

The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties



September 2011

Linda Langston Elected
NACo 2nd Vice President





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The Iowa County

September 2011 * Volume 40, Number 9

The Iowa County: The official magazine of the Iowa State Association of Counties
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, IA 50266
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Feature:	
NACo News	4-9
Legal Briefs	10
<i>Kristi Harshbarger</i>	
Capitol Comments	11-12
<i>Mary Beth Mellick</i>	
Technology Center	13-14
<i>Robin Harlow and Tammy Norman</i>	
Case Management	15-16
<i>Linda Kemp</i>	
ISAC Meetings	17
<i>Stacy Horner</i>	
Employment	16
Miscellaneous	18-19
Calendar of events	21



ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. *The Iowa County* (ISSN 0892-3795, USPS 0002-150) is published monthly by the Iowa State Association of Counties 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines, IA 50318. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to rbicego@iowacounties.org. Subscriptions: \$25 per year.

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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.

feature - NACo news

Linda Elected NACo 2nd Vice President

Bill Peterson, Rachel Bicego and I had dinner at the Opryland in Nashville during the 2008 NACo Annual Conference. The reason for the meeting was to discuss my interest in running for NACo 2nd Vice President in 2011. That begins to give you an idea of how long the planning takes to accomplish something as big as becoming NACo 2nd VP.

I am very grateful to the assistance that I received from Bill and the ISAC staff, from the ISAC board and from my fellow Iowans as I took on the challenge of running for NACo office. I couldn't have done it without you and very much appreciate the support that everyone has shown me. And this undertaking just reinforced how much our Executive Director, Bill Peterson, is respected by his peers among the state executives.

My calendar is already filling up with dates that will take me to Washington, D.C. and other places in the nation for NACo-related meetings. I will go into Washington, D.C. at the end of August for a training session given to all incoming NACo 2nd VPs. I'm sure there will be a lot to learn during this session.

My first trip to another state association meeting will be to Grand Traverse, Michigan in September. I have made many friends in Michigan over the years during my involvement with NACo and I was pleased to be invited to join them. I will return to Michigan in October for the Rural Action Caucus which will be held in Frankenmuth County.

By: Linda Langston

Linn County Supervisor,
NACo 2nd Vice-President



I have received many notes of congratulation and support from many of my peers around the nation. That is the beauty of NACo—you make many friends from different parts of the country and you share a common background of being an elected official. I look forward to expanding the network of NACo colleagues over the next four years. I also hope that many of you will plan on becoming more involved in NACo as well. It has been a very rewarding experience for me. I have learned a great deal about our country, about important issues we all face, and I have learned again and again how much we share in common.

I look forward to developing my Presidential Initiative over the next year. Right now my focus is on health care issues, healthy food initiatives, especially for seniors, and working towards building resiliency in our communities so they are ready to respond in the event of a disaster. I also hope to continue work and expand Past President Glen Whitley's initiative of "County Government Works."

Thank you again for all your support. I think this is a great honor for Iowa, and I am very proud to be the first Iowan elected to NACo office. I promise to make everyone proud and look forward to hearing from you during the next four years of my service to NACo.



Linda announced NACo 2nd VP. The cover photo and the two photos on this page are by David Hathcock/NACo.



Grant Veeder while giving one of Linda's nominating speeches. The other nominating speeches were given by Liz Kniss, Santa Clara County California and Larry Johnson, DeKalb County Georgia.

NACo Annual Conference

This year's NACo Annual Conference was unlike any other: For the first time, an Iowa county official was elected second vice president of NACo! Linn County Supervisor Linda Langston was the unanimous choice at this year's election. We can all be proud that one of our own will become president of the National Association of Counties in 2013, and particularly because it will be an Iowan with the talents and abilities that Linda has demonstrated both at home and on the national level.

The conference was in Portland, Oregon, an interesting city with a laid-back attitude and a great public transit system. As usual the conference had many meetings and workshops and a large vendor exposition. An individual can only sample so much of what's going on. Here's a rundown of the activities in which I was involved:

I attended the meeting of the NACo Deferred Compensation Committee (which also held a dinner at a most excellent Peruvian restaurant) at which we reviewed the finances of Nationwide Retirement Solutions (NRS), NACo's partner in providing 457(b) deferred comp plans for county employees. NRS is in excellent financial condition, which is good news too for ISAC, which partners with NRS at the state level. We also heard presentations from NRS staff about future plans and the updating of their website. I encourage everyone to check out the NRS interactive retirement planner at www.nrsservicecenter.com/iApp/ret/landing.do - it's pretty slick. (If that's too much to type, pull the URL from the online version of *The Iowa County* magazine.)

I attended committee and subcommittee meetings of the Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs (FIGA) Steering Committee. In the Elections Subcommittee meeting, we heard from speakers discussing Oregon's vote-by-mail law. All elections in Oregon have been conducted in this manner since the '90s, and it was interesting to hear some of the details. One of the drawbacks of the system, tabulating huge numbers of votes in one place on election day, has been addressed by a recent law that allows counties to tabulate returned ballots before election day but requires that the voting machines be disabled from reporting the results until the election is over. When asked about the possibility of voting over the Internet, one speaker said that service people in combat are already able to vote by email, and noted that voting methods allowed for the military have become the cutting edge for advancements in voting for the general public. So maybe the question isn't *if* we'll be able to vote over the Internet, but *when*.

At last year's meeting there was much debate about whether NACo should tell the federal government it should have a bal-

By: Grant Veeder

Black Hawk County Auditor,
NACo ISAC Board Representative



anced budget. This year a resolution arose that supported an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow two thirds of the state legislatures to repeal federal laws and regulations. (The main impetus is to repeal the Affordable Health Care for America Act of 2010.) I opposed the resolution, saying, among other things: that we already elect the people who write the federal laws, and if we don't like their voting records, we can unelect them; that county governments typically have issues with state governments, so why should we ask them to be watchdogs of the feds; and that if two thirds of state governments could overturn federal laws, maybe two thirds of county governments should be able to overturn state laws. The resolution presented in the FIGA committee meeting failed, so the issue did not go to the NACo Board of Directors. Yet.

The NACo Board meeting was noteworthy in that Linda's challenger, sensing the almost certain outcome of the election, made a statement there withdrawing from the race. In other business, we debated a number of the resolutions proposed by the steering committees and approved the national Sheriff's Association as a NACo affiliate.

I attended a meeting of the County Awareness Committee, one of President Glen Whitley's initiatives. Here's a fun way that you can get kids to appreciate county government: On the iCivics website (www.icivics.org), which is the vision of former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the current lead game is NACo's "Counties Work." You take the part of a county official, and the game relentlessly complicates your life with issues, financial dilemmas, and impatient citizens. You should give it a try, and then alert area middle school teachers.

The general sessions included two riveting speakers. Bob Wooldruff, the ABC war correspondent whose head was shattered by a roadside bomb in Iraq, told the story of his injury and recovery. The following day, Aron Ralston, the mountain climber who inspired the movie "127 Hours," described how he got his arm pinned between a rock and a crevice wall and then freed himself by, well, you know, using the means at his disposal. Both speakers gave spellbinding presentations (complete with pictures), and both seemed to be sending a message to beleaguered counties about the persistence of will needed to survive.

Iowa county officials, we now have a challenge. We need great attendance over the next few years to show our support and appreciation for Linda as she marches her way to the pinnacle of NACo leadership. Our next opportunity will be the Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., March 3-7, 2012.

feature - NACo news

Annual Conference Review

By: *Marge Pitts*

Clay County Auditor,
ISAC President



County officials from across our Nation met at NACo's 76th Annual Conference in Multnomah County (Portland), Oregon July 15 - 19 to set legislative policies and priorities effecting local governments and to elect the 2011-12 NACo Executive Committee. Conference attendees were offered a variety of educational workshop sessions and steering committee meetings to gain a greater understanding of common issues that challenge us as leaders in local government. I particularly enjoyed the all day NACo Technology Summit, the Counties Saving Money in the Cloud session, the "New Normal" in County Staffing session, and the Women Officials of NACo (WON) luncheon. The Opening General Session speaker on Sunday, July 17, was Bob Woodruff, ABC News Correspondent, sharing the life altering event that nearly took his life while on assignment in Afghanistan. Also appearing as the guest speaker at Monday's General Session was Aron Ralston, mountain climber and inspiration for the film, "127 Hours." His accident in 2003, as a hiker in Utah, found him forced to amputate his right arm that was pinned beneath an 800 pound boulder. These phenomenal stories placed many things in perspective for us in the audience.

Those attending the conference from Iowa were especially proud to support the election of our Linn County Supervisor Linda Langston as the NACo 2nd Vice President. This position puts Linda in line to become our NACo President in July of 2013. We witnessed firsthand her passionate belief in counties and the respect she has earned from elected officials in

states across our Nation. Cerro Gordo County also received the 2011 NACo "Best of Category" Achievement Award for the precinct election management system, The Precinct Atlas, that guides precinct officials through the correct process to check-in and validate voters on election day. There were 16 awards presented from over seven hundred submitted programs. Our Iowa delegation gathered for a breakfast meeting on Monday, July 18th, giving us an opportunity to hear updates and reports from our members that serve on the NACo Board of Directors, The Rural Action Caucus, and the NACo Membership Committee. Thank you Grant Veeder, Judy Miller, Lu Barron, and Mark Sybesma for your service to NACo.

On a personal note I found Portland, Oregon to be a beautiful city filled with restaurants for any cuisine you desire, a public transit system that this Iowa farm girl did learn to navigate, and it has nearby access to the Pacific Ocean. It was in Portland that I had my first "Zombie" donut and discovered that hotels furnish umbrellas as well as irons and hair dryers to their guests. My travel experience was excellent, thanks to the planning and watchful efforts of our ISAC Executive Director Bill Peterson and staff member Rachel Bicego. The opportunity to attend the NACo Annual Conference as your ISAC President was a great honor and confirmed to me now more than ever that "County Government Works."



Group of Iowa attendees during the awards reception.



Keynote speaker Bob Woodruff.

Local Farms in Oregon

In the 1920's Iowa grew many different products. Now we only grow a few – corn, beans, cattle, hogs and chickens. But in Oregon, the diversity of crops is much greater. On Thursday before the NACO conference, Multnomah, Yamhill, Marion and Polk Counties organized an Ag tour for conference attendees. Twenty-five supervisors from across the county took the all day tour.

Our first stop was the Oregon State University research farm. The farm does work on a multitude of projects involving nursery stock, blueberries, strawberries, blackberries and Marion berries, which are a variety of a blackberry that was developed in Marion County. Wouldn't it be great to have a food named after your county? Like the Muscatine Melon, maybe someday we will have a Pott Potato.

On our next stop was the Willamette Valley Vineyards, which included a lunch of locally sourced foods. The meal and the pinot noir wines were excellent. Our host, Jim Bernau, one of the pioneers of the 30 year old wine industry in Oregon, spoke of the terroir of the region and why it was one of the best places to grow pinot noir. Bill Peterson would agree as he is one who appreciates a good pinot from Willamette.

So the story goes as follows, an Oregon wine was entered into a French Wine Competition and placed 3rd. A French vintner complained so much that another contest was held. The Oregon wine then placed 2nd in that competition. The Frenchman was impressed enough that he moved to the Willamette Valley and started a vineyard. With his knowledge and expertise, the wine industry grew rapidly to what it is today.



Oregon crops.

By: Melvyn Houser

Pottawattamie County Supervisor,
ISAC Board of Directors



Our third stop was Scharf Farms in Polk County. Our bus needed to be re-routed because it couldn't get on the ferry to cross the Willamette River. The county supervisors said it is cheaper to use a ferry than to build a bridge. After the 45 minute detour, we arrived at Scharf Farms. It is a four generation farm that grows a lot of grass seed. The grass seed is harvested, cleaned and bagged on the farm and distributed all over the United States. Much of the seed we use on our lawns is grown in Oregon. They also grow wine grapes, hazelnuts, clover seed and some corn for the areas dairies.

The last stop was another winery, Sokol Blosser in Yamhill County. The soil there is a bit different than Willamette Valley and one could taste the difference in the wine.

Everyone on the tour enjoyed it very much. Driving through the Valley, it is interesting to note the variety of crops being grown: ornamental flowers, x-mas trees, grass seed, nuts, berries, vegetables, hops, wine and much more.

Some of the product is shipped nation and worldwide, but much of it is sold locally in the farmers markets, stores and restaurants. And the consumers expect and demand that their food is local because they want to support their farmers, and it tastes fresher.

I believe Iowa could do more in this area, but it will take the support and advocacy of our local and state governments to build a local food industry.



Ag tour group.

My Trip to the Farm

Portland and Multnomah County, Oregon pride themselves on being very progressive. Therefore it was no wonder that they wanted to show off a couple of their urban farms to those of us from other parts of the country. What I expected to see and what was actually there were two different things. Being an Iowa farmer I expected to see a farm that was fully engaged in production of fruits and vegetables, pushing for maximum production on the parcel of land devoted to this urban farm. I expected the “farmers” to give me types of fruits and vegetables grown, production/acre, gross income, marketing opportunities and plans to increase both income and quantity. I wanted to learn their methods of production, what worked for them and what didn’t. I also wanted to know if some of the produce that they grew would be applicable in Iowa.

What I found at the first farm was a 40 acre tract that only had 2-3 acres in actual production of fruits and vegetables, some chickens and a few turkeys. Rather than a focus on production, this farm was focused on being the rallying point for this rather “tough” community. It was formed by many different organizations to educate the children about the source of their food and also to educate the adults about preparing and eating healthier diets. What I learned was that this urban farm was having a marked affect on the community where it was located both from the people who lived there but also from the myriad of volunteers that helped keep the farm going. I realized that could be an effective model for some of the larger communities here in Iowa.



County officials touring the urban farm.

By: *John Miller*

Black Hawk County Supervisor



Our next stop was the pride of Jeff Coggan, Multnomah County Chair. Multnomah County was asked to support the local food bank with a donation from the County. While the county wanted to be supportive, it was difficult enough to meet their budget without added expenses. What they did instead was take some county owned land within the City of Portland and start producing vegetables, donating all of them to the food bank. They again only had 2-3 acres under production, and the manager of the farm was funded by a grant from a local organization. The purpose of this farm was to produce fresh produce for the local food bank allowing them to distribute healthier food and also, in conjunction with the juvenile services, provide a place for youth to work off their community service.

While “my trip to the farm” did not meet my original expectations it did provide me with some new ways of looking at urban farms. A few things that I learned are:

- Iowa has a lot better dirt than Oregon.
- There is a lot of educating that needs to be done regarding healthier lifestyles.
- Children need to understand where their food comes from.
- Production of fruits and vegetables can be used as a tool to meet other goals.
- Iowa has a great opportunity to increase our production of produce.
- IOWA IS HOME.....I WOULDN'T TRADE IT FOR ANY OTHER PLACE!



County officials learning about the urban farm.

Iowa Counties Receive NACo Awards

Cerro Gordo and Johnson Counties were recently recognized by NACo for implementing innovative county government programs to better serve area residents. The 2011 NACo Achievement Awards winners were honored during the NACo's 76th Annual Conference and Exposition in Multnomah County/Portland, Oregon.

Cerro Gordo County won a Best of Category NACo Achievement Award for The Precinct Atlas program. Ken Kline, Cerro Gordo County Auditor, received the award on the county's behalf. Since it was first used in a special election in Cerro Gordo County in February 2009, the Precinct Atlas has been used in 48 Iowa counties, bearing such results as correct and efficient processing of voters, consistent application of election laws, virtually error-free election forms, and increased confidence of precinct officials in administering election precinct duties. Out of over 700 entries, The Precinct Atlas was one of only 16 given this prestigious award.

Eliason Elected President

The membership of NACo elected Athens County, Ohio Commissioner Lenny Eliason as NACo president during the annual conference. Eliason was first elected as a NACo officer during the 2009 Annual Conference in Davison County/Nashville, Tennessee and has served on NACo's Executive Committee since that time. He has been a member of NACo's Board of Directors since 2005 and has been an active NACo member for many years.

After assuming the NACo president position, Eliason described his goals for leading NACo over the next 12 months. He said NACo will continue to serve as a strong voice of America's counties in Washington, D.C., raise public awareness about county government through the County Government Works campaign and National County Government Month, and would continue the Veterans Task Force to help counties support those who serve in the military and their families.

He announced that his NACo Presidential Initiative would be "Healthy Counties" – a county by county public awareness campaign to promote healthy living and lifestyle choices in communities. Details of his initiative will be announced in the weeks ahead and can be found at www.naco.org.

Johnson County Supervisors Sally Stutsman and Terrence Neuzil accepted the NACo Achievement Award for the Native Plant Community Policy for Roadside Vegetation Management. The program provides guidance for the identification, care and preservation of native remnants/restorations (including prairies, woodlands, wetlands, and mixtures of these communities) and reconstructions in Johnson County's right-of-ways, and provides objective criteria for evaluating and ranking these communities.

The NACo Achievement Award program is a non-competitive program that recognizes counties for improving the management of and services provided by county government. Since the program's inception in 1970, the NACo Achievement Award program has honored thousands of county government initiatives that have improved service delivery, achieved greater cost efficiency, provided finer customer service, and helped to develop a better-trained work force. This year's winners represent 29 states and 97 counties.

"On behalf of the nation's counties, I commend Cerro Gordo and Johnson Counties and all counties who received NACo Achievement Awards this year," said NACo Immediate Past President Glen Whitley.

"I am deeply honored to lead this great organization," Eliason said. "I believe that through the strong voice of the National Association of Counties, the challenges local governments are facing in Athens County, throughout my home state of Ohio, and all 3,068 counties across the country will be heard loud and clear over the next 12 months. That's my promise and my commitment to this office."

First elected as Athens County Commissioner in 1998, Eliason serves on the board of directors for County Commissioners Association of Ohio and is a past board member of the County Risk Sharing Authority. He is president of the Board of the County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio. He is vice president of the Buckeye Hills Resource and Conservation Council. He serves on the Buckeye Hills Hocking Valley Regional Development Executive Committee and is a member of the board of the Appalachian Development Corporation. He is a past board member of the Hocking Athens Perry Community Action and a past board member of the Southeast Ohio Emergency Medical Services Board.

Eliason earned a Master's of Public Administration Degree from Ohio University in June of 2002. He is trained as a public sector dispute resolution mediator and also serves as a mediator for the Athens Area Mediation Service. He and his wife, Lisa, reside in the city of Athens. They have a daughter and a son.

Open Meetings and Open Records

Iowa's open meetings and open records statutes are not likely a new topic for county officials. But it's still an area that generates many questions. I've had a couple of timely or particularly nuanced questions on these issues lately, so I thought it might be helpful to discuss those here. Also, for those of you that may not have been able to attend our district meetings, there were a few changes to Iowa's open meetings and open records statutes this year. You can find a summary of those changes in ISAC's Summary of Legislation book on our website. If you have an issue that comes up related to open meetings and open records, there are a lot of resources out there on this topic – for example, the sunshine bulletins put out by the Iowa Attorney General's office or the reports released by Iowa's Citizen's Aide / Ombudsman. In addition, various groups do trainings on these matters, such as the Freedom of Information and Openness Training webinars last month, at which ISAC's Linda Hinton was a speaker. You should also be sure to consult with your county attorney on these matters.

Open Records

With the 2012 elections approaching, several counties have received or may receive requests for records that counties might have related to candidates. You may wonder if inquiries that have underlying political motivations must be treated the same way as other record requests. The answer is yes. The open records statute applies in the same manner to all requests, regardless of the motivation behind such request, and there is no exemption from the open record requirements for requests that are partisan in nature.

In addition, because Iowa is often at the forefront of elections, some of these requests may come from groups and individuals outside of the state of Iowa. You, however, should treat all requests the same, regardless of the source, as the open records rules apply equally to non-Iowa residents' rights to obtain information. Moreover, a county official cannot require that a person be present to receive records – Iowa Code §22.3 states the county official “shall not require the physical presence of a person requesting or receiving a copy of a public record and shall fulfill a request for a copy of a public record received in writing, by telephone, or by electronic means.”

That being said, you can charge your actual expenses (including your time to compile and determine if records are confidential, and to redact any confidential information) for fulfilling these requests. And to the extent a request asks for documents that may be confidential records under Iowa Code §22.7, you should consult with your county attorney to determine what records should be provided.

By: **Kristi Harshbarger**

ISAC Legal Counsel



Open Meetings

Many counties work with economic development entities designed to help attract businesses to the area. These economic development entities may be structured in a variety of ways and the level of county involvement may widely differ as well. Because of the nature of the work done by such economic development entities, having these meetings open to the public can be a cause for concern in some instances. When making a determination of whether meetings of economic development entities must be open to the public, you and your county attorney should consider the way your economic development entity is set-up in relation to the definition of “governmental body” in Iowa Code §21.2(1), which states:

‘Governmental body’ means:

- a. A board, council, commission, or other governing body expressly created by the statutes of this state or by executive order.
- b. A board, council, commission, or other governing body of a political subdivision or tax-supported district in this state.
- c. A multimembered body formally and directly created by one or more boards, councils, commissions, or other governing bodies subject to paragraphs “a” and “b” of this subsection.
- d. Those multimembered bodies to which the state board of regents or a president of a university has delegated the responsibility for the management and control of the intercollegiate athletic programs at the state universities.
- e. An advisory board, advisory commission, or task force created by the governor or the general assembly to develop and make recommendations on public policy issues.
- f. A nonprofit corporation other than a fair conducting a fair event as provided in chapter 174, whose facilities or indebtedness are supported in whole or in part with property tax revenue and which is licensed to conduct pari-mutuel wagering pursuant to chapter 99D or a nonprofit corporation which is a successor to the nonprofit corporation which built the facility.
- g. A nonprofit corporation licensed to conduct gambling games pursuant to chapter 99F.
- h. An advisory board, advisory commission, advisory committee, task force, or other body created by statute or executive order of this state or created by an executive order of a political subdivision of this state to develop and make recommendations on public policy issues.

Continues on page 12.

Much Ado About Commercial Property Taxes

By: *Mary Beth Mellick*

ISAC Fiscal/Public Policy Specialist



Having worked for ISAC now for a year and a half, I've learned that one of the biggest legislative challenges facing local governments involves the reform of Iowa's property tax structure. The 2011 legislative session proved no different with an attempt to modify the commercial property tax system. But after a six-month long battle between the House, the Senate, and the Governor, a compromise could not be reached and no legislation was enacted.

In the months leading up to the 2011 session, it was clear that commercial property tax reform would be on the legislature's agenda; Governor Branstad had been campaigning on this premise throughout his run for office. His plan was to roll back values on existing commercial properties by 8% each year over five years, with the value reaching 60% in year five. New commercial properties would be taxed at 60% immediately. Rolling back commercial property tax values, he said, would result in significant statewide economic growth and the creation of 200,000 new jobs.

2011 Legislative Session

The Beginning - The first bill on commercial property tax reform introduced early on in session was HF 9. Although this bill did not roll back commercial property values, it had a negative impact on local governments. The bill required a city or county whose property tax or other revenue is reduced to first reduce funding for non-essential services. Thankfully, the House later struck this language after they became inundated with calls and e-mails from local government officials expressing their concern about the language. HF 9 also coupled commercial property with agriculture and residential properties, and limited all properties to the lowest increase in valuation under a 4% cap. The bill was voted out of the House Ways and Means committee, with no further action. ISAC was opposed to this bill.

The next bill, HSB 129, was filed in late February. This bill was the Governor's proposal to roll back commercial property tax values to 60%, and to tax new commercial property at 60% beginning in 2012. HSB 129 did not include replacement dollars for the loss in local government property tax revenue. A subcommittee met on the bill, with no further action. ISAC was opposed to this bill as well.

Moving into March, action in the House had quieted down, and the Senate's plan for commercial property tax reform was unclear. ISAC remained hopeful that the Senate would not consider the bills coming from the House. Then on March 31, SSB 1205 was filed.

The Middle - SSB 1205, crafted by Senator Joe Bolkcom (D-Johnson), took a completely different approach than the House bills. It established a Business Property Tax Credit Fund for commercial, industrial and rail properties, and appropriated to this fund from the state's General Fund \$50 million annually beginning in FY 2012. For FY 2013 and each year thereafter, the bill appropriated an amount equal to the total amount appropriated in the previous fiscal year. Also for FY 2013 and beyond, the bill appropriated an additional \$50 million if the Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) certified that the total amount of General Fund revenues had grown by at least 4% compared to the previous fiscal year. The total appropriation to the fund was not to exceed \$200 million in any one fiscal year.

SSB 1205 was a good bill, one that ISAC registered in favor of. It had no fiscal impact on local governments and it supported small businesses. The approach was similar to the Homestead Tax Credit. It was estimated that during the first year the tax credit was in effect, it would be worth \$600 for property valued at \$30,000 and higher. The bill would tax the first \$32,000 of property as if it were residential property, or at 50.4%. SSB 1205 was renamed SF 522 and was voted out of the Senate on April 13.

The next couple of weeks remained relatively quiet – a little too quiet considering the end of session was fast-approaching. Then on April 27, two days before what was supposed to be the last day of the 2011 session, HSB 240 was filed.

HSB 240 was effectively the Governor's bill, HSB 129, with one exception – it included city and county budget limitations. The bill replaced the general and rural basic levies with a revenue limitation based on the Midwest Consumer Price Index. The bill also specified that counties could only exceed their revenue limitation if approved at a special election. Finally, the bill encouraged counties not to have ending unreserved or undesignated fund balances over 25% of budgeted expenditures. Anything in excess of 25% was to be explicitly reserved or designated for a specific purpose.

The Bitter End - Over the next couple of weeks, with no compromise in site, it was down to two very different proposals to commercial property tax reform: HSB 240, now HF 691, and SF 522. While SF 522 had been passed by the Senate, the House had not yet acted on HF 691. On May 10, the

Continues on next page.

capitol comments

House would consider SF 522. Upon taking up the bill for debate, the House amended the contents of HF 691 into SF 522, and then passed SF 522. SF 522 now included the House commercial property tax reform proposal and none of the language pertaining to the Senate's proposal.

While the House stood their ground on the commercial property tax rollback, the Senate also remained firm on their plan to create a business property tax credit, and negotiations continued. Throughout the remainder of May and June and through endless attempts to compromise, the commercial property tax language continued to be amended by both chambers, eventually ending up in a 700-page omnibus budget bill, and finally the standings appropriations bill where an amendment was adopted during a late-night conference committee to strike the language altogether. Commercial property tax reform was dead for the year.

Looking Ahead

Even though last-ditch negotiation efforts failed, the House and Senate did make changes to each of their proposals in an attempt to compromise. The following bullet points detail their positions in the final days of session, and the legislation that was considered but not enacted. It's unclear whether these ideas or compromises will hold true for the 2012 session, but they're probably good indicators of what lies ahead.

Rollback vs. Business Property Tax Credit

- The House remained firm on reducing the value at which commercial, industrial and rail property is taxed, but did amend their proposal to roll back the value to 75% instead of 60%.
- The Senate remained firm on not rolling back commercial, industrial, and rail values, and continued their push for a new

business property tax credit for each of these classes of property. The Senate did set a floor on residential property values to roll back no less than 50%. The House showed interest in the Senate proposal, but not enough to accept it and give up the commercial, industrial and rail rollback.

Replacement Dollars

- To make up for the loss in local government property tax revenue, in a final piece of legislation, the House created a Commercial and Industrial Property Tax Replacement Fund and appropriated from the state's General Fund \$30 million per year, up to \$150 million. This was an improvement over earlier House bills that did not include replacement dollars, or included language that specified it would be their "intent" to appropriate funding.
- The Senate's proposal of creating a new business property tax credit did not require the need for replacement dollars. Their proposal appropriated \$50 million annually up to \$200 million to a newly created Business Property Tax Credit Fund.

Revenue Limitations

- In a final piece of legislation, the House eliminated the supplemental levy, but allowed counties to levy for supplemental purposes within revenue limitations. The Senate did not eliminate the supplemental levy.
- The Senate provided that counties could exceed their revenue limitation if approved at a second public hearing instead of a special election, as proposed by the House. The Senate also said that the new limitation would take effect with budgets starting July 1, 2013 as opposed to 2012 like the House proposed.
- The Senate compromised with the House on the ending fund balance language, with some exception to the terminology used.

legal briefs

Continued from page 10.

- The governing body of a drainage or levee district as provided in chapter 468, including a board as defined in Iowa Code §468.3, regardless of how the district is organized.
- An advisory board, advisory commission, advisory committee, task force, or other body created by an entity organized under chapter 28E, or by the administrator or joint board specified in a chapter 28E agreement, to develop and make recommendations on public policy issues.

If it appears your economic development entity would fall under this definition – most likely through subsection "c" or "j," – then your economic development entity should work

closely with your county attorney to know and understand when Iowa Code §21.5 will allow a meeting to be closed. If the proper procedure is followed, meetings can be closed to discuss the purchase or sale (with the "or sale" being a new addition in 2011) of particular real estate, where premature disclosure could be reasonably expected to increase the price the governmental body would have to pay for that property or reduce the price the governmental body would receive for that property. Proper use of the statute allowing a meeting to be closed may help alleviate concerns of making sensitive economic development negotiations public.

Understanding Outsourcing

By: *Robin Harlow*

ISAC Technology Project
Manager



From time to time I'm asked to consult with counties on various IT issues and solutions. The topic of outsourcing comes up on a somewhat regular basis. Having been exposed to the good, the bad and the ugly of outsourcing, I thought I would take a few minutes and try to put these thoughts down on paper.

Outsourcing can be useful only if it is considered as part of your county's overall strategic IT plan. If you don't have a plan and you outsource your IT function, you may or most likely will run into more issues than you bargained for. In short, your county needs to have the knowledge and ability to manage the outsourced functions. It might make sense to outsource your phone system versus hiring a staff to manage the phone system, but in our connected world, someone will need to know how the phone system integrates with your network and equipment.

Because this topic is complex and at times emotionally charged, I believe it important that parties have a good grasp of both the risks and the possible rewards.

According to Yvonne Lederer Anotucci in her article "The Pros and Cons of IT Outsourcing," those who consider outsourcing IT functions need to be aware of the following risks:

- 1) Some IT functions are not easily outsourced. IT affects an entire organization; from the simple tasks employees do every day to the complex automated aspects. Be sure the outside vendor is qualified to take care of your greatest needs.
- 2) Control may be lost. Critics argue that an outside vendor will never be as effective as a full-time employee who is under the same management as other employees. Other concerns include confidentiality of data and disaster recovery. However, a supervisor that is knowledgeable in managing an IT staff member will usually be required.
- 3) Employee morale may be affected. This is particularly true if you will be laying off employees to replace their job functions with an outsourced firm. Other employees may wonder if their job is at risk, too.
- 4) You may get "locked in." If the vendor does not document their work on your network and system, or if you've had to purchase their proprietary software, you may feel like you can't go anywhere else or take back your network. Many outsourced companies require you to sign a year to year contract which limits flexibility.

Anotucci also mentions many rewards you can expect when you outsource your county's IT functions:

- 1) Access to the latest and greatest in technology. You may have noticed how rapidly software and hardware becomes obsolete in this industry. How is one staff person going to keep up-to-date with everything? Outsourcing gives you the benefit of having more than just one IT professional. And since it's the core competency of the company, they can give you sound advice to put your IT dollars to work for you.
- 2) Cost savings. Outsourcing your IT services provides financial benefits such as leaner overhead, bulk purchasing and leasing options for hardware and software, and software licenses, as well as potential compliance with government regulations.
- 3) High quality of staff. Since it's their core competency, outsourced IT vendors look to hire staff with specific qualifications and certifications. You may not know what to look for if you're hiring someone to be on staff full-time, so you may hire the wrong person for the job.
- 4) Flexibility. Vendors have multiple resources available to them, while internal staff may have limited resources and capabilities.
- 5) Job security and burnout reduction for regular employees. Using an outsourced IT company removes the burden from your staff who has taken on more than he or she was hired for because "someone needs to do it." You will establish a better relationship with your employees when you let them do what they do best and what they were hired to do.

I present both the risks and rewards only in the effort to offer a balanced perspective and to raise some flags that outsourcing companies generally do not print in their glossy brochure.

Personally, I believe that all counties should have someone on staff that can manage their IT functions. Under the guidance of this position, the county or counties (under the right conditions, counties without an IT function could share this position) could then build a strategic plan that could include outsourcing as an element of this plan. The important point is that someone with the county's best interest at stake is watching over the outsourced functions.

Outsourcing IT functions should be a part of a plan and NOT the entire plan.

If you have any questions about IT strategic planning or other IT issues, please contact me at rharlow@iowacounties.org or 515.244.7181.

technology center

Photo Books

Now that summer is in its last days, you may want to take a moment to memorialize your summer vacation or events using a simple, inexpensive photo book. There are several companies out there that offer this service, Shutterfly, Snapfish, Kodak Gallery, Target, Walgreens and Wal-Mart to name a few. If you have friends or family that have used any of these service providers, you can tap into their experiences to aid you in selecting the company that best suits your needs. From personal experience, I have used Shutterfly and found it to be simple and easy to use with a high quality final end product. Below is a step-by-step on how to create a photo book using Shutterfly.

Step One - Create a folder on your computer for the photos that you wish to feature in your photobook. To streamline the process when creating your book, name the photos in numeric order of where you want them in your book. Once completed, you will need to access the Internet and go to www.shutterfly.com and select "Photo Books."

Step Two - Select the "Simple Path," and then you will need to decide the size of your photo book. Sizes begin as small as a 5"x7" up to the 12"x12." The prices begin at \$12.99 and go up from there. Once you have decided on the size, click on the book icon and a new screen will appear.

Step Three - You will now need to select the style of your book by clicking on the "Change Style" button. You will have many designs to choose from ranging from fun to formal. The good news is that you can decide to change the style of your

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Office Manager



book after you have imported your photos. To do so, select the new style, and it will automatically update your book.

Step Four - Import and add your photos to the book by selecting the "Add Pictures" button. You will need to browse out and select the photos which have been stored/saved on your computer by clicking on "Get Pictures." Select the photos in the folder you created and click on the "Add to Photo Book" button. Your photos will be automatically placed in the photo book template in numeric order. When you click on the photos on the pages of the book an edit toolbar will be featured for you to delete/remove photos or modify their positions. You can also drag and drop the photos to different pages if you wish.

Step Five - Once your photos have been placed in the book, you are then able to add text or captions where you wish.

Website Note: Please take a moment to register for the 2011 ISAC Fall School of Instruction. All conference information, including ISAC events and agenda, can be found at www.iowacounties.org/fallschool.htm.

If you have a question regarding new technology and would like it addressed in this column, please contact me at 515.244.7181, ext. 315 or at tnorman@iowacounties.org. Until next month, keep clicking!

A banner for ISAC's Fall School of Instruction. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout. On the left, "ISAC's" is in a small font above "Fall School" in a large, elegant script, with "of Instruction" in a smaller font below. To the right, the event details are listed in a sans-serif font: "2011 Fall School of Instruction", "Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center", "Coralville, Iowa", and "November 16-18, 2011". At the bottom, a large, bold, sans-serif font reads "REGISTER TODAY!". The background features decorative circular patterns on the right side.

ISAC's
Fall School
of Instruction

2011 *Fall School* of Instruction
Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
Coralville, Iowa
November 16-18, 2011

REGISTER TODAY!

SAM: Finding a Voice

SAM. This is not your uncle, and it is not a place to shop for giant boxes of cereal. Allow me to introduce you to SAM.

This spring I had the good fortune of being able to attend an American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities conference in Minnesota. I was anticipating being able to listen to speakers that would also be options for future CCMS conferences. Once I returned home and thought about what I had attended, my mind kept coming back to SAM, the one inspiring presence that was involved throughout the entire conference. SAM is the acronym for Self-Advocates of Minnesota.

SAM participants were part of the openings and closings of sessions through well organized presentations and theatrical skits involving many members. With each break out at the conference SAM participants opened each session with something personal. For example in one breakout two individuals introduced themselves and shared something personal and of true value—a hand written recipe for Tater Tot Casserole. In another, two individuals introduced themselves and shared a song with lyrics their group had composed. There were other creative ways used to clearly demonstrate the individuality and personhood of individuals who have a disability while combating stigma and erroneous perceptions. Self confidence abounded!

Self advocacy is a serious concept. Self advocating means finding a voice to express the ideas from the perspective of the person you are. Self advocacy is consequential in promoting human and civil rights for people with disabilities.

Case managers and administrators contend with constant barriers in the system. There is less money for services; tighter restrictions on eligibility for meeting level of care for services; and providers continue to make do with less money. Provider staff wages remain low thus turnover is significant which affects the people with disabilities trying to become more self sufficient. When someone who has been both deserving of and receiving services for several years and is suddenly denied, we would like to introduce the decision maker to the client face to face. If the case manager's "voice" is not enough with the decision maker, how about involving the client's voice?

By: Linda Kemp

ISAC County Case
Management Specialist



One of the SAM documents I ran across while exploring their website is called "Telling Your Story" which is adapted from "Realize Your Power: Telling Your Story" by Pat Mellenthin, The Arc of Minnesota. This document provides a key strategy for advocating for yourself and is directed to people with disabilities. Here are some excerpts:

The three "P's"

- 1) Prepare - take time to decide what you want to say.
- 2) Practice - take time to practice what you want to say.
- 3) Participate - tell your story.

Why tell your story?

- Makes people without disabilities aware of who you are and the challenges you may face.
- Puts a human face on issues that impact people with disabilities.
- Influences others to take action.
- People remember stories more than facts and figures.
- Creates community and kinship with others who identify or share your experience.

The keys to telling your story:

- 1) Describe who you are. Who are you? Where do you live and work? How old are you?
- 2) Describe the services you receive. What services do you receive?
- 3) Describe what would happen if you lost those services. What impact would that have on you? What will you have to give up?
- 4) Describe a possible solution to your situation. What kind of funding or service would you like restored? Do you have any common sense ideas for the situation?

Other ideas on telling your story.

- 1) Do not be afraid to share the drama, humor, and other things in your life to make the story come alive.
- 2) Ask your family, friend or staff to help you if you need it.
- 3) Share a "slice of a day in your life."
- 4) Remember to use the keys to telling your story.
- 5) Emphasize successes, failures or roadblocks you have overcome.
- 6) Limit your story to one page.
- 7) Practice telling your story.

Connecting with your Policy Maker

- Make an appointment to tell your story by phone or email before you visit.
- Be honest and talk from the heart.
- Personalize your issue.
- Be positive and friendly.
- Be on time.
- Introduce yourself and make eye contact.
- Remain focused on telling your story.
- Provide a written copy of your story.
- Ask your policy-maker to take a specific action—what do you want them to do about your issue? How will they support your issue?
- Thank your policy-maker for their time.
- Get a photo together.
- Send a thank you note after the meeting.

Self-Advocates of Minnesota appears to be well organized and part of other advocacy efforts in the state. The state is divided into regions, each region having SAM representatives at the Leader Circle (state level). The motivation includes going after basic rights and being politically active. As indicated with the “Telling Your Story” instructions, the intent is to be a respected presence in the process of advocating for change.

Unfortunately Iowa does not have a statewide organization to compare with SAM. I had conversations with a representative from People First in Story County and with Casey Westoff

with Arc of Iowa. There are pockets of self advocacy groups in several areas of the state but so far they each do their own thing. What would it take to pull together a state wide advocacy organization? The right people and some money. I think it can happen if the right people find the inspiration to do a difficult thing. Past efforts may have failed but future failure is not a given.

If you have the good fortune to be close to one of the self advocacy groups that are active in their area, ask some questions about its mission and if it is “walking the talk.” If self advocacy means getting together socially for food and fun, that misses the mark. If it spends time learning the best ways to get their point across to people with power, that is right on the mark.

On an individual level, what a terrific skill to have an individual develop with the help of provider staff—how to be a self advocate, to promote oneself to be a member of a board of directors in the community, or to speak to the board of supervisors, or to speak with potential employers, or to be present and a voice where decisions are made that affect their life. For inspiration or simply to look at tools to use, Google Self-Advocates Minnesota and see an example of what can be done.

Iowa could very well put together such a group and until then, please recognize the value of having a voice and being a self-advocate at the individual level. SAM can inspire you, too.

employment

Communications/E911 Manager

Clinton County is seeking a qualified individual to fill a highly technical position responsible for day-to-day operation, effective coordination and direction of the Clinton County Communications E911 Center. The salary range range is \$50,000 + negotiable depending on qualifications.

A complete job description and application are available at www.clintoncounty-ia.gov.

Applications must be received by Thursday, September 22, 2011 for consideration.

Take Advantage of ISAC's Corporate Hotel Rates

ISAC has signed corporate rate agreements with four Des Moines area hotels for 2011. Please take advantage of these special rates throughout the year if you are visiting the Des Moines area. The rates are available for both business and pleasure. The more rooms that are reserved with the ISAC rate, the better the rates will be for 2012.

New contracts for 2011 include the Courtyard Des Moines West/Clive and the Hampton Inn West Des Moines. Both hotels are conveniently located near the new ISAC office in West Des Moines. Amenities and reservation instructions for these hotels can be found below or at www.iowacounties.org.

Courtyard Des Moines West/Clive

The Courtyard Des Moines West/Clive (1520 NW 114th Street, Clive, IA 50325) will offer a preferred corporate rate of \$89/night (plus applicable tax), which includes breakfast, to anyone associated with ISAC. This rate is available for a standard guest room and is based on availability. Upon check-in, the front desk will give you information about your complimentary breakfast in The Bistro.

Amenities:

- Smoke-Free Hotel
- Convenient Location off Interstate 80 and within Minutes of the ISAC Office, Shopping and Restaurants
- Rooms Feature Luxury Bedding, Coffee Maker/Tea Service, Iron and Board and Hairdryer
- On-Site Restaurant, The Bistro, Serving Breakfast and Dinner Daily
- Complimentary On-Site Parking
- Complimentary High Speed and Wireless Internet Access
- Full-Service Business Center
- Fresh Coffee in the Lobby
- Indoor Pool and Whirlpool
- On-site Fitness Center
- 3:00 pm Check In, 12:00 pm Check Out

To receive this preferred corporate rate, please call 515.225.1222 to make your reservation. Please ask for the ISAC/Iowa State Association of Counties corporate rate. You can also make your reservation online (<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/dsmch-courtyard-des-moines-west-clive?corporateCode=IOW&toDate=&fromDate=&app=resvlink>) and use the code **IOW** to receive the special ISAC rate.

By: *Stacy Horner*

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



ISAC will remain in contract with the Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott Des Moines Airport and the Radisson Hotel Des Moines Airport. Amenities and reservation instructions for these hotels can be found on the ISAC website.

Please contact me at shorner@iowacounties.org if you have any questions. We hope that you enjoy your stay in the Des Moines area!

Hampton Inn West Des Moines

The Hampton Inn West Des Moines (7060 Lake Drive, West Des Moines, IA 50266) will offer a preferred corporate rate of \$89/night (plus applicable tax) to anyone associated with ISAC. This rate is available for a standard guest room and is based on availability.

Amenities:

- Convenient Location off Interstate 80 and within Minutes of the ISAC Office, Shopping and Restaurants
- On the House™ Hot Breakfast Daily from 6:00 am-10:00 am
- Hampton's On The Run™ Breakfast Bag Available at the Front Desk Each Morning
- Complimentary Evening Social Offered Monday-Thursday
- Complimentary On-Site Parking
- Complimentary High Speed and Wireless Internet Access
- Complimentary Business Center
- Fresh Coffee and Hot Water in Lobby 24 Hours a Day
- Enhanced Indoor Pool Area and Whirlpool
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- Exceptionally Clean, Comfortable Guest Rooms Featuring Cloud Nine, the Hampton Bed Experience
- Full Size Iron and Ironing Board, Coffee Maker and Hair Dryer in Each Room
- Portable Refrigerators and Microwaves Available Upon Request
- 100% Unconditional Satisfaction Guarantee
- Hilton Honors® Points and Miles Earned with Every Stay
- 3:00 pm Check In, 12:00 pm Check Out

To receive this preferred corporate rate, please call 515.223.4700 to make your reservation. Please ask for the ISAC/Iowa Association of Counties corporate rate.

Iowa Flood Center: Living With Floods



Managing floods and rebuilding after major flood events has become an important focus for state and federal agencies, cities, towns, businesses, and farms in Iowa over the past 20 years. Iowans need expertise and reliable information to be better prepared for floods and to become more flood resilient.

In just the last three years, record flooding has caused damage totaling more than \$5 billion to homes, businesses, and farms in 85 Iowa counties. In 2008, floods destroyed property in many communities, including Cedar Rapids, Cedar Falls, Mason City, Charles City, Waverly, Des Moines, Elkader, Iowa City, Coralville, Columbus Junction, and Oakville. In 2010, major flooding impacted Ames, Cherokee, Colfax, and Des Moines. This year, Iowa's western border counties along the Missouri River are all experiencing historic flooding.

The good news coming from all of these disasters is that in 2009, state leaders recognized the tremendous needs of communities for more technical assistance to better predict and prepare for floods. Drawing on the expertise right here in Iowa at the world-renowned IIHR—Hydroscience & Engineering at the University of Iowa, the Iowa Flood Center (IFC) was created.

The IFC is our nation's first academic center devoted solely to the study of floods. The Center has wasted no time in working to be a resource to help communities better prepare for and manage future Iowa floods.

The IFC staff have been busy working with many communities, as well as state and local government leaders and decision-makers. The IFC is bringing engineering and scientific expertise to help communities make more informed land-use decisions. These new partnerships are one of the most effective ways to make Iowa communities more flood resilient, says IFC Director Witold Krajewski.

The Center is also working to prepare the next generation of engineers and water management professionals. About 20 graduate and undergraduate students at the University of Iowa and Iowa State University are currently involved in IFC work. These students get hands-on training and research expertise that spans a variety of academic disciplines, preparing them for the complex problems of the future. See photo to right.

Krajewski, an IIHR research engineer and professor of civil and environmental engineering, says the center is a vital resource for Iowans as they prepare for future floods.

Current IFC Projects:

View Your Community and Your Watershed

The IFC website (www.iowafloodcenter.org) offers access to the Iowa Flood Information System (IFIS), an easy-to-use web tool that provides Iowans with up-to-the-minute, watershed-specific information on current and recent rainfall totals, river and stream levels, community flood inundation maps, and more. Armed with this knowledge, government officials and property owners can better predict and prevent costly flood damage. The system displays watershed-specific information for 530 Iowa communities.

New Flood Inundation Maps

IFC researchers are developing Google Maps-based, high-resolution flood inundation maps for several communities in Iowa. These detailed maps are available to the public online, so residents can see how different flood levels could affect their home or business. The maps are available at www.iowafloodcenter.org/maps.

New Floodplain Maps

IFC researchers are currently developing floodplain maps for most of Iowa. The four-year Iowa Floodplain Mapping project is funded with \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Working closely with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the IFC will develop FEMA-approved floodplain maps for the 85 Iowa counties that were declared federal disaster areas after the 2008 floods.

IFC researchers will map all streams draining one square mile or more in each of the 85 Iowa counties, relying on statewide LiDAR data recently collected by the DNR. This will make it possible to accurately describe Iowa's river and stream net-



works, develop computer-based flood simulations, and delineate floodplains. In the process, researchers hope to develop innovative, efficient new floodplain mapping tools.

Once completed, the maps will be available online to guide floodplain regulation and management.

New Affordable River and Stream Monitoring

IFC students helped invent a new, low-cost electronic stream sensor that measures river and stream water levels and transmits up-to-the-minute data to the Iowa Flood Information System. Each sensor is mounted on a bridge and uses sonar to measure the distance from the water's surface to the sensor. This information, transmitted via cell phone to a central database, is then uploaded to the Internet for use by the public and local emergency management personnel. See photo below.

The DNR and the IFC recently completed a pilot project to deploy a preliminary network of 50 sensors across the state; a new agreement between the DNR and IFC to deploy another 50 sensors is nearly in place. A statewide system that could be deployed within a few years would enhance monitoring of stream stages and the prediction of flooding. If you know of a stream or river that needs to be better monitored upstream of your community, please e-mail the Iowa Flood Center at ifc@iowafloodcenter.org.

To learn more about these projects visit www.iowafloodcenter.org; and for more information, contact the Iowa Flood Center at ifc@iowafloodcenter.org.

SAVE THE DATE!

Iowa Flood Center to Host Upcoming Webinar

The Iowa Flood Center (IFC) will hold two informational webinars to launch its newly updated Iowa flood Information System (IFIS).

The first webinar will be held on Monday, Sept. 19, at 10:30 a.m., with a repeat session on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 3:30 p.m. The webinars are free and open to all interested persons.

Participants will learn how to use the IFIS web tools that provide Iowans with up-to-the-minute community and watershed-specific information on current and recent rainfall, river and stream levels, community flood inundation maps, and more.

The webinars will be hosted online using Elluminate web conferencing software. To sign up for the webinar, please send your name, title, organization, address, and telephone number to: ifc@iowafloodcenter.org. You will then receive details on how to join the webinar.



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2011/2012 calendar

September 2011

- 15-16 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Arrowwood Resort & Conference Center, Okoboji)
- 15-16 CCMS Strengths Based Training
(Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 21 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Otter Creek Golf Course, Ankeny)
- 22 ISAC Legislative Policy Committee Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 30 Fall School Program Materials Deadline
(4:30 pm)

October 2011

- 2-5 Assessors School of Instruction and Conference
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 11 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 19-20 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
- 21 Fall School Housing Bureau Closes (4:30 pm)
- 27-28 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
- 28 Fall School Registration Closes (4:30 pm)

November 2011

- 3 CCMS Advanced Case Management
(Hilton Garden Inn, Urbandale)
- 16-18 ISAC Fall School of Instruction
(Coralville Marriott Hotel and Conference Center)

December 2011

- 9 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

January 2012

- 10 CCMS Administrators Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 18-19 ISAC University
(West Des Moines Marriott)

February 2012

- 9 Statewide Supervisors Meeting
(Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 15-16 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

March 2012

- 1 County Day at the Capitol
(Des Moines)
- 3-7 NACo Legislative Conference
(Hilton Washington Hotel, Washington DC)
- 15-16 ISAC Spring School of Instruction
(Des Moines Marriott Downtown)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled for 2011 and 2012, 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 or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC Calendar, please contact Stacy Horner at 515.244.7181 or shorner@iowacounties.org.



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