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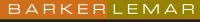
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The Iowa County

December 2011 * Volume 40, Number 12

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ISAC's Mission:

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

ISAC's Vision:

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

President Pitts' Reflections

As this year draws to a close it provides me with an opportunity to express what an honor it has been to be the 2011 President of the Iowa State Association of Counties. My presidency this year was made possible through the support of my staff at home, who willingly and very capably filled in during my many absences from the office, my fellow County Auditors, who elected me to the ISAC Board of Directors and, personally, the total support and encouragement of my husband Chuck. What a remarkable experience to travel across our nation and meet so many other county officials striving to be the best form of local government through their commitment and hard work to provide necessary services to constituents.

Our electorate in 2010 provided us with a new state administration and new opportunities to educate legislators on the objectives and priorities that are important to county government. I was able to be a participant, along with ISAC staff, in meetings with legislative leadership in both the House and Senate and the Governor's office in mid December. The next three months flew by so rapidly. I enjoyed the introductions and conversations with many other state association presidents and their executive directors during the National Council of County Association Executives (NCCAE) conference in Washington DC, then the ISAC New Officers School offered in January, the ISAC County Day at the Capitol in early March followed by the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington DC where over 20 officials and staff comprised our Iowa delegation supporting the kick off and eventual election of our first ever Iowa candidate, Linda Langston, Linn County Supervisor, for the NACo 2nd Vice President position.

As summer approached, all county officials had an opportunity to attend their ISAC Legislative District meetings to hear updates from our ISAC government relations team and to conduct individual district and affiliate business. It was difficult, at best, for our ISAC team to report anything definite since our state legislators were still in session. Nonetheless, those in attendance were able to exchange their views and concerns with the potential outcome of pending legislation. The ISAC Legislative Policy Committee began their discussion and prioritization of the issues and solutions presented by each affiliate in August under the Chairmanship of your ISAC 2nd Vice President Darin Raymond, Plymouth County Attorney. Each affiliate is well represented by individuals that take the time and make the effort to learn and exchange good ideas to further successful legislation.

It has been a great pleasure working with the Board of Directors and getting to know each affiliate's representatives. The Board

By: Marjorie Pitts

2011 ISAC Board President Clay County Auditor

has always given 100% of their attention to all of the issues brought before them. Nearly three years ago the Board of Directors began the evaluation and planning for a new



location of the ISAC office. ISAC and the League of Cities explored the possibilities of a joint building project, but after many ISAC staff hours and considerable discussion by the Board it was decided to lease and renovate a facility in West Des Moines for ISAC only. The new location is designed to offer varying sizes of conference rooms that are available to any ISAC members for meetings or training sessions. The official move to the new facility was accomplished the last week of August. Be sure to stop for a visit whenever you are in the area of 5500 Westown Parkway in West Des Moines.

Annually the Board of Directors meets in September for a two-day retreat to conduct a regular board agenda and discuss future goals. The retreat is customarily held in the home county of the president, so this year, Board members and ISAC staff traveled to the great Northwest. Since the "World's Greatest County Fair" was in full swing in Clay County, Board members experienced nearly four hours of the fair before the retreat began. I was tickled that so many were able to attend.

This year the ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser was held in Ankeny at the Otter Creek Golf Course. The weather was brisk and blustery, but the over 150 golfers finished a full day of golf and enjoyed a great steak dinner and prizes donated by sponsors of the event. I want to thank everyone for the tremendous effort that is required to raise money for the ISAC Education Foundation, which enables scholarships to be awarded to so many great students of county employees.

I close as I began, with expressing what a great honor it has been to be your president this year. I cannot thank Bill Peterson enough for his leadership and dedication throughout yet another year and a huge thank you to the entire ISAC staff that are all hard working professionals that show daily how committed they are to serving our needs on any level within our county. I wish my very best to our incoming President Wayne Walters and his Board of Directors in 2012. As officials of local government we need to continually meet the shift in trends, challenges, and change that surrounds us with a spirit of cooperation and persistence in finding innovative ways to make a positive impact on the quality of life for all the people that we serve. I know we are up for the task!

Needs of Iowa County Roads

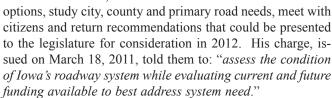
By: Steve DeVries
Executive Director
ICEA Service Bureau

Streets, roads and highways are essential to our economy. They carry us to and from our daily destinations, enable efficient movement of goods and expand opportunities. Recognizing this, early Iowans established over one-hundred thousand miles of roads by 1900. Subsequently, we paved key routes to 'get out of the mud', eventually creating an integrated network ranging from dirt roads to multi-lane freeways. County roads comprise about eighty percent of the overall total. These facilities have served well but reached their prime some years ago and then began to decline.

After the fuel tax was introduced in the 1920s each new paving project opened up so many possibilities that traffic grew rapidly, generating increased revenue not only sufficient to sustain the system but also to expand it, fueling even more growth. But that 'virtuous cycle' gradually faded, as fuel tax income leveled off, costs rose, and larger, heavier vehicles induced faster aging. By the late 1990s, revenues began falling short of the cost of just maintaining roads and bridges already built. So, in 2002, a workgroup of state, county and city officials began exploring what could be done.

The 2002 group achieved some progress, but more was needed. So the Legislature directed the DOT to prepare a report on needs over the next twenty years. The following year, 2007, per the report's conclusions, a special TIME-21 fund was created, to be used to allocate additional revenues. It was partially funded in 2008 with increases in vehicle title and registration fees. Unfortunately, that only partially met the need, so exploration of the idea of adding a fuel tax increase began. That initiative, although enjoying bipartisan support, failed to advance in the economic turmoil of late 2008 and early 2009.

In mid-2011, with road funding still falling too far short, Governor Branstad chartered a Citizen Advisory Commission to work with the DOT, to reassess the state's



The Commission got organized on June 16 and began receiving information on system needs on June 27. On July 7, they invited cities, counties and road user groups to testify about needs, perspectives, funding options and possible solutions. The Commission next decided to go around the state to talk about the issues and to obtain comments from as many citizens as possible. So, public listening sessions were conducted during August and September in Bettendorf, Mason City, Des Moines, Storm Lake, Council Bluffs, Waterloo and Mount Pleasant. Comments were also solicited via the DOT's website.

The public meetings were well attended, with 40 to 100 being present at each one. Although time was limited, the Commission took comments from as many people as possible at each meeting. Patterns quickly began to emerge: people in Iowa understand the value of their roads and want to see them maintained, ninety percent of those who made comment support increased funding and sixty-six percent believe that raising the fuel tax is the best way to do so at this point in time. But

Continues on page 17.



About the Cover

The cover picture was taken by Steve DeVries, Iowa County Engineers Association Service Bureau Executive Director and avid photographer. The subject in the photo is an Iowa Interstate Railroads (IAIS) 1985, 2-10-2, Chinese built steam engine photographed on July 9 at Colfax, IA. That day, IAIS operated three round trip excursions between Colfax and Kellogg as a charitable event to help the two towns' fire departments raise funds for new equipment.

I'm always looking for interesting photos for the cover of the magazine. For consideration, please send your photos to <u>rbicego@iowacounties.org</u>.

New Program Makes Election Precincts More Efficient

As technology advances, new programs are being created every day that utilize this technology and produce a more innovative and efficient way of performing everyday tasks. An excellent example of this is Precinct Atlas. Ken Kline, Cerro Gordo County Auditor, came up with the idea to develop a program after visiting a busy precinct during an election. With the backing of his county, Precinct Atlas was born.

Genesis

Ken: "On Election Day during the 2008 presidential election I walked into a precinct at 4:30 in the afternoon. It was apparent there were some issues and I ended up working alongside the precinct officials, using the tools offered statewide for working at the polls. After two hours, the precinct officials were back to feeling confident and in control, and I left, shaking my head at how difficult their jobs had become.

Two days later I sat down with MIS Director Scott Tepner and talked about the idea of writing a software program that would correctly organize and sequence those responsibilities, while prompting the precinct officials with clear choices and directions in simple, straightforward language."

Development

In December, an overall design was worked out with Ken, Scott, and the county's two long-term programmers, Rodney Ross and Mary Imlay. The design included:

- Two or more computer laptops would be set up as a standalone network at each precinct;
- A label printer would be attached to each laptop by USB port;
- Laptops and label printers would be standard, off-the-shelf equipment;
- They would work with then Secretary of State Mauro's office to redesign several election forms to accommodate the use of printed labels;
- The program would be fueled by data exported from the statewide voter registration system; and
- The program would be written in SQL Express, a free database software, thus allowing other counties to avoid additional costs.

The greatest challenge faced was in implementing the steps and designing the screens such that precinct officials with little

By: Hanna De Groot

ISAC Public Policy Specialist

or no computer experience could operate the program by simply reading the screen.

Initial Use

From there things moved quickly. Seven weeks after the decision was made to write a program, it was used in a special school election. After stopping by one of the precincts that evening, Ken had this to say: "For the first time I also saw pride and confidence



Precinct Atlas presentation to the press, Fall 2011.

in the precinct election officials in knowing they had correctly processed each voter; not an easy task when you have to remember hundreds of rules and exceptions and apply them correctly one or two days a year."

Three weeks later a mock election was held at which Secretary Mauro, local legislators and elected officials, other county auditors and the media were invited. They were able to observe the ease at which precinct election officials could now process voters with the new program.

Benefits

The greatest benefit of the Precinct Atlas is that it protects each individual voter's right to vote, while at the same time ensuring the integrity and fairness of the election process. Specific benefits include:

- Applies election laws and requirements correctly and consistently;
- Improves the accuracy, completeness, and legibility of the paperwork;

- Increases the confidence of voters and precinct officials in the election process; and
- Processes voters efficiently, including those casting provisional ballots and those registering to vote at the polls.

Challenges

Another challenge, besides making the program user friendly for those with no computer skills, has been the lack of state partnership. This has required Cerro Gordo to play a more active role in distributing and supporting the program with other counties. Of the 51 counties currently using the program, 44 have signed a memorandum of understanding with Cerro Gordo for ongoing software maintenance and hardware/technical support. Those 44 have recently formed the Iowa Precinct Atlas Association of County Auditors, for which Jasper County Auditor Dennis Parrott serves as president.

Counties On-Board

Marshall and Clay Counties both use Precinct Atlas. Dawn Williams, Marshall County Auditor, had this to say: "One of the most important principles necessary for fair elections is to treat voters in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner. Precinct Atlas guides election officials through the maze of election law and ensures that the law is applied consistently and accurately. Precinct Atlas saves time and money through the efficient processing of data. This is true prior to elections and is especially beneficial following an election when post election processes are cut from weeks down to hours. Implementing Precinct Atlas opened up a whole new pool of individuals willing to serve as election officials. It has changed the stereotype of election officials from boring and clerical to being one of the 'cool kids.'

Marge Pitts, Clay County auditor, as well as ISAC's 2011 Board president, embraced the technology. She has found a vast improvement for consistency and confidence in the process. One innovative thing Clay County has implemented with the program is to have one singular database on a server in the courthouse where all precincts connect to the master database. This removes the need to run updates on each laptop and saves time during the preparation for each election. All of the precincts in Clay County are equipped with good wireless connections. Marge "is excited to use advanced software and to see so many counties using it. It is great to see advancement of technology in the area of election administration in the auditor's office."

Revisions and Future

Since its initial use, the program has been modified countless times in response to needs from other counties, changes in Iowa election laws and the benefit of experience as it has been used in elections over the past two years across the state. At the November 8th regular city election, Cerro Gordo will have piloted a new functionality, the ability to check-in a voter by scanning the barcode on the back of the voter's driver's license or non-driver ID card. The new process is optional for the voter and will increase the already-high accuracy of the system. It will also be faster, especially for a voter who registers at the polls or updates an address.

Another possible alternative check-in procedure is scanning the voter card that is automatically mailed to voters when they register or change their registrations. An interesting idea proposed by the Clayton County Auditor involves photographs from the Iowa DOT.

The most beneficial new functionality will be communication to and from the precincts. Cerro Gordo pioneered a transmission at the 2010 gubernatorial election that showed voter turnout in real time throughout Election Day. Ken has stated that "we believe this process to be revolutionary and unique. The next step will be to have two-way communication, which has many great potential benefits."

Awards and Recognition

In 2010 Cerro Gordo County received the Stars and Stripes Award from The Election Center, the national association of election officials, one of five awards granted. Later that year, they received a 2010 Excellence in Action Award from ISAC, which nominated the project for the NACo awards. In 2011, they received the NACo Achievement Award, one of 16 "Best of Category" awards nationwide.

Cerro Gordo has appreciated the awards but what has been most rewarding is the recognition from other counties. As Bob Amosson, county supervisor puts it: "It's a wonderful program and I've heard nothing but good from counties who use it. It's nice to hear good comments regarding something that grew in our county."



Ken Kline (right) receiving the NACo Achievement Award.

legal briefs

Goals, Timing & Deadlines in 2012

By the time this article is published, I will have had the opportunity to participate in my first ISAC Fall School of Instruction and will be looking forward to the start of my first full Legislative Session as an ISAC staff member. I'm also thinking and planning for 2012 Legal Brief articles – so if you have a topic you would like to see discussed, please contact me. With 2011 rapidly coming to a close, we inevitably begin to look to 2012 – setting goals and developing timelines for the year. So I wanted to take a minute to remind you of a couple of deadlines coming up quickly in January 2012 that you don't want to forget:

Construction Evaluation Resolutions

If a county chooses to use the master matrix to evaluate applications for construction permits for large animal confinement operations, the board of supervisors must adopt a "construction evaluation resolution" annually. According to the DNR's administrative rules, if the board of supervisors wants to use the master matrix between February 1, 2012 and January 31, 2013, the board of supervisors must submit an adopted "construction evaluation resolution" to the DNR between January 1 and January 31, 2012. The board of supervisors can adopt the resolution at any time, as long as it is actually mailed or faxed to the DNR during January of 2012. So you can adopt this resolution in December, but the DNR can only accept it during the month of January. Supervisors, you will be receiving an e-mail from me with additional information and a sample resolution on this matter. If you have any questions, please contact myself or Jerah Sheets with the DNR at (515) 313-8909.

Gender Balanced Boards

Iowa Code Section 69.16A relates to gender balance on boards with appointed members. Regarding terms for board members that will be ending before January 1, 2012, the last sentence of the statute allows the incumbent board member to be re-appointed even if it results in gender inequity on the board - "This subsection [relating to gender balance on boards] shall not prohibit an individual whose term expires prior to January 1, 2012, from being reappointed even though the reappointment continues an inequity in gender balance." However, beginning with terms that end after January 1, 2012, the county will have to demonstrate that it has made a good faith effort (for at least three months) to appoint a qualified person that would result in a gender-balanced board, before an appointment can be made that would result in gender inequity on the board. Good faith effort is not defined, and thus the county will have to make a judgment decision on whether its efforts meet this threshold. No one specific strategy is condoned as a good faith effort. You should consult with your county attor-

By: Kristi Harshbarger ISAC Legal Counsel

ney to determine what process should be used to demonstrate a good faith effort when dealing with term expirations for board members.



Recent Cases of Note

1. A jail is not a person, but naming a county sheriff's office as a defendant is sufficient to name the sheriff holding the office as a defendant. Below is the summary from the court's website:

No. 10-1685. [1-739] DAVISON v. DUBUQUE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Mark Davison appeals from the dismissal of his lawsuit. He contends the district court erred in finding the defendants named in his petition, "Dubuque County Sheriff's Office" and "Dubuque County Jail," were not governmental entities that could be sued under Iowa Code chapter 670, Iowa's Municipal Tort Claims Act. He also argues the court abused its discretion in denying his motion for leave to amend to add Dubuque County and others as defendants. **OPINION HOLDS:** Upon our review, we agree with the district court's conclusion that a jail, a building, is not capable of being sued. However, viewing the petition in the light most favorable to Davison, we construe his petition against defendant "Dubuque County Sheriff's Office" as naming the sheriff holding the office, not the place where the sheriff physically works. We therefore reverse the district court's dismissal of the Dubuque County Sheriff's Office. Finally, we find the district court did not abuse its discretion in denying Davison's motion for leave to amend other defendants, as he failed to establish the other potential defendants received notice of the institution of the action prior to expiration of the statute of limitations. Accordingly we affirm in part, reverse in part, and remand for further proceedings.

2) This one has been in the news quite a bit, so you may have heard that the ACLU's request for employee records after an alleged student strip search was denied. Below is the summary from the court's website:

No. 11-0095. [1-534] AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION OF IOWA, INC., v. RECORDS CUSTODIAN, ATLANTIC COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Iowa (ACLU) appeals the district court's entry of summary judgment in favor of the records custodian of the Atlantic Community School District on the ACLU's claim seeking disclosure of employee records. Specifically, the ACLU sought in-

Continues on page 18.

capitol comments

All Politics is Local

The summer and fall have flown by, partially due to the lateness of the 2011 legislative session. ISAC's Legislative Policy Committee has completed their work for next session and the ISAC Board has approved legislative objectives, priorities and policy statements for the General Session to approve at Fall School. As you all know, the work of lobbying the legislature continues throughout the year. ISAC staff work hard all year to ensure that county issues get a fair hearing by state legislators, but the best tool in our arsenal is YOU - the county officials who can explain how the specifics of policy decisions made by state government will impact locally. We know that counties will be faced with three major issues in the coming session: Mental Health and Disability Services funding and redesign, property tax reform and road funding through the implementation of an increased gas tax. There are a number of ways that local officials can and should connect with their legislators.

Invite Your Legislators to the Courthouse

From the end of one session to the beginning of the next, county officials should be looking for opportunities to interact with their legislators. Thank yous for the work your legislators have done are always in order. It is important that legislators understand that we are appreciative of their efforts to address county issues, even when we don't get everything we want. County officials need to seek opportunities to build relationships with your legislators. Invite your legislators to visit with you at the courthouse, show them county government in action and explain the challenges that counties face.

Attend a Local Forum

Once session starts, legislators will be having regular forums in their districts. County officials might consider offering to co-sponsor a forum with their legislator, allowing shared constituents to ask questions related to both state and county government. In any event, it is important for counties to have a presence at forums to let legislators know how counties are impacted by what the legislature is considering. County officials should attend forums prepared to address several issues they want to discuss with their legislators, including ISAC's top legislative priorities for the year. Even as you are asking for help with an issue, it is important to thank legislators for work they have done for your county in the past.

Know Your Legislators

Each of you should know who your legislators are and a little something about each of them. As we respond to property tax reform proposals, we will be reminding former city and county officials of their tenure as local government officials. There are at least ten former county officials serving in the Iowa

By: Linda Hinton

ISAC Government Relations Manager

State House. In the Senate, Senator Dennis Black (D-Jasper) was the Jasper County Conservation Director for 35 years. Former supervisors serving in the



Senate include Senators Jerry Behn (R-Boone), Joe Bolkcom (D-Johnson), Gene Fraise (D-Lee), Hubert Houser (R-Pottawattamie) and Mary Jo Wilhelm (D-Howard). Senator Randy Feenstra (R-Sioux) is a former Sioux County treasurer, Senator Joni Ernst (R-Montgomery) is a former Montgomery County auditor and Senator Steve Sodders (D-Marshall) is a current Marshall county deputy sheriff. There are four former supervisors serving in the House of Representatives: Representatives Rich Arnold (R-Lucas), Jerry Kearns (D-Lee), Dan Muhlbauer (D-Crawford) and Jim Van Engelenhoven, (R-Marion). Rep. Jim Van Engelenhoven was a Mahaska County supervisor. Mary Gaskill (D-Wapello) was the Wapello County Auditor for 16 years and Kurt Swaim (D-Davis) has served as Davis County attorney.

Those who have served as either mayor or on the city council include Senators Robert Bacon (R-Franklin), Fremont city council, Bob Dvorsky (D-Johnson), Coralville city council; Shawn Hamerlinck (R-Scott), Davenport alderman; Herman Quirmbach (D-Story), Ames city council; Brad Zaun (R-Polk), Urbandale mayor; Joe Seng (D-Scott), Davenport alderman; Tom Rielly (D-Mahaska), Oskaloosa mayor; Brian Schoenjohn (D-Fayette), Arlington mayor; Dave Jacoby (D-Johnson), Coralville city council; Tom Sands (R-Louisa), Columbus Junction city council; Dave Tjepkes (R-Calhoun), Gowrie mayor; and Nick Wagner (R-Linn), Marion city council.

As ISAC looks at educating members and their caucuses on the importance of increased road funding, the relationships that county officials have with the thirty-six members of the legislature who describe themselves as farmers may be critical. Those members are Republican Representatives Dwayne Alons (Sioux), Rich Arnold (Lucas), Clel Baudler (Adair), Betty DeBoef (Keokuk), David Deyoe (Story), Cecil Dolechek (ret.) (Ringgold), Jack Drake (Cass), Greg Forristall (ret.) (Pottawattamie), Julian Garrett (Warren), Pat Grassley (Butler), Lee Hein (Jones), Dan Huseman (Cherokee), Stu Iverson (Wright), Jeff Kaufmann (Cedar), Jarad Klein (Washington), Brian Moore (Jackson), Steve Olson (Clinton), Ross Paustian (Scott), Henry Rayhons (Hancock), Tom Sands (Louisa), Jason Schultz (Crawford), Annette Sweeney (Hardin), Jim Van Engelenhoven (Marion), and Gary Worthan (Buena Vista) and Senators Merlyn Bartz (Worth), Jerry Behn (Boone), Nancy

Continues on page 18.

ISAC brief

Board Meeting Summary - October 17-18, 2011

President Marge Pitts called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes from September 15-16, 2011 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Tim Kirgan, Iowa League of Cities Marketing Manager, gave a presentation to the board about the Iowa Municipalities Workers' Compensation Association (IMWCA).

Darin Raymond gave an overview of the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) meetings and their discussions during the development of the priorities that are being submitted to the board. Mary Beth Mellick reported the policy statements, Hanna De Groot reviewed the legislative objectives and Linda Hinton discussed the prioritization of top priorities.

Bill Peterson reported that a letter from Dubuque County was included in the board materials regarding road funding and TIME-21.

Casey Lehman and Joni Tonnemacher, McGowen Hurst Clark and Smith, P.C., reported that there were no significant adjustments and reported that an unqualified opinion was given for the ISAC FY 2011 audit.

The FY 2011 ISAC Audit Report was accepted unanimously.

President Pitts recessed the ISAC Board at 3:30 pm and convened the ETC Board.

Joni reported no significant adjustments during the FY 2011 ETC audit. She explained the extra government auditing standards that the audit required because ETC is a 28E organization.

The FY 2011 ETC Audit report was accepted unanimously.

The ETC Board meeting minutes from January 28, 2011 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

The Community Association of Support Services (CASS) Meeting minutes were reviewed by the Board for informational purposes. Robin Harlow explained that FY 2012 budget discussions are included in the minutes.

Brad Holtan reviewed the ETC FY 2012 financial statements. As of June 30, 2011 the liabilities were expectedly more than the cash on hand due to additional staff hires. This negative balance will be supplemented through the FY 2012 budget.

The ETC financial report was accepted unanimously.

Robin updated the board that the final 18 counties will be rolled out soon and claims being processed through CSN continue to increase.

John Grush, Boone County Community Services Director, presented a proposed process to transition CRIS to ETC and the community services affiliate. The future, functionality and make-up of CRIS were discussed by the board.

President Pitts adjourned the ETC Board Meeting at 4:30 pm and reconvened the ISAC Board.

Chuck Rieken reported that the golf outing was a success and thanked everyone for their participation. The scholarship committee recommended the division of 13 scholarships for a total of \$30,000 at the following amounts: six scholarships at \$3,000; six scholarships at \$1,500; and one past president scholarship at \$3,000. The committee also recommended not giving the specific dollar amounts of the scholarships. The recommendation was approved unanimously by the board.

President Pitts announced that the nominating committee will be made up of board members Wayne Walter, Harlan Hansen and Anna O'Shea who will be charged with recommending a candidate for ISAC third vice president to the board at the meeting on Wednesday, November 16 at the fall school.

President Pitts recessed the meeting at 4:45 pm and called the meeting to order on Friday, October 28 at 8:30 am.

Jay Severson, Nyemaster Goode, gave a status report on the dispute with the Iowa Department of Revenue (IDR). After ample discussion the Board approved plans for moving forward.

Brad Holtan presented the financial statements as of September 30, 2011. He reported on the building costs, attorney fees related to the IDR dispute, and the golf fundraiser. He also reported that CRIS is beginning to spend down their fund balance. Bill reported that the higher crime policy coverage was put into effect as directed. The financial report was accepted by the board unanimously.

Grant Veeder presented the minutes from the ISAC Articles of Incorporation/Bylaws/Membership Committee meeting that was held on Thursday, October 27 and discussed that there is currently no reference to ISAC districts in the ISAC bylaws. The committee recommended that the ISAC Board amend the ISAC bylaws to list the counties in the six ISAC districts and

ISAC brief

to state that district officers may be chosen from each ISAC district according to that district's selection policy; and further recommended that ISAC should present procedural options at the district meetings in June 2012, including a sample policy that each district could use. The Board unanimously approved amending the bylaws to reference districts and counties within each district.

Anna O'Shea presented a proposal from the County Zoning Officials that accidentally didn't make it to the LPC. The proposal gives the Board of Adjustment more discretion on when to approve a variance. Darin Raymond recommended that the proposal be submitted through the process next year.

Non-substantive changes were made to the policy statements and objectives after the Board's discussion on October 27. The Agricultural Building Value legislative objective was inadvertently left out of the original draft and is now included.

Following discussion and in separate motions, the Board unanimously accepted the policy statements and objectives with the discussed edits.

Dan Cohen presented the idea of mentioning REAP again in the quality of life section in order to give it added emphasis. After discussion, the Board came to the consensus to defer this change until next year. Linda reviewed options for the top priorities and the board discussed the options at length. The Board unanimously approved the following 2012 top priorities: Disability Service Redesign and Funding; Preservation of County Services; Property Tax Reform; and Road Funding.

Amy Gould, Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield, reviewed the ISAC Wellness Program goals and the corresponding premium discount for counties meeting the goals.

Stacy Horner presented and reviewed the ISAC meeting room policies. She also reviewed the agenda for ISAC University being held at the West Des Moines Marriott on January 18-19, 2012 and reported that registration will be available on November 30, 2011.

Kristi Harshbarger and Bill discussed the status of the Presidential Candidates' Forum to be held during the 2011 ISAC Fall School of Instruction.

Bill presented documents on county sustainability and ideas for planning beyond 2025. The Board discussed the ideas and actions that are being taken in their individual counties.

Board members shared issues, concerns, ideas and achievements.

President Pitts adjourned the meeting at 11:54 am.

employment

Director of Public Works

Polk County is seeking to fill the position of Director of Public Works. Salary range is \$99,697-\$131,671 annually. This position requires a considerable knowledge of Public or Business administration including the principles/practices of effective supervision/management, fiscal management, project management and planning. Knowledge is also required in civil engineering principles, construction/maintenance methods, materials and equipment as utilized in public works projects, budgetary principles within a municipality, Iowa State Code regulations pertaining to the County Engineer and licensing requirements for professional engineers/Land Surveyors and of land/engineering survey systems, methods and techniques.

The candidate must have the ability to (1) express ideas clearly/concisely both orally and in writing (2) plan, organize, assign, and inspect the work of highly skilled professional engineers/technical staff (3) analyze organizational/operational problems and develop timely/effective solutions (4) establish program objectives/performance goals and assess progress toward their

achievement (5) translate basic policy decisions into technical concepts to achieve operational results (6) use persuasion, tact, negotiation skills and diplomacy to effectively resolve disputes and gain consensus (7) make formal presentations to boards, commissions and community groups and (8) establish and maintain effective working relations with elected officials, public officials, county staff, vendors, contractors and the general public.

Training and experience requirements include a Masters Degree with major course work in Public Administration, Business Administration, Planning, Engineering, Construction Management or a related field and five years progressively responsible professional/managerial experience in administration/management of municipal public works programs or any equivalent combination of education and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities. Registration in Iowa as a Professional Engineer is highly desirable.

For more information on this position and to apply, please visit www.polkcountyiowa.gov.



Criteria and Procedures for ISAC Scholarships

The lowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) is a private, nonprofit corporation whose members are county officials and employees from the 99 counties in lowa. ISAC has established the following criteria and procedures for granting scholarships:

- 1. Eligibility is limited to children of current county officials or employees. This does not include city employees, employees of county extension offices, or candidates who are themselves county employees. Children of county assessors are eligible to apply for this scholarship.
- 2. At least one (1) \$1,000 scholarship shall be awarded annually.
- 3. The candidates must be seniors in high school.
- 4. This is a one (1) year scholarship, and can be received only once by an individual.
- 5. The scholarship can be awarded to anyone who will be a full-time student of any college requiring at least a minimum of two (2) years for a degree.
- 6. The scholarship monies will be paid directly to the college; one-half upon acceptance, one-half upon completion of the first semester.
- 7. The candidates must provide personal reference statements from three (3) individuals other than family members, complete an application, and submit to an interview.
- 8. The criteria used in awarding the scholarship will be scholastic achievement, financial need, participation in extracurricular/community activities and overall character.
- 9. The selection committee shall award all scholarships and the decision of the selection committee shall be final.
- 10. The selection committee shall consist of seven (7) members, to be appointed by the ISAC President. The selection committee shall consist of one (1) representative from each ISAC district, plus one (1) member of the ISAC Board of Directors.
- 11. ISAC reserves the right to verify any information provided on any application.
- 12. Scholarships will be awarded at the ISAC Spring School in March.
- 13. Scholarship winners have two years to use their award. During the two years, they may apply to the scholarship committee for an extension of the time limit. The scholarship committee shall recommend to the ISAC Board of Directors whether to allow the extension of the time limit.
- 14. Applications must be postmarked by December 16, 2011.
- 15. Applications should be mailed to: ISAC, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266-8202



Scholarship Application

Name of applicant			
Address			
City			
County	H	ome phone	
E-mail address		Name of high school	
Mother's name	Fathe	er's name	
Which parent is a county	official or employee?_		
County department		County position	
County phone number			
Proposed college			
Have you taken the SAT/	ACT	If so, your score	
Total class size	Rank in class	Grade point	on a 4.0 scale
Financial Need: In the sp	pace provided, explain y	your financial need for thi	s scholarship:

Essay: On another sheet of paper type an essay of no more than 250 words explaining your career plans and future goals. MAKE US SEE THE REAL YOU.

Extra Curricular Activities: In the space provided, please identify your most significant extra curricular activities, school activities, work experience, etc. that might be helpful to the committee in judging your application.
References: We need personal reference letters from three (3) individuals other than family members. (Such as teachers, employers, advisors)
Transcript: Please enclose a copy of your high school transcript with your application.
Technology Award: We are also offering the lowa Counties Information Technology (ICIT) Award, which is a \$2,000 scholarship. This scholarship is available to an applicant who intends to pursue a two (2) or four (4) year degree in a technology related major and/or a degree that leverages/incorporates technology. If this applies to you, on another sheet of paper which you label "Technology Essay," tell us about any plans you have in this area.
For you to be considered for a scholarship you must: 1. Return application filled out completely; 2. Enclose your typed essay;
3. Include three letters of personal reference; and4. Enclose your official high school transcript.
Return to: Iowa State Association of Counties, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266-8202. Applications must be postmarked by December 16, 2011.
I hereby certify that this application contains no misrepresentation or falsifications and that the information given by me is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Signature of Applicant:

counties in the spotlight

Buchanan County's Sustainable Living Cabins

This summer the Buchanan County Conservation Board completed a project to provide unique overnight cabin facilities at its most popular park – Fontana Park, located 10 miles from Independence, Iowa.

The Conservation Board long considered providing opportunities for people to stay in cabins at Fontana, but wanted to be sure that such facilities would be fully within the Conservation Board's conservation and education mission. From the Board's discussions came the idea of "Sustainable Living Cabins."

Sustainability aspects include off-grid solar electricity; energy-conserving walls, roofs, windows, and appliances; and water-conserving plumbing fixtures. The sustainability message also includes use of local materials and labor. Only techniques and materials that are reasonably cost-conscious for private homebuilders were considered. Several more costly options were discarded.

Visitors can spend nights at Fontana Park in comfort while experiencing a sustainable lifestyle. The cabins feature two private bedrooms - one bedroom contains a queen-sized bed, and the other has a full-size bed with a twin-size bunk. The living room has a dining area, small kitchenette with microwave and refrigerator. Furnishings include locally crafted items from Prairie Log Furniture located in the nearby Hazleton Amish Community, and kitchenette cabinets by Dave Harms, a local craftsman in Independence. Cabins also have complete bathrooms with showers.

Although building shell construction, plumbing, electrical, concrete, and solar installation were largely contracted, this still was a very labor-intensive project. Conservation Board staff installed interior and exterior siding, and all finish work. The interior wall siding is actually pieced together maple flooring – small pieces that took a lot of time for a small staff to install. The vaulted roof is bat and board oak plywood siding. The exterior is bat and board roughhewn lumber from trees harvested in Buchanan County. An 8' x 24' porch is in front of each cabin, along with a fire ring and picnic table.

The solar energy system uses roof-mounted photo-voltaic panels, and each cabin has its own system. When sunlight strikes the panels, an electric current travels through a charge controller to a battery pack where the energy is stored for use. The batteries send DC power to run energy-efficient ceiling fans in each room. Power is also sent through an inverter to be changed



An exterior view of a cabin shows the solar panel, steel roof, and exterior siding from wood harvested in a county forest (landscaping yet to be completed).

to AC for use by all other electric fixtures and appliances. The system is designed by GoSolar! of Decorah to provide ample electrical needs, so long as users don't leave items on when not in use, and don't bring items that require large electric loads. Should the system fail, a generator can be plugged in to charge the batteries. East-Penn Manufacturing of Oelwein provided batteries at low cost for this project. Thus far the system has worked excellent. Should energy production be insufficient, the system can be upgraded by "plugging in" additional solar panels. In the case of long periods without sunlight, a generator can be plugged in to charge the system more quickly. The system's dependability, maintenance, and long-term cost effectiveness will be interesting and educational for the Conservation Board.

Wall and roof construction features Structural Insulated Panels (SIPs) manufactured by EPS in Graettinger, Iowa. The SIPs consist of high density foam sandwiched between special OSB boards, and provide better insulating and air infiltration protection than standard construction. Windows feature triple pane glass with UV protection, and are 30 percent more efficient than double pane windows. They are made by Parco Windows in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Both EPS and Parco provided financial assistance for the project. The cabins likely will be Energy Star Certified.

Among the other energy-saving devices, direct-vent furnaces and water heaters, which reduce air leaks and provide energy efficiency. Water-saving faucets and shower fixtures shut off automatically when not in use. Water is supplied through Central Iowa Water Association (rural water).

Continues on page 17.

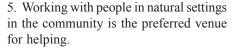
Strengths Based Training

County Case Management Services sponsored "Strengths Based Model for Serving Persons with Disabilities" training by Dr. Walter Kisthardt, Ph.D. on September 15 & 16, 2011 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston, Iowa. We had 69 individuals register for the training and had to turn away many other hopefuls due to space limitations at the training venue. Registrants included case managers and service providers from across the state of Iowa.

The Strengths-Based Approach to case management was developed by Dr. Kisthardt and Dr. Charles Rapp, Ph.D. The "Strengths-Based" model is the philosophy that CCMS embraces in the delivery of Targeted Case Management. The six principles of the Strengths Approach are:

- 1. The focus in the helping relationship is upon the person's strengths, desires, and interests, not on their deficits, weaknesses, or problems/needs as perceived by another.
- 2. Each person is responsible for their own recovery...the participant is the director of the helping/treatment efforts.
- 3. Human beings have the inherent capacity to learn, grow, and change. The human spirit is incredibly resilient. People have the right to try, to succeed, and to experience the learning which accompanies failure.
- 4. The helping relationship becomes one of collaboration, mutuality, and partnership. Power with another, not power over another.

By: Deb Eckerman Slack ISAC Case Management Services Manager





6. The entire community is viewed as an oasis of potential resources not as an obstacle. Naturally occurring resources are considered as possibility first, before segregated formal social service or mental health programs.

For any case manager in the state who has attended Fundamentals of Case Management training and are working in the field, these principles should be very familiar. For example, principles 1 & 2, focusing on strengths and desires, and that the individual is the director of the service...CCMS teaches that the assessment should be strengths based, identifying and focusing on what the individual can do, has access to, etc., along with the individual being the "driver" of the services. Keeping the assessment balanced and strengths based is a challenge for case managers, as the assessment tool must also justify need for service.

Principle 3 is evidenced in the fact that case managers develop comprehensive plans with individuals that identify goals or objectives that the individual wants to achieve; why would you ever develop these goals if the belief was that the individual would never be able to be successful in working toward and achieving some success? Case management is provided in a "team" setting, evidence of principle #4.

Principles 5 and 6 are inherent in our every day work; we strive for individuals to live, learn and work in the least restrictive set-

> tings in the community. Every day we should be looking at the community for resources to assist individuals, whether that be with their families, neighbors or church communities before turning to paid resources or providers.

> Dr. Kisthardt, who prefers to be called Wally, is an enthusiastic individual that truly believes in the principles he shares. His teaching method is relaxed, interspersing original songs while playing his guitar. The high marks and comments on evaluations from the participants are further evidence not only of the importance of the message of the training, but also of Wally's delivery of the message.



county roads

Continued from page 5.

it was also understood that the fuel tax is losing effectiveness and must eventually be supplemented with other mechanisms. Some speakers presented the idea of a cent per bushel road use tax on grains or a cents per mile fee.

The Commission condensed all the input, reviewed prior presentations by the DOT, counties and cities and concluded that there is a real shortfall in funding and that revenues need to be increased by a minimum of \$215 million per year to at least meet the most critical needs of the system. They then made a series of recommendations about how to achieve that objective:

- 1. Increase the state fuel tax by 8 to 10 cents per gallon;
- 2. Increase the fee for new registration from 5 to 6 percent;
- 3. Initiate a study (by DOT) on how to charge hybrid and electric vehicles for road use;
- 4. Keep the \$225 million per year cap on funds distributed via the TIME-21 formula;
- 5. Have the DOT report on road needs every two years instead of five;
- 6. Have the DOT engage with cities and counties to continually increase road agency efficiencies; and
- 7. Initiate a study of mechanisms by which vehicles that currently operate on roads with minimal or no contribution towards road system costs would start to pay an equitable share thereof.

Citizens depending on secondary roads will benefit if these recommendations are accepted by and enacted by the Legislature. An 'average' county would receive an immediate increase, possibly in FY13, of between \$500 and \$600 thousand per year, with good annual growth expectations. While still short of addressing counties' full financial need, it would at least slow the rate of disinvestment in the system and buy time to find a long term solution.

The Iowa County Engineers Association, ISAC and the Supervisors Association commend the Commission's recommendations — as the best revenue solution available at this time and serious first steps toward funding that is in equilibrium with financial needs. Counties should let legislators know they support this plan of action, with the stipulation that recommendation four must be part of the final package.

county spotlight

Continued from page 15.

The Conservation Board funded the project without additional tax asking – making use of funds in its Conservation Reserve and Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) accounts. The project has had great appeal. Buchanan County Board of Supervisors Chair Ellen Gaffney spoke favorably of the project during a public open house at the cabins, stating "I am very proud of the Conservation Board, staff and volunteers who work so hard to provide the best for Buchanan County residents and visitors. I am also proud that Buchanan County continues to be innovative in its approach to providing conservation, education, and other areas of progress."



Park Ranger Jeremy Whittle (left) helps Dennis Pottratz of GoSolar! install solar panels.

Spending a night in a cabin is the best way to appreciate the comfort and sustainability features. Reservations are now being accepted for dates in 2011 and 2012. Since opening on Labor Day Weekend, at least one of the two cabins have been rented every weekend (through the end of October), and several winter dates are reserved. The Conservation Board views the cabins as an educational display – providing hands-on, experiential opportunities at a level rarely obtained with nature center exhibits. At the same time, the cabins provide a comfortable extended-stay opportunity at a wonderful park.

miscellaneous

A Message from IPAIT

By: Adam Corrie

Winter is almost here. We are preparing to get our ice scrapers out, our snow plows gassed up, and our fireplaces burning. For those of you that follow the Farmers' Almanac, this winter is predicted to be relatively mild for most of the Midwest. As the marketer for the Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust (IPAIT), traveling across Iowa, I appreciate the mild prediction. Many of you are familiar with the IPAIT program, but for those of you who are not, I want to provide an overview and encourage you to contact me if you would like more information.

For over 25 years IPAIT has provided Iowa's public entities with a secure investment for their operating and reserve funds. IPAIT is a common law trust established under Iowa law pursuant to Chapter 28E of the Iowa Code, which authorizes Iowa public agencies to jointly invest monies pursuant to a joint investment agreement. IPAIT's Diversified Portfolio is an SEC-registered money market fund authorized by investment policy and statute to invest in obligations of the U.S. government, its agencies and instrumentalities; CDs and other evidences of deposit at federally insured Iowa depository institutions approved and secured pursuant to Chapter 12B of the Code of Iowa, and repurchase agreements.

IPAIT is sponsored by the Iowa State Association of Counties, the League of Iowa Cities, and the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities. Miles Capital acts as the investment advisor and program administrator.

IPAIT provides safety of principal, daily liquidity, and a competitive yield. IPASonline is IPAIT's participant recordkeeping system specifically designed for public entity sub-accounting. Through IPASonline, participants can initiate transactions, view historical activity, view balances and accrued interest, view and download statements, future-date transactions, and pay vendors directly from their IPAIT account. There is no fee for transferring funds via ACH, no minimum balance required, and no limit to the number of transactions per month.

Currently, there are 435 participants authorized to invest in IPAIT and the fund balance is near \$500 million.

In the months to come, check your email for the *IPAIT Bulletin*, IPAIT's monthly newsletter. We look forward to talking with you in the near future – whether over the phone, at conferences, or an onsite visit. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like to be added to the newsletter mailing list, you can visit website at www.IPAIT.org or call 800-872–4024.

legal briefs

Continued from page 8.

formation pertaining to the discipline of two school employees after an alleged "locker room strip search" was conducted on five female students at the school. The district court concluded, as a matter of Iowa law, that the disciplinary records requested by the ACLU were "essentially in house, job performance documents exempt from disclosure" pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(11) (2009). The ACLU argues the district court erred in failing to apply a balancing test to determine whether the information was exempt from disclosure. **OPINION HOLDS:** Upon our review, we agree with the district court that the facts are undisputed and all that remains is a question of law. We further conclude the district court correctly applied the law to conclude the school district was not required to disclose the records requested by the ACLU, and we affirm the court's ruling in favor of the school district.

You can see summaries, archived opinions and sign up to receive e-mail updates when new opinions are released from the Iowa Court of Appeals here:

http://www.iowacourts.gov/Court of Appeals/Opinions/

capitol comments

Continued from page 9.

Boettger (Shelby), Bill Dix (Butler), Sandy Greiner (Washington), Hubert Houser (Pottawattamie), David Johnson (Osceola) and Tim Kapucian (Benton) and Democratic Representatives Dan Muhlbauer (Crawford) and Roger Thomas (Clayton) and Senators Gene Fraise (Lee) and Jack Kibbie (Palo Alto).

Legislators who have interacted with the county-managed mental health and disability services issues are more difficult to find. The former county officials listed above may have some recollection of the challenges of providing services with limited funding. In addition, Representative Lisa Heddens (D-Story) and Senator Pam Jochum (D-Dubuque) are both parents of children who have received services and Representatives Renee Schulte (R-Linn), a counselor, and Mark Smith (D-Marshall), a licensed independent social worker, have worked for service providers in the system. Senator Jim Seymour (R-Harrison) is a retired hospital executive.

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It was good to see everyone in Coralville at the hall confrence. Butch

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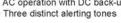
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- · AC or DC operations or AC operation with DC back-up
- Three distinct alerting tones



Eclipse8 **Electro-Mechanical Siren**

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- 360' omni-directional siren
- AC or DC operations or
- AC operation with DC back-up





Model 2 **Electro-Mechanical Siren**

- Sound output range: 102dBC @ 100ft/30m
- 360° omni-directional siren
- AC operation; 120 or 240 Volts
- Roof or pole mount
- Three distinct alerting tones



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2011/2012 calendar

December 2011

 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)
 Scholarship Application Deadline!

January 2012

10 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)

18-19 ISAC University

(West Des Moines Marriott)

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

February 2012

8 ISAC Executive Committee Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

9 Statewide Supervisors Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)

15-16 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

16-17 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

March 2012

County Day at the Capitol (Des Moines)

3-7 NACo Legislative Conference (Hilton Washington Hotel, Washington DC)

15-16 ISAC Spring School of Instruction (Des Moines Marriott Downtown)

April 2012

 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

May 2012

3 CCMS Advanced Case Management (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)

15-18 Treasurer's Annual Conference (TBD)

June 2012

7 CCMS Supervisors Training
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
20-21 CCMS Fundamentals Training
(Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)
28 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

July 2012

10 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)

13-17 NACo Annual Conference (Pittsburgh, PA)

26-27 Supervisors Executive Board Retreat (Holiday Inn Express, Sioux Center)

August 2012

8-10 CCMS Annual Conference (Embassy Suites on the River, Des Moines)

September 2012

13-14 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat (Hotel Winneshiek, Decorah)

October 2012

9 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)

17-18 CCMS Fundamentals Training (Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny)

25-26 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office, West Des Moines)

November 2012

28-30 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (lowa Events Center, Des Moines)

December 2012

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

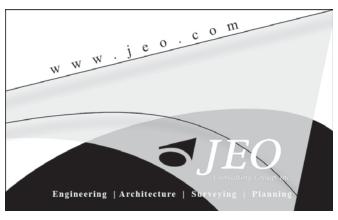


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\$220,841

\$200 per pay Invested for 15 yrs \$110,420 MORE AT RETIREMENT

\$300 per pay Invested for 15 yrs

Investing involves risk, including possible loss of principal.

*Assumptions: Biweekly deferrals, 7% annual effective interest rate during accumulation phase over 30 years; assumes 25% tax rate for paycheck impact (state and federal). This chart is intended for illustrative purposes only. It offers hypothetical examples and is not intended to predict or project investment results. It does not assume taxes, fees or account withdrawals; if it did, results would be lower. The results do not and are not intended to represent the performance of your plan.

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