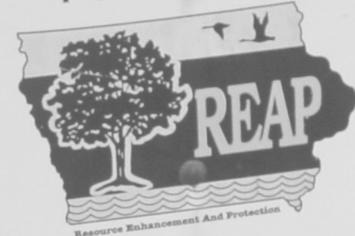
The Jowa County

REAP Funds for County Conservation Boards

Cut From \$2 Million in FY02 to <u>ZERO</u> in FY03 PARK IMPROVEMENT FUNDED BY



March 2003

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The Iowa County

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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 lowa.

feature

State Cuts Threaten More Than Environment

By: Duane Sand Public Policy Consultant to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Iowa lawmakers cut our state conservation budget by 42% over the past four years—while state revenues were down by only 4%. These disproportionate conservation cuts threaten not only Iowa's natural resources, but also our communities' water quality, business climate, tourism, safety and quality of life. The state of Iowa is using its revenue problems to put more responsibility—and more problems—on cities and counties. Here's how:

County Conservation Programs: Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) funds for county conservation boards were cut from \$2 million in FY02 *to zero in FY03*. All counties lost state help for education programs, equipment purchase, and land acquisition or park development. Projects were dropped or costs were transferred to local property taxes. Four to eight new parks per year will not be funded.

City Conservation Programs: REAP funds for city parks and greenways were cut from \$1.5 million in FY02 to zero in FY03. From 17 to 20 local parks per year will not be funded. Recreation development is now more dependent on local property taxes. REAP has supported 236 local projects since 1989. Far fewer communities will have the resources to enhance their quality of life.

Trails: Recreational Trails grants administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation *lost* \$3.5 million in FY03. Ten or more communities will not get state help for acquiring, paving and landscaping new trails. Communities drop projects or turn to property taxes to fund trails in the absence of state grants.

Brownfields: Brownfields Redevelopment Grants, administered by the Iowa Department of Economic Development, were cut from \$3 million in FY01 to zero in FY03. Several hundred pollution-contaminated sites scattered throughout Iowa are idle and neglected—because businesses have closed and new buyers are reluctant to take on clean-up liabilities. Meanwhile, farmlands and natural areas are needlessly consumed for new development when communities fail to clean up existing sites for neighborhood revitalization.

Underground Storage Tanks: The Iowa Underground Storage Tank Fund, administered by the UST Board, had *more than \$30 million transferred to the state general fund in FY03*. It is reported that \$94 million has been transferred over the past seven years. Meanwhile, about 2,300 sites are waiting for assessments of pollution discharges and/or clean-up of leaking underground petroleum storage tanks. Landowners are usually unable to sell these properties, and neighborhoods are blighted by properties that are not improved or redeveloped. Many sites have been idle for decades. The UST Fund comes from a 1 cent per gallon environmental protection charge for petroleum products stored underground.

Soil and Water Conservation: REAP Soil and Water Conservation Funds went from \$2 million in FY02 *to zero in FY03*. Funds were allocated to all 100 conservation districts to help farmers install conservation practices and plant wildlife habitat. Districts also competed for watershed protection grants. Iowa is now dependent on federal programs to address local needs. The publicly elected conservation district commissioners lack resources to address opportunities or needs that do not fit within federal directives.

Conservation Cost-Sharing: Conservation cost-sharing from the Environment First Fund was *cut by 53%*, going from \$7.5 million in FY02 to \$3.5 million in FY03. Private landowners throughout Iowa benefit from these conservation incentives. Funding cuts would have corrected problems on 18,000 acres of land and helped about 1,300 farmland owners. The ability to address local flooding, siltation, or protection of recreation waters has been greatly reduced.

Regional Efforts: Development and Conservation Authorities were cut from \$1 million in FY02 *to zero in FY03*. Funds provided state aid for water management structures and other protection projects in the 22-county Loess Hills region and a 10-county region in Southern Iowa. These state authorities address the unique problems of two special landscapes, encouraging regional leadership and intergovernmental cooperation in some of Iowa's lowest income counties. State funds are often used to attract and match other funding sources.

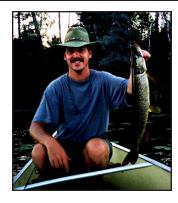
Roadside Beautification: REAP's roadside beautification funds were cut from \$350,000 in FY02 *to zero in FY03*. The Iowa Department of Transportation will no longer make grants to cities and counties for tree, shrub, and wildflower plantings at entryways and along roadways. The program typically helped over 30 projects each year.

Historic Preservation: REAP's historic preservation grants from the Department of Cultural Affairs were cut from \$500,000 in FY02 to zero in FY03. Assistance was withdrawn from 46 projects throughout Iowa. Projects include purchase or restoration of historic sites, exhibits, interpretive presentations and history archives. Competitive state grants have been a catalyst for quality local historic preservation projects.

By cutting all these conservation programs, state government has severed its traditional partnership with local government—while ignoring state benefits or responsibilities. The question now is if or when these funds will be restored. Governor Vilsack has recommended restoration of these programs in his budget. Iowa's state policy makers now need to hear from local leaders.

counties in the spotlight

Dan Cohen, executive director of the **Buchanan County** Conservation Board, has been chosen to receive the prestigious 2003 National 4-H Wildlife and Fisheries Volunteer Leader Award. Winners are selected based on their experiences, accomplishments and future plans as 4-H wildlife and fisheries leaders, as well as their 4-H



leadership in other areas and other natural resource involvements. Only six awards are given each year in the United States and Dan was the only Iowa recipient to receive an award.

Cohen has 17 years experience leading wilderness trips for teenage youth and contributing approximately 3,500 volunteer hours. The award recognizes Cohen's work and experience in youth education, 4-H and USDA Extension programs. Cohen also helps train other adults to be wilderness trip leaders. He has done extensive writing for the ISU Extension, Association of Naturalists (20 booklets), and the 4-H project NEW computer program. Through his position with Buchanan County, Cohen has worked with other agencies to initiate and coordinate an outdoor adventures program that prepares area youth for wilderness experiences; initiated a county-wide Field Day for area 5th graders; and coordinated an adult Iowa Master Conservationists Program.

Cohen will receive an all-expense-paid trip to the 68th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Winston-Salem, NC in March for the awards presentation.

Tama County employees were recently recognized for their safe driving record by the county's insurance carrier. The five-year award recognized Tama County as having the best safety record among the 10 counties in the Heartland Insurance Risk Management pool.

(Taken from the Toledo Chronicle, December 24)

The **Lee County** Emergency Management Agency received a grant for \$40,065, in partnership with the Lee County Fire Association and the Lee County Emergency Planning Committee. The grant from the U.S. Department of Justice will allow local fire protection entities to purchase equipment to increase homeland security, fight terrorism and bioterrorism and move closer to being a fully operational chemical disaster team. (*Taken from the Daily Gate City, December 27*)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) commends **Linn County**, Iowa's Smart Practice efforts in developing evacuation plans that took into consideration residents with special needs to ensure their delivery to safety during all kinds of emergencies and disasters. FEMA recently launched an initiative to gather and share the smart practices of state and local emergency managers and responders on a weekly basis.

"FEMA's effort to prepare the nation includes highlighting the smart practice of state and local emergency managers and first responders to strengthen their preparedness and response capabilities," FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh said. "By collecting and sharing the best ideas from the state and local level, FEMA can help communities improve their emergency preparedness and response-related activities for effective programs."

profiles

CORNER

ALUMNI

Jerry Musser

Jerry Musser first started his employment with Johnson County in 1968 and was the Johnson County Assessor from 1980-2001. Jerry said, "Al-



though serving as a county assessor sometimes led to contentious contact with the public, the opportunity to work with and serve the public made the job enjoyable to me. That daily public contact helped very much to keep the job interesting, as you seldom knew what each new day would bring." Jerry is now retired and

enjoys fishing, hunting, eating out, and attending Broadway type shows at the Hancher Auditorium in Iowa City. He also maintains his 160 acre farm east of Iowa City and several rental properties in the area. Jerry and his wife Judy, receptionist at the Hills Bank & Trust, live in Iowa City. Their five children are scattered between Alaska, Texas, and Iowa: Richard, Bradley, Van, Cindy, and Rebecca. Judy and Jerry also have two grandchildren. "As the state becomes more and more urban, the rural areas should realize that an organization such as ISAC may well offer the major resources for gathering information and sharing ideas to prevent further decline in the lifestyle and government so many of us enjoy about Iowa." Jerry can be reached at jjbmuss@aol.com.

around the statehouse

Is "Tax Equity" Only A Phrase?

"For a change I am going to be serious-though only temporarily."

- Flann O'Brien

"A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul." - George Bernard Shaw

Now that the 2003 legislative session, with its large freshman class, is underway and what issue of interest to county officials do you think has loomed large? Yes, in the front row is "The Road Use Tax Fund." And, of some interest is "Hogs and CAFOs" but it doesn't appear to be as front and center as it was last year. In the back row is "Mental Health Funding" which is always an issue, but it's been in the mix of many other items. "Terrorism and Homeland Security" is recognized as an issue of continuing importance, but it's not been on the front burner. In the fourth row is "Environment and Water Quality" which the Governor mentioned in the Condition of the State address in January. But, what has been of a sharper focus? What is beginning to sound like a broken record? Uh-huh, "Property Taxes."

Property Taxes

While the General Assembly's attention to property taxes has been similar since the early 1990s, with hard work by a dedicated few legislators bent on making the case that counties and cities (but especially those "tax eating" counties) must be restrained from their profligate tax and spend behavior, this year may be different.

Last fall, during the midst of the 2002 campaign, a legislative leader stated that, due to the property assessment process, property tax increases were "on automatic pilot." Then in the weeks prior to the opening of this legislative session, Senate majority leader Stewart Iverson said that major tax changes were going to be examined. Larry McKibben, chair of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, advocated adoption of a flat income tax.

On January 14, Governor Vilsack dropped a bomb when he suggested that the current property tax system should be sunsetted. The immediate response? A standing ovation. During this same time at least three property tax related bills appeared. One, originally numbered House File 1, deals with the short-funding of this year's property tax credits by last spring's special legislative session.

Another bill, House File 2, would provide that counties and cities (but not school districts) adopt a resolution by January 15 of each year indicating the percentage of adjusted taxable value that will be subject to property tax in the following fiscal year. Yet another, House File 25, appears to be a property tax limitation along the lines of the "freeze" instituted in 1992.

By: Robert Mulqueen

ISAC Public Policy Analyst

Revision of the Property Tax System

In the second week of the session, Sen. David Miller (R-Jefferson Co.) filed SF 41, a sweeping revision of the entire



property tax system. Among other changes sought in the measure, it would 1) require full funding of state mandates, 2) limit county ending fund balances to 25% of actual expenditures (similar to an ISAC proposal) beginning in fiscal 2009, 3) limit the pollution control property tax exemption for animal feeding operation structures to those which are family owned and operated, 4) provide that land containing an animal feeding operation structure be assessed as commercial property, unless owned and operated as a family farm, 5) change the homestead, military, and low income/elderly property tax credits to exemptions, 6) eliminate the residential rollback and the productivity valuation for agricultural land to exemptions of 50% up to \$20,000 for residential, \$65,000 for family farm, and \$25,000 for commercial property, 7) tax mobile and manufactured homes in the same manner as permanent structures, and 8) provide that the assessment of mobile home parks or leased land be as improved residential property. During the first week in February a special task force composed of county assessors, auditors, treasurers and supervisors (assembled by ISAC) met with Miller to discuss this proposal.

On February 10, Vilsack met with a select number of legislators from both parties for the express purpose of discussing long range tax policy. On the following day, John Muller and David Lyons of the Iowa Farm Bureau unveiled their "STIR Iowa" proposal. The "State Tax Increment Renewal" plan would replace all existing tax increment financing (TIF) districts with a statewide TIF, using the leverage of these aggregate TIFs to pay off \$2 billion in state bonds. This cash would be used for a variety of purposes. One effect, they say, would be to lessen the property tax pressure on counties, cities and school districts and would, thus, lower property tax askings for most Iowans.

At first glance, it could be that the stars have aligned to bring about serious examinations of tax policy in this state. County officials and ISAC have been suggesting for at least a year that something akin to a blue ribbon commission should spend a year or two examining all three major sources of public revenue (income, sales and property taxes), their relationship to the services which they pay for and make serious recommendations to the legislature and to the Governor.

Then again, it's one thing to suggest sweeping changes in a system which has been cobbled together over a century and a half and quite another thing to convince 26 senators and 51 representatives that the new model is worthy of the investment of their political fortunes. We are all wary of change and get short of breath when confronted with significant change. This wariness is partly human nature. But it's also the suspicion that "tax equity" is only a phrase in political science textbooks. Let's work with our state officials to get around those roadblocks.

legal briefs

Law Prohibits Doubling Up As Mayor and Supervisor

Mayor-Supervisor

The question was asked recently, "Under Iowa law, can someone serve simultaneously as mayor and county supervisor?" The reason for the question was that a mayor had won a seat as a county supervisor.

The first place to go for an answer is Iowa Code §39.11. This murky Code section says that an individual cannot simultaneously serve in two elected positions "at the same level of government." So are mayor and county supervisor elected positions "at the same level of government?"

You might think so. But you'd be wrong. There is a September 9, 1993 Attorney General's opinion which concluded that the phrase applies to each distinct governmental subdivision, such as a given city or a given county, not to local, state and federal levels of government. That seems far-fetched to me

Right or wrong, that does not settle the issue. As the Attorney General opinion points out, Iowa Code §39.11 does not replace the common law concept of incompatibility of office. To the extent that doctrine continues today, the offices of mayor and county supervisor are incompatible. The doctrine of incompatibility is measured by whether both the city and the county can be represented fairly and impartially if one person serves in both capacities. The answer in this case is no.

For instance, on deciding whether to use TIF to finance city improvements, in deciding what level of county law enforcement resources should be devoted to city concerns, and on annexation issues, the city and county position will undoubtedly be at odds, and one person cannot fairly represent both sides.

There is also the whole question about how a mayorsupervisor could work as part of the conference board, where the mayor and the supervisors are part of separate voting units. The offices of mayor and county supervisor are incompatible. The nature and duties of the two offices are such as to render it improper, from considerations of public policy, for one person to retain both offices. This was the conclusion of two different Attorney General Opinions (1920 Op. Atty. Gen. 639, 1993 Op. Atty. Gen 11). The Iowa League of Cities staff agrees.

So what happens if a current mayor is sworn in as county supervisor? At a minimum, once he takes the oath, he automatically vacates his mayor position, and any subsequent actions taken as mayor are void and of no legal effect.

Despite contrary legal advice, the mayor who was elected county supervisor last November was sworn in as county supervisor and is serving in both capacities. So far, there have been no legal repercussions.

By: David Vestal

ISAC Deputy Director

Delegating Board of Health Powers

Chapter 137 gives boards of health broad powers regarding public health matters. In particular, Iowa Code



§137.6 gives every board of health the authority to "employ persons as necessary for the efficient discharge of its duties." The question that faced the Iowa Supreme Court recently was, can the board of health delegate that authority regarding personnel decisions to the board of supervisors?

In December, in *Warren County Board of Health v. Warren County Board of Supervisors* (01-1732), the Iowa Supreme Court considered a long-standing dispute in Warren County. The issue was whether the board of health had delegated to the board of supervisors the authority to hire and fire board of health employees. The situation, which began back in 1997, came to a head a year later when the board of health voted to fire the sanitarian, and then the board of supervisors told the sanitarian that he was not fired and put him back to work, claiming that the board of health had delegated those decisions to the supervisors.

The delegation claim was based on the history of past dealings between the board of health and the supervisors. The board of health had adopted the county employment manual, which contained policies and procedures. In addition, the board of health adopted the county's classification and pay plan. The board of health also allowed the supervisors to control various employment decisions regarding other employees.

The Iowa Supreme Court sided with the board of health, for two reasons. First, the Supreme Court said that it doubted that the ability to hire and fire employees was a power that a board of health could ever delegate. It said that as a specific, enumerated power, it generally would not be subject to delegation. As a general rule, said the Court, a county "cannot surrender, by contract or otherwise, any of its legislative and governmental functions and powers," unless authorized by statute. Here there was no such authorization.

The Court also said that even if the power could be delegated, there was no evidence in the record supporting a finding that the authority actually was delegated in this case. The county manual, for instance, did not mention delegation of the authority to terminate board of health employees. Governmental functions cannot be delegated "by mere acquiescence or default," said the Court. The Court pointed out that there was "no evidence of a board resolution or other specific transfer of power."

The point of the Warren County case was that boards of health probably cannot give over employment decisions to the board of supervisors. Even if they can, the delegation of this authority must be very clear and formalized.

health check

New Year's Resolutions!



By: Sandy Longfellow

ISAC Administrative Assistant

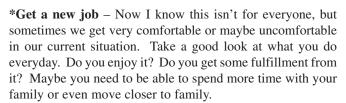
But it's March you say? Well, it is never too late to have a new year's resolution. This is simply deciding to make a change in your life for the better. Any time is a good time for that. I want to list a few things to think about:

*Volunteer – Doing things for others helps us not concentrate on our own difficulties. It also helps us realize how good we have it. There are many things you can do such as reading to a toddler, taking someone to a doctor's appointment, delivering food to someone who is ill, and many more.

*Visit an attraction near you – There are so many things around Iowa that I have not seen! We don't really have to go out of state to find wonderful sights and attractions. Ask the Iowa Division of Tourism for a booklet (888-472-6035) or visit www.traveliowa.com for everything in Iowa you ever wanted to see.

*Start saving money – You have wanted to have that nest egg that everyone tells you that you should have. Now is the time to look over your budget and find out where you can economize. It is amazing the choices we can make that really help our budget and doesn't really impact our lives all that much.

*Ask someone out to lunch – You might brighten up someone else's day while you enjoy it yourself. If you generally eat at your desk, by all means get outside and take a walk or in some way "get away from it all." You will be better for it.



*Hang around people that are happy – You may not have thought about this but are you spending most of your time around people who gripe and complain? Think about how this affects you. At least try to be a happy person yourself which will in turn make other people happier. When you rent a video, make it a comedy!

If you get creative, I know you can come up with even more ideas! Have a great resolution!

technology center

Have Some Fun With Your Computer!



By: Tammy Norman

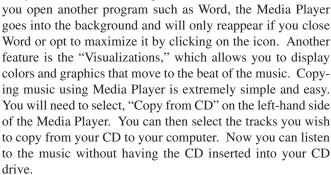
ISAC Technical

Administrative Assistant

At our recent New County Officers School, we needed to play a video message from the President of the United States. The laptop we were using did not have the software loaded, which would enable us to view the video. However, luck was with us and we found out about a nifty little freebie tool that enabled our audience to view the video and any future video messages we may have. The nifty tool I am referring to is, RealOne Player. You can purchase a more advanced version or in my case, I just downloaded the freebie. It worked like a charm! If you are interested in accessing this tool go to the following website: http://www.real.com/and download the free RealOne Player. Once you download this software program, you will be able to view media clips from the online news service bureaus and play video messages, music CDs or radio stations.

Another "fun" tool that can be used at home or the office is the Windows Media Player. It enables you to copy music CDs onto your computer or listen to the radio. It is part of the Windows operating system. My teenage son has taught me several "cool" features of the Media Player. One of the features I like is entitled "skins." It enables the Media Player

to become a smaller icon on your screen. The "skins" you have to choose from range from the default Windows version to an old fashion radio or perhaps you fancy the futuristic, "Headspace." Once



Website Note: You can access our upcoming Spring School Conference registration form by clicking on the hyperlink entitled "Spring School Registration." It should come flying in when you access ISAC's homepage. Until next month, keep clicking!



case management

CCMS 2003 Training Events



I spent my morning revising one of the PowerPoint presentations for Fundamentals of Case Management. Not too long ago, my com-

puter was upgraded from Windows NT to Windows XP. Along with that upgrade came new special effects for power point presentations. Oh buddy! **Fundamentals** will be held on March 12-13 and again on September 17-18. I'm looking forward to trying out those new special effects on a captive audience!

Cost Report Training will be held on April 16. It is scheduled between the Administrators Meeting on April 15 and Support Staff training April 17. The second Support Staff Training is scheduled for November 6. Administrators Meetings are also scheduled for July 15 and October 14 this year. Case Management Supervisors will have the opportunity to network and exchange ideas this summer at the case management supervisors training on June 4-5. June 4 has been reserved for the New Supervisors Training and June 5 for all Supervisors.

Depending upon speaker and location availability, we have tentatively scheduled **Advanced Case Manager Training** for May 6-7. The focus for this training, if all works out as planned, will be rehabilitation and goal writing as well as documentation for Medicaid reimbursements. We're hoping to open this up to CPC's and providers in addition to case management staff. More to follow.

By: Connie Wacht

ISAC Case Management Specialist

The Annual CCMS Conference is scheduled for August 13, 14, and 15. Pre-conference selections will include Ethics and Mandatory Reporter Certification Training. The recommended title



for this year's conference is 'Digging Deeper: Without Getting Into a Hole.' We have been in a construction type theme in the past few years haven't we?!

Dr. Wally Kisthardt will be here from the University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC) on October 16-17 to bring the message about **Strengths Based Training** for persons with disabilities. This training is a wonderful affirmation of why we do what we do. Wally shares foundation principles good not only for serving clients, but for our personal and professional growth too. If you haven't been to see Wally, this is your year!

In addition to the PowerPoint upgrades, CCMS is going high tech for registrations. *You can now register for CCMS Training online!* The recent Fundamentals training is the first one to use the new registration system. Instructions for how to register will be included on all CCMS meeting notices. This system has been set up not only for registrations but also for tracking CEU's! We are very excited to offer this service as part of our continuing effort to more efficiently and effectively serve you. Hope to see you at training this year!

If you are a case manager and have an address, phone, staff, or e-mail change please contact Sandy Longfellow at 515-244-7181 or slogergellow@iowacounties.org

classifieds

DES MOINES COUNTY ENGINEER

Des Moines County is seeking qualified applicants for the position of county engineer. Position requires registration as professional engineer in the state of Iowa (or ability to become so within six months). Registration as a land surveyor in Iowa is preferred, but not required. Salary is negotiable depending on experience and qualifications. Applicants to include salary expectations in resume. Resumes must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17, 2003. More information available at www.co.des-moines.ia.us. EOE/AA/MFHV Submit resume to: Carol Copeland, Des Moines County Auditor, P.O. Box 784, Burlington, Iowa 52601

CARROLL COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

Responsibility for Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Fund, General Assistance and oversight of Case Management and Veteran Affairs. Position requires a Bachelor's Degree and administrative experience, including accounting. Must have worked in the human services field for two years. Send resume to Phyllis Osborn, Carroll County Community Services, 608 North Court, Suite B, Carroll, IA 51401. The deadline to apply is March 7, 2003. Equal Opportunity Employer.

BOONE CO. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR Minimum 40 hours weekly. \$35,000 to \$40,000 DOQ for FY2003-2004. Health & Life insurance, FICA, IPERS, Vehicle. County residence required. Send resumes to Boone County Emergency Mgt., 909 West Mamie Eisenhower Ave., Boone, IA 50036 Resumes due by March 21, 2003. Equal Opportunity Employer

ISAC brief

Sign-Up For County-A-Day

ISAC's "County-A-Day" legislative visitation program is well underway with 23 counties participating in January and February. The program called "County-A-Day" sponsored by ISAC gives county officials an opportunity to participate in the lobbying process by meeting with legislators and ISAC lobbyists for a day at the Capitol. The program is a great opportunity for counties to sit down with state policy makers and shed light on how specific bills and actions will affect their county.

To find out what dates are open for your county to sign-up go to ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) and click on 'Legislative Information,' then 'County-A-Day.' To reserve a day for your county contact Denise Obrecht at 515-244-7181 or dobrecht@iowacounties.org.

Right: Bob Mulqueen, ISAC Public Policy Analyst, briefs Linn County and Story County officials taking part in County-A-Day.





Above: County officials from Boone County and Jasper County discuss legislative action with John Easter, ISAC Intergovernmental Affairs Director. Left: Linn County officials taking part in County-A-Day.



Supervisors' Meeting Re-Cap

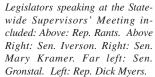
The Statewide Supervisors' Meeting took place January 21 at the Holiday Inn Airport in Des Moines with economic development, hog confinements and case management rules discussed. Presentations from the Wallace House Foundation and the ISAC lobbyists also took place.

A lunch was held with five legislators in attendance to speak on relevant legislative issues and to answer questions from county officials in attendance. The legislators in attendance were Sen. Michael Gronstal, Sen. Mary Kramer, Sen. Stewart Iverson Jr., Rep. Dick Myers, and Rep. Christopher Rants.













Correction

Several corrections need to be noted from the salary survey that was printed in the February issue of *The Iowa County* (pg. 12-13). The salaries for Sioux County that were printed should have read Supervisor Board Chair - \$24,710; Supervisor - \$24,110; Sheriff - \$57,100; Auditor - \$47,010; Treasurer - \$45,110; Recorder - \$43,500; Attorney - \$78,870. The supervisor chair's salary for Pocahontas County should have read \$19,683.

spring school

Keynote Speech: "A President's Perspective"

Mr. Thomas Jefferson will share his views on the strengths of

local governments, the dangers of consolidation, the proper role of government and a citizen's responsibility within that government. He will talk about how much things change and how much they stay the same with the passage of time. The audience will hear all of Mr. Jefferson's experience and wisdom over 81 years of life summarized into 10 simple points. Finally, he will conclude with three challenges, three ways to secure and strengthen the freedom that each enjoys in America.



Officials Honored With Years of Service

ISAC will be honoring county officials at the start of the General Session on Thursday, March 20 for their years of service to county government. The names of the recipients who are in attendance will be read for the various categories (15 years, 20 years, 25 years, etc) and certificates are available for award winners to pick up during the Spring School at the ISAC Information Desk. ISAC calculates total years of full/part time employment even when it is in different counties. The timeframe is from March 1 to March 1. For instance a 15 year recipient would have a start date between March 1, 1987 and March 1, 1988. There were approximately 250 years of service certificates awarded last year.

President's Banquet With Nuns?

The ISAC President's Banquet will be held Wednesday, March 19 from 6pm-8:30pm in the Holiday Inn Ballrooms. A delightful time will be had by all attending with Woodbury County Treasurer Bob Knowler as MC and the evening entertainment "Nuns on the Run." Twelve ladies from Danbury, Iowa are known as "Ambassadors of Goodwill" and their aim is to en-

tertain you and to hopefully leave you with a light heart, a good feeling, and a smile on your face. The cost to attend is \$25 per person (nonrefundable) and can be specified on the registration form for the Spring School.



Alumni Luncheon

ISAC Alumni Association members will be meeting for lunch (dutch treat) at the Crystal Tree, Holiday Inn Airport, during the ISAC Spring School. The meeting will be Thursday, March 20 at noon. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Jerri Noboa at 515-244-7181.

For further information on the ISAC Spring School of Instruction & Business Meeting visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Upcoming Events.'

NACo news

Celebrate National County Government Week

National County Government Week (NCGW) will be held April 6-12, 2003. This week long event is an annual celebration of county government. First held in 1990, the goal of county government week is to raise public awareness and understanding about the roles and responsibilities of the nation's counties.

More than 1,000 counties annually participate in NCGW by holding a variety of programs and events. These include tours of county facilities, presentations in schools, meetings with business and community leaders, recognition programs for volunteers, briefings on environmental projects, and adoption of proclamations.

Ken Mayfield, NACo President, said "Use this week to let residents know about the ways your county is working to raise the quality of living for children and families. Discuss your county's medical services, public safety, and educational development programs. Talk about county-sponsored immunization drives to keep kids healthy, the planning the county board does to keep parks safe places to play. Highlight the work your county does to provide needed services for elderly residents."

If you need more ideas on how to celebrate National County Government Week visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under 'Hot Topics.'

NACo news

10 Reasons Why NACo Membership is a Tremendous Value

#1: Lobbying

NACo represents counties nationwide and is instrumental in getting the county view into such issues as, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), TEA-21, airport improvement, electric utility restructuring, community/rural development program, juvenile justice and many more issues that affect you and your constituents. NACo was recently rated in the top 100 of lobbying organizations by *Fortune Magazine*. NACo strives to get legislation approved that provides funding for your county.

#2: Conferences

NACo's Legislative and Annual Conferences are still the best place to acquire information to make "informed decisions" and to network with your peers. NACo also offers the Western Interstate Region and the Employment Policy and Human Services Conference for more special needs.

#3: County News

County News is the premier publication for counties. The biweekly issues keep your County constantly on top of the latest developments in Washington, the nation and in NACo.

#4: Financial Services Center (FSC)

The FSC offers deferred compensation, tax-exempt lease financing, enhanced financial services to member counties, affiliates and employees, large discounts on office supplies, computers and so much more. Your county could easily save more than your membership dues just by participating in one of these programs.

#5: Networking with Other County Officials

Whether you attend conferences or participate on one of NACo's many steering committees, the interaction with other county officials is invaluable.

#6: Training/Workshops

Our conferences are always filled with programs to keep you up with the latest legislative issues as well as make you the "best county official you can be." NACo offers several satellite broadcast training programs that bring the training to your doorstep.

#7: Research/Information

NACo offers research statistics on special subject areas such as environmental programs and welfare-to-work initiatives, and a multitude of other subjects. NACo's staff "goes to work for you" so your staff doesn't have to spend their most valuable resource...time.

#8: Access To National Leaders

Key national leaders from the Administration and Congress par-

ticipate in all NACo events and NACo can assist with meetings with key lawmakers.

#9: NACo Web Site/Publication

NACo provides a top-notch website and a catalog full of our latest publications.

#10: NACo Promotes County Government

National County Government Week and Counties Serve America are just two of the premier campaigns. NACo also ensures that the media is aware of the importance of counties through press releases and public relations activities.

For more information on membership or to join NACo, simply send an e-mail to Andrew Goldschmidt at agoldsch@naco.org or call (202) 942-4221 today!

NACo Hosts Leadership Meeting

Dick Heidloff, ISAC President, and Bill Peterson, ISAC Executive Director, attended the State Association Presidents and Executives Meeting in Washington D.C. January 8-10. The conference was hosted by NACo with discussions on remote sales tax, housing and urban development initiatives, and reauthorization of TEA-21. Jim Miklaszewski, Chief Pentagon Correspondent for NBC News, was the featured speaker for event. He was the first at the scene to report that the Pentagon had been attacked and has since led the network's coverage of the war in Afghanistan. Other noted events included a reception/tour at the NACo office, a visit to the National Press Club and a briefing at the White House.



miscellaneous

New Designs to Welcome Centers

A design team made up of engineers, architects, artists, and administrators for the Iowa Department of Transportation have created facilities unlike any other in the world.

The project itself encompasses six new facilities designed for the Iowa Department of Transportation. Each site builds on a theme dedicated to that particular area and/or Iowa in general. Those themes include:

- In Adair County, a tribute to Henry A. Wallace (former U.S. Vice President and Pioneer Seed Corn Founder) and Iowa's
 - agricultural history.
- Cedar County's rest area relives Iowa's involvement in the Underground Railroad.
- Decatur County showcases Iowa's historic and diverse eco-system.



Vision of Cedar County's rest area.

- Johnson County celebrates Iowa's educational history.
- Scott County features a Mississippi River theme.
- Woodbury County focuses on Lewis and Clark's Corp of Discovery.

The design team then expands on these themes, integrating the art and represented history into the building design and structure. A portion of a budget for building a federal or state building must be spent on public art but this is not your typical disconnected art-on-the-wall approach. Instead, these buildings and their details become the art. Each building incorporates elements of the theme. From awnings that replicate a traditional Iowa front porch to benches made to look like Lewis and Clark's original canoes, each facility has its own story and artistic way of telling it.

The Iowa Welcome Center/Rest Area Project has already won the Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers Outstanding Civil Engineering Project Achievement for the demonstration of the greatest engineering skills and contribution to civil engineering and mankind. Most recently, it was awarded the First Place Grand Conceptor Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Iowa. It is only a matter of time before other awards are received for this unique and beneficial concept.

Rural Development Conference

The Midstates Community Development Conference, a joint Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota conference will be held on March 25, 2003 at the Marina Inn in South Sioux City, Nebraska. The focus of the one-day program is advancing community and rural development in rural communities and counties in the region. Twelve breakout sessions offer many topics for elected officials, local business leaders and community volunteers. The keynote speaker is Dr. Chuck Fluharty, a rural development specialist with the University of Missouri, a well-known expert in the midwest on rural issues and development strategies. Registrations are due by March 17. A conference program and registration form can be downloaded from this web site: http://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/Midstates.pdf
For more information, call Alan Vandehaar, ISU Extension, at 712-276-2157.

Treasurer's Website Wins E-Commerce Award

Iowa Interactive Inc. of Des Moines was honored with an ecommerce award by Software and Information Technology of Iowa, a five-year-old trade association for Iowa's technology businesses. Iowa Interactive Inc. received this award due to launching the Iowa State County Treasurer's Association (ISCTA) property tax payment program. The web site was unveiled last July and allowed Iowans to make more than \$3 million in property-tax payments on more than \$,000 land parcels. A total of 73 treasurers accepted payments from the site last year, and 95 are expected to participate when property tax payments are due in March. The site eventually will handle car licenses, also. Iowa is receiving national recognition for the implementation of ISCTA's Award Winning Project. *Visit their site at www.iowatreasurers.org!*

in memory

Raymond E. Power passed away January 15 from a massive heart attack. He had been a Calhoun County Supervisor for 12 years. He will be greatly missed by all.

Lyle Zieman, 81, passed away January 25. A long-time dairy farmer, Zieman retired from his Senate District 16 seat in 2000 after serving two terms. His retirement marked the end of 47 years of elected public service, which included eight years in the Iowa Senate, 14 years on the Allamakee County Board of Supervisors and 25 years on the Postville School Board.



associate member highlights

GeoAnalytics, Inc. - Spatial Information Systems

Iowa counties are making significant investments in GIS data—roads, parcels, digital orthophotography, etc. But building a GIS is more than just building data and maps; it is a comprehensive restructuring of how things are done. A county GIS

program should include a well-defined vision; a plan for the future matching business functions, needs, resources and priorities, with prudent technology, data, organizational, and application solutions.



GeoAnalytics Consulting specializes in the planning, design, and implementation of local government enterprise GIS. Consulting services address a range of GIS implementation needs including organizational and user requirements, systems design and integration, and custom applications development. Our approach to GIS consulting considers missions and mandates, business operations, work and data flows, client customers and strategic partners, and the broader information technology implications across the enterprise. GeoAnalytics also offers project management services ranging from migration of your GIS to the newest technology, developing requests for proposals for GIS data, and objective evaluation of vendor products and services.

Varion Systems is the software development and value-

added reseller division of GeoAnalytics, providing GIS-based software solutions designed to improve business processes. Varion has partnered with industry leaders to offer business solutions in the areas of web-GIS, land management, asset and work order management, and extending technologies such as mobile and wireless computing.

GeoAnalytics Transportation is devoted exclusively to the design and implementation of transportation based infor-

mation systems, focusing on asset management, logistics and planning. GeoAnalytics is developing the Iowa Department of Transportation's statewide linear reference system, supporting all public roads in the state.

Whether we are providing GIS planning and design services for a new system, deploying applications, or revitalizing an existing system, our services effect success and minimize risk. We help clients understand and clarify their missions and core values to formulate a vision for GIS. Are you really leveraging your GIS data investments? Call GeoAnalytics today.

Contact Information:

Tim Torres, Business Development Manager 950 Lee Street Suite 202, Des Plaines, IL 60016 Ph: (847) 824-6404 Fax: (312) 896-5917

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Quote of the Month:

When they call the roll in the Senate, the Senators do not know whether to answer "Present" or "Not guilty."

- Theodore Roosevelt

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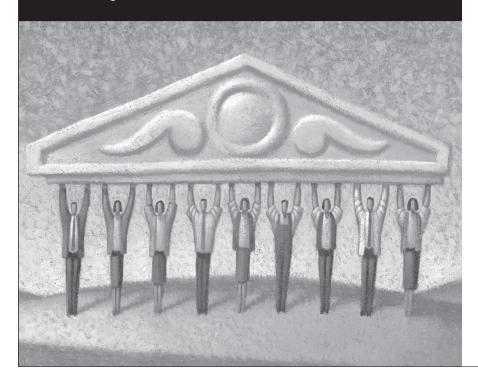
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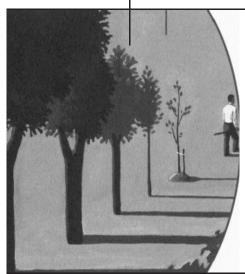
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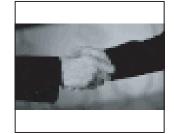
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calendar

MARC	н	17	CCMS Support Staff Training
5	CCMS Central Supervisors Support Group - ISAC Office	18	- Best Inns & Suites, DM ISAC Board of Directors - ISAC Office
11	CCMS Central Support Group	27-30	Sheriffs & Deputies Civil School - Holiday Inn Airport, DM
12-13	- Botanical Center, Des Moines CCMS Fundamentals of Case Management - Best Inns & Suites, DM	30	CRIS Board - ISAC Office
19	CCMS Board of Directors - Holiday Inn Airport, DM	MAY	
19-21	ISAC Spring School of Instruction - Holiday Inn Airport, DM	6-7	CCMS Advanced Case Manager - Baymont Hotel (formerly Best Inns & Suites, DM)
25-26	Iowa Public Health & Iowa Environmental Health Association Statewide Conference - Scheman, Ames	7-9	Treasurer's Statewide Conference - Bos Landon Golf Resort Conference Center, Pella
28	Legislative Liaisons - ISAC Office		
		JUNE	
APRIL		4	CCMS New Supervisor Forum - Baymont Hotel (formerly Best Inns & Suites, DM)
7-11	SEAT Module I - location TBA	5	CCMS Supervisor Training - Baymont
15	CCMS Administrators - Best Inns & Suites, DM		Hotel (formerly Best Inns & Suites, DM)
16	CCMS Cost Report Training - Best Inns & Suites, DM	11	CCMS Central Support Group - Botanical Center, DM
16-18	COZO Conference - Best Western Regency, Marshalltown		boldrical Cerrier, Divi

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