

The Iowa
County

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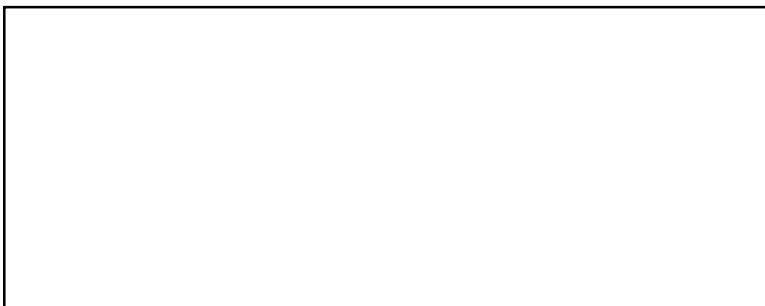
Iowa's rail freight system provides rail service to 90 out of 99 counties:
The Importance of Iowa's Railways

Views on Consolidation

ISAC's Legislative Priorities

Domain Name Changes
Not Necessary

December 2002



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The Iowa County

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contents

December 2002 * Volume 31, Number 12

FEATURES

Iowa's Rail Freight 4

Consolidation: Pro's & Con's 5

IN EVERY ISSUE

Around the Statehouse *Robert Mulqueen* 6

Legal Briefs *David Vestal* 7

Health Check *Sandy Longfellow* 8

Case Management *Connie Wacht* 9

Counties in the Spotlight 10

Profiles 10

Miscellaneous 11

ISAC Brief 11-13

Associate Member Highlights 13

NACo News 14

Calendar of Events 19

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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.

What Do You Know About Iowa's Rail Freight?

By: Maggie Hamilton

Rail Policy Analyst, Iowa Dept of Transportation

Iowa's rail freight transportation provides rail service to 90 out of 99 counties and connects businesses to markets across Iowa, the nation, and markets overseas. Iowa's rail freight system has 4,182 miles of track, has 17 independent railroad companies, and last year transported 39 million tons originating in Iowa and received 42 million tons terminating in Iowa. Although grain is the major commodity originated on Iowa rails, food products, chemical, fertilizer, coal and farm products are also carried on trains throughout the state. Just with these facts, you can begin to see the importance of rail freight to Iowa and how Iowa rail transportation contributes to vitality to the state's economic stability. Iowa property taxes paid by railroads for the 2000 year, exceeded \$17 million.

In June 2002 a report was issued by the General Accounting Office in Washington D.C. to the House of Representatives. The report states "Railroads are the primary mode of transportation for many products, especially for such bulk commodities as coal and grain"¹. The report also states "rail rates generally have continued to fall nationwide."²

Impact of Rail Freight on Iowa

For all Iowans it's important to understand the significant role of rail freight and the impact on local and statewide economy. All too often rail transportation is seemingly taken for granted. Rail freight needs and issues, in some way, have a major impact on each and every Iowan. A goal of the Iowa DOT Office of Rail Transportation is to increase public awareness of the importance of rail transportation to Iowans. This article is the first of many steps towards reaching that goal.

While rail freight competes with other transportation modes, highway, riverways and aviation, rail provides an integral part of the intermodal system. Iowa's rail freight system carries 37% of the freight on only 3% of the 130,000 mile intermodal transportation system. Railroads in Iowa have an extensive network that connects to all major Iowa urban areas, providing access to river terminals, grain storage and elevators.

Did you know 54% the grain elevators are served by rail freight? One covered rail car is capable of hauling 3,500 bushels of grain, which is equivalent to four semitrailer-tractor trucks. It would require 400 semis stretching 5.3 miles long bumper-to-bumper to move the same amount of grain moved by a 100-car grain train. In the year 2000, 152,479 railcar loads of grain originated from Iowa. To move the same amount by semi-truck would have taken more than 600,000 semis,

or an additional 1,650 trucks per day on Iowa's highways.

Rail transportation saves thousands of gallons of fuel every year. Iowa railroad fuel efficiency has increased 35% since 1985, when a gallon of diesel fuel moved a ton of freight an average of 294 miles. In 2000, railroads moved a ton of freight an average of 396 miles per gallon. In comparison, trucks move a ton of freight 60 miles per gallon of fuel.

Iowa freight railroads directly contribute \$231.7 million a year to the economy in wages and benefits to 4,100 employees who live in Iowa. More than 9,900 retired railroad workers and family members receive \$110 million in retirement benefits each year.

Iowa railroads routinely re-invest about 25% of their revenues earned in Iowa, and spend over \$225 million annually to maintain and improve their rail infrastructure. The continued support for maintenance and rail improvements since 1985 has led to a decline of 63% in train derailments. During that same period, crossing accidents per million car miles has also declined by 70%.

On a closing note ...the next time you are stopped at a railroad crossing waiting for a freight train to pass, ponder as the train goes by... "Iowa farmers and industry are the heart of Iowa, Iowa's rail freight system provides a smart and economical means for moving goods to and from local, intrastate, interstate and international markets; that provides Iowan's with "fields of opportunities" and contribute to our economy."

Feedback, comments or concerns that you have about the information in this article or current issues dealing with rail freight call (515) 239-1670 or email Maggie.Hamilton@dot.state.ia.us.

¹ GAO-02-524 Freight Rail Rates

² GAO-02-524 Freight Rail Rates



Consolidation: The Pro's & Con's

By: David Vestal

ISAC Deputy Director

The following information was compiled for a presentation to the Iowa League of Cities. The pro-consolidation and anti-consolidation views are given for each topic. ISAC's position on consolidation is we encourage counties to pursue cooperating with other entities as much as possible but are not in favor of mandated efforts.

Overall Theme

Pro - Jurisdictional boundary lines can be invisible barriers to sustainable development. A 1990 Purdue University study of consolidation and of previous consolidation studies found that in 85 consolidation referenda across the country, those who supported consolidation tended to include local government leaders, business leaders, and "good government" groups. Consolidation is good for business and good for citizens.

Anti - Consolidation is oversold; we can cooperate and still keep our unique community identity. The Purdue University study of past consolidation votes found that two groups generally opposed to consolidation were minority groups and anti-tax groups. There is no conclusive evidence that consolidation is good for business

Cost

Pro - A larger community can provide the same services at a lower cost per resident. The Polk County task force was told there were 42 different services where there is currently duplication between Polk County and the city of Des Moines. The Polk County Commission is looking at the elimination of 56 full-time positions with a savings of \$5 million.

Anti - The Purdue University study found that there are not economies of scale in local government operations, especially for functions like fire protection, police protection and trash collection. In fact, the study concludes that larger units of government are more expensive to operate, not less. The Purdue study suggests two reasons for this: 1) when cities and counties consolidate, the wages of the employees of the consolidated government must become uniform, and this usually means increasing the wages of the lower-paid employees. A 2000 report from the University of Georgia entitled "Does city-county consolidation save money?" concluded with the following: "Very few studies have examined the impact of city-county consolidation, and what little evidence does exist suggests that costs will actually increase in the short term."

Efficiency

Pro - Increased consolidation leads to more efficient government. Consolidation brings a sense of order and common purpose out of the chaotic and often competing collection of city, county and suburban governments in Polk County. Consolidation eliminates the constant bickering between the cities and the county, and results in a community that speaks with one voice, one vision, and one agenda. Consolidation will "peel off one layer of government."

Anti - Efficiency is overrated. By its very nature, government is not efficient – we have to wait to publish notices that no one reads before we can proceed, we have to get multiple bids for projects when we know who the best bidder will be, we have to hold hearings that no one attends, etc. A Purdue University Study concludes when there is no consolidation, cities compete to keep taxes down and services up because of their fear that people will move away. Consolidation creates a monopoly in government service provision, eliminating these incentives for efficiency. The 2000 study from the University of Georgia has this to say: "The act of consolidating will not guarantee more efficient operations, despite what some of its advocates would have us believe." In many cases cooperation already exists. Polk County has taken over Vets Auditorium and the Convention Center. All of the duplication that exists can be tackled thru 28E agreements.

Economic Development

Pro - A larger community, speaking with one voice and pooling resources, can do a better job of attracting industry. Numbers matter when businesses make location decisions and the numbers that are most readily available are census population figures.

Anti - Where's the proof? A 1997 study by Florida State University studied the 30-year track record of the Jacksonville Florida-Duval County consolidation, and "failed to find evidence of a link between consolidation and economic development." The study concluded that the consolidation "has not enhanced the local economy." This population argument seems too simplistic – any reasonable person would be interested in the size of the metro area, not just the city population, and the size of the metro area does not change even if the jurisdictional lines change.

Property Taxes

Pro - If taxes do go up in the unincorporated area of Polk County county, this is a way of assuring that rural residents (suburbs) pay their fair share for services provided by the city of Des Moines to all county residents, such as the Des Moines zoo and the Botanical Center.

Anti - The Purdue study says that "the bulk of the evidence indicates that consolidation increases taxes and spending." Consolidation shares a region's tax base and service costs, which tends to equalize tax rates and service delivery for the region's citizens. City-county consolidation usually means that rural residents pay more in taxes. This is often just a thinly-veiled attempt by cities that are at their maximum levies to grab the property tax authority of the county. The perception is that county residents will be paying for things in the city and can't do anything about it.

For additional comparisons regarding accountability, loss of identity, annexation, new approach to governing and racism can be found on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Hot Topics.'

around the statehouse

ISAC's Legislative Top Priorities

"It is impossible for ideas to compete in the marketplace if no forum for their presentation is provided or available." - Thomas Mann

"No grand idea was ever born in a conference, but a lot of foolish ideas have died there." - F. Scott Fitzgerald

It's that time of the year once again. In a month, some of us to prepare for battle in the rotunda. Numerous county officials will make the case for issues near and dear to county government. Some will join the many who descend on the Capitol during the ISAC Spring School in March, take part in ISAC's "County-a-Day" program, or individually travel to the Capitol to visit with their own legislators about a variety of issues.

Priorities Chosen By Board of Directors

But the issues which have emerged as common to county officials for 2003 have risen to the surface now through ISAC's policy steering committees, the board of directors and the membership at ISAC's Fall School of Instruction. In late October the board of directors chose seven priority issues for 2003. These include, in no order of priority, the following:

- **E-Commerce Fee:** We urge the passage of enabling legislation to allow a fee on recorded real estate documents for the purpose of establishing a fund to pay for an Iowa real estate records system by means of an Internet website. Such an electronic site would supplement, not replace, the current system.
- **Bio-terrorism and Public Health Infrastructure:** Multi-year funding for the modernization and reinforcement of the existing structure of the local public health system is urgently needed. We urge local governments to gain access to 45% of the federal funds already approved for Iowa by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. A mix of such state and federal funding would improve state and local health resources, as well as disease surveillance, and adequately prepare local public health workers for the possible threat of biological terrorism.
- **Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Redesign:** This multi-faceted priority has to do with adequate funding for mental health and developmental disability programs, with significant changes in the administration of mental health community-based services and of residential treatment for children.
- **County Home Rule Authority and Livestock Confinements:** Since 1993, counties have been at odds with the state over the ability to use county home rule authority to site concentrated animal feeding operations. Counties want that authority restored.
- **State Reimbursement for State Prisoners:** The state pays for only a portion of the cost to counties of holding state

By: Robert Mulqueen

ISAC Public Policy Analyst



prisoners in county jails. The Department of Corrections appropriations line item is \$500,000 short of the cost to counties. This should be fully funded.

- **Local Government Fiscal Reform Act:** Creation of a state commission to perform a comprehensive review of state and local tax systems would serve as a first step. The second step would consist of a set of local tax system reforms including financial management plans prepared by each county, the limitation of unreserved-undesignated county fund balances, the allowance of general obligation bond flexibility, and strong protection against unfunded mandates.
- **Road Use Tax Income and Distribution:** The current distribution formula of the Road Use Tax Fund among the state, counties, and cities should be maintained. Counties oppose the diversion of current dedicated road use income to other uses and away from any or all political subdivisions which now receive it.

There are many other issues discussed by the seven policy steering committees in their meetings and included in ISAC's Policy Statements and Legislative Objectives for 2003.

Strategy at the Statehouse

A significant amount of the time and energy spent in any legislative session is devoted to "defensive baseball," that is in reaction to someone else's "great idea" in the form of a proposal which suddenly pops up while looking through the daily packet of newly introduced bills. Strategically, it is one thing to work to shepherd through the legislative thicket a bill for which your organization is the catalyst. But it is another when you are on the defensive against a proposal which already has several legislative heavyweights as co-sponsors and is being supported by two or three interest groups.

The 2002 general election results saw the status quo kept in both the executive and the legislative branches of Iowa government. It remains to be seen what this will mean for county related issues. The struggles of the last 10 years over property taxes, which have sometimes taken a specific aim at the county share and not at cities or school districts, have been hard fought and bitter. Legislation which has sought to limit local government power over their revenues and/or their property tax levies has taken various forms: from the property tax freeze of 1992, to the Stanley Amendment, to the Farm Bureau proposals of 2000 and 2001, to last year's many layered version of some sort of a limitation. Perhaps we will know more by the New Year.

Be Sure Board Appointments Follow Legal Requirements

Appointing Assessors

The Iowa Supreme Court recently addressed the issue of the right way – and the wrong way – to appoint a county assessor. In *Bailiff v. Adams County Conference Board*, 650 N.W.2d 621 (Iowa 2002), Richard Bailiff was the long-time Adams County assessor. The conference board met on February 13, 1997 and reappointed Bailiff for a six-year term beginning on January 1, 1998.

At that meeting, as required by Iowa Code §441.8, the three groups represented on the conference board each voted as a block. The board of supervisors voted against reappointment. The county mayors voted in favor, as did the school board representatives.

Later a question arose about the legality of the vote because one individual participated in the mayors' vote at the request of a mayor, but was not a mayor herself. The Iowa Administrative Code provides that only mayors can vote.

On January 20, 1998, the conference board reviewed the matter and discussed the error in Bailiff's reappointment. Two weeks later the conference board voted to deny the reappointment. By that time, Bailiff was one month into his new six-year term.

Bailiff sued the conference board. His case bounced from state court to federal court and back. Eventually the state district court granted the conference board's motion for summary judgment and Bailiff appealed.

His appeal raised several issues. The first was a due process claim based on the notion that he had a property right to hold the assessor's position. Bailiff claimed that he had been appointed for a new six-year term when the conference board met in February 1997, and that he was entitled to retain that position. The Iowa Supreme Court held that the February appointment was invalid because one of the participants in the mayors' vote was not a mayor. The Court said that appointment of public officials "must be made in strict compliance" with the law.

According to the Court, since Bailiff's appointment was not done strictly according to the law, his status after December 31, 1997 when his previous term expired, "was only as a holdover."

Bailiff's next issue was that he was not notified of the conference board's decision at least 90 days prior to the expiration of his term, as required by the Iowa Administrative Code. He said that if the notice had been given, he would have sought one of the 12 assessor positions that were vacant in late 1997.

The Court rejected this argument, saying that nothing in the law or the administrative rules suggests that failure to follow this 90-day provision results in the automatic reappointment of the assessor. Given the importance of the assessor in the property tax process, said the Court, it is "highly unlikely

By: **David Vestal**

ISAC Deputy Director



the Legislature envisioned what Bailiff seeks here – a reappointment of a public official by default.”

The other issue addressed in this case is the legal concept of estoppel. *Estoppel* means that one who has made certain representations should not be permitted to change his position later to the prejudice of one who has relied on those representations.

For instance, if you are building an addition onto your house, and you ask the city building inspector if legally you can build your house all the way up to the lot line. He says “yes,” and you proceed. After the addition is done, the same inspector tells you that he was in error, and the addition has to be five feet from the lot line. You would go to court and argue that you relied on his previous assurance, and that he should be *estopped* from changing his position.

Bailiff claimed that he relied on the conference board's words, and he had every reason to believe that he had a new six-year appointment. Bailiff claimed that the conference board should be *estopped* from claiming that its appointment was invalid.

But as the Court pointed out, the general rule is that *estoppel* does not lie against governments. To be blunt about it, courts typically hold that people have no right to rely on statements made to them by government officials.

So in Bailiff's case, the Court said that the conference board could vote to give him a new six-year appointment, treat him accordingly, and then two months into the new term vote to deny the appointment.

The same thing in the case of the home addition that was too close to the lot line. Because the *estoppel* doctrine generally does not apply to governments, the homeowner in that case would probably lose a claim that the city misled him. See *City of New Hampton v. Blayne-Martin Corp.*, 594 N.W.2d 40, 45 (Iowa 1999).

In addition to what it teaches us about *estoppel*, the message in this case is that appointments for positions like assessor have to be made in strict compliance with the law, so it pays to read what the statutes say about the appointment process.

Parting Ponderable:

Actual courtroom gaffes as reported on the Internet:

Q: Can you describe the individual?

A: He was about medium height and had a beard.

Q: Was this a male, or a female?

Q: Doctor, how many autopsies have you performed on dead people?

A: All of my autopsies are performed on dead people.

health check

The Dreaded Season...



By: Sandy Longfellow

ISAC Administrative Assistant



Well, it's here again! No, I'm not talking about the holiday season. I'm talking about 'Cold and Flu Season!' If your workplace is anything like ours, we have been hit pretty hard by colds and flu already this year. I would like to take a few minutes to give you some helpful hints concerning preventative measures you can take. **Note:** I know that you have heard these things before but please take a moment to think about how these things can be incorporated into your life. They can **really** make a difference!

1. Get A Flu Shot

October and November are the best times to get a flu shot. The vaccine is made from killed viruses. You may get the flu in spite of the shot, but the flu shot itself cannot give you the flu. The worst side effects might be a sore arm for a day or two.

2. Try To Get Eight Hours Of Sleep A Night

I know that this is a busy season but this is a very important aspect of staying well. When you get run down and tired, you are a prime candidate for all those germs floating out there! Make this one a priority.

3. Wash Your Hands Frequently

Viruses which cause colds are easily spread through the contamination of objects such as phone receivers and doorknobs. Washing your hands frequently helps decrease the chances of contacting a virus. Avoid touching your hands to your eyes, nose or mouth, just in case you touch something harboring a cold virus between hand washing.

4. Humidify and Hydrate

Keep your home and office at about 50% to 60% humidity. Heating can dry out these places. Breathing in moist air helps your body more efficiently fight viruses. Remember to drink eight glasses of water a day to keep your body tissues functioning more efficiently as well.

5. Chicken Soup

Chicken soup is not only good for your soul; it is good for your body as well. Few things make a person feel better than a little chicken soup while you have a cold. Remembering to eat your fruits and vegetables during this time is a great idea, too. We do tend to eat a few more sweets and treats, but keep up with the healthy food as well. You might want to take daily multiple vitamins to include nutrients you have missed.

6. Don't Over Medicate

Only take antibiotics when absolutely necessary. Taking them contributes to the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria which is becoming a major problem in the U.S. Most strains of cold and flu are not affected by medications.

One of the best things you can do to fight a cold is get rest, drink liquids, and take aspirin. Seems simple but it is still the best remedy. By staying home you also don't expose others. Another note here is to make sure over the counter medications you take treat your symptoms.

Here are a few more that don't seem directly related to colds and flu but are important for our overall well being any time of the year.

Laugh

This is a time of year when we get together with family and friends. Laughing is good for our bodies. Try to minimize those things that cause stress this time of year and maximize the fun and enjoyment of the season. Try to get a healthy dose of joy each day!

Don't Spend So Much!

This one is hard this time of year. We tend to really want to give wonderful gifts to our children and grandchildren as well as others. Think about what you are giving and make it meaningful. Relationships are much more important than things. Over use of credit cards is also a huge stress producer.

Minimize Alcohol

Alcohol lowers your resistance to infection in general. Limiting your intake can be a big boost to your immunity. Also, remember not to drink and drive! Seek out a designated driver or make other arrangements if you know you will be drinking alcohol.

Exercise

It would be improper of me to have this discussion without mentioning exercise. I think we greatly underrate the value of this activity. Exercise impacts every part of our body. Among other things it stimulates the disease fighting cells in the body called lymphocytes which move from the organs into the blood stream. Twenty to 60 minutes three times a week is sufficient to boost your immune system the keep you healthier this winter!

Please Try Not To Smoke

Smoking also lowers your resistance to infection in general.

Take a meaningful look at how these things can be incorporated into your daily habits. You will be glad you did!

This article was made possible with the help of Hope Health and Healthy Achievers, a division of Occupational Health Strategies, Inc.

2002 NADD Conference



It was amazing! Psychiatrists, psychologists, pediatricians, medical doctors, researchers, nurses, MPA's social workers, case managers, family members and clients all gathered for the same conference and attended sessions together. I really can't remember the last time I was so jazzed up about the variety of attendees and training sessions at a conference. I wanted to call the rest of the CCMS team to have them come out to Denver with me just so we could attend more of the breakout sessions!

From October 23-26, I attended the National Association on Dual Diagnosis (NADD) Conference in Denver, Colorado. The title of the conference was: "Mental Health Needs in Persons with Developmental Disabilities: Working Together in New Directions."

Psychiatrists and Behaviorists Working Together

The conference provided a wealth of information about Developmental Disabilities (including mental retardation) being the primary or most prevalent diagnosis. Additional disabilities discussed in conjunction with DD were mental illnesses of all types, substance abuse, criminal behavior, and behavior challenges for both adults and children. The sessions included information about utilizing different treatment methods and disciplines to best serve the individual needs of the client and working with treatment teams (doctors, psychiatrists, case managers, etc.) to promote positive support and living in the least restrictive environment (for many the least restrictive is a community setting with caregivers).

There were also sessions on working together with other disciplines. I attended an excellent session entitled "Behavior Analysis and Psychiatry Working Together: Teamwork, Tempers and Territory" with Psychiatrist Brian Bonfardin and Behavior Management Specialist Ron Chittem. Throughout the session they discussed how they worked with a variety of clients in a structured setting trying to help prepare them to move into the community. It was refreshing to hear them speak honestly about how challenged they were to work together and how long it took both of them to respect and rely upon each others specialty areas. Historically, psychiatrists and behaviorists take very different treatment approaches and seldom, in my experience in community based services, work together. Brian and Ron talked about using behavior management techniques to retrain destructive behaviors with low doses of psychotropic medications to help

By: Connie Wacht

ISAC Case Management Specialist

alleviate mental health symptoms. One of the key elements of the success of this approach was a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the client's history, strengths, needs, wants, desires and responses to other treatments already attempted.



Mental Illness & MR Co-Existing

I attended another session with Psychiatrist Earl Loschen entitled "Anxiety Disorders: Diagnostic and Treatment Dilemmas." He talked about the prevalence of mental illness that co-exists with mental retardation. He informed us that 40% of clients diagnosed with mental retardation also have concurring mental illnesses, many of which are undiagnosed. The highest prevalence of mental illness among clients with developmental disabilities are depression and anxiety disorders. He asked us to think about clients we serve who have major behavior disorders that have not been treatable with behavior management techniques. He then asked us if they had been screened for any mental health symptoms. Interestingly enough, Dr. Loschen told us that the DSM-IV criteria for diagnosing the different mental illnesses is not always user friendly for diagnosing mental illness in people with developmental disabilities. This is due to communication and interpretation limitations of clients and practitioners. Many of the DSM criteria rely on the self report of the client and the observations of staff and the psychiatrist in an evaluation process.

Conclusion

This conference provided an excellent opportunity to listen and learn about the variety of research, treatment, and collaboration with many disciplines of professionals who have a common interest in serving clients with dual diagnosis in other areas of the United States and Canada. Since this area of dual diagnosis is frequently requested on the CCMS Training Needs Assessment, I can't wait to plan for 2003 CCMS training and annual conference, I have some great ideas! The 2003 NADD Conference will be held in Chicago, Illinois from October 23-25.

counties in the spotlight

J. Patrick White, **Johnson County** Attorney and ISAC 2nd Vice President, was honored with the Pat Meyer Vision Award for his outstanding contributions to the fight against domestic violence. The award was presented by the Johnson County Coalition Against Domestic Violence on October 29. Among his many contributions, White has been involved with the Domestic Violence Intervention Program since the 1980s, and professionally White has been a leader in prosecuting those accused of committing domestic assault.

Pocahontas County was awarded a \$99,000 rural Business Enterprise Grant to establish a revolving loan fund. The application completed was one of three applications submitted by the state of Iowa to compete in the national competition. Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced that 32 states will receive more than \$6.8 million in rural business loan and grant funds, designed to assist in the fostering of economic development in rural areas. Eligible purposes include the purchase of equipment and inventory; acquisition and development of land; construction, enlargement, repairs or modernization of buildings, plants, machinery, and equipment.

(Taken from the Pocahontas Record-Democrat, September 25)

Buena Vista County recently formed a visioning committee that has been traveling around the county in efforts to hear from the citizens. The visioning process is an effort facilitated by USDA Rural Development and sponsored by the Storm Lake

Area Development Corporation (SLADC). Meetings have been held in communities with topics such as housing, entrepreneurship, downtown revitalization, and community strengths discussed. The committee's findings will hopefully provide a framework for communities to work together and grow in the coming years. Buena Vista County is the first in the state to start the process, and at least three other counties show interest. Frank Spillers has been facilitating the meetings and states, "It is important to have a vision of what you want the county to look like in your head, but is that going to match up with the people who live here?"

(Taken from the Storm Lake Pilot-Tribune, September 26)

Polk County expects to reap savings of \$300,000 through energy-efficiency measures being implemented in five buildings it owns. The county received a \$78,000 U.S. Department of Energy Rebuild America grant to make county-owned facilities more energy efficient. Cost-control measures include everything from installing more energy efficient lighting in buildings to educating county workers about the energy savings that can be realized by turning off their office lights when they leave for short periods during the day and shutting down their computers at the end of the day. Chris Frantvog, the county's energy resource coordinator, feels a reduction in electricity use results in a corresponding decrease in harmful emissions from power plants.

(Taken from the Des Moines Business Record, October 14)

profiles

Meet The CCMS Board Members

Tim Hoschek

CCMS Board Member



Tim Hoschek has served 10 years as county supervisor for Des Moines County. Tim was first elected in 1992 and re-elected for a third term in 2000. Previously, he worked six years as a park ranger for Des Moines County Conservation. He enjoys being a representative on the CCMS Board because he is, "Serving the people of not only my county, but also representing all 99 counties that are involved in some way with case management, which is very rewarding." Tim hopes that "we can convince all the other counties who are not members of CCMS to join and we can continue to grow." In Tim's free time he is a member of Ducks Unlimited and VFW Post 10/02. He enjoys fishing, hunting, boating on the Mississippi River, and being at the family cabin on the river with his seven month-old yellow lab retriever.

CORNER

Helen Kopsa



Helen Kopsa was a Grundy County supervisor from 1980-1992. "As a county employee I enjoyed working in a wide variety of jobs and found problem solving particularly rewarding." Helen's hope for the future of ISAC would be "to find a way to encourage all elected officials to take advantage of the educational meetings ISAC provides, particularly supervisors." She is now the owner/editor of *The Record*, a weekly newspaper based in Conrad, and owner of The Record Printing Co. Helen enjoys reading, golf and quilting. Her family members include husband Les, farmer; sons L.J. and Don; daughters Andrea, Jolene and Beth; and grandchildren Joseph, Mykel, Lydia and Harris. Helen lives in Beaman, IA and can be reached at hkopsa@netins.net.

ALUMNI

Changes Not Necessary For Counties Domain Name

Disturbing reports have been released regarding changes that were made in the way counties can register for their name on the Internet. The Iowa Counties Information Technology (ICIT) Executive Board felt that these reports were alarming enough to warrant further investigation and looked into the matter to determine what potential impact these changes really may have.

Background

An announcement from NeuStar, a Washington, D.C.-based technology firm, stated they would be releasing 40,000 government names in the .us Internet address domain that have been held back from the general public. The dot-us domain is a top level domain name like dot-com or dot-org. Any county that creates a website must register the domain name or Internet address of their site.

NeuStar is the company that successfully bid to become the manager of the dot-us domain when the federal government decided to release dot-us for wider registration. NeuStar won the right to operate the dot-us registry. Under the agreement, NeuStar acts as a wholesaler of dot-us names, charging registrars a fee for each name they register in the domain. Since dot-us came available to the public in the United States on April 24, registrars have signed up more than 300,000 addresses in the domain.

The report stated that first, as a county's dot-us Web address expires, a county will now — if it did not before — need to pay a registration fee. Second, with the dot-us domain open to any U.S. citizen or company, a county could find its good name pointing to a pornography site, or held hostage by a cyber extortionist who could demand big bucks for its return. NACo recommended that counties, with dot-us domain addresses, reserve or register their current Web site address through NeuStar.

ICIT's Findings

What ICIT found is it would be impossible to reserve every possible domain name that could represent your county and extremely expensive to try. "NeuStar is simply trying to generate revenue by scaring governments into registering unnecessary domains," said Scott Williams, Marshall County Information Services and Chair of ICIT On-Line Services Committee. ICIT encourages all counties to follow the current national standard for Internet addresses. The co.<countyname>.ia.us domains will not be made publicly available. ICIT recommends counties not to register or use new domain names as suggested by NeuStar. Doing so will offer little protection from unwanted use of your county's name and will make it more difficult for the public to find the "official" address for your county on the Internet. If a county is considering establishing an Internet presence, the ICIT On-Line Services Committee would be willing to provide assistance in registering for a domain name. Feel free to contact the ICIT On-line Services Committee at olsc@icit.state.ia.us.

ISAC brief

New County Officials School Approaching

The ISAC New County Officials School will be held at the Des Moines Holiday Inn Airport **January 22-23, 2003**. The first day will be devoted to general training on issues such as county budgeting, personnel law, open meetings/public records, and county home rule. There will be a reception that evening to allow attendees more of a chance to meet county officials from around the state and ISAC staff members.

The second day will be training put on by the affiliates for new treasurers, recorders and supervisors. While the specific focus is for newly-elected county officials, all "seasoned" county officials are invited to attend as well.

Registration forms for the NCO School will be sent out in December and will also be available on ISAC's website under "Upcoming Events." Hotel rooms will be available at the Holiday Inn Airport.

Don't miss out on this educational opportunity!

Fiscal Policy Analyst on Board

Jay Syverson has recently joined the ISAC staff as the Fiscal Policy Analyst. Jay replaces Cris Plocher, and his primary responsibility is to research, collect, compile, and analyze county fiscal data and other needed information. Jay assists ISAC policy analysts with review and determination of the fiscal impact of proposed legislation. He also responds to fiscal-related questions and requests for information from county officials and other interested parties. Originally from Alexandria, MN, Jay is a recent graduate of Drake University where he majored in marketing and finance.



ISAC brief

Mulqueen Receives Award From ISOSWO

The Iowa Society of Solid Waste Operations (ISOSWO) recognized Bob Mulqueen, ISAC Public Policy Analyst, as a friend of the organization with a Professional Achievement Award. He was honored with the award because of working closely with ISOSWO at the statehouse on legislative issues. He has helped ISOSWO members understand and participate in the legislative process and routinely helps present the organizations concerns and interests to members of the General Assembly. The Professional Achievement Awards recognize regular and sustaining members for valuable and distinguished contributions to the organization, an individual's employer and the general public. Bob received his award during the 2002 Awards Ceremony held as part of the annual "Managing Waste Resources Wisely" conference. Others receiving

awards include: Joe Robertson, Manager of the Marshall County Landfill; Sara Bixby, Lead Environmental Planner for Foth & Van Dyke; James Brick, Des Moines-based attorney; and Francis "Doc" Hallada, retired engineer for DNR's Solid Waste Permitting Section.



Award winners Bob Mulqueen, ISAC staff; Joe Robertson, Manager of the Marshall County Landfill; and Sara Bixby; Foth & Van Dyke Consulting in Des Moines.

2002 Innovation Award Winners

The 2002 Innovation Awards were presented to five projects during ISAC's Fall School General Session November 21, 2002. The ISAC Innovation Program provides the opportunity for officials and staff of counties in Iowa to receive appropriate recognition by their peers and the public for superior and innovative efforts in their profession. Full stories on each of the winners will be in the January issue of *The Iowa County*.

• Franklin County Navigator

Submitted by Jean Hirth, Franklin County Public Health
Judges comment: "Great idea for counties who have new and different ethnic groups moving in."

• Mobile Crisis Response Team

Submitted by Maria Walker, Polk County Program Planner
Judges comment: "An outstanding program!"

• www.iowatreasurers.org

Submitted by Mary Maloney, Polk County Treasurer
Judges comment: "This would be a great service to all counties."

• Courthouse GIS Day

Submitted by Kathy J. Thoms, Bremer County Director of Finance and Management
Judges comment: "Excellent idea to use energetic 5th graders. Good way to promote county government."

• Dallas County Archives and Records Center

Submitted by Anne Mau, Dallas County Board Secretary
Judges comment: Great project that other counties could implement."

2002 Innovation Award Entries

A special thank you to others that submitted Innovation Award Applications. They are listed below.

"Flirten with Disaster"

Submitted by Rick Wulfekuhle,
Buchanan County Emergency Management Coordinator

Auditor's Office Website

Submitted by Tom Slockett, Johnson County Auditor

Des Moines County Drop In Center

Submitted by Connie Schwartz, Des Moines County Central Point of Coordination Administrator

TIF Antidote

Submitted by Tom Slockett, Johnson County Auditor

Woodbury County Managed Mental Health Care

Submitted by Patty Erickson-Puttmann,
Woodbury County Social Services Coordinator/CPC

Woodbury County Mental Health Court

Submitted by Patty Erickson-Puttmann,
Woodbury County Social Services Coordinator/CPC

Mainline Road to Destination Park in Appanoose County

Submitted by Dean Kaster,
Appanoose County Board of Supervisors

City, County and State Governments Working Together

Submitted by Mike Bollard,
Pocahontas County Recorder/Registrar

Supported Community Living Project-Edinburgh

Submitted by Jacki Luckstead,
Jones County CPC Administrator

ISAC Sponsors 2002 Iowa Recycling Award Winners

The Iowa Recycling Association and its co-sponsors announced the winners of the 2002 Iowa Recycling Awards October 21, 2002. These eleven award recipients represent excellence in recycling and reuse and are a vital part of Iowa's recycling community. The winners were formally presented with their awards at the Embassy Suites on the River in Des Moines during an awards dinner and silent auction. "The Iowa Recycling Awards program received 22 outstanding nominations this year and the selection process was very competitive," said Jeff Geerts, Awards Committee Co-Chair - Iowa Recycling Association. "These awards showcase the groups and individuals that exemplify the best of recycling in Iowa."



Perry Nelson (left), Iowa Waste Exchange Area Resource Specialist from Western Iowa Tech. Community College, speaks with Dean Johnson (right), supervisor of the Siouxland Regional Recycling Center. The Iowa Waste Exchange won the award for Best Business Assistance Program.

Thirteen Iowa organizations dedicated to environmental stewardship through their missions and programs collaborate to sponsor, review, and select the award winners in each category. The organizations are: Iowa State Association of Counties, Iowa

Recycling Association, Iowa League of Cities, Iowa Waste Reduction Center, Recycling and Reuse Technology Transfer Center, Iowa Environmental Council, Recycle Iowa, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Iowa Utility Association, Trees Forever, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Audubon Iowa, and Iowa Conservation Education Council.

The 2002 Iowa Recycling Award winners are:

- Best Business Assistance Program*
 - Iowa Waste Exchange, Des Moines
- Best Business Recycling Program*
 - Cardinal I.G., Greenfield
- Best Local Government Recycling Program*
 - Iowa City Landfill & Recycling Center, Iowa City
- Best Public Education Campaign*
 - Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival, Cedar Rapids
- Best School Recycling Program*
 - Coe College, Cedar Rapids
- Closing the Loop Award*
 - Landfill of North Iowa, Clear Lake
- Outstanding Public Service Award*
 - Kathleen Ockenfels, Iowa City
- Recycled Product Manufacturing Award*
 - Midwest Electronic Recycling, Walford
- Recycling Project of the Year*
 - Hope Haven International Ministries, Rock Valley
- Recycler of the Year Award*
 - Andy Ockenfels, Iowa City
- Murray J. Fox Recycling Innovation Award*
 - Hon Industries, Muscatine

associate member highlights



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And to have diversified our professional service offerings to include civil, environmental, agricultural and nuclear engineering, surveying, environmental and geothermal drilling, industrial compliance, information technologies, landfill operator training, and a full range of field and construction services.

Barker Lemar currently has offices in Des Moines, Quad Cities, and St. Louis. Our staff of almost 50 is among the best and brightest in the industry and our customer base diverse. We have assisted hundreds of clients in the industrial, commercial and government sectors with start-to-finish engineering solutions. Although we have grown tremendously from our humble beginnings, we remain committed to our founding principals: That clients demand and deserve two way communication and world class customer service, expect us to utilize technologies that will solve problems and save them money; and to treat them and their projects uniquely and with respect. Because we know that at the heart of every project is you, your company, your community and our integrity. For more information on Barker Lemar, please visit our website at www.barkerlemar.com or call 800/707-4248.

Spirit of Volunteering Honored Through Acts of Caring Awards

In 2003, NACo will again pay tribute to our nation's volunteers by recognizing outstanding county volunteer programs. An "act of caring" is a community service provided by a county-sponsored volunteer program that enhances or preserves the quality of life. Up to 33 programs will be recognized and deemed examples of outstanding "acts of caring." Based on county size, as many as three programs will be honored in each of 11 categories: Arts & Culture, Civic Education and Public Information, Criminal Justice, Elderly Services, Emergency Management, Environment, Health Services, Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Programs for Children and Youth, and Social Services. In addition, three special awards will be presented: the Legacy Award for Excellence and Innovation, the Youth Service Award and the Youth Literacy Mentoring Award.

The awards will be presented in a ceremony on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., during National County Government Week, which will be held April 6 - 12. The deadline for entries is **January 17, 2003**. To download an application for this year's awards and to learn about past Acts of Caring award winners, visit <http://www.naco.org/programs/special/millenn/services/acts.cfm>.

2003 NACo Legislative Conference

Marriott Wardman Park, Washington D.C.
February 28 - March 4, 2003

Friday & Saturday, February 28 - March 1

Steering Committee, Subcommittee and Affiliate Meetings
NACo Advanced Leadership Training

Sunday, March 1

10am - 11:30am	Workshops
12:45pm - 2:45pm	Opening General Session
3pm - 4:30pm	Workshops

Monday, March 3

8:30am - 10am	General Session
10:15am - 11:45am	Workshops
Noon - 1:45pm	Delegate Luncheon
2:15pm - 3:45pm	Workshops
6:30pm - 9:30pm	President's Reception

Tuesday, March 4

Capitol Hill Sessions/Congressional Office Visits

Registration information is available on NACo's website at www.naco.org!

Iowa Officials Named to NACo Steering Committees

The following county officials have been named to the National Association of Counties steering committees by NACo President Ken Mayfield.

<u>County Official</u>	<u>County Official's Position</u>	<u>NACo Steering Committee</u>
Bob Paulson	Winnebago Co. Auditor	Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Stan Watne	Wright Co. Supervisor	Agriculture and Rural Affairs
Jane Halliburton	Story Co. Supervisor	Community & Economic Development
Harlan Hansen	Humboldt Co. Supervisor	Environment, Energy & Land Use
Robert Hagey	Sioux Co. Treasurer	Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs
David Jamison	Story Co. Treasurer	Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs
Larry Rozeboom	Clay Co. Assessor	Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs
Lynn Ferrell	Polk Co. Health Services	Health
Mark Linda	Black Hawk Co. Environmental Health	Health
Donna Smith	Dubuque Co. Supervisor	Health
Lu Barron	Linn Co. Supervisor	Human Services & Education
Angela Connolly	Polk Co. Supervisor	Justice & Public Safety
Royce Fichtner	Marshall Co. Engineer	Transportation
Robert Haylock	Butler Co. Engineer	Transportation
Timothy Hoschek	Des Moines Co. Supervisor	Transportation

NACo has 11 steering committees that form the policy-making arm of the association. Each committee is comprised of approximately 60-100 county officials who meet several times during the year to examine issues critical to local government.

The steering committee's recommendations on legislative policies and goals are presented to NACo's membership during the association's annual conference. If approved, the recommendations become part of the American County Platform, which is the basis of NACo's efforts in representing counties before Congress and the White House.

Advertisers Index

Advanced Service Corp.	15
Aero-Metric	15
Aerial Services, Inc.	15
County Risk Management	19
Delta Dental	17
Employee Group Services	17
Fidlar Doubleday Inc.	18
IPAIT	19
IMWCA	16
JEO Consulting	17
Jerico Services, Inc.	17
Kuehl & Payer	17
Prairie View Management, Inc.	15
PMC, ProMap Corporation	20
Nationwide	16
Ruan Securities Corporation	16
The Sidwell Company	2
Solutions	18

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DECEMBER

- 4 HIPAA on ICN "How to Complete the Gap Analysis
- see ISAC's website for locations
- 5 District II Winter Meeting - Elks Lodge, Charles City
- 5 CCMS North East Support Group
- Bill's Pizza & Smokehouse, Independence
- 6 Annual Drainage Meeting
- Best Western Starlite Village, Fort Dodge
- 8-11 Sheriffs & Deputies Winter School
- Downtown Marriott, Des Moines
- 10 CCMS Training Committee - ISAC Office
- 10-12 Engineers Winter Meeting - Scheman Center, Ames
- 11 District IV Winter Meeting
- St. Peter & Paul Catholic Center, Atlantic
- 13 ISAC Board of Directors - ISAC Office
- 18 District V Winter Meeting - Best Western, Fairfield
- 18 CCMS Central Support Group - Botanical Center, DM
- 19 District I Winter Meeting - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 23 - 25 **ISAC OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

JANUARY

- 14 CCMS Administrators - Best Inns & Suites, DM
- 21 CCMS Board Meeting - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 21 Statewide Supervisors
- Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 22-23 New County Officers School - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
- 23-24 ISAC Board of Directors - Holiday Inn Airport, DM

FEBRUARY

- 9-12 Sheriffs & Deputies Patrol School
- Four Points Sheraton, DM
- 19-20 ISAC Board of Directors - ISAC Office
- 28-Mar. 4 NACo Legislative Conference, Washington DC

For agendas or additional information on any of the above listed meetings please visit our website at www.iowacounties.org and click on Calendar of Events! If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Jerri at (515) 244-7181 or by email at jnboa@iowacounties.org.

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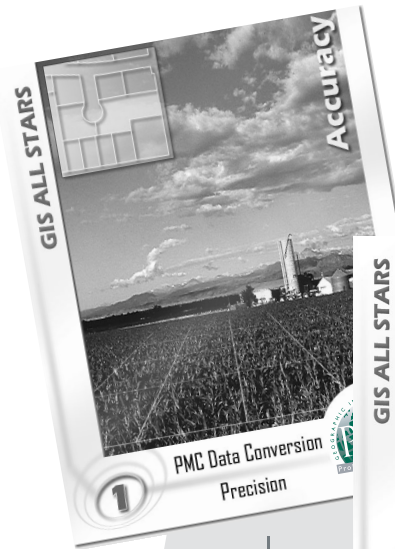
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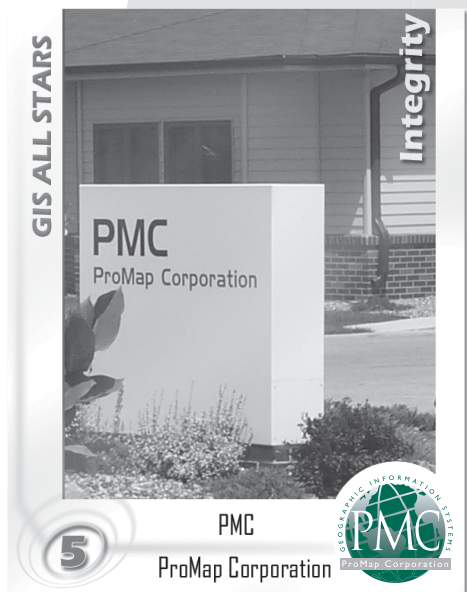


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