the commission, or if you have any information that you would like to share please feel free to contact Hanna De Groot at hdegroot@iowacounties.org or Nate Bonnett at nbonnett@iowacounties.org in the ISAC office. They will be assisting President King with his duties associated with the commission.

And Yet the Waters Came...

By: Linda Langston

Linn County Supervisor

June 11-13, 2008 saw the rising of flood waters in Cedar Rapids and Linn County to unprecedented levels. The historic flood levels for the Cedar River, which occurred four times in the last 160 years were all at or near 20 feet. The floodwaters in Cedar Rapids crested at 31.2 feet early on the morning of June 13. The waters receded by June 18 leaving behind mud, muck, and stench. Also, left were incredible stories of cooperation and heroic action. No fatalities occurred that were flood related. County road crews, led by road superintendent Mike Duffy, built the levee in Cedar Rapids up from 22 feet to 24.5 feet. Although the water overtopped the levee, Mike worked valiantly with county equipment and staff, leading 300 volunteers to save the community. Later he and other county road department members helped to secure the last remaining well field in Cedar Rapids until over 300 volunteers joined in the driving rain to save the well. Meanwhile, at the courthouse and jail another valiant effort went on with Auditor Joel Miller, Supervisor Jim Houser, and Facilities Director Garth Fagerbakke in the lead with sheriff's deputies assisting. Eventually their efforts came to naught and the jail was evacuated as water engulfed the bridges over the Cedar River.

In spite of the desolation, people in the community moved quickly to take action towards recovery. Everyone continues to work hard in recovering homes and businesses. Working together, members of the community are making great progress. Twenty one Linn County employees were directly impacted by the flood, some losing their homes entirely. A fund-raising effort on their behalf is underway.

Linn County appreciates the assistance it has received from so many people and jurisdictions including Buchanan County, Story County, the Iowa DOT, and so many others. The Board of Supervisors is extraordinarily proud of all Linn County employees. Eighty percent of county buildings were impacted. At this time many county employees are operating at Westdale Mall, others are located at Kirkwood Community College and soon parts of the judicial system will move to the Palmer Building downtown. With patience and tenacity, Linn County looks to the future and the opportunities this disaster will bring us. Thank you to everyone for their concern and efforts to help.



Looking Forward

By: Terrence Neuzil

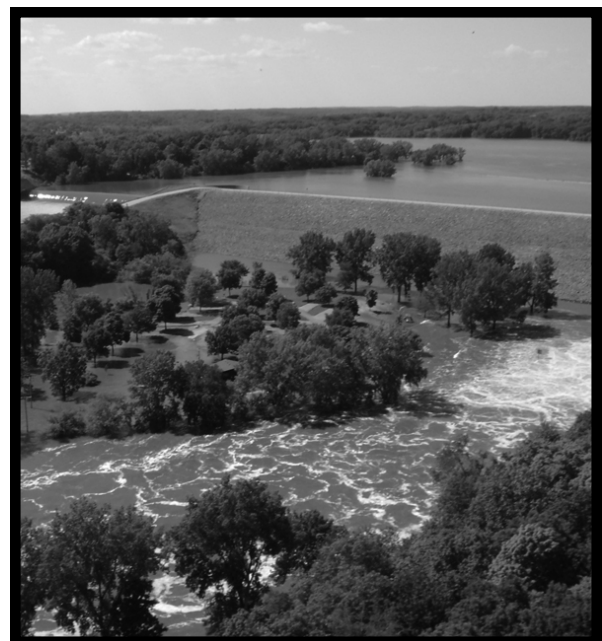
Johnson County Supervisor

Like many of the areas that have been affected by the natural disasters of the past few months, we saw the worst flooding in Johnson County history.

By hitting our community, a disaster of this magnitude has forced us to learn the complexities of County Government quickly. Citizens are looking to us for leadership and confidence in trying to restore some sense of stability. Our first objective was to immediately enact our emergency operations center. From there, we had a plan in place to meet our objectives; first and foremost was saving lives and communicating with all emergency response entities to make sure that our citizens were out of harms way.

With damage this bad, we know that the clean up cannot happen over night. I think for our community, we're looking at two to three years to try to get back to what things were like before the flood; that's a hard thing to try to explain to people. Many people who were affected by this flood back on June 5th still can't, a month later, get into their homes to even assess the damages.

It's time for us to look forward and learn from this disaster. Hopefully this will remind us of the powers of Mother Nature. I think our county is going to have to consider helping in efforts to buy out some of these homes and businesses affected by this disaster. We need to do a better job of identifying major flood-related risk areas as well and we need to also look closer at existing properties within identified flood plains and find ways to reduce or eliminate future development in those areas. I'm hopeful that we will immediately start designing better development standards of restricting building in the flood plain.



Iowa's Flood Recovery

By: Curt Braby

Louisa County Sheriff



June 9, 2008 Columbus Junction city officials started their preparation for the impending flood. Columbus Junction is located in the northern end of Louisa County at the junction of the Iowa and Cedar Rivers. News was coming from upstream of both rivers that Louisa County was going to have serious flood problems. Problems that we knew were going to be larger than we could handle without assistance.

The city of Columbus Junction worked with the Iowa DOT, Louisa County Roads Department, and the National Guard to bring in several tons of sand for levee building and to provide additional security for the affected areas. Arrangements for those additional assets were made through the Iowa state Emergency Operation Center (EOC)/Homeland Security. We had conference calls with the EOC nearly every day (and frequently in the middle of the night) giving and getting updates and requesting additional help and material.

When the flood started to affect points further south in the county we were able to utilize our Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) to receive an Incident Management Team and Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Team from Minnesota for a seven-day deployment. The state EOC also sent two members of the Iowa Incident Management Team (IMT) to assist. This helped us get through the response stage of the flood and the initial stage of recovery. Kansas sent four people; one state regional coordinator; and three emergency managers from the state IMT to assist with the recovery phase. Mississippi also sent one person with experience to assist as a Public Information Officer. We have a part time emergency manager and it was obvious to him that extra help and expertise was going to be needed to get through the disaster. The folks that were sent to us had experience in managing disasters such as, the I-35W bridge collapse, Hurricane Katrina, Greensburg tornado, and several other major disasters.

We were also able to EMAC building inspectors from Maryland and Idaho to work with the assessor's office to complete the Preliminary Damage Assessments. We told the Maryland guys to go to the elevator in Oakville and they thought that an elevator was something used to get from the first floor to the second floor at Macy's, not a grain storage facility. Beyond that, they all got along well and had stories to take home with them. With those boots on the ground we were able to figure out what additional help we needed and had sources to try to get that help. Iowa Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC) was the first source we tried for administrative and technical assistance, but that proved to be difficult at best. I don't know whether it was the fact that 90% of the state was under a Federal Disaster Declaration or whether the IMAC program is not well known to most county and city employees. I ended up getting a city clerk from a neighboring town to help the mayor of Oakville get her feet back on the ground and their governmental process up and running again. A difficult task considering the Oakville City Hall had six feet of water in it and all the paper records were in the water for several days. I would call that an unofficial IMAC.

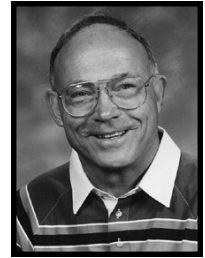
As of this weekend, July 12, 2008, the EMACs will all be gone from the county and the locals will be responsible for completing the recovery process. At this point, in my opinion, IMAC is a question; it has great potential that may prove to be a great asset to the state and counties in the future. EMAC is up and running and working well. Time will tell on Iowa's system.



Louisa County Flood

By: Ken Purdy

Louisa County Supervisor



The Louisa County Board of Supervisors is quite happy that we made one of those seemingly mundane decisions in my first term of office in the 2003 time frame - to sign the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC) agreement. According to Bill Peterson, Executive Director of ISAC, "IMAC is basically an agreement between the state, counties, and cities that allows the sharing of resources between these entities. In addition to providing a mechanism for us to access the resources of other entities, it addresses issues such as workers compensation, liability, and reimbursement so that in times like these you don't have to go negotiate those details with the other entities that are willing to provide resources in time of need."

The junction of the Iowa and Cedar Rivers is in Louisa County on the NE side of Columbus Junction. The resulting river is called the Iowa River from the junction of the two rivers down to its mouth on the Mississippi River near Oakville in Louisa County. Record crests were observed on both rivers North of Columbus Junction in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. So, Columbus Junction and points south in Louisa County received record crests on the Iowa River. In Louisa County (population 12,183 in 2000) there were 352 homes and 50 businesses that had damage. Columbus Junction mainly had businesses affected with 26. The whole town of Oakville was inundated with 181 homes with damage. There were 126 houses damaged in the unincorporated areas of the county. This unincorporated damage occurred mainly east of Oakville and east of Wapello in the Iowa River bottom ground.

IMAC (the **intrastate** compact mentioned above) came through with help from the National Guard, the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), Louisa County, surrounding county emergency management coordinators (when our EMC was incapacitated for awhile), ISAC, and the State Office of Homeland Security and Emergency

Management. The IMAC agreement allowed the Iowa DOT to quickly come to the aid of Columbus Junction to build a new levee around the town and eventually to remove the levee. It allowed county trucks to help with this monumental effort to build a new levee. It allowed the Iowa National Guard to come in and help.

I thank Governor Culver for his assistance in getting help from the Iowa DOT and the US Army Corps of Engineers after his tour of Oakville. These folks were busy last week helping build a temporary levee in the Oakville area to stop the Iowa River from continuing in its new channel through the town of Oakville. This week, July 14, these same folks were busy fixing county roads in the Oakville area.

IMAC was followed by Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), a congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to **interstate** mutual aid. Via EMAC, we got assistance from Minnesota, Kansas, Maryland, and others (I can't remember all). County emergency managers from these other states had already dealt with major disasters in Kansas (tornados), Louisiana (Hurricane Katrina), and the bridge collapse in Minnesota. These agencies ran our emergency operations center on a day to day basis under the authority of our county's emergency management coordinator Tom Colthurst. After the EMAC teams left, our County Sheriff, Curt Braby, has taken on the roll of Incident Commander during the recovery phase we are now in. EMAC allowed building inspectors from Howard County Maryland to come in and help.

I highly recommend the eight counties shown on IMAC's web site that haven't signed the IMAC agreement do so. It sure helped out Louisa County in our flood disaster of 2008. See more flood photos at www.kenpurdy.com.



Butler County Officials Respond to Tornado

At 5:00 pm on Sunday, May 25, a tornado ripped through the Butler County town of Parkersburg, destroying at least a third of the town and killing 6 people. At least 70 people were injured. The town lost 21 businesses and more than 200 homes.

The tornado was nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile wide as it moved through the southern end of town, destroying the city hall and the high school, as well as the city's only grocery store and gas station.

The tornado was an EF5. This is the strongest rating tornadoes are given, with winds exceeding 200 miles per hour. It was the strongest tornado to hit Iowa in 32 years.

Here are the stories of three Butler County officials, and how they responded to the tornado.

Ulrichs

Steve Ulrichs is the Butler County emergency management coordinator. He was 200 miles away in Spirit Lake when he got a call from Butler County emergency dispatch saying a tornado had been spotted in the county. "I was trying to decide, 'should I stay or should I go,' since usually tornados just kick up some dust and then disappear. But then I got another phone call saying Parkersburg had been hit. I was out the door."

Ulrichs' whole world was about to change. He said he had been on the road for 10 minutes when he got a phone call from CNN.

While Ulrichs was speeding back to Butler County, constantly on the phone, other Butler County officials opened the emergency operations center in the courthouse. They were quickly assisted by emergency management coordinators from other counties. "They just poured into the county," Ulrichs said.

He said that as emergency management coordinator, his job was to run the emergency operations center in Allison, and make sure that the incident commanders, the fire chief, police chief, and county sheriff had all of the resources that they needed.

In his seven years on the job, Ulrichs had been through disaster training, as well as actual ice storms, flooding, and power outages, but he said that "this was way beyond any of those."

Ulrichs said that the clean-up effort in Parkersburg began immediately. "As Midwesterners don't wait for direction, we just go do it." He said that when FEMA arrived on day three, they were amazed at how much had been accomplished already.

He praised all of the volunteers that showed up to help, including 88 people who worked the phone at the emergency operations center. "It was just an unbelievable response."

Ulrichs was very enthusiastic about how well the U.S. Department

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



of Homeland Security's National **Incident Management System** worked as a unified approach to disaster management. "It helped tremendously. When I would talk about 'the incident commander,' people knew what we were talking about. Federal, state, and local officials, and county officials from other counties. We were all talking the same lingo."

Fokkena

Butler County Auditor Holly Fokkena is Butler County's public information officer (PIO). Her job was to get information out to the public and the media during the tornado aftermath.

She said that when she was appointed PIO two years ago, she accepted the role grudgingly. "I kept begging to be replaced." But Fokkena said that one message she learned from the tornado was the importance of the PIO role. "Every county needs to have a PIO, and have them ready to go. This can happen to anyone."

Fokkena spoke with pride about how Butler County stepped up when the tornado hit. She praised the emergency management coordinator and other county officials for making sure that the emergency command center in Allison was in place when the tornado hit. "Phone banks, computers, an emergency plan, a satellite television to check on the weather, all of it was there ready to go. It was awesome."

Fokkena was alone at home on her farm near Clarksville watching her two grandchildren when the tornado struck Parkersburg. She said in all of the confusion it took her two hours to make sure that all of her office staff were alive and safe. Two of her staff rode out the tornado; one in her home which sustained damage and one in a local business which was destroyed by the tornado. "I almost lost them," Fokkena said.

Fokkena said that by the time she arrived at the emergency command center, there were already county officials from other counties there to help. "The outreach from other counties was phenomenal." Eventually more than 40 Iowa counties assisted in the tornado response.

For the first three days after the tornado, Fokkena worked up to 20 hours a day. She and the other PIOs from state and federal agencies eventually settled into a routine. They would all meet at 8:00 am to attend the incident command briefing and begin to draft a flier to be distributed to local citizens. Then at 10:00 am they would hold a town hall meeting. In the afternoon the PIOs would meet to discuss what they learned at the town hall meeting. At 5:00 pm they would again attend a briefing and hold a press briefing when necessary. Then she would head home at 10:00 pm, and be back at 5:00 am the next day.

During the 10 days following the tornado, a major part of Fokkena's job was dealing with the news media. She spoke regularly with representatives of news organizations such as CNN, NPR, and ESPN. "They were terrific," she said.

Buchanan County

By: Brian Keierleber

County Engineer



But ironically she was so busy that she never saw or heard any of the national stories. “I have one tape that I made of an interview I did for a Cedar Rapids television station. That’s it.”

As well as things went, she did say that they learned some lessons along the way. For instance, at first, there were multiple people speaking to the press offering conflicting information. “We didn’t all communicate very well,” she said.

Another problem was that in the first few hours she was trying to collect information while stationed at the emergency command center in Allison, instead of being at the scene in Parkersburg. “I was in the wrong place,” said Fokkena.

With all of this going on, Fokkena also oversaw a primary election which took place as scheduled nine days after the tornado. One polling place in Parkersburg, a bank, was destroyed by the tornado. The polling place had to be moved to a local country club.

Fokkena said that even before the tornado she was concerned about how the primary would go, since it was the first election since changes in the state’s election laws. Fortunately, she completed the last of her poll worker training the day before the tornado hit.

Overall, her message is that a natural or man-made disaster can happen anywhere, and that counties need to plan ahead. “You can never be too ready,” she said.

Oldenburger

Butler County Supervisor Ken Oldenburger was at his rural home about 2 miles from Parkersburg when the tornado hit the town. He and his wife immediately drove into Parkersburg. They spent most of the next nine days working as volunteers, doing things like helping with traffic control. “I tell people when we hit Parkersburg it was like being sucked into a vacuum. We just did whatever people needed.”

For more than a week Oldenburger worked as much as 16-hour days at the local emergency shelter, in addition to his work as a county supervisor.

He said that he thought the county did a great job in responding to the tornado. “Luckily, we did the training ahead of time and everything was set up already.”

Oldenburger, who has been a supervisor since 2001, said that often people feel that the hours of disaster training is a waste of time. “But it truly paid off. It saved us a day or two in responding. Everyone knew their roles and knew what to do. The county people did a terrific job.”

The storms that struck Buchanan County in the spring of 2008 were devastating. If it is your home that is destroyed by tornadoes or flooding, the pain is just as bad as if every other home in the area were damaged. In our county approximately 300 homes and countless outbuildings and grain bins were destroyed.

The Buchanan County secondary roads survived quite well compared to many neighboring counties. The floods of previous years truly had mitigating effects and we lost no major bridges. We did experience a large number of areas where the road rock, cornstalks, and silt washed into the ditches.

This truly makes a year for the record books. Snows, tornadoes, and floods couldn’t have come at a worse time when costs are escalating at historic rates. Counties are being forced to curtail even the most basic maintenance activities, and even with the help from FEMA it will take years to recover.

I can be very thankful that we were not hit as hard as many fellow counties. My sorrows and sympathies go to our employees and neighbors in all the counties that lost homes, and I realize how blessed I am as I go into my warm and dry house, no matter how long of a day it has been.



It Was a Dark and Stormy Night

By: *John Miller*

Black Hawk County Supervisor



“Excessive rainfall, which produced standing water, saturated soils, and overland flow caused major damages to upland agriculture and some communities. In turn, runoff from this rainfall created, throughout the basin, flood events that became part of the nation’s ...TV experience. Damages overall were extensive:...a large amount of unquantifiable impacts on the health and well-being of the population of the Midwest.” This sounds extremely familiar. It would not seem so unusual until one realizes it was written by General Galloway in his report to The Administration Floodplain Management Task Force, June 30, 1994. The description is almost eerie in its similarity to the events of the “Great Flood of 2008.”

General Galloway’s assessment of the problem is as pertinent today as it was 15 years ago.

- We had a hydrometeorological event.
- More of these events will occur more frequently.
- Loss of wetlands and upland cover increased runoff.
- Human activity has caused loss of habitat and ecosystem diversity.
- Costs to the nation from the flood were extensive.
- Flood damage reduction projects, where implemented properly, worked relatively well.
- Locally constructed levees were breached or overtopped.
- Flooding during the 1993 event would have covered much of the floodplains.

Continuing, he made recommendations about floodplain management, intergovernmental cooperation, disaster response, effectiveness of federal floodplain management, to note only a few. I mention this report because it is important to realize that, although we made effort to change after the 1993 floods, it wasn’t enough. We continued to add more field tile for drainage from our agriculture acres instead of adding wetlands and upland cover. We added more and more concrete and storm sewers as our urban areas expanded, which put even more water into our streams and rivers more quickly. And finally, we have not used what we have learned and the technology that has developed since the last “Great Flood.”

I mention this not to point fingers or to cast blame, there is enough of that to go around. I mention this because we have been here before and, as before, this provides us a great opportunity to make changes in the future. In 1995 I stood under the arch in St. Louis and did an interview with PBS about the change in public policy regarding flooding in the Midwest. As the Regional Director of FEMA, I emphasized our buy-out program of removing structures from the floodplain. We were moving in a new direction, getting out of harms way and letting the Mississippi, Missouri, and many other major rivers ebb and flow without destruction to property with value. We have done that with over 10,000 properties in the Midwest, but that is only a start.

So where do we go from here? How do we start to rebuild smarter so that the next time we have a hydrometeorological event of the magnitude

of 1993 or 2008 we can watch the water rise and fall without the extensive damage to property and lives that we have seen during the last two great floods? My suggestions are two-fold. We need to work to reduce the amount of water that we put into our rivers and streams, and we need to remove as many people and buildings from harm’s way.

Reducing the amount of water traveling to our rivers and streams will require the help of our farmer friends. They need to be encouraged to increase filter strips, put back wetlands, and support holding the water on our agriculture land (which is hard to do with \$8 corn). Our urban neighbors also need to install rain gardens, porous driveways, and bioswales, again to keep the water where it falls. Our county and city engineers need to be educated about the technology available to reduce runoff. County Planning and Zoning boards need to stand firm on urban sprawl so that more concrete parking lots do not add to the problem. This will require holding home builders and developers accountable. Obviously all of these changes will not be done easily or without opposition.

Also, we need to remove buildings from the floodplain and restrict building in these areas in the future. We need to remember the success of the buy-out process in the past and continue to follow that trend. Again, it will take political courage to make this happen, but we must remember that eventually these structures will get water.

Edward Bulwen-Lytton had no idea how powerful his words were when he penned “Paul Clifford” in the 16th century. Neither did Charles Shultz in his “Peanuts” cartoon strip. We will have more “dark and stormy nights”. My wish is that as county elected officials, we analyze the risks in our communities, we address them with wisdom, and we form partnerships with our state and federal counterparts along with our local business people to make our entire community a safer place to live and work.





capitol comments

And We're Off...

Once the annual legislative session ends, ISAC staff spend the month of May working on getting that session's annual summary book written and published. June is spent communicating the session's results to ISAC members at the six district legislative workshops. The final 2008 district workshop was held later than usual, July 18, due to the flooding across the state. Once the past session is finally wrapped up with the last district workshop, the work begins on the next session.

ISAC's process begins with determining the chairs and the membership of the seven steering committees. They are: County Administration and Organization, Environment and Public Health, Human Services, Land Use and Rural Affairs, Public Safety, Taxation and Finance, and Transportation. Chairs serve two-year terms and applications for open chairs are solicited every year around the end of the legislative session. Once the due date is reached, the applications are forwarded to the ISAC Board President, who selects a chair from the applications. The affiliate presidents name three members to each of the seven steering committees. The committees were intentionally designed to be made up of a cross-section of county officials in order to avoid a proposal from one sector of county government that might have unintended consequences on another.

During the summer, most of the affiliates meet and discuss the issues they might want the ISAC steering committees to consider as possible policy statements and legislative objectives. Policy statements express long-term or continued statements of principle importance for local control, local government authority, and efficient county operation. These statements are designed to assist ISAC in responding to proposed public policy issues affecting county government. Often a legislative proposal is not specifically addressed in the ISAC legislative priorities, staff then look to the policy statements for guidance. Legislative objectives represent issues that ISAC attempts to initiate as legislation or as amendments to legislation. They are prepared in a problem/solution format that is intended to provide enough information to support the objective.

In determining what policy statements should be legislative objectives, the steering committees look at whether the issue can be translated into specific legislation and whether the proposal addresses a serious problem impacting someone's quality of life. Some objectives are chosen with the knowledge that the political climate is not ripe for it. An example of this is ISAC's support of changes in the sex offender residency law. At other times, a policy statement is not elevated to a legislative objective because the steering committee perceives a lack of political will within the legislature to secure a particular outcome.

The steering committees meet twice; this year on August 21 and September 25. The work of the steering committees start with a review of the past year's policy statements and legislative objectives and any legislation relevant to them. The steering committees then consider input from the affiliates, policy statements and legislative objectives from the previous year, and items submitted by other organizations and individual members. Individual suggestions, particularly those that are controversial, often have an easier time of making it into the legislative priorities

By: Linda Hinton

ISAC Government Relations
Manager



book if they have been reviewed by the relevant affiliate prior to the steering committee meetings. If the impacted affiliate has thoroughly vetted the issue, it is easier for the steering committee to add the issue with the confidence that it represents the thinking of the affiliate.

Typically, the steering committees first develop the policy statements. Once the policy statements are developed and agreed upon, the steering committees adopt and prioritize legislative objectives. The problem statement and solution are critical building blocks for the ISAC policy team to use when seeking legislative support for various objectives. At the second meeting, the policy statements and legislative objectives are finalized and the objectives are prioritized. The final action of the steering committee is to report their recommendations to the ISAC board at their meeting in October.

The ISAC Board of Directors reviews, amends, and approves each steering committee report. Once this is accomplished, the board identifies "top priorities" from the recommendations from the steering committees. This entire package is then presented to the full membership at the ISAC Fall School of Instruction for ratification. Changes can be, and often are, made from the floor during the general session. The final package of ISAC's legislative priorities is published and shared with the Governor, the legislators and their staff. The top priorities are highlighted in a separate brochure. This brochure serves as the basis for the ISAC Board President's meetings with the Governor and legislative leaders.

2008 Steering Committee Meetings

August 21

Holiday Inn Airport

9:30 am-10:00 am	Registration w/ Morning Refreshments
10:00 am-12:00 pm	Breakout Meetings
12:00 pm-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm-3:00 pm	Breakout Meetings

September 25

Holiday Inn Airport

9:30 am-10:00 am	Registration w/ Morning Refreshments
10:00 am-12:00 pm	Breakout Meetings
12:00 pm-1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm-3:00 pm	Breakout Meetings

Counties Need to Guard Against Check Fraud

Check Washing: Shelby County had an interesting experience recently which should serve as a cautionary note for all of us. They were the victim of “check washing.”

County auditor Marsha Carter reports that the county wrote out a \$9,800 check to Barnes and Noble for some books that it purchased and sent the check off to Atlanta, Ga. Apparently what happened next is that a Barnes and Noble employee in Atlanta stole the check. Or it could have been someone from the post office.

That is where the story gets interesting. Using a process called “check washing,” criminals put the stolen check in a liquid solution consisting of common household cleaning products, which had the effect of removing all of the ink from the check except the signature, which the criminals covered up with tape. So what was left was a blank Shelby County check, with a valid signature. Yikes!

The criminals then rewrote the check, changing the payee on the check from Barnes and Noble to “George Moeller,” and then someone endorsed the check. It ended up at a bank in Cleveland, Ohio where the criminals opened a checking account with the \$9,800 Shelby County check. They then wrote a sizeable check on the new account at a local Ohio electronics store.

The only way the fraud was detected was that some sharp-eyed Bank of America employee noticed that the new substituted print on the altered Shelby County check, although exactly the same font, was darker than the original print on the check.

The criminals were not caught. But alerted to the fraud, the Bank of America immediately froze the George Moeller account. So Shelby County will not be out its \$9,800. If anyone has to eat the loss, it will be the Ohio electronics store that accepted the check drawn on the fraudulent account. But of course eventually we all pay for this type of fraud in the form of higher prices.

One amazing thing is that the criminals did not increase the amount of the check. That is common in check washing schemes, where criminals increase the amount of the check by hundreds or thousands of dollars.

Check washing is apparently very common. One account I read placed losses nationwide at \$815 million a year, with losses increasing at an alarming rate. The problem has become so serious that various local, state and federal authorities around the country have formed check washing task forces which include agents from the FBI and the Secret Service.

The liquids used to wash the checks include widely-available chemicals such as nail polish remover, benzene and bleach. Directions on how to wash checks is readily available on the internet. I am no computer whiz, and I found out everything I needed to know in about 45 seconds.

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



So how can your county avoid being a victim of “check washing?” Talk to your local bank and your check supplier for their advice. But on the Internet, the leading advice is to sign checks using only gel pens, which use gel ink that make washing a lot more difficult.

The Uniball 207 gel pen is available at any Target store for \$19.99 a dozen, and could save you a lot of grief. Also the Bic Velocity Retractable Gel Pen apparently works well.

Also, since check washing has been around for at least a decade, supposedly check manufacturers have enhanced security measures, making checks more difficult to alter. But the Shelby County example just proves how difficult it is to combat check washing.

For me, like I said I am no computer whiz, but this whole story has me thinking about paying my bills online.

Travel Expenses: Occasionally I hear complaints about how much an elected official has spent on travel expenses. Others in the courthouse may be upset. Or more likely the citizens are up in arms. So the question is, can the board of supervisors establish limits on what the county will reimburse for travel expenses? Absolutely.

Generally the board of supervisors cannot limit the expenditures of other elected officials once the money has been appropriated. And it is true that the board of supervisors cannot disallow claims just because they disagree with the expenditure. But in this case the board of supervisors is expressly authorized by statute to approve claims for mileage and expenses of county officers and employees. See Iowa Code §331.324(1).

There is an Iowa Attorney General’s opinion (#82-4-11) which concludes that supervisors have authority to adopt policies for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by county officers and employees, including elected officials, when attending meetings. The opinion recognizes that while the supervisors’ authority over other elected officials is limited, in this case supervisors are expressly authorized to act by the statute.

So this is why boards of supervisors have the authority to limit the amount that county officials can be reimbursed for a meal or a hotel room. Not only can a board of supervisors establish such a policy, which applies to all other elected officials. It is prudent to have such a policy.

Dingle: I recently returned from a 10-day vacation to Ireland’s Dingle Peninsula. It was a fabulous vacation. I am having withdrawals. So if any of you have been there, and would like to share your experiences, I’d love to hear them.

Parting Ponderable: “Never mistake motion for action.” - Ernest Hemingway

technology center

ISAC Office Flood Evacuation: Lessons Learned

Due to the recent flooding in the Des Moines area and specifically the downtown/RiverPoint area, the leadership of ISAC made a decisive and wise decision to completely evacuate the ISAC offices. This decision was reached after much discussion and with the thought that if our offices were flood damaged; it would be much easier to set up in a new location if all our resources, except for the building were available to us. Luckily our offices were spared, but this event provided us with a great learning experience and taught us some valuable lessons; here are a few insights into what we learned.

Plan of action

The flood waters are rising, what do we do? Have a plan of action ready to enforce. We kept an ever watchful eye on the rising Des Moines and Raccoon rivers and had made a decision to begin our plan of action when the flood waters reached a level of 21 feet. Ultimately, it was making this decision that helped us to quickly achieve a complete evacuation of our facility. It is important to have a plan in place that states when your plan of action will begin, in this case a certain flood stage.

Removal and storage of important historical documents

Even before the flood waters reached the level of 21 feet, we had begun to evacuate and remove important papers and documents to a storage facility on higher ground, thus saving us time and effort later on. We had already begun to scan our historical documents into an electronic format and plan on continuing to do this. Our goal is to ultimately have all our permanent documents in an electronic format and stored onsite and backups offsite in case of another disaster.

Evacuation has been ordered

The decision had already been made to completely evacuate our building, even before the landlords announced the evacuation of our area. Luckily, we had already made arrangements with a moving company and with the aid of our proprietor had secured a temporary office suite. Because of this, we were able within a couple of days to be back up and running. If we had waited until the owners of our development had ordered the evacuation, it would have been too late to move out all of our equipment, furniture, and documents. Lesson learned, do not wait for the evacuation order, use your own judgment, when the order to evacuate is made, it may be too late to save everything.

Temporary office set up

We were given a couple of office suites to store our furniture, office equipment, and boxes of documents. We set up a temporary office environment. Our excellent team of IT staff enabled us to set up our main servers at a remote, dry location and to create a small working network in our temporary offices. It took the IT staff just 2½ hours to set up the servers in a remote location and have all of our websites up and running again. It took less than 5 hours to set up our internal network in the temporary office. Fortunately our IT staff was onsite and had a plan of action that they quickly and efficiently put into effect. One lesson that I have learned is that while the IT side of things went smoothly, the phones did not. Communication by email

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Office Manager



was quick and effective; however, communication by phone was not as easy. We could make outgoing calls and check our voicemails; we could not answer our main phone lines. I have begun searching for a solution to this issue, and once I have found it, I will share it with you in a future article.

The move back

Because we did not actually flood inside of our building, we could have come back within a couple of days. However, we did not want to rush back until we knew that the flood waters were truly receding and until we were able to obtain movers for our return. We were out of our permanent location approximately 12 days, including the moving days. We were truly back up and functioning fully within two days of our move back to our original location.

Lessons learned

Have a plan of action in place, but always keep in mind that Mother Nature may not always cooperate and you may need to ad lib and change your plan accordingly. The river rose 4 feet in one night, with that said, if we did not already have movers scheduled and the process started, we would not have beat the flood waters. So be adaptable. Start the process of storing your important documents electronically. Store the electronic copies of these documents in a secure, safe, and remote location. Have an IT plan. Coordinate with your IT staff or the company that provides these services, to have a plan in place to set you up with a temporary network. Your phone system is still your life line, have in place a plan to enable your staff to check their voicemails and have a backup system to enable staff to answer incoming calls. Ultimately, things went relatively smoothly, although there were a few bumps and areas where improvements are needed. Hopefully, the skies will remain clear for all of us.

Website Note: Have a question regarding new technology and would like it addressed in this column? Contact me at 515-244-7181 ext. 315 or via e-mail at tnorman@iowacounties.org. Until next month, keep clicking!



Is There a DR/BC Plan in the House?

"In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable."

- Dwight David Eisenhower

Most of us that escaped the severe weather in May and June of 2008 should use these events as a driver to review your county's disaster recovery (DR) and business continuity (BC) plans. Does your county have one and if you do, when was the plan last reviewed or tested? To help with the discussion, I have put together a list of important talking points as you build, re-build, or update your plans.

What is the difference between a DR and BC plan?

In practice there is very little difference other than perception. Many people associate the term "disaster" with an event that is most likely not going to happen. Some make the case that disaster planning applies only to technology in terms of a loss of servers or network. In general, the less likely the chance of the event, the less likely any time or effort will go into planning recovery from it. As we have learned, the terms "100 year or 500 year" have very little meaning.

The term "business continuity" can be applied across a wider range of events. A business continuity plan is deemed to be more encompassing and describe business processes or functions that will need to be put in place to get the county operating at a desired level again.

Business continuity is not about IT, it is about business. IT should be viewed as a partner to assist in the recovery and not as the sole focus of a plan. Only through planning will the county be in position to effectively utilize IT to implement its continuity plan. In short, how would you continue to conduct business outside of the norm? No servers, no desktops, no printers, no access to data, and as they say in some parts of our country, "no nothing."

All this planning appears complicated, where would I start?

A simple place to start would be to appoint a team made up of elected officials and department heads. The involvement of senior management in the team will help demonstrate the importance of mission. The team's initial task might be to review what, if any, documentation is in place and to develop an action plan to update the document.

If there is not a plan, then the team will need to begin the process from the beginning. Depending on the size and scope of your county's operations, a comprehensive business impact analysis might be required. Regardless of size and scope, each member of the team should be responsible for identifying critical processes and application in their departments. Once gathered the team will need to prioritize each process and application against each other.

By: *Robin Harlow*

ISAC Technology
Project Manager



What are some of the key elements of DR and BC plans?

- Leadership structure – If your county has designated someone in charge of implementing the plan, what happens if your designated leader is not available? Avoiding a vacuum at a significant decision point is critical.
- Employee involvement – This is somewhat related to the first item. All employees should be trained to do not only their tasks but be able understand the entire plan so that if the designated leader is not available, someone can step up.
- Alternate means of communication – Have employees provided multiple (Home, cell, etc.) phone numbers and email addresses. These numbers and addresses should be reviewed annually.
- Mini crisis books – Include key employee phone numbers and phone numbers of external groups (i.e. fire department and emergency management contact information).
- Test plan – The plan should be tested. The testing should be conducted in a manner that would allow each employee to respond as close to the "real thing" as possible. The goal here is not see if an employee is responding correctly, but to see if your plan is responding correctly. Can an employee be able to pick up the plan for their area and perform parts of the plan without the missing employees?

Dwight Eisenhower was simply saying that building a plan is preparation for executing the plan. The building and testing of the plan will strengthen your employees in times of crisis.

We will have the opportunity in the next several months to learn from those counties affected by the events of May and June. We need to learn what worked, didn't work, and what came out of the blue. Only by learning from them can we bring something positive from a bad situation.

Next month I will review a few DR/BC resources that are available to all counties.



Senator James W. Grimes: Lincoln Critic

Iowa's senators during the Civil War were James Harlan of Mount Pleasant and James W. Grimes of Burlington. Lincoln was personally acquainted with both, but his relationships with the two were vastly different. We'll take a look this month at Grimes, and next month at Harlan.

James Wilson Grimes was born in New Hampshire in 1816. He attended Dartmouth College and studied law before moving west and settling in Burlington in 1836. Grimes was a member of Iowa's first territorial assembly in 1838. In a bit of foreshadowing, he fought with Governor Robert Lucas over what he perceived as executive interference with legislative prerogatives, comparing Lucas with Britain's King George III.

Grimes invited Lincoln to speak in Iowa several times, but Lincoln usually begged off. He finally spoke in Burlington in 1858, by which time Grimes was Governor of Iowa. Lincoln was in the midst of his epic battle with Illinois Senator Stephen A. Douglas, and he gave a well-received speech at Grimes Hall, a venue owned by the governor himself. Lincoln spent the night at a hotel, but before leaving he visited Governor Grimes at his home. Lincoln was unsuccessful in his election that year, but Grimes, a Whig turned Republican like Lincoln, was elected to the Senate, and took office in March of 1859.

There is no doubt that by this time Lincoln and Grimes counted themselves friends. But their friendship would be tested to the breaking point once Lincoln became president and the Civil War began. Immediately upon taking office, Lincoln was faced with the nation's greatest crisis, and he responded with an exercise of executive authority that met with a storm of criticism, even from many supporters of the Union. Given his experience in the Iowa territorial legislature, it's no surprise that Grimes was one of the latter.

After the fall of Fort Sumter, Lincoln began to call up troops on his own authority. Grimes felt that this was the exclusive domain of the legislative branch, and in a private letter he called Lincoln's order "the most extraordinary assumption of power that any President has attempted to exercise." In letters and utterances for the public, Grimes was careful to support the president for the sake of the Union, party unity, and their friendship, but on the floor of the Senate, he jealously asserted that body's rights as he saw them delineated by the Constitution. Once, when Lincoln proposed legislation for Senate action, Grimes said, "I do not recognize the right of the President to send a bill in here." Furthermore, he had little confidence in Lincoln's ability to deal with the huge burden that the war placed upon his office. He wrote to Salmon P. Chase, who was Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury but who hoped to replace Lincoln in the 1864 election, as follows: "I need not tell you that the expressions of confidence in the management of the President . . . proceed from the confessed necessity of supporting him as the only tangible head of the loyal government, and not from any real confidence in his wisdom."

Despite his disagreement about methods, Grimes was a stalwart supporter of Union arms. He met several times a week with Gustavus Fox,

By: Grant Veeder

ISAC NACo Board Representative
Black Hawk County Auditor



the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and soon became the Senate's acknowledged expert on that branch of the service. He agitated passionately for the emancipation of slaves and was very frustrated when Lincoln countermanded the orders of military commanders who freed slaves in their districts prior to the Emancipation Proclamation.

Grimes and many of his brethren in the Senate felt Lincoln was too much under the influence of Chase's rival, Secretary of State William H. Seward. After the disastrous federal defeat at Fredericksburg in December, 1862, the Senate Republicans caucused to discuss their grievances. Grimes was one of a delegation of nine senators that visited the President to present their complaints, which they hoped would result in the removal of Seward.

Lincoln was very troubled by this revolt. "They wish to get rid of me, and I am sometimes half disposed to gratify them," he told a friend. However, he skillfully maneuvered Chase into backing down from the rumors he had been spreading about Seward, and emerged from the crisis more in control than ever. The war, with its appalling losses, continued year after year. For a time in 1864, it appeared that Lincoln's reelection was in jeopardy, but Union victories in the fall assured his success. Presidential secretary John Hay recorded in his diary an election post mortem that Lincoln held with Navy secretary Gideon Welles and his assistant, Fox, who noted with satisfaction the defeat of some of the administration's most vocal critics. Lincoln responded that he usually bore little personal resentment, and expressed bewilderment at the antipathy of these officeholders.

Undoubtedly aware that his words would be repeated to Grimes by his friend Fox, Lincoln went on: "But my greatest disappointment of all has been with Grimes. Before I came here, I certainly expected to rely upon Grimes more than any other one man in the Senate. I like him very much . . . But he got wrong against me, I do not clearly know how, and has always been cool and almost hostile to me. I am glad he has always been the friend of the Navy and generally of the Administration."

Grimes' greatest fame came after Lincoln's death, when the latter's successor, Andrew Johnson, fell foul of the Radical Republicans. The real dispute lay in disagreement over southern reconstruction, but the House of Representatives impeached Johnson in 1868 on trumped-up charges over his firing of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. When the Senate met to consider conviction, a very ill Grimes rose with assistance to vote no, preventing the necessary two-thirds majority. Once again, Grimes was standing on principle and a strict reading of the law, and it led to a storm of abuse. It was years before public sentiment came around to appreciating the fact that cooler heads had prevailed.

Grimes' health problems became chronic, and he resigned his Senate seat in 1869. He died in 1872 at the age of 55.

The Kansas City Conference Experience, Parts I and II

By: *Linda Kemp*

ISAC Case Management Specialist



Part I: Ethics. I usually like to report on the positive sessions I have the opportunity to attend at various conferences. This time I am starting with a negative. I attended the “Building a Better Tomorrow” conference in Kansas City in June (during the worst of the flooding unfortunately. I was going crazy wanting to know what was happening in Iowa). Since we always provide a session on ethics at our conferences I thought the opportunity to see another presenter would be a good idea—expand our resources a little.

This man was awful. No other way to say it. The audience (and he knew it ahead of time) was made up primarily of direct care staff who work with individuals with developmental disabilities. Having a sense of ethics and an understanding of ethical treatment of persons with developmental disabilities is very important and ethical use of public funds is also important, right? This gentleman chose this opportunity to equate ethics with his perception of morals. His PowerPoint presentation was filled with slides showing outrageous statistics of how crime has increased 400% and how juvenile crime has increased (of course faulting parental upbringing) and so on. (I could provide more however he did not share a copy of his presentation nor the bibliography of his sources.) He also took the opportunity to share that abortion is unethical and that in fact the original Hippocratic Oath (by Hippocrates around 400 B.C.) included that a pregnancy should never be terminated. I’m thinking “What? How does this relate to direct care staff for the DD population? Are abortion issues presenting themselves commonly while providing direct care?” More than one slide quoted the Bible. Multiple slides contained quotes from people like Mark Twain with the intention of being funny. I laughed not, even though I like Mark Twain. I admit, I left at half time shaking my head with disbelief that this session counted toward someone’s requirement for ethics.

This experience with Mr. Ethics did bring to mind something that case managers and care givers do confront. What do you do when you are working with someone whose values are at odds with your own? I am not referring to anything illegal, of course, I refer to values perhaps instilled through our respective religious upbringing; values perhaps instilled by our family’s sense of right and wrong. Is there only one right way to eat, to clean home and body, to speak, to worship? Do case managers have the right to correct any of these things and judge as “wrong?” People, including of course people with disabilities, have rights as long as those rights don’t interfere with the rights of others. Choices made and consequences endured help teach us how we want to fit into society. Preaching moral values to those who have the right to choose is stepping over a line. Strong personal judgments can affect the ability of a case manager to perform the clearly defined role that a case manager has. It may not be a good job match for those who so strongly feel the “need” to direct others to believe as they do. Case managers can be excellent role models—beyond that it is over the line. Tolerance of the rights of others is an important trait. I strongly suggest having a group session with staff members to talk about ethical and moral limits, drawing lines, and issues of tolerance in your practice.

Part II

On a positive note I did appreciate fully one of the keynotes by a husband and wife team from Canada, Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Klift, on the topic of “Hell Bent on Helping.” Norm has cerebral palsy and Emma is non-disabled. How true, how true, I thought as I listened! Embarrassingly I was guilty of this very thing not long ago. I was in an elevator with an individual who is blind, a person totally unknown to me. I, being a champion helper, announced the floor the elevator was stopping on. He, the helpee, proceeded to let me know on each subsequent floor which floor it was as the elevator went by. I was embarrassed. Of course he was fully aware and totally not helpless, but I was “hell bent on helping.”

How do we know when to help and when to stand by? The answer from Norm was simple—wait to be asked to help. Be patient; allow the person their own time to accomplish what it is they are trying to do. To jump in before being asked to help signals superiority on the part of the helper and incompetence on the part of the helpee. But, I protest in my own mind, it makes ME feel good to help someone else that is why I am in a human service field! But wait, how does that make the person feel and isn’t that more important? Is it all about ME?

Norm provided examples with disastrous consequences when others have swooped in and helped him. One example was at a hotel where he was preparing to leave in the morning. He carefully and painstakingly folded each of his shirts (which was a significant feat) and had them on the bed ready for the suitcase. While he was gone to dinner, the evening maid came in to turn down the bed and (you are probably ahead of me) helped this poor disabled man by hanging each shirt in the closet. Should he say thank you?

Another example was in the airport when he was on an escalator and dropped a book. Normally he would wait until the crowd of people got through before going in after his book, which he knew he could recover. But a noble gentleman swooped in to help, ignored Norm’s protests, and managed to trip, fall, causing quite a pile up of people including Norm. Should he say thank you?

Norm and Emma helped remind us through an exercise of a time in our lives when help was thrust uninvited upon us and how that made us feel. This table provided the two sides of helping:

Personal Dimension	Why we like offering help	Why we dislike receiving help
ABILITY	Affirms capacity	Implies deficiency
VALUE	Affirms worth	Implies burden
POSITION	Affirms superiority	Implies inferiority
OBLIGATION	One is owed	One is obligated
VULNERABILITY	Masks our vulnerability	Reminds us of our vulnerability

Next time I promise to ask or wait to be asked when and if help is needed.

ISAC meetings

2008 ISAC Fall School of Instruction is Online!

Conference details for the 2008 ISAC Fall School of Instruction, to be held at the Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center November 19-21, 2008, are now available on the ISAC website. Please use www.iowacounties.org as your one-stop resource. It will be updated until the start of the conference with important details about your time in Coralville. From the conference agenda to hotel information, the website will serve as your main source of information as you prepare for fall school.

Hotel Room Blocks and Conference Registration Now Open

Hotel room blocks and registration opened on Friday, August 1. Please visit our website at www.iowacounties.org to pre-register for the conference. When reserving your hotel rooms, please take notice that hotel deadlines vary by property. ISAC also encourages attendees to reserve one hotel room per person. This will assist in controlling the number of room blocks available for all conference attendees and will help to provide a cost-effective conference. Please call 515.244.7181 if you encounter any problems with our online conference registration process.

Conference Registration Fees

There was an error in the June issue of the magazine misquoting the conference registration fees. The ISAC Board of Directors approved an increase of conference registration fees this year and they are as follows:

- Advanced Registration Fee is \$110
- *According to the ISAC Board of Directors policies, the first registration from the office of auditor, treasurer and recorder shall be at full prices. Additional registrations from these offices shall be at a reduced fee of \$100.
- At the Door Registration is \$130

ISAC will offer a family/spouse lunch ticket during the fall conference for a \$25 fee. All family members/spouses who would like to participate needs to pre-register online and pickup their name badge at the registration table for entry into the Exhibit Hall Grand Opening and Box Lunch with Exhibitors on November 19 and ISAC Endorsed Company Luncheon on November 20.

Please pre-register for fall school! It will help the ISAC staff plan accordingly for conference materials and meals. The last day to pre-register will be Monday, November 10, by 4:30 pm. After that date, all registrations must take place on-site in Coralville, and you will be charged the late fee of \$130.

By: Stacy Horner

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



ISAC Corporate Rate Now Available at Sheraton West Des Moines

The Iowa State Association of Counties has signed an agreement with the Sheraton West Des Moines to offer a corporate rate of \$95 (plus applicable state guest room tax) to anyone associated with ISAC. This \$95 rate is for a standard king or two double beds. Please note that this rate is subject to availability and should the preferred rate not be available, the best available house rate will be given.

Other room types will also be available for the ISAC corporate rate. One room suites will be \$115, two room suites will be \$120, and club level will be \$165 (plus applicable state guest room tax). Club level gives access to the Club Lounge with a complimentary continental breakfast and hors d'oeuvres. These rates are available to anyone traveling for business or pleasure. All guest room rates are eligible for Starwood Preferred Guest points. December 31, 2008 is considered a blackout date and is unavailable for the ISAC corporate rate.

The Sheraton West Des Moines offers the following amenities:

- all room types feature a signature Sheraton sweet sleeper bed, 27-Inch television, sofa bed, coffee maker, iron and board, and hair dryer;
- guests are free to enjoy the full service business center, indoor pool, whirlpool, and sauna;
- on-site restaurants include the Park Place Restaurant and the Waterfall Grille;
- room service;
- same-day dry cleaning and laundry service
- complimentary shuttle service for airport and within a 3-mile radius of the hotel;
- complimentary hotel parking; and
- high-speed internet access is available for a fee.

Please feel free to visit their website for more hotel information at: <http://www.sheratonwestdesmoines.com/home.aspx>.

To receive the ISAC corporate rate, call 888.627.8043 to make your reservation. Please ask for the IA State Association of Counties rate. Please note that the reservation center has abbreviated Iowa to IA and the rate will be listed under the abbreviation.

As always, please contact me at shorner@iowacounties.org if you have any questions. We hope that you enjoy your stay at the Sheraton West Des Moines and I look forward to seeing everyone in Coralville!

ISAC's *Fall School* of Instruction
2008 *Fall School* of Instruction
Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
Coralville, Iowa
November 19-21, 2008

REGISTER TODAY at www.iowacounties.org



ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser Nets \$33,000!

On Wednesday, June 11, ISAC held its fourth annual Scholarship Golf Fundraiser at Jester Park Golf Course in Polk County. The event, which was hosted by the county supervisors, raised over \$33,000 for the ISAC Scholarship Fund! ISAC uses the Scholarship Fund proceeds to award six college scholarships each year to Iowa high school seniors who are children of county officials and employees. ISAC would like to thank the golfers, volunteers, and sponsors for making the event a great success. A full list of our sponsors is below. Unfortunately, the official golfing was cancelled due to weather. Some teams did walk the course before the steak dinner and raffle.

A special thanks goes out to all of our sponsors and volunteers!

Title Sponsor - \$3,000 - Oldcastle Iowa
Dinner Sponsors - \$2,000 - The Caterpillar Dealers of Iowa (Altorfer, Inc. and Ziegler CAT)
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Beverage Cart Sponsor - \$1,500 - Scour Stop, Erosion Tech LLC and Snyder & Associates, Inc.
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Hole Sponsors - \$1,000

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Iowa Telecom
Iowa Environmental Health Association (IEHA)
The Schneider Corporation
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Ameristar Casino
Cott Systems

Prize Sponsors

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Clayton County - Gift package
Coralville Marriott and Conference Center - 1 overnight stay
Cost Advisory Services, Inc. - \$200
Des Moines Renaissance Savory Hotel - 1 overnight stay and breakfast for 2
Des Moines Symphony - 4 tickets to any classical concert (Sundays)
Electronic Specialties - \$100
Garden & Associates - \$100
Holiday Inn Airport - 1 overnight stay and \$20 breakfast
Hyde Telecom Partners, Inc - \$250
ING - Gift package

Iowa State Savings Bank - \$200
Kuehl and Payer, LTD - \$100
Marion County State Bank - \$200
Des Moines Marriott Downtown - 1 overnight stay and breakfast for 2
McCorkle Hardware - \$200
McKay Insurance Agency Inc. - \$200
Murphy Tractor and Equipment - \$100
People's National Bank - \$150
Public Financial Management - \$250
Raceway Tire and Exhaust - \$200
Schildberg Construction Co. - \$250
Speer Financial - \$200
Truck Company - \$100
TrueNorth - Golf Supply Packages, Golf Shoe Bag
Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Iowa - \$250
Wells Fargo Bank of Knoxville - \$200

Welcome Gift Sponsors

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ImageTek, Inc. - tee/ball marker sets
Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT) - Letter opener
Des Moines CVB - Bags
Public Financial Management - Coozies
"Solutions," Inc. - Note pad and pen
Wellmark Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Iowa - Golf balls

Other Sponsors

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associate member highlights



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job openings

Howard County Engineer

Howard County, in scenic Northeast Iowa, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of County Engineer. The position requires a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering; possession of or capability of acquiring licensure as a professional engineer from the State of Iowa within six months of employment. Four years progressive experience in the transportation industry including supervisory or managerial experience preferred. This official position is directly responsible for planning, overseeing, and managing the design, construction, and maintenance of the secondary roads transportation system, including managing department staff, budget, and resources. Excellent benefits with salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Submit resume to: Howard County Board of Supervisors, 137 N. Elm St., Cresco, Iowa, 52136. Applications will be accepted until August 11, 2008. Howard County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Union County Engineer

The Union County Secondary Roads Department, located in Creston, Iowa (<http://www.unioncountyiowa.org/roads/index.html>) is accepting applications for the position of County Engineer. Salary \$78,000-\$98,000 depending on qualifications. The County Engineer will be responsible for planning, organizing, and directing all Secondary Roads Department activities. Supervises 22 full-time employees. BA or MA in Engineering. Five (5) years of increasingly responsible managerial and/or supervisory experience preferred, but not required. Send resume, references and salary history by September 15, 2008 to: Jack Lipovac, SPHR, 5619 NW 86th Street, Suite 600, Johnston, IA 50131, Phone: 515.221.1718, Fax: 515.327.5050, or Email: lipovacj@hr-onesource.com. Union County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

counties in the spotlight

2008 – 2009 District Officers

ISAC would like to officially offer thanks to all of the attendees of this year's District Legislative Meetings. We feel that they were very successful in offering feedback from this year's legislative session. A special thank you to all of the legislators that attended and offered their own comments on the session. Below are pictures from various meetings along with the newly elected 2008 - 2009 district officers.

DISTRICT I

President – Doug Bishop, Jasper County Treasurer
S/T – Karen Squires, Marshall County Auditor

DISTRICT II

President – Jack Plathe, Kossuth County Supervisor
Vice President – Caye Chelesvig, Wright County Supervisor
S/T – Gloria Carr, Floyd County Auditor

DISTRICT III

President – Dennis Wright, Sioux County Supervisor
Vice President – Rich Haack, O'Brien County Supervisor
S/T – Burlin Matthews, Clay County Supervisor

DISTRICT IV

President – Richard Crouch, Mills County Supervisor
Vice President – Elaine Armstrong, Page County Supervisor
S/T – Joyce Jensen, Cass County Recorder

DISTRICT V

President – Ernie Greiner, Keokuk County Supervisor
Vice President – Stephen Burgmeier, Jefferson County Supervisor
S/T – Phyllis Dean, Wapello County Auditor (until 1/1/2009)
Carol Copeland, Des Moines County Auditor (beginning 1/1/2009)

DISTRICT VI

President – Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor
Vice President – Rod Sullivan, Johnson County Supervisor
S/T – Lori Elam, Scott County CPC



Top row, left to right: Rep. Clarence Hoffman, Rep. Doug Struyk, Rep. Jack Drake, and Rep. Rich Anderson . Bottom row, left to right: Rep. Roger Wendt, Rep. Chuck Soderberg, and Sen. Robert Dvorsky.

miscellaneous

2008 Iowa Grant Symposium: "Iowans Partnering for Progress"

September 3 and 4, 2008

Iowa State Center, Scheman Building

Ames, Iowa

Join your grant seeking peers from throughout Iowa at this premier training event. The agenda is filled with sessions relevant to all grant seekers, networking opportunities and a full day of Grants Management topics offered by the U.S. Department of Labor.

- September 3 - Concurrent Sessions, Networking Reception following the last concurrent session
- September 4 - Financial and Administrative Grant Management Sessions Offered by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

(These sessions are offered in cooperation with the Iowa Association of Regional Councils - IARC)

CEU/CPE Credits - Attendance on September 3 qualifies as 5 CEU/CPE Credits, September 4 qualifies as 4 CEU/CPE Credits, for a total of 9 CEU/CPE Credits if attending both days. A confirmation letter will be available at registration.

Registration Fee

- To attend September 3 Concurrent Sessions and Reception - \$100
- To attend September 4 Grant Management Sessions - \$75
- To attend both September 3 and September 4 Sessions - \$130

The registration fee includes deluxe continental breakfast, lunch, breaks and the September 3 reception.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - AUGUST 15, 2008

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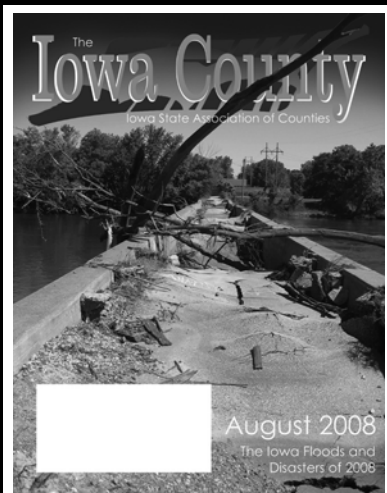
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Questions?

Contact Kathy Mabie at Kathy.mabie@iowa.gov or 515/281-8834



about the cover

The cover picture was taken at the Evansdale Bridge located on the Cedar River. It is part of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail which crosses the Cedar River at a couple of sites. These crossings were originally bridges built for an interurban rail line that ran between Waterloo and Cedar Rapids.

I would like to thank all of the county officials who donated their time by writing articles and sending in pictures for this issue of *The Iowa County* magazine. Please view more flooding resources in the lower left-hand corner of the ISAC website (www.iowacounties.org).

flooding pictures index

- Page 5 Linn County, Cedar Rapids
- Page 5 Johnson County, Emergency spillway
- Page 6 Louisa County, West of Columbus Junction
- Page 7 Louisa County, Oakville

Page 9 Butler County, Parkersburg

Page 10 Black Hawk County, Black Hawk Park

Page 11 Top Left: Johnson County, Highway 6 and Riverside Drive Intersection, Iowa City. Top Right: Black Hawk County, Waterloo. Mid. Left: Linn County, Lewis Access Road. Mid. Right: Linn County, Blairsferry Road. Bottom: Linn County, Railroad Bridge, Cedar Rapids.

Page 13 ISAC offices

Page 14 ISAC's temporary office space

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Past issues of The Iowa County can be viewed on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'News.'

Editor's Note: For consideration of materials to be published in *The Iowa County* magazine, please submit before the first Friday of the previous month. (Materials for the October magazine are due on Friday, September 5.) Thank you! Rachel

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calendar

August

- 1 Supervisor's Executive Board Retreat (Boone)
- 1 Auditors' Statewide Conference (Clear Lake)
- 13-15 CCMS Annual Conference (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 21 ISAC Steering Committee Meetings (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

September

- 10-13 Records Annual Conference (Honey Creek Resort, Rathburn Lake)
- 18-19 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat (Creston Area)
- 18-19 CCMS Strengths Training (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 25 ISAC Steering Committee Meetings (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

October

- 14 CCMS Administrators Training (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

- 21-23 Environmental Health Fall Conference (Marshalltown)
- 22-24 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 23-24 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Offices)

November

- 6 CCMS Advanced Training (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 19-21 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)

December

- 2-4 Engineers' Annual Conference (Scheman Center, Ames)
- 4 District 2 Supervisor's Winter Meeting (Elk's Lodge, Charles City)
- 10 District 4 Supervisor's Winter Meeting (Location TBA)
- 11-12 New County Officers School (Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 19 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Offices)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled thus far in 2008, agendas and meeting notices can be found on ISAC's website. A majority of ISAC's meetings offer online registration. If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Stacy Horner at (515) 244-7181 or shomer@iowacounties.org.



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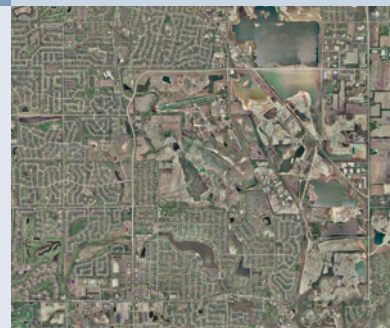
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