



The Iowa County

Iowa State Association of Counties

July 2008

The Clean Up Begins
2008 Vote Record
Excellence in Action Program

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Jenny Schulte - Legislative Intern

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David Vestal - General Counsel

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Sam Watson - Information Technology Specialist

ISAC's Mission:

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

ISAC's Vision:

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

2008 Session in Review

By: ISAC Government Relations Team

Each year the Iowa County magazine reports on some key votes that were taken in the past session. As with every year, the 2008 legislative session had some high points and some low points in regard to passing bills having major impact on county officials and their citizens. This report is designed to help county officials see how their own representatives and senators voted on items of importance to ISAC members.

In reviewing the selected vote records, it is important to understand that many significant votes are unrecorded and many important policy decisions are made without a recorded vote, such as caucus votes, unrecorded floor votes, or bills dying for lack of a committee votes. In addition, some significant legislative changes are incorporated into other bills. This is particularly common in the final days of session as policy language is added into appropriations bills. An example of this would be the sales tax TIF that was included in the standing appropriations bill. This tactic gives legislators no opportunity to vote separately on the added policy changes.

In addition to the contested votes reported, many bills of importance to ISAC and our affiliates were passed with unanimous or near unanimous votes. Examples of bills of interest that passed unanimously include:

HF 2195	Enterprise Zone Criteria
HF 2400	Water Quality
HF 2603	Commitment Court Reports
HF 2642	Treasurers Deeds
SF 2132	County Veterans Commissions

Bills Included on the Tables

SF 2420 – TIME 21 Funding- Funding for TIME 21 was one of ISAC's top legislative priorities. While a gas tax was not seriously considered, this bill provides other revenue sources for the TIME-21 Fund, including increased registration and title fees for various vehicles. The bill repeals the motor vehicle use tax in favor of a constitutionally protected fee for new vehicle registration.

HF 2366 – Emergency Bonding – This bill represents one of the Public Safety Steering Committee's legislative objectives. This bill designates "peace officer communication equipment and other emergency services communication equipment and systems" as an essential county purpose. The effect is to allow counties to issue bonds for emergency communication equipment without seeking voter approval.

SF 2347 – Optical Scan Voting Systems – Funding for optical scan voting systems was one of ISAC's top legislative priorities. This bill requires a county, for elections held on or after November 4, 2008, to use an optical scan voting system only. In order to fund this, the bill creates the optical scan voting system fund and appropriates \$4,900,880 from the rebuild Iowa infrastructure fund for FY 2008 to the fund for the purchase and distribution of the optical scan voting equipment.



Left to Right: Nate Bonnett, Public Policy Specialist; Linda Hinton, Government Relations Manager; Hanna De Groot, Public Policy Specialist.

HF 2645 – Collective Bargaining – This bill, vetoed by Governor Culver, made significant changes to Iowa's public sector collective bargaining law. One of the most important changes in the bill was an amendment significantly expanding the list of mandatory subjects of bargaining. This expansion changed from a specific list of bargaining subjects to require negotiation on virtually any topic that was proposed.

HF 2212- Smoke-Free Workplace - This bill creates new Iowa Code chapter 142D, the Smokefree Air Act." Key provisions of the bill prohibit smoking in:

- "public places," defined as an enclosed area where the public is permitted, including but not limited to banks, bars, restaurants, hotels, hospitals, buses and taxis, retail stores and shopping malls;
- "public buildings and vehicles owned, leased or operated by or under the control of the state or its political subdivisions" (this would include counties);
- all enclosed areas within places of employment, such as work areas, private offices, conference rooms, auditoriums, rest rooms, and vehicles owned or leased by the employer; and
- certain outdoor areas, including outdoor sports arenas, school grounds, restaurant patios and public transit shelters.

The bill lists areas where smoking is still permitted, including:

- private residences;
- hotel rooms designated as smoking rooms;
- farm tractors, farm trucks and implements of husbandry;
- gaming floors of casinos; and
- the Iowa Veterans Home.

The bill provides that if the state or county is already inspecting a public place, any person conducting a required inspection shall assess compliance with chapter 142D.

SF 261 – Septic Inspections – ISAC has had septic inspections at the time of real estate transfer as a legislative objective proposed by the Environment and Public Health Steering Committee for a number

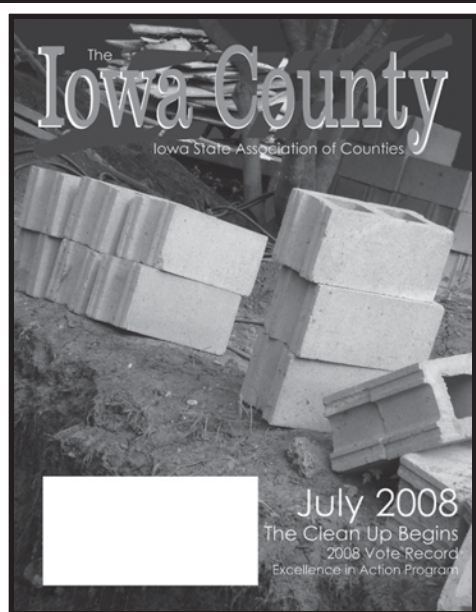
of years. This bill amends Iowa Code §455B.172 to provide for inspection of a sewage disposal system at the time of ownership transfer of real estate.

SF 2428 – Court Debt Collection – The final bill represents a significant amount of work by various parties to strike a compromise that would work for both the state seeking additional revenues and the counties that have been operating court debt collection programs. The bill strikes and replaces language regarding collection of court debt, including:

- the priority order for disbursement of payments does not change;
- a debt is deemed delinquent if it is not paid within 30 days after the date it is assessed. A debt is also deemed delinquent if it is not received within 30 days of a fixed future payment debt established in a court order. If an installment plan is arranged, and an installment is not received 30 days after it is due, then the entire amount of the debt is deemed delinquent. Previously a debt was deemed delinquent if not paid within six months after the date it was assessed – this bill speeds up the debt collection process;
- once delinquent, the debt can be assigned by the judicial branch to the centralized collection unit of the Department of Revenue for a period of 60 days;
- the county attorney may collect court debt 60 days after it is delinquent. If the county attorney chooses not to collect the debt, the judicial branch may contract with a private collection agency. The agency's collection fee shall be 25%. The collection fee shall be added to the amount of debt deemed delinquent. In other words, if the debt is turned over to a collection agency, the state is still entitled to 100% of what it is owed, but the amount owed by the debtor goes up 25%;

- 40% of the money collected by the county attorney or the county attorney's designee shall be deposited in the general fund of the county. That had been 35%;
- the remaining 60% shall be paid to clerks for distribution. However, if a certain dollar amount is collected (county-by-county threshold based on population) an additional incentive kicks in. That incentive is that county attorneys' offices will get 20% of the remaining 60%. The prior threshold had been statewide; and
- this bill allows counties to enter into 28E agreements with one or more other counties for the purpose of collecting delinquent court debt. The way the distribution formula is written, there is an incentive for smaller counties to collaborate.

HF 2620 – Special Elections – This legislation represents two policy statements that have been included in the County Administration & Organization section of the ISAC legislative priorities book for a number of years. The bill provides for the election of the directors of local school districts and merged areas in September in odd-numbered years. County and city special elections shall be held on the day of the general election, on the day of the regular city election, on the date of a special election held to fill a vacancy in the same county, or on the first Tuesday in March, May, or August of each year. School or merged area special elections shall be held, in the odd-numbered year, on the first Tuesday in February, the first Tuesday in April, the last Tuesday in June, or the second Tuesday in September. In an even-numbered year, school district special elections shall be held on the first Tuesday in February, the first Tuesday in April, the second Tuesday in September, or the first Tuesday in December.



about the cover

The cover picture was taken in the Birdland neighborhood of Des Moines after the water receded. Although most of the curbsides were cleared, a group that came all the way from Texas continued gutting this house on their fifth day of work in Iowa. Arriving in Wapello to find the water still at 13 feet about street level, the group traveled to Des Moines to help anywhere that they could.

In the August issue of *The Iowa County* magazine we hope to cover the devastation across Iowa as the reality of multiple natural disasters becomes clear. Please contact Rachel Bicego at rbicego@iowacounties.org if you wish to tell your story. Also, visit www.iowacounties.org for up-to-date information from various sources across the state.

The Iowa House	Record Roll Call Vote on Selected Bills - 2008 Session															
Bill Title	TIME-21		Emergency Bonding		Optical Scan Voting		Collective Bargaining		Smoke Free Workplace		Septic Inspections		Court Debt Collection		Election Reform	
Bill Number	SF 2420		HF 2366		SF 2347		HF 2645		HF 2212		SF 261		SF 2428		HF 2620	
Final Result	Enacted		Enacted		Enacted		Vetoed		Enacted		Enacted		Enacted		Enacted	
ISAC Position	For		For		For		Against		Undecided		For		Undecided		For	
Vote Tally	53	47	98	0	92	6	52	47	54	45	95	3	76	20	79	21
Representative - Party	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay
Abdul-Samad, A. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Alons, D. - R		X	X			X		X		X		X		X		
Anderson, R. - R	X		X		X		X		X		/		X		X	
Arnold, R. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X			X	X	
Bailey, M. - D		X	X		X		X			X	X		/		X	
Baudler, C. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Bell, P. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Berry, D. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Boal, C. - R	X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X	
Bukta, P. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Chambers, R. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X			X	X	
Clute, D. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Cohon, D. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Dandekar, S. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Davitt, M. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
De Boef, B. - R	X		X		X		X			X	X			X	X	
Deyoe, D. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Dolecheck, C. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X			X		X
Drake, J. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X			X	X	
Foege, R. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Ford, W. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Forristall, G. - R	X		X		X		X			X	X		/		X	
Frevert, M. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Gaskill, M. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Gayman, E. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Gipp, C. - R	X		X		X		X			X	X		X			X
Granzow, P. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Grassley, P. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Greiner, S. - R		X	/		X		X		X		X			X	X	
Heaton, D. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Heddens, L. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Hoffman, C. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X			X	X	
Horbach, L. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Hunter, B. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Huseman, D. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X			X	X	
Huser, G. - D	X		X		X		X			X	X			X		X
Jacobs, L. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Jacoby, D. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Jochum, P. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Kaufmann, J. - R		X	X		X		X			X	X		X		X	
Kelley, D. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Kressig, B. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Kuhn, M. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Lensing, V. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Lukan, S. - R	X		X		X		X			X	X			X	X	
Lykam, J. - D		X	X		X		X			X	/		X		X	
Mascher, M. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
May, M. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X			X	X	
McCarthy, K. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Mertz, D. - D		X	X		X		X			X	X		X		X	

The Iowa House	Record Roll Call Vote on Selected Bills - 2008 Session															
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Final Result	Enacted		Enacted		Enacted		Vetoed		Enacted		Enacted		Enacted		Enacted	
ISAC Position	For		For		For		Against		Undecided		For		Undecided		For	
Vote Tally	53	47	98	0	92	6	52	47	54	45	95	3	76	20	79	21
Representative - Party	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay
Miller, H. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Miller, L. - R	X		X		X			X		X		X		X		
Murphy, P. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Oldson, J. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Olson, D. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Olson, R. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Olson, S. - R	X		X		X			X		X		X		X		
Olson, T. - D	X		X		/		/		X		X		X		X	
Palmer, E. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Paulsen, K. - R		X	X			X		X		X		X		X		
Petersen, J. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Pettengill, D. - R		X	X			X		X		X		X		X		
Quirk, B. - D	X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X	
Raecker, S. - R	X		X			X		X		X	X			X		X
Rants, C. - R		X	X			X		X		X	X		X		X	
Rasmussen, D. - R		X	X		X			X		X	X		X		X	
Rayhons, H. - R		X	X		X			X	X		X			X	X	
Reasoner, M. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Reichert, N. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Roberts, R. - R	X		X		X			X		X	X		/			X
Sands, T. - R		X	X		X			X		X		X		X	X	
Schickel, B. - R		X	X		X			X	X		X		X		X	
Schueller, T. - D	X		X		X		X			X	X		X		X	
Shomshor, P. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Smith, M. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Soderberg, C. - R		X	/		X			X		X	X		X		X	
Staed, A. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Struyk, D. - R		X	X			X		X		X	X			X	X	
Swaim, K. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Taylor, D. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Taylor, T. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Thomas, R. - D	X		X		X		X			X	X		X			X
Tjepkes, D. - R	X		X		X			X		X	X		X		X	
Tomenga, W. - R	X		X		X			X	X		X		X		X	
Tymeson, J. - R		X	X		X			X		X	X		X		X	
Upmeyer, L. - R		X	X		X			X	/		X		X		X	
Van Engelenhoven, J. - R		X	X		X			X		X	X			X	X	
Van Fossen, J. - R		X	X		X			X		X	X		X		X	
Watts, R. - R		X	X		X			X		X	X			X	X	
Wendt, R. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Wenthe, A. - D		X	X		X		X			X	X		X			X
Wessel-Kroeschell, B. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Whitaker, J. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Whitead, W. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
Wienczek, T. - R		X	X		X			X	X		X		X			X
Winckler, C. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Windschitl, M. - R	X		X		X			X		X	X			X	X	
Wise, P. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Worthan, G. - R	X		X		/			X		X	X			X		X
Zirkelbach, R. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		/			X

The Iowa Senate	Record Roll Call Vote on Selected Bills and Amendments - 2008 Session																	
Bill Title	TIME-21		Emergency Bonding		Optical Scan Voting		Collective Bargaining		Smoke Free Workplace		Open Meetings Open Records		Septic Inspections		Court Debt Collection		Election Reform	
Bill Number	SF 2420		HF 2366		SF 2347		HF 2645		HF 2212		SF 2411		SF 261		SF 2428		HF 2620	
Result	Enacted		Enacted		Enacted		Vetoed		Enacted		Passed Senate		Enacted		Enacted		Enacted	
ISAC Position	For		For		For		Against		Undecided		Against		For		Undecided		For	
Vote Tally	35	14	48	0	47	1	27	23	28	22	43	6	42	7	39	8	44	5
Senator - Party	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay	aye	nay
Angelo, J. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Appel, S. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Beall, D. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Behn, J. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Black, D. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Boettger, N. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Bolkcom, J. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Connolly, M. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Courtney, T. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Danielson, J. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Dearden, D. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Dotzler, W. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Dvorsky, R. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Fraise, G. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Gaskill, E.T. - R	X		/		/		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Gronstal, M. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Hahn, J. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Hancock, T. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Hartsuch, D. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		/		X	
Hatch, J. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Heckroth, B. - D	/		X		X		X		X		/		X		X		X	
Hogg, R. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Horn, W. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Houser, H. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		/		X	
Johnson, D. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Kettering, S. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Kibbie, J. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Kreiman, K. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Lundby, M. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
McCoy, M. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
McKibben, L. - R	X		/		/		X		X		X		X		/		/	
McKinley, P. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Mulder, D. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Noble, L. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Olive, R. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Putney, J. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Quirnbach, H. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Ragan, A. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Rielly, T. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Schmitz, B. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Schoenjahn, B. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Seng, J. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Seymour, J. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Stewart, R. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Ward, P. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		/		X		X	
Warnstadt, S. - D	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Wieck, R. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Wood, F. - D		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Zaun, B. - R		X	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	
Zieman, M. - R	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X	

The Case of the Peripatetic County Supervisor



In 51 of Iowa's 99 counties, county supervisors are required to live in a specific supervisor district. Either they are elected at large but with equal-population district residence requirements (plan 2 - 15 counties) or they are elected from single member equal population districts (plan 3 - 36 counties). See Iowa Code §331.206(1).

We are a mobile society, we move from home to home because things happen – new job, divorce, kids changing schools, the mortgage crisis...

So, what happens if a candidate runs for supervisor in one supervisor district, in which he resides at the time of election, but then moves to another supervisor district?

This question has been raised for years, but I am writing about it now because it has come up twice in the last few weeks. The short answer is that if the supervisor moves out of the district the office should be declared vacant.

Iowa Code §69.2(1) states: "Every civil office shall be vacant if any of the following events occur:

(c) The incumbent ceasing to be a resident of the state, district, county, township, city, town, or ward by or for which the incumbent was elected . . ."

So the Iowa Code provides that the incumbent must continue to be a resident of the supervisor district or the office is automatically vacated.

The Iowa Attorney General has applied this statutory language to various situations in which elected officials have moved out of the district from which they were elected. . See for instance 1980 Op.Att'y Gen. 18. Invariably in these cases the Attorney General found that vacancies resulted.

This question was raised in a 1975 Attorney General's opinion (1975 Op. Att'y. Gen. 123). The Attorney General determined that a county supervisor is elected "for" the district in which that supervisor resides, and a vacancy is created under Iowa Code section 69.2 if the supervisor moves from that district during his term of office.

The Attorney General said: "if a county supervisor is elected to represent a given district in a county, he will have vacated his office if he subsequently moves his residence out of that district." Id.

The determination as to whether there was in fact a vacancy would be left to a committee consisting of the treasurer, auditor and recorder. See Iowa Code §69.2(2). The factors that would go into that determination would include questions like how much time the supervisor spends in the district, where he registers his vehicles, and where he is registered to vote.

If a vacancy were to occur, according to Iowa Code §69.14A, va-

cancies in the supervisor office are filled either by appointment or by special election.

ADA Coordinators: **Just a reminder.** Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities when it comes to services and programs offered by counties. It also prohibits discrimination in employment matters. Title II also states that *if a public entity has 50 or more employees, it is required to designate at least one responsible employee to coordinate ADA compliance.* This person is usually referred to as the ADA coordinator.

This person for coordinating the county's efforts to comply with Title II regulations. The ADA coordinator is also responsible for investigating any complaints of discrimination under Title II of the ADA. Anyone can be the county ADA coordinator. And it does vary from county-to-county. Here is a brief, non-exhaustive list of those serving as ADA coordinators in various Iowa counties: county supervisor, auditor, human services director, county attorney, emergency management director, general assistance director, conservation director, recorder, engineer and environmental health director. The name, office address, and telephone number of the ADA coordinator must be available to a county's citizens who have ADA related questions or wish to make a complaint. That information should certainly be on the county's website, for instance. Though I don't recall ever seeing it on a county website. Is it on yours?

28E Entities – Deadline Approaching: House File 808, passed in 2007, requires that by July 1, 2008, every 28E entity must submit an initial electronic report to the Iowa Secretary of State. The report is not complicated: you have to provide the name of the 28E entity, the board members, and a contact email address. You also have to declare whether for FY07 the 28E entity had an ending cash balance of less than \$100,000 and total expenditures of less than \$100,000. To complete the required report, go to the Secretary of State's website: <http://www.sos.state.ia.us/> Click on "online filing." If you participate in a 28E entity, you need to figure out who is going to be responsible for completing this report. House File 808 does not provide any enforcement provisions or penalty for failure to submit a report. That is probably why only 14 of 16,095 28E entities have complied with the reporting requirement so far.

Parting Ponderable: I read this on the internet. I have absolutely no idea if it is true:

At the premiere of the classic western movie "Stagecoach," a filmgoer approached director John Ford and told him how much he enjoyed the movie, but he couldn't understand the chase scene across the desert where the Indians were shooting at the stagecoach. "Why didn't they just shoot the horses?" the filmgoer asked.

John Ford replied: "Because then the movie would have been over."

by the numbers

Abolish Budget Appeal System

By: Jay Syverson

ISAC Fiscal Analyst



The FY 2009 budget year got off on a bad note for Winnebago County. On May 5, the State Appeal Board ruled that the county “did not adequately justify the full amount of the increased expenditures and property tax levy” in its FY 2009 budget. The result: an order slashing rural basic property taxes by \$750,000 (36% of the amount budgeted), rural basic spending by \$520,000 (27% of the amount budgeted), and the rural basic fund balance by \$230,000 (56% of the amount budgeted).

Now, admittedly, the FY 2009 Winnebago County budget was a far cry from the FY 2008 budget, and was perhaps unlike any budget the county had ever seen. For example, the proposed 2009 budget called for rural property taxes of \$2.2 million, double the amount raised in 2008. The rural basic levy rate was proposed at \$7.70 per thousand, nearly twice the statutory maximum of \$3.95 and an increase of \$3.75 from 2008. The 2009 budget also called for increased rural spending of \$763,000, increased transfers to the secondary roads fund of \$65,000, and an increased fund balance of \$230,000. These were drastic changes indeed.

But the county supervisors and county engineer said drastic changes were called for. The budget included a modest increase in the sheriff’s department spending, but most of the increased spending was directed toward new secondary roads equipment or increased costs for tools, materials and supplies in the secondary roads fund. The county noted that revenues for secondary roads maintenance and construction had not increased for many years. In contrast, the costs associated with road construction and repair have risen dramatically, far greater than inflation. That fact has gone well-noticed around the state this year; citizens and the media have noticed poor road conditions and the legislature has responded by increasing revenue to the Road Use Tax Fund. The county also pointed out that rural taxable valuation in Winnebago County is just \$269 million, which is actually \$8 million less than it was *twenty years ago*. That supports the county’s claim that a significant hike in the rural tax rate was necessary to make up for 20 years of a stagnant tax base. The county sure seemed to have a good case. Yes, it was a big tax and spending increase, but it was necessary to make up for 20 years of lost time.

The protestors objected to high taxes generally, to the county paying for uniform patrol from the rural fund instead of the general fund (an issue that just won’t go away), and to the high expense for new secondary roads equipment. The protestors proposed a moratorium on new equipment, and called the county’s equipment replacement schedule “far more aggressive” than necessary.

The way the budget appeal system works is the county bears the burden of proving any new spending or increased spending is “necessary, reasonable, and in the interest of the public welfare.” In other words, the county has to justify new or increased spending. If the appeal is directed at existing spending, then protestors bear the burden and must prove the spending is unnecessary, unreasonable, and not in the public interest. Since the appeal here focused on new or increased spending,

the county had to justify it.

What result? The uniform patrol decision was a mixed bag. The appeal board reiterated what it has said before, in that each county can choose whether to pay for sheriff’s expenses out of the general or rural fund. So the appeal board upheld the transfer of uniform patrol spending to the rural fund, but reduced the budgeted spending in that fund by \$75,000 which was basically the full increase from 2008. The appeal board allowed the county to pay for uniform patrol services from either the general or rural fund, it just didn’t allow the county to increase uniform patrol expenses. As for roads, the appeal board ordered budget cuts of \$220,000 for equipment and \$225,000 for tools, materials and supplies. Those cuts still allow for increased spending of \$105,000 for new equipment and \$30,000 for supplies over FY 2008, albeit at the expense of the rural fund balance. As mentioned above, the appeal board ordered a fund balance reduction of \$230,000. The original rural basic fund balance was 21%; the new fund balance is just 12%. The effect of all this is to reduce the proposed rural basic tax rate of \$7.70 to \$4.91, still nearly a dollar above the statutory maximum and among the highest in the state. Rural basic taxes will still be about \$340,000 higher than last year, an increase of 35%.

It wasn’t immediately clear from my first reading of the appeal board’s ruling, so I had to go back and look for the reason. Exactly *why* was the county ordered to reduce its taxes and spending by such a significant amount? And there it was, in one little sentence on page four: “The County did not adequately justify the full amount of the increased expenditures and property tax levy.”

That’s all there is to it. No mention of what might have been adequate justification for the full increase. No mention of why or how the \$340,000 tax increase and \$135,000 increased road spending was adequately justified. The decision gives counties absolutely zero guidance on what the appeal board is looking for or how to justify increased spending.

Winnebago County sure tried to justify the increased spending and taxes. County Engineer Jim Witt gave a presentation that explained how his department was incurring higher costs, with little to no revenue growth. He explained the impact of that on road conditions in the county, and that the county’s only options were to raise taxes or cut services. And this wasn’t the first time he had made his case. The Winnebago County Board of Supervisors questioned Witt about his budget during its deliberations, and the citizens asked questions and provided input at the public hearing. After all of this happened, the professional engineer hired to maintain the county’s road system said more money was necessary. The county’s three policymakers, each of whom must face his constituents every day and stand for re-election every four years, said more money was necessary. At least 100 Winnebago County citizens disagreed, but they don’t have the final say. As it turns out, neither does the board of supervisors.

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by the numbers

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Instead, three state employees got the final say on the Winnebago County Budget. They all live and work in central Iowa, and none of them, as you might expect, are elected. Oh, to be sure, the three people I'm talking about were on the "hearing panel." They made a recommendation to State Appeal Board, which actually does include elected officials – both the State Auditor and the State Treasurer, along with the appointed director of the DOM. The State Appeal Board, and not the hearing panel, actually voted to reduce Winnebago County's budget. But that's a rubber stamp if ever there was one. The hearing panel members made the trek to Forest City, heard all the evidence, received follow up evidence, deliberated, and ultimately wrote the ruling – the appeal board members just signed off on it.

But let's not bicker over which central Iowa resident got the last word on Winnebago County's budget, that's not the point. The fact that any central Iowa resident had any say at all is bad enough. Winnebago County had an internal debate about how to pay for its road system. It was an extensive debate, and I'm sure at times a lively debate. And that's what is supposed to happen in a representative democracy. Policymakers propose ideas, citizens respond, decisions get made, life goes on. I understand one of the protestors may run for supervisor this fall. And he should. If you're not happy about a policy decision, see if you can get enough people to agree with your view and vote for you, and then change it. That's the way our democracy works, or at least the way it should. But it's not how local government democracy works in Iowa.

Iowa's local government budget appeal system should be abolished. It wouldn't take much to do it, either. "Iowa Code §§24.27 through 24.32 are repealed. Iowa Code §331.436 is repealed." There – I just wrote the bill. If legislators would pass it, Iowa's local government budget appeal system would match that of the 49 other states – non-existent. And that's the way it ought to be. The budget appeal system is directly contrary to the ideas of strong local government, representative democracy, home rule, local control – ideas that are important in Iowa, important to Iowans. The budget appeal system allows a minority of county residents to object to a legislative decision made by elected policymakers. And it allows unelected outsiders with no stake in the matter to make the final decision. The hearing panel was in Winnebago County on April 17, 2008. I wonder if they'll be back before FY 2009 ends on June 30, 2009. The county supervisors and engineer will be there, of that you can be sure. Trying to find a way to maintain a road system with \$445,000 less than they planned for. The protestors and the rest of the citizens of Winnebago County will be there too. Enjoying lower taxes than they otherwise would, but at what cost? Driving on bad roads? Not driving on certain roads at all because they're closed?

Time will tell. And when it does, the county officials and citizens of Winnebago County will be there. They'll live through FY 2009 with the lower taxes, the old equipment, and the road conditions, whatever they may come to be. Maybe they can send a postcard to the State Appeal Board, just to let them know how things are in Winnebago County.

technology center

Slingbox

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Office Manager



Q: I heard there is a product that will enable me to view television remotely, is this true?

A: Yes, there is a product on the market entitled Slingbox that allows consumers to view television via the internet on their laptops, PDAs, or cell phone. How is this possible? The technology is referred to as "placeshifting" and allows for the transmission of your television signal to anywhere in the world through the internet. This technology grants you the ability to view and control your TV, DVD, and/or Digital Video Recorder (DVR) player with your laptop, PDA, or cell phone. You will want to make sure that you use this technology on the TV that is not primary for your family members left at home. The Slingbox will grant you control over the device it is connected to and put you in control of the "remote".

What is necessary to enable this to occur? First and foremost, you must have Internet connection that will connect your TV at home to your laptop, PDA, or cell phone. There are a few different options that Slingbox offers to consumers. You can purchase the Slingbox Solo which allows one device such as a basic or digital cable box, DVR, DVD, satellite receiver, video/security camera, and Apple TV to be connected remotely. The Slingbox Pro allows for up to four of the above mentioned components to be accessible outside the home. If you wish to view television through your PDA or cell phone, you will want to opt to also purchase Slingplayer mobile. Each of these is a onetime purchase price with no ongoing monthly charges. The only charges that will occur will be your regular satellite, cable or cell phone bills.

So, how do you set this up and what are the costs involved? Slingbox is relatively inexpensive. The Slingbox Solo costs around \$180 for the component and if you need to boost your Internet connection within your home, you will need to add the Slinglink Turbo 1 Port for \$79.99. If you wish to connect several different devices, you will want to purchase the Slingbox Pro at the cost of \$229.99 and the Slinglink Turbo 4 Port will set you back \$149.99. To connect with your PDA or cell phone, you will need to purchase the Slingplayer mobile at the amazingly low cost of \$29.99. The bottom line is, if you are someone that needs to stay connected to your TV or DVR while traveling or just away from home, you can with very little investment.

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

CSN Update

By: Robin Harlow

ISAC Technology
Project Manager



Spindustry began creating the initial screens in May and by mid-June substantial progress has been made in all areas. Discussions have revolved around making the screens operate in the manner that the work is done. Additionally, special attention has been given to making the data on the CPC application flow from the paper application to the data entry screens. Most of the screens should be completed by the end of the summer. As the screens are finalized, the steering committee will post them on the project website, <http://csnproject.iowacounties.org/>.

The steering committee has worked with DHS to develop and support a method to review the data stored in the current CoMis database. This is scheduled to begin in mid-June. The intent will be to have data from FY 05 to FY 08 correct in as much as possible prior to the migration of the data into the County Community Services Network (CSN). Some of the data review will key on data that may have not be required in FY 06, but was required in FY 07 forward. The intent will be to correct only the data that was required after FY06. After the CSN is operational and over time, each client's records should be updated with current information. We hope to have the data imported by mid-October.

Not correcting all data prior to migration will give the training committee an opportunity to develop a training plan based around the entry and correction of data. The CSN will produce edit reports to inform the CPC of data irregularities. These reports can then be used in a confidential classroom environment to all of the CPCs or designated county employee to learn while using data they are familiar with.

If you have any questions about the project please contact a member of the project steering committee (<http://csnproject.iowacounties.org/steering.aspx>) or Robin Harlow directly at rharlow@iowacounties.org.

ICIT Information Security Committee

As counties become more connected not only with the outside world, but amongst themselves, having security to better protect the counties' interests will be paramount. The federal government has a priority to help secure our collective government information technology infrastructure from outside attacks.

The counties of Iowa help this work by their involvement in the Multi State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). Their website can be found at www.msisac.org. Jean Schultz, Johnson County IT Director, regularly attends meetings and conferences to give the local perspective to this complex issue. There are only twenty local level representatives. Jean's work with the MS-ISAC is important as the federal government develops IT security infrastructure protection plans and operations and how those plans or operations will effect local government.

In conjunction with Jean's work, in June 2008, at the mid-year ICIT Board Meeting, the Board approved the Information Security Committee.

Thomas Crimmins and Anthony Kava from Pottawattamie County have been working hard on developing the mission and goals of this committee.

Working with their document, this is the summary of their work: The mission of the Information Security Committee will be to serve Iowa counties by improving communications, providing security training, and offering support in order to better protect our collective infrastructure and our citizens. The goals of the committee will be:

1. To communicate:
 - between counties regarding information security readiness and incidents;
 - with the State of Iowa DAS Information Security Office; and
 - with the United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team.
2. To inform:
 - maintain updated information Security Committee section of the ICIT website;
 - facilitate information security presentations and dissemination of training materials; and
 - publish document templates and examples to aid counties in the development.
3. Support:
 - counties on information security topics;
 - provide incident response support to counties in coordination with local, regional, and national resources; and
 - performance of security audits.

The committee will employ the following methods:

- to maintain updated website to be used as a focus point for communication;
- to provide clear contact information to reach the committee and its members;
- to track security incidents and share information with state and federal entities; and
- to ensure continued relevancy through ongoing training and events.

Every county official should pay close attention to the work of this committee and be informed as much as possible to their own data protection responsibilities. As with many other states and including the federal government, the state of Iowa is considering legislation to hold government officials responsible for notifying the public in the case of a breach of their systems and or exposure of confidential data. As the committee builds its communication plan I will present updates in this space.

Rain, rain go away.

I have re-written the end of this article to encourage every county that escaped the rains, tornados, and flooding to learn from those that were affected by this period of unprecedented weather. For the most current information on disaster recovery visit the Disaster Recovery Journal website at www.drj.com.

Lincoln's Iowa Land Holdings

By: *Grant Veeder*

ISAC NACo Board Representative
Black Hawk County Auditor



As a respected Illinois attorney, Abraham Lincoln was well-off but not particularly wealthy. His real estate portfolio was rather modest, but what there was of it was mostly in the state of Iowa.

The story of Lincoln's land holdings goes back to the time when he was just embarking upon adulthood. Lincoln at 22 in 1831 settled in the village of New Salem. A natural storyteller with a knack for self-deprecating wit, Lincoln quickly became popular, and in 1832 he announced for the state legislature. The period between his announcement in March and the election in August proved to be quite eventful, thanks to some Native American tribes from Iowa.

The Sauk and Fox Indians had lived on both sides of the Upper Mississippi River, but, by this time, confined to the Iowa side by treaty. In April of 1832, some of them crossed back into Illinois under the leadership of the aging warrior Black Hawk. They wanted to return to their former farming settlements along the Rock River, but the white settlers saw the move as a hostile act. The situation soon degenerated into what became known as the Black Hawk War.

With panic spreading across the Illinois prairie, the governor called for troops. Lincoln enlisted in the state militia. At the time, militia units often elected their own officers. A popular volunteer with utterly no military experience could be elected captain of his company, and this is just what happened to Lincoln. He said in the late 1850s that his election was "a success which gave me more pleasure than any I have had since."

Lincoln saw no action, despite re-enlisting twice as a private after his initial month of service expired. "I was out of work," he later explained. "... There being no danger of more fighting, I could do nothing better than enlist again." He was discharged in July, and the war ended on August 2 in a slaughter of Sauk and Fox warriors and noncombatants at the Battle of Bad Axe on the Mississippi River.

Back in time for a little campaigning, Lincoln relied more on his personality than a detailed platform. "My politics are short and sweet, like the old woman's dance," he quipped from the stump. The top four vote-getters in Sangamon County would win seats in the legislature in the August 6 election. Lincoln ran eighth out of thirteen candidates.

Thus ended Lincoln's campaigns, military and political, of 1832. His political experience would bear fruit in two years when he ran successfully for the legislature; his military service would result, after a much longer time, in the acquisition of real estate.

Following an established tradition for other conflicts, Congress passed a law in 1850 that awarded land grant warrants to veterans of any Indian war after 1790. Lincoln received a warrant good for 40 acres. He eventually engaged Dubuque attorney John P. Davies to use it to acquire a parcel in Tama County. His title was perfected in 1855 for the following described land: "The Northwest quarter of

the Southwest quarter of Section 20 in Township 84 North, Range 15 West."

In the same year, Congress gave veterans more land. Lincoln this time received a warrant for 120 acres. Shortly before his election to the presidency in 1860 and acting as his own attorney, he took title to a parcel in Crawford County with the following description: "The East half of the North East quarter and Northwest quarter of the North East quarter of Section Eighteen in Township Eighty four North of Range Thirty nine west."

In a future issue, we will review Lincoln's 1859 trip to Council Bluffs. One of his purposes for going there was to inspect some local land. His friend, Norman B. Judd, was a railroad attorney who borrowed \$2,500 from Lincoln in 1857 to purchase land in Council Bluffs, believing the area was destined for a major railroad. Now Judd wanted to renew and increase the loan, and offered 17 city lots in Council Bluffs and 10 acres along the route of the Mississippi and Missouri Railroad as collateral. After his trip, Lincoln accepted the terms, and the land was quitclaimed to him.

Lincoln the Land Baron never made it big. After he became president, he knew he might be criticized for starting the western railroad in a town where he owned land, but he did it anyway because it made the most sense. However, he realized nothing from the venture – the property reverted to Judd when the loan was repaid after Lincoln's death.

Lincoln died without seeing the farmland he acquired in Tama and Crawford Counties. In 1874, his widow, Mary Todd Lincoln, sold the Tama County land to their son Robert for \$100. Robert and his wife Mary Harlan Lincoln sold the tract to Adam Brecht of Tama County in 1875 for \$500.

After Mary Todd Lincoln's death in 1882, Robert was the sole surviving heir of his parents, his three brothers all having died before reaching full adulthood. He and his wife sold the Crawford County parcel in 1892 while living in London, where Robert was serving as American minister to Great Britain. Henry Edwards of Crawford County bought the land for \$1,300.

There's a postscript that ties the whole story together; the Fox Indians are also known as the Meskwaki. Many were exiled to Kansas after the Black Hawk War, but in 1857 the Iowa Legislature, in unprecedented fashion, allowed some of them to buy land so they could return to Iowa. They purchased land in Tama County, just a few miles from Lincoln's land, and the tribe lives there to this day.

Targeted Case Management

By: Cindy Chappelle

ISAC Case Management
Specialist



Hello to everyone. I would like to take this opportunity to explain what a targeted case manager does, what challenges they face, and what rewards they can expect. I hope to answer questions for some and show appreciation to others.

Targeted case management can be personally rewarding; however, with the good comes challenges. A targeted case manager can facilitate services which result in a child or adult performing skills that were once thought unattainable and may assist an adult suffering from chronic mental illness to work through issues that prevented that person from living in their own home and working in the community. Targeted case managers may assist a young woman who was unable to use her voice for communication and was unable to get around without someone assisting her with her wheelchair to learn to maneuver an electric chair and communicate through the use of a computer. A case manager may also help a person re-establish family relationships that were once thought to be damaged beyond repair due to mental health issues, gain stability in their community, or assist a person to get a job in the community rather than a sheltered workshop.

Getting all of this accomplished sometimes means having a long list of things to do in a very short time. This means hours spent gathering information for an assessment and the social history for each individual and keeping the information updated annually. This means developing a service plan from the assessment, which includes the measurable goals/objectives, with incremental action steps, and progress measurements. Through treatment team coordination, the crisis plan and safety plan are written, service providers and needs are identified, legal issues, rights and restrictions identified, and the discharge plan is completed. Once these steps are completed, the targeted case manager begins contacting the Interdisciplinary team members to coordinate services, meet with the consumer, hold staffings and intake meetings, write quarterly reports, and assist with crisis intervention. Also, to be considered is the funding process which includes authorization/ISIS, county funding through the CPC, the preauthorization with IME or MBC, as well as completion of the FassTools. While doing all this, the targeted case manager needs to ensure that Chapter 24 and Chapter 90 rules are being followed, along with compliance with agency policy and procedures. Targeted case managers do this for 25-35 consumers, while meeting reporting and contact deadlines each month. This is the work of a targeted case manager.

Targeted case managers have the privilege to work side-by-side with individuals dealing with challenges that many of us have difficulty even imagining. The targeted case management professional relationship includes the individual client, their family, service providers, guardians, teachers, probation officers, IVRS, and the community as a whole. Targeted case managers bring ideas, knowledge, creativity, and patience to the table to advocate for people who are unable to advocate for themselves. Case managers coordinate ser-

vices, monitor services, and link individuals to desired services for those who are unable to do so on their own so they can live in their own home and community.

A typical case could be a child or adult who has been diagnosed with mental retardation, developmental disabilities, and brain injury or with a chronic mental illness, such as Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Personality Disorder, or Schizophrenia. While a diagnosis may set them apart in this one way from others in the community, there is no difference to do the very things that most of us take for granted: to have our own home, to have a job in the community, to have friends, to be part of our communities. Targeted case managers get to know these individuals - their wants, needs, and desires, along with the obstacles that each face due to their disability. Targeted case managers work supportively with other community professionals to ensure needs are met and wants become a reality.

Targeted case managers face challenges in the endless paperwork demands, chronic shortage of resources, lack of community service providers, and the daily challenges of mental health symptoms that arise with their consumers and the physical health difficulties that many of the consumers endure. Even in the face of these challenges, targeted case managers don't give up; they continue providing the best for those on their caseload. Targeted case managers are a hardy breed. They are strong, resilient, compassionate, giving, and selfless.

Why do targeted case managers continue with this type of challenging work? They see individuals learn new skills, make a friend, and obtain some sense of stability. They assist a person with moving to their own apartment, without 24 hour staff supervision, for the first time. They are a part of the services that enable an individual to get a job, earn a paycheck, take their own medication, write a check, cook a meal, and stay out of the hospital. Targeted case managers make a difference in a countless number of lives.

This is the job of a targeted case manager and this is why they help others to achieve.

FAQs

What is the Excellence in Action Award Program?

The Excellence in Action Award Program is a competitive awards program which seeks to recognize innovative county government programs.

How will my project be judged?

A panel of judges will rate each project based on the following seven attributes: creativity; innovation; cost savings; replication; leadership; increase efficiency; cooperation with others; and perseverance.

What are the awards categories?

Individual

The county employee that demonstrates excellence in action in improving the services delivered to the citizens of their county.

County inter-office

Projects that demonstrate excellence in action in crossing local county office lines to deliver services to the citizen.

Inter-governmental

Projects that show excellence in action in crossing governmental lines to deliver services to the citizen.

What happens if my county wins an award?

The Individual Award winner will receive the Excellence in Action crystal award. Entities award winners will receive a single crystal awards with certificates for individuals on the entities' team. All winning projects will be forward to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Program for possible additional recognition. The fee for the NACo submission will be paid by ISAC. Only those entries meeting the NACo eligibility standards will be forwarded. See next section for ineligible NACo programs.

Eligibility and Criteria

Who is eligible to submit applications?

Only county governments are eligible to submit applications. There is no limit to the number of applications county governments can submit.

What are the eligibility standards?

All applications must comply with the following standards:

- The program must have become operational after January 1, 2005, and must have measurable results.
- County officials and/or staff, as part of their official duties, must have played a significant role in developing and implementing the program, with only limited assistance from outside technical experts and/or consultants.

Ineligible NACo Programs Include:

- programs designed to influence laws and regulations;
- certification or accreditation programs;
- programs that are adopted, whole or in part, from another public or private entity;
- programs (either whole or in substantial part) that have received a previous NACo Achievement Award; and
- programs that involve merely the automation of a function, the purchase/utilization of new technology/equipment, the construction of a building, the relocation of facilities or staff, the hiring of additional staff, the conduct of a conference, the formation of a task force or committee, the publication of a newsletter, the privatization/contracting out of a function, or the application of targeted federal or state funds.



2008 Excellence in Action Awards



Send all applications to:

Iowa State Association of Counties
501 SW 7th St, Suite Q
Des Moines, IA 50309

For more information contact:

Robin Harlow
515.244.7181
rharlow@iowacounties.org

What are the program criteria?

The nominated program must meet the following criteria:

1. It must do one or more of the following:
 - offer a new service to county residents, fill gaps in the availability of existing services, or tap new revenue sources;
 - improve the administration or enhance the cost effectiveness of an existing county government program;
 - upgrade the working conditions or level of training for county employees;
 - enhance the level of citizen participation in, or the understanding of, government programs;
 - provide information that facilitates effective public policy making; or
 - promote intergovernmental cooperation and coordination in addressing shared problems.
2. In the case of a program that is in response to a federal or state law, regulation, or order, the program must go beyond mere compliance with the statute, regulation or order, and must display a creative approach to meeting those requirements.
3. The program must have proven measurable results (e.g. cost savings, enhanced employee productivity, improved constituent service, created better intergovernmental cooperation).
4. The program must be innovative and not rely on the application of techniques or procedures that are common practice in most counties of similar population size.
5. All aspects of the program must be consistent with acceptable governmental and financial management practices and must promote general governmental accountability.

Nomination Summary and Required Format

The nomination summary must:

- be written on no more than seven one-sided typewritten pages;
- Be written in layman's terms, so that the average reader can understand the objectives and judge the merits of the program. ISAC reserves the right to disqualify programs whose summaries are too technical;
- Be well written. Poorly written applications are subject to disqualification;
- Have measurable results. ISAC reserves the right to disqualify programs that are submitted prematurely and without measurable results; and
- Have the name of the program and county submitting the application on the top of each of summary page. Pages must also be numbered.

In the summary of the nominated program, the following seven items **must** be addressed in a number by number format. Failure to address any of these items may result in your applications disqualification. (Suggested page guidelines are provided to assist you in preparing this summary within the length constraint).

1. Abstract of the program

In approximately 200 words or less, summarize your program. Abstracts of award winning programs will be published, so please be sure that what you have written is comprehensive, but concise (approximately 1/4 page).

2. The problem/need for the program

Discuss the problem/need that prompted the development of the program and the county's legal obligation, if any, to take action (approximately 3/4 page).

3. Description of the program

Provide a description of the nominated program, including: the objectives; the time frame for development and implementation; the cliental being served; the county's role in devising and implementing the program; and the contribution, if any, of other partners (e.g., state and federal government, consultants, private partner(s) (approximately 2 to 3 pages).

4. Use of technology

Describe all items of technology that your program utilizes in its implementation. This could include intranet, internet, website, GIS, GPS, cable, kiosks, software, LAN, WAN, databases, etc. You may provide this information in a list or paragraph form. This information will be useful in helping ISAC highlight how big a role information technology plays in local community programs (approximately 1/4 page).

5. The cost of the program

Describe both the operating and capital costs incurred in developing and implementing the program (list all costs that would be incurred by a county attempting to replicate the program) (approximately 3/4 page to 1 page).

6. The results/success of the program

Provide a description of the results and the success of the program in meeting its objectives (provide specific examples and measurements of that success) (approximately 3/4 to 1 page).

7. Worthiness of an Award

Give justification for why this program meets outlined criteria and should be awarded a 2008 ISAC Excellence in Action Award (approximately 1/4 to 1/2 page).

Application Deadline:

September 5, 2008

ISAC meetings

2008 ISAC Fall School of Instruction Update

It is time to start planning for the 2008 ISAC Fall School of Instruction. The conference will be held November 19-21, 2008, at the Coralville Marriott and Conference Center.

Hotel Accommodations

ISAC has contracted room blocks at several hotels in the Coralville/Iowa City area. When booking your sleeping room arrangements please call the hotel directly and ask for the "Iowa State Association of Counties" group rate. Room blocks will open on August 1. Please do not call the hotels before August 1.

ISAC will assist in securing the hotel reservations for the following people: ISAC board of directors; ISAC past presidents; affiliate presidents; CCMS board of directors; CRIS board of directors and individuals with disabilities. For those individuals with disabilities, ISAC may require you to provide a medical note stating that you have a disability which requires you to stay at the conference hotel.

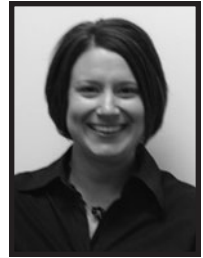
AmericInn of Coralville (319.625.2400)
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Comfort Suites (319.338.3400)
**Coralville Marriott and Conference Center (319.688.4000)
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Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites (319.625.5000)
Iowa City Heartland Inn Hotel (319.351.8132)
Iowa City/Coralville Comfort Inn (319.337.8382)
Iowa City/Coralville Fairfield Inn by Marriott (319.337.8382)

Please visit www.iowacounties.org for more detailed information on the hotels including rates and amenities.

**Conference Hotel

By: Stacy Horner

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



Affiliate Meetings

All affiliate meetings will take place on the first two days of the conference. Affiliate presidents will soon be receiving meeting planning information from ISAC, so please watch your email and the ISAC website, www.iowacounties.org, for important conference details.

Hospitality Rooms

At the Coralville Marriott and Conference Center, hospitality rooms will be available in their second floor meeting spaces. Unlike at past conferences, you are unable to bring in outside food and beverages to serve from your hospitality space. All food and beverage orders will need to be ordered through the hotel. Please email shorner@iowacounties.org to reserve your hospitality room beginning on August 1.

Please feel free to contact me by phone (515.244.7181) or email (shorner@iowacounties.org) if you have any questions about the 2008 ISAC Fall School of Instruction.

Job Opening

Boone County Director of Development/ Health and Sanitation Departments

Boone County, Iowa (population of 26,000+ located in central Iowa) is seeking a dynamic, self-motivated, experienced and team-minded individual to head established county planning & development / health & sanitation departments. This position reports to a three member elected county board of supervisors and manages three professional

staff. Oversees: county planning and zoning ordinances; comprehensive land use planning; code enforcement; building permits; GIS, and; sanitarian functions for the County. Serves as staff to the Zoning Commission, the Board of Adjustment and the Public Health Board. Interested individuals can obtain an employment application packet at the Boone County Auditor's office, 201 State Street, Boone, Iowa 50036, or by sending an email to: scotts@co.boone.ia.us. Salary range of \$50,000 to \$55,000 annually depending on experience and education. Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume and completed County employment application by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, July 25, 2008 to the Boone County Auditor at the address listed above. Boone County is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

know your ISAC board members

Name: Terri Henkels
County: Polk
Title: Public Health



Year you started on the ISAC board: 2008

Year you began public service: 1976

Education: Certified public management, Drake University;
Certified volunteer management, DMACC; Court reporting,
AIB

The hardest thing I've ever done: is simultaneously attending
Drake, working full time, and raising 3 teenagers.

A dream I have is to: have a summer lakeside home.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: in-line skate 3 – 5 miles a
day during the summer.

My first car was: a Gremlin.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: parasailing.

I'm most proud of: my children.

My favorite way to relax is: exercise/ walking.

My favorite Iowa meal is: a Tenderloin.

My favorite movie is: Fried Green Tomatoes.

My favorite music is: county – Willie Nelson.

My favorite place in Iowa is: the city of Ottumwa.

Name: Nancy Parrott
County: Jasper
Title: Recorder



Year you started on the ISAC board: 2008

Year you began public service: 1979 (as
an elected official)

Education: +2

The hardest thing I've ever done: singly raising my two kids.

A dream I have is to: sing, without others running from the
room.

You'd be surprised to learn that I: love politics.

My first car was: 66 Corvair Convertible

The most adventurous thing I've ever done is: yet to be done.

I'm most proud of: my children.

My favorite way to relax is: crafting.

My favorite Iowa meal is: sweet corn and tomatoes.

My favorite movie is: Paint Your Wagon.

My favorite music is: Neal Young.

My favorite place in Iowa is: Dubuque.

NACo Board of Directors: Western Interstate Region Conference

This year's Western Interstate Region (WIR) annual conference, which annually hosts a meeting of the NACo Board of Directors, was held in St. George, Utah, from May 21 to May 23. St. George is in the middle of the desert, about 120 miles southwest of Las Vegas and about forty miles northeast of Zion National Park. The scenery is breathtaking.

The conference at the St. George Dixie Center was well-attended and had many interesting speakers. Among them was Dr. Laura Nelson of EcoShale, a company that removes oil from shale. Dr. Nelson said that the United States has by far the largest shale oil reserves in the world (many of them in Utah), and explained EcoShale's extraction technology, which she said is clean and efficient. There was a shale oil boomlet about 25 years ago that fizzled when crude oil prices trended down, and Dr. Nelson more or less indicated that shale oil is once again economical now that gas prices are pushing \$4.00 a gallon.

At last year's WIR conference in Alaska we heard from speakers who insisted that global warming was a serious problem, and most of the climate change that our planet is experiencing results from human-generated greenhouse gases. After a year of guilt and self-flagellation, we now heard that this isn't true at all. James M. Taylor, a senior fellow of The Heartland Institute, told us that the preponderance of scientific data proves that there is no global warming crisis. He says that, despite claims to the contrary, the snowpack in the western United States hasn't declined at all, and Antarctic Sea ice is at record levels. He explained that temperatures are on a cyclical upswing but are still below the 3,000 year average.

The lack of consensus on this issue was further illustrated by the educational session entitled "Climate Change and Western Counties: Issues and Options", which immediately followed Mr. Taylor's presentation. Panelists from Utah and Colorado described how their counties are trying to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and make other environment-friendly improvements. Mr. Taylor was also one of the panelists, and he endorsed pollution reduction and conservation efforts, but warned of the unintended and costly consequences of hasty action.

If you find these contrary points of view confusing, let me just say that NACo's official position is that Congress should address global warming, regardless of its source. For more information on NACo projects in this regard, do a search at the NACo website, www.naco.org, for Green Government Initiative, County Climate Protection Program, and Cool Counties.

Along with its regular business, the NACo board continued the process of revising the bylaws to address last year's second vice president election fiasco. The Blue Ribbon Elections Committee, chaired by Past President Karen Miller of Boone County, Missouri, presented a number of language changes that resulted from board breakout

By: Grant Veeder

ISAC NACo Board Representative
Black Hawk County Auditor



sessions at the December 2007 board meeting. The key changes to the bylaws are as follows:

- Two weeks prior to the annual conference, NACo will post on its website a list of counties not registered for the conference and a list of those counties that are registered but have not filed written proxies.
- Non-attending counties wishing to vote by proxy must pay registration fees at least 72 hours prior to the convening of the conference.
- Voting credentials registration will close by 5:00 pm on the day preceding the election.

Other language addressing proxy voting already exists in the bylaws. Non-attending counties may vote by proxy by authorizing someone in writing to cast their ballots. The situation that arose last year (apparently not for the first time) was that the registrations of several non-attending California counties were paid by a third party at the conference, and their votes then cast by proxy. I don't know whether pre-existing proxy requirements were followed, but the perception is that they were not.

The other side of last year's controversy was the hijacking of New York's votes by a delegate who had written instructions on how to cast the state's split votes. He ignored the instructions and cast all the votes for one candidate. Board members made numerous suggestions regarding election security at the December breakouts, but President Eric Coleman's instructions to the Blue Ribbon Committee were to address the credentials issue only, and the committee's recommendation to the board was confined to that issue. The bylaws amendments (including several non-substantive changes in other areas proposed by a separate Bylaws Review Committee) will be presented to the full membership at the annual meeting in Kansas City, July 11-15.

Also of note on the election front, previously-announced candidate Lou Magazzu withdrew from the race for second vice president, citing an unexpected increase in duties on the Cumberland County, New Jersey, board of chosen freeholders (think county supervisors). This leaves as the sole candidate Glen Whitley of Tarrant County, Texas, who lost the close and interesting election last year to Teresa Altemus of Gloucester County, Virginia.

This year's annual conference, as mentioned above, will be in Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri. You won't need a pricy airplane ticket to attend this year, and the program looks fun! I hope to see you there!

miscellaneous

Test Your Investment Knowledge

By: Bryant Sheriff

IPAIT



County investment policies have been a statutory requirement for a number of years. However, some of the details are worth reviewing periodically. Test your knowledge on investment concepts and policy provisions required under the Iowa Code with the following Iowa investment policy pop quiz. Good luck!

1. True or False – It is the responsibility of the board of supervisors to adopt the written investment policy required by the Code of Iowa?
2. True or False – A copy of the county investment policy must be given to the auditor performing the audit for the county.
3. What type of agreement must a county treasurer have when investing in securities?
 - a. Deposit Agreement
 - b. Public Funds Custodial Agreement
 - c. Repurchase Agreement
 - d. None of the above
4. As defined in the Iowa public investment statutes, what is the difference between operating funds and non-operating funds?
5. Which of the following securities are appropriate investments for “county operating funds” as defined in the Code of Iowa?
 - a. A five year to maturity U.S. agency security callable in one year “with a coupon so high it has to be called.”
 - b. “AAA” rated commercial paper equal to 10 percent of investment portfolio.
 - c. Uncollateralized repurchase agreement.
 - d. One-year-to-maturity HUD note equal to 25 percent of investment portfolio.
6. Can a county invest operating funds in a short-term bond mutual fund that invests solely in United States Treasuries or government agency securities?
7. The local bank has suggested that you open a sweep account. The agreement will require the bank to “sweep” money in the account in excess of \$50,000 into a repurchase agreement. Is the money that is swept out of the account insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)? Is a public funds custodial agreement required for the “sweep” account?
8. Can bond proceeds be invested differently from operating funds?
9. Which of the following securities are eligible collateral for a repurchase agreement?
 - a. “AAA” rated commercial paper
 - b. U.S. T-Bill
 - c. FHLB (Federal Home Loan Bank) security
10. True or False – Because the Federal Reserve has drastically reduced interest rates, the local bank may pay a lower interest rate on a certificate of deposit than the public funds investment rate set by the Code of Iowa.
11. The local bank quotes an interest rate on a certificate of deposit substantially higher than the other quotes received. However, the local bank indicates that the total amount invested will be divided up into certificates of deposit which are covered by Federal Deposit Insurance coverage limits (i.e., principal and accrued interest for each certificate issues is \$100,000 or less) and which will be held by federally insured banks or savings associations throughout the country. Is this an authorized investment under Iowa law?
12. A securities representative offers to sell the county commercial paper that is rated “AAA” and matures within 200 days. The purchase of the commercial paper will not violate the statutory limits of concentration for investing in commercial paper. However, upon reading the offering terms in a “private placement memorandum”, the county treasurer notices that the commercial paper is not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and may only be purchased by an “accredited investor.” Is the county authorized to purchase the commercial paper?

Answers

1. True. The board of supervisors must approve a written investment policy.
2. True. The written investment policy must be provided to the auditor. In addition, the county is required to maintain a copy, and provide a copy to the county treasurer and all depository institutions or fiduciaries for public funds of the county.

3. b and sometimes c. Iowa Code §12B.10A requires the county to have a public funds custodial agreement with any person or entity that is authorized by the county to act as a custodian of public funds investments. This custodial agreement must comply with rules established by the state treasurer's office and the Iowa attorney general. A public funds custodial agreement is not required for deposits made in an Iowa bank, credit union, savings and loan, investments in IPAIT or direct investments in a money market mutual fund. If a county is investing in securities through a repurchase agreement, the treasurer should have a public funds custodial agreement with the custodian of the securities and a repurchase agreement with the seller of the securities.

4. As defined by Iowa Code §12B.10A, operating funds are funds reasonably expected to be expended during a current budget year or within 15 months of receipt. The law requires operating funds to be identified and invested in investments with maturities of 397 days or less.

5. d. This United States agency security is backed by the full-faith-and-credit of the federal government, is less than 397 days to maturity and has no concentration limitation.

6. No. A county may invest in a money market mutual fund, which is operated pursuant to Rule 2a-7, but not in a bond fund, even if the bond fund invests only in U.S. treasuries or government securities.

7. No. Once the money is taken out of the bank account and invested in a repurchase agreement, it is no longer a deposit under Iowa or federal law. The funds swept out of the account are invested in securities, not in deposits. Therefore, neither FDIC insurance nor the state's deposit protection program would cover the funds. Since the "sweep" account is a repurchase agreement, the county should have a public funds custodial agreement with the bank that is holding the securities on the county's behalf.

8. Yes. Iowa Code §12C.9 permits bond proceeds to be invested in all of the investments permitted for operating funds found in Iowa Code §12B.10 and investment contracts or tax-exempt bonds. The investment contract or tax-exempt bond must have a credit rating of at least AA from Moody's or Standard & Poor's. All bond proceed investments must be permitted under section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code and applicable regulations under that section.

9. b or c. The Iowa Code requires that repurchase agreements must be collateralized by obligations of the United States government, its agencies or instrumentalities. Further, the county must take possession of the securities directly or through an authorized custodian pursuant to a public funds custodial agreement.

10. False. Iowa Code §12C.6 requires a committee to meet monthly to establish the minimum rate to be earned on public funds invested in a certificate of deposit. For the current rate, visit www.treasurer.state.ia.us/rates/.

11. Yes. Iowa Code §12B.10(5)(a)(9) authorizes investment in the Certificate of Account Registry Service program (CDARS). This program allows a local institution to place the county's deposit into other certificates of deposit at other federally insured banks or savings association throughout the country. If the county has more than one certificate of deposit placed through the CDARS program, the county should ensure that it has only one certificate of deposit at the other financial institutions throughout the country to ensure full FDIC coverage.

12. Maybe. Noting "some degree of uncertainty" under current law, the SEC recently proposed adding "governmental body" to the list of legal entities that can be an "accredited investor" under SEC Regulation D and Rule 144A. Until the SEC acts on the proposal it remains an open question. Unregistered securities, it should be noted, may present very different risks than more traditional investments.

Making Medicare Make Sense

Answers To Some of The Most Commonly Asked Medicare Questions

Q: Medicare recently announced new information on their hospital website that helps patients shop for hospital care based on quality and price so for the first time consumers have critical and trusted information in order to choose a quality hospital. What is this resourceful information, and why should I compare hospitals?

A: On March 28, 2008, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), unveiled new survey information at the Hospital Compare consumer website, www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov, offering consumers more insight about the hospitals in their communities.

For the first time consumers will be able to see how patients feel about their hospital stay through showing the results of patient satisfaction surveys collected from more than 2,500 hospitals. This new Hospital Compare website will now make it easier for consumers and their families to get accurate, practical information when they need it to evaluate their local hospitals when they have time to choose the best hospital for their condition.

In addition to adding this new information from adult patients over the age of 18 about their hospital stays, CMS has added information about the number of certain elective hospital procedures provided to those patients and what Medicare pays for those services. So, for the first time, consumers have the three critical elements that they need to make effective decisions about the quality and value of the health care available to them at their local hospitals: quality information; patient satisfaction survey information; and pricing information for specific procedures.

Choosing a hospital that gives quality care and good service may help someone get better faster, avoid other health problems, and have a better hospital experience.

You can't always plan ahead when you need a hospital, but when you can, take time to compare. Use Medicare's consumer website at www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov to find information about hospital quality. This site is easy to use, just read and follow the links.

On this website, you can compare the quality of hospitals, in your area and around the nation by searching by hospital name, city, zip code, state/territory, or by county, and based on the following kinds of information/data:

- how well doctors and nurses communicate with patients and how well they manage the patient's pain;
- how often hospitals give the recommended treatments that are known to get the best results. For example, people who are having a heart attack should get certain drugs called beta blockers within 24 hours of arriving at the hospital, as studies have shown this to be most effective, or if one is having surgery they are given an antibiotic at the right time before surgery so they have less risk of infection;

- how many people with Medicare have had certain procedures or have been treated for certain illnesses;
- what Medicare pays a hospital (on average) when it does certain procedures or treats certain illnesses; and
- how satisfied are people with response times: when patients press their call button for help; how often does hospital staff give explanations about medicines before giving them to their patients; or how often does staff give information to their patients about what to do during their recovery at home.

After looking on this site at some of the results of the new patient satisfaction survey information, and comparing hospitals side by side, you can look on the right hand side of the page, under "Learn More" where you will find information on:

- Hospital Process of Care Measures
- Hospital Outcome of Care Measures
- Survey of Patients' Hospital Experiences
- Medicare Payment and Volume

And, there's even more on Hospital Compare. Make the most of your search by using all the information on Hospital Compare like the following:

- Features about hospital accreditation.
- A checklist to help you compare up to three hospitals at one time.
- Your rights as a hospital patient.
- Information on how to report a complaint about the quality of your hospital care.
- Other Medicare publications.
- Links to related websites.

It is the expectation of the secretary of health and human services, Mike Leavitt, that hospitals all over America will be looking at how they compare and developing strategies for improvement. People want to provide quality, but they need to know how they compare as a measure. The release of this data and its continual improvement will spur improvement.

To read the latest press release, please visit <http://www.hhs.gov/news/> and choose press releases, and the release titled: "New Web Site Helps Patients Shop for Hospital Care Based On Quality and Price, CMS Web Site Features Updated and More Robust Information to Help Consumers with Their Health Care Choices."

As always, if you have a question(s) about any Medicare topic, you can call 1-800-Medicare, which is, 1-800-633-4227, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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

Editor's Note: For consideration of materials to be published in *The Iowa County* magazine, please submit before the first Friday of the previous month. (Materials for the July magazine are due on Friday, June 4.)

Thank you! Rachel

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calendar

July

- 8 CCMS Administrators Training
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)
- 10 District 6 Legislative Workshop
(Coralville Marriott Hotel and
Conference Center)
- 11-15 NACo Annual Conference
(Kansas City, MO)
- 17 CCMS "East Support Group"
(Coral Ridge Mall, Coralville)
- 18 District 5 Legislative Workshop
(Indian Hills Community College,
Ottumwa)
- 25 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)
- 30-1 Auditors' Summer Conference
(Clear Lake)
- 30-1 Supervisor's Executive Board Retreat
(Boone)

August

- 1 Supervisor's Executive Board Retreat
(Boone)
- 13-15 CCMS Annual Conference
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

September

- 18-19 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Creston Area)
- 10-13 Records' Annual Conference
(Honeycreek Resort, Rathbun Lake)

October

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

November

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

December

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

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

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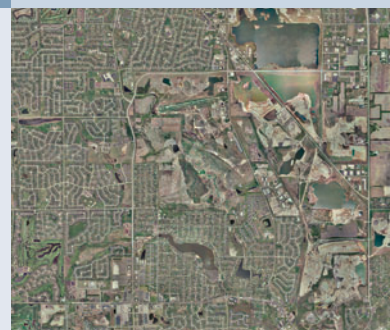
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