

The
Iowa County
Iowa State Association of Counties

April 2014

County Day at the Capitol and
Spring School Wrap-up

Road Funding

Managing Vegetation Along Roads





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ISAC's Mission:

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

ISAC's Vision:

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

Road Funding

Road funding is once again one of ISAC's top priorities this legislative session. While we continue to work with other stakeholders and elected officials on long term, sustainable funding solutions for our aging and deteriorating infrastructure, we are working in the short term on a fuel tax increase that would address the annual shortfall in funds required for our most critical needs. One thing that has provided a renewed sense of optimism is that the need is rarely disputed and the debate revolves largely over how to address it. Editorials, media coverage, legislative testimony, and continued discussions with legislators have kept the issue at the forefront.

While there have been increases in some sources of infrastructure funding such as registration fees, the per gallon fuel tax has not increased since 1989. In that same time period the cost of construction has increased by more than 2.7 times according to the Price Trend Index for Iowa Highway Construction. In addition to general inflation, Iowa's road maintenance issues have been exacerbated by harsh winters, flooding, and heavy equipment usage. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), 19% of Iowa's hard surface roads are in poor condition and an additional 23% are rated in mediocre condition. The FHWA also rates over one-fifth of Iowa's bridges as structurally deficient, the third worst conditions in the nation, and an additional 5% are considered functionally obsolete. The 2011 Road Use Tax Fund (RUTF) Study estimated the total annual statewide revenue shortfall for maintenance and construction to be \$1.6 billion and the annual shortfall for just the most critical needs was estimated to be \$215 million.

So, why are the poor conditions of Iowa's roads and bridges and the funding shortfall such a serious issue to counties? Of the nearly 115,000 miles of public roads in Iowa, almost 90,000 miles are in the secondary roads system. Of the county roads, approximately 6.5% are Portland concrete paved, 13.2% are Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) paved, 1.5% are bituminous treated, 73.8% are gravel, and 5% are untreated or not surfaced. The counties are responsible for over 19,000 of the 24,500 bridges in the state, nearly 29% of which are deficient. Despite accounting for nearly 45% of the hard surface roads and over 98% of the gravel roads for a combined 78.2% of the total miles in the state, counties only receive 32.5% (24.5% secondary roads and 8% farm-to-market roads) of the RUTF distribution and 20% of the TIME-21 distribution from the state transportation dollars. Of the federal funds coming into Iowa, 31% is shared between the counties and cities and the remainder goes to the primary road system.

By: Lucas Beenken

ISAC Public Policy Specialist



How are the maintenance and construction of secondary roads funded, and how much money is in the system? Counties receive funds from both the federal and state government for roads and bridges. The 31% of the total federal funds coming to Iowa that go to the local level totaled nearly \$140 million in federal fiscal year 2013. The portion awarded to county projects varies on an annual basis. The Road Use Tax Fund distribution to counties in FY 2013 totaled \$249.8 million into the Secondary Road Fund and \$81.2 million into the Farm-to-Market Road Fund. The TIME-21 distribution to counties was \$27.5 million.

Counties also rely heavily on local taxpayers to help pay for secondary roads and bridges. Iowa Code §331.429(1), allows counties to transfer to the Secondary Roads Fund up to \$0.16875 from General Basic and \$3.00375 from Rural Basic per \$1,000 of taxable value actually assessed and collected. In FY 2013 counties transferred \$13.8 million from General Basic and \$144.6 million from Rural Basic to the Secondary Roads Funds. For FY 2014 nearly one-third of the counties budgeted to transfer the maximum, while 46 counties budgeted to transfer at least 75% of the maximum from General Basic and 84 counties budgeted to transfer at least 75% of the maximum from Rural Basic. In addition to the property tax transfers, 27 counties transferred a total of \$17.2 million to the Secondary Roads Fund from their Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenue including several counties that transferred 100% of their LOST funds.

A final source of funding to consider when discussing the need for additional revenue is bonding. According to ISAC surveys of county auditors and engineers and information available from the State Treasurer about outstanding debt, approximately 29 counties have bonded for a total of over \$200 million for road construction or maintenance projects. While counties understand the risk of borrowing and the additional long-term cost due to interest, the deteriorating infrastructure and lack of revenue have left counties with few viable options.

In addition to once again making road funding a top legislative priority, the ISAC Board of Directors and nearly two-thirds of the boards of supervisors in the state have adopted resolutions in support of addressing the revenue shortfall and increasing the gas tax. As the government relations team continues our work at the Capitol, county officials should continue to contact their legislators or speak with them at local forums to explain the critical need for additional revenue and to express support for an increase in the fuel tax.

Mowing and Managing Vegetation Along Secondary Roads

Did you know there are at least three chapters in the Iowa Code, with several Code Sections in each chapter that deal with mowing and managing vegetation along secondary roads? I sure did not realize this until I started researching for a presentation the Iowa County Engineers Association asked me to give on the topic. I thought I would share a little bit about what I learned in this article.

A key Code Section to consider is the general prohibition for anyone to mow in the rights-of-way or medians of secondary roads from January 1 to July 14 each calendar year. However, there are nine exceptions to this general prohibition, which are:

1. Within 200 yards of an inhabited dwelling.
2. On rights-of-way within one mile of the corporate limits of a city.
3. To promote native species of vegetation or other long-lived and adaptable vegetation.
4. To establish control of damaging insect populations, noxious weeds, and invasive plant species.
5. For visibility and safety reasons.
6. Within rest areas, weigh stations, and wayside parks.
7. Within 50 feet of a drainage tile or tile intake.
8. For access to a mailbox or for other accessibility purposes.
9. On rights-of-way adjacent to agricultural demonstration or research plots.

From here, it starts to get a little more complicated. Under Iowa Code §314.22, the Iowa DOT is required to have an integrated roadside vegetation management plan and program, with various goals aimed at providing a safe travel environment while achieving various environmental and ecological goals. This same Code Section also allows, but does not require, counties to adopt their own integrated roadside vegetation management plan consistent with the state's plan. In addition, Iowa Code §317.3 allows, but does not require, the board of supervisors to appoint a county weed commissioner.

The advantage to having a weed commissioner and integrated roadside vegetation management plan is that it allows the county to be more involved in making decisions regarding weeds and management of other vegetation alongside secondary roads. I will not go into the details on adopting and developing roadside vegetation management plans, but if you are interested, take a look at Iowa Code Chapter 317. Without a roadside vegetation management plan, Iowa Code §317.11(2) prohibits

By: Kristi Harshbarger

ISAC General Counsel



a county from preventing a “landowner from harvesting, in proper season on or after July 15, the grass grown on the road along the landowner’s land.” But if your county has a vegetation management plan, not only does the county get to have a say in this, but Iowa Code §317.13 specifically requires your roadside vegetation management plan to “include a program of permits for the burning, mowing, or spraying of roadsides by private individuals.” The Code Section goes on to state “[t]he county board of supervisors shall allow only that burning, mowing, or spraying of roadsides by private individuals that is consistent with the adopted integrated roadside vegetation management plan.” The Code section also mentions this only applies to roadsides within your integrated roadside vegetation management plan, so it is important to be inclusive in your plan.

Without an integrated roadside vegetation management plan, it’s not clear if a county can require a permit for mowing alongside a secondary road. An April 9, 1980 Iowa Attorney General Opinion stated that counties could not require a permit for an individual to mow the adjoining right-of-way during the proper season. 1980 Iowa Op. Atty. Gen. 66 (Iowa A.G.). It is worth noting, however, that this AG was prior to the implementation of county home rule.

This brings up an interesting point if you are doing research on mowing and secondary roadside weed management. The language in the applicable statutes has changed frequently – to varying degrees of substantive edits and has also been generally rewritten and moved within the Iowa Code. In addition, many of the Attorney General Opinions and court cases on this area of the law are based on older versions of the statutes or are prior to county home rule. So, it’s important to double check any citations within the Attorney General Opinions and court cases because the current language in effect may be different. Several of these Attorney General Opinions discuss how counties can list additional plants or vegetation as weeds or noxious weeds for purpose of Chapter 317 or the county’s integrated roadside vegetation management plan. According to a 1985 Iowa Attorney General Opinion, this could go so far as to include shrubbery or bushes as a noxious weed via a board of supervisor’s ordinance. 1985 Iowa Op. Atty. Gen. 2 (Iowa A.G.). But this same Attorney General Opinion said trees could not be considered weeds, and if a county needs to remove trees in a road right-of-way, this must be done in compliance with Iowa Code §314.7 and Iowa Code Chapter 319.

Targeted Case Management Review

By: Molly Steffen

ISAC Case Management Specialist



Targeted case management (TCM) agencies are accredited under Chapter 24 of the Iowa Administrative Code. Accreditation surveys for TCM are conducted by the DHS Division of Mental Health and Disabilities Services. The surveys conducted by the accreditation staff are based on review of service (client files) which is comprised of the accrediting score (70%), policy and procedure manual (15%), and organizational activities (15%). There are 3 levels of accreditation; three-year, which requires a total score of over 80% performance compliance; one-year, which requires 70-79% compliance and a probational 180 day accreditation for scores of 60-69% performance compliance. In my tenure at CCMS, no member agency has ever received anything lower than a three-year accreditation, and many have received a 100% performance compliance score.

I would like to address common themes that CCMS staff has seen in recent surveys. The biggest issue for which agencies have been out of compliance is *24.4(3) Individual Service plan: The service plan includes interventions and supports needed to meet those goals with incremental action steps, as appropriate.* The surveyors are focusing more on the action steps to ensure that there is direction to the provider as to what they are to be doing. In the past, CCMS had always focused on these steps to show what the individual utilizing the service was going to achieve, or “points of achievement,” with the understanding that the provider plan was to show steps that actually taught the skills. Surveyors now want more information in the action steps to not only identify what the individual will do, but also to give direction to the provider as to what is expected from them. This is not to say the TCM is to write the provider plan, but to give them “points of achievement” also. For example, if an individual wants to learn to do their own laundry, there are natural steps to this. In the past, the TCM plan steps may include learning to sort the laundry, learning to measure detergent, learn how to set the dials on the machine, etc. The surveyors want to see steps of what the provider is to do, i.e. provider will teach individual how to sort laundry. The provider plan would then detail how they were to teach that skill.

The next biggest issue is *24.4(4) Documentation of service provision. (2) Responsible staff document the individual’s progress toward goals, the provision of staff intervention, and the individual’s response to those interventions.* Surveyors have indicated that documentation was very brief overall and did not consistently identify the staff interventions and the indi-

vidual’s response to the staff intervention. It is not expected that every note specify the staff interventions, but periodically the case manager should summarize the interventions staff are using to address the goal, along with the individuals response and progress towards goals. It is often difficult to get detail-specific information from providers, as often TCMs are talking to supervisors and not direct care staff who are actually teaching the skills. We are encouraging TCMs to specify in the planning process/ICP team meetings what they expect from the provider in terms of goal progress and when speaking with providers to ask detailed questions to get the needed information.

Two other items that go hand in hand are *24.4(9) Case Management Services. (3) The team works with the individual using the service to establish the service plan that guides and coordinates the delivery of service and 24.4(3) Individual service plans (6). The plan reflects desired individual outcomes.* In these areas it was often noted out of compliance when there was a guardian involved and the TCM did not establish that the individual utilizing the service had any input into the goals/service plan. The TCM can still meet with the individual to talk about what they personally would like to work on, or if they share the vision of what the guardian wants them to work on.

Another common issue addressed is in crisis planning is *24.4(9) Case management services. b(9) Individuals using the service participate in developing an individualized crisis intervention plan that includes natural supports and self-help methods.* Overall, surveyors are not finding the crisis plans to be specific or individualized and not consistently identifying natural supports that an individual could utilize. Natural supports and the means to contact them should be in the crisis plan. If an individual does not have natural supports, this should be identified, and the service plan should address how the individual will be supported to develop natural supports. The purpose of the crisis plan is to summarize effective tools and supports for the individual when needed and should provide specific direction that can be utilized in times of crisis.

Continues on page 7.

First Impressions

My first impression of the CSN software was of a robust, dynamic and user-centric application. I quickly realized that before I could truly learn and understand how CSN works that I needed to fully grasp the concept of why CSN was built and who it was built to serve. I also needed to understand how the users (counties) expect the system to perform and what their intended uses are. In my experiences, the most positive aspect of in-house developed software applications is that the functionality is tailored to its intended audience. The down side to this is that whenever the intended audience changes, the application must adapt as well.

When I attended CSN new user training, I witnessed firsthand that different counties are using CSN in very different ways. Because of the dynamic ways counties are using CSN, it is an omnipresent challenge for CSN staff to develop uniform training processes and migration standards. Regionalization will hopefully cause processes to become more streamlined, and regions will collectively follow the same process model. Once all counties are following the CSN best practices and standards, training will become uniform and CSN can be expanded into other audiences and processes.

I have found that most software packages of this magnitude generally do not perform at optimal levels this early on in their life

By: Fred Greene

ISAC Support Analyst



cycle. Of course, there are improvements needed; however, CSN is a newly built application that exceeds expectations and performs exceptionally well. I'm not just saying this because I support the application. In my experience, supporting various software products during my employment at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage and Principal Financial Group, this has rarely been the case. The granularity and complexity to which CSN was built, in the short amount of time, is flat out amazing. I have yet to support an application with as few bugs and isolated issues as CSN.

Although CSN is not perfect, it has the ability to continue to evolve as its audience does, which is key. This evolution will not be seamless and will take some work from the developers; however, having that ability to reshape and evolve will prove an advantage of CSN over other applications in the marketplace. CSN was built with such careful planning that it has the ability to change courses post-production. The true pleasure in my experiences learning and supporting CSN has been the users. As CSN evolves and changes occur, the experience, knowledge and wisdom of the people using it will continue to make it successful!

CCMS

Continued from page 6.

Quarterly reports are another common area that is found out of compliance. *24.4(9) Case Management Services b(12) The case manager communicates with the team and then documents in the individual's file a quarterly review of the individual's progress toward achieving goals.* Agencies are often cited for not having quarterly reports, or they are not done timely. When reports are present, they are very brief and do not include specific information regarding goal progress, staff interventions, and the individual's response to the interventions.

Another area of concern that have been addressed by surveyors are goals/plans not changing from year to year. Often they are seeing the same goal worked on from one year to the next with little to no progress. Often times an individual may want to

continue to work on a skill because they have not mastered it, so the TCM must look at the barriers as to why they have not mastered it, look at different ways to teach the skill, or change the actual goal/objective so that the individual can feel a sense of achievement. Documentation of the actual service plan meeting has also been noted as an area of concern by the surveyors. The TCM needs to be specific as to the reason for the meeting, the client participation in the meeting and summary of the service plan. It is not sufficient to state "see service plan for detailed plan."

I hope that these common areas of concern are helpful to case managers and supervisors in improving the quality of the work they do. We also have surveyors Cheri Riesner and Ginger Kozak coming to the next Administrators Meeting on April 8, 2014 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Johnston.

meetings

County Day at the Capitol and Spring School Recap

ISAC would like to thank all of you who attended the 2014 ISAC Spring School of Instruction held on March 13-14 in Des Moines. The 6th Annual County Day at the Capitol was also held in conjunction with the conference on March 12. The purpose of County Day at the Capitol is to give county officials and employees the opportunity to be involved in the legislative process by promoting legislation that is of importance to counties. ISAC affiliate member organizations setup displays in the Capitol Rotunda and county attendees were able to meet with their respective legislators. ISAC served 650 lunches to legislators and county officials, so it was a great day at the Capitol and we thank everyone for their participation!

This year's spring school was held at Des Moines Marriott Downtown, which served as a great location for all of our affiliates to meet under the same roof. The exhibit hall featured three refreshments breaks that allowed members the opportunity to meet with various exhibitors about their products and services throughout the day on Thursday. A special thanks to the 47 exhibitors that attended and supported the conference. An event of this scale would not be possible without the exhibitors. We would also like to thank all of ISAC's preferred vendors for their support of ISAC.

On Thursday morning, ISAC hosted the following educational seminars concurrently: Discussion of Select Federal and State Health Privacy Laws - Alissa Smith, Partner, Dorsey & Whitney LLP; Connecting your Community for Growth and Well-Being - Amy Kuhlers, State Program Manager, Connect Iowa; and Calculating your Income During Retirement - Burt Burrows, Program Director, Nationwide Retirement. The

By: *Stacy Horner*

ISAC Meeting/Event Administrator



FY 2015 ISAC budget was unanimously approved by the membership during the ISAC General Session also held that morning. The ISAC scholarships, funded through the ISAC Education Foundation, were awarded to high school seniors who are children of county officials and employees. More about the individual winners and the program will be included in the May issue of the magazine. Stephen Tryon ended the general session with his presentation, "Preserving the American Dream in the Information Age." Following an afternoon full of affiliate meetings, the exhibitor reception, hospitality rooms and ISAC Dance gave members the opportunity to network and socialize on Thursday evening.

All registered conference attendees enjoyed morning refreshments and a build-your-own box lunch provided by ISAC on Friday during a full day of affiliate meetings. Please take a moment to take the online post-conference survey that is available on the ISAC website. All feedback is taken into consideration when planning and making any alterations to future conferences. Please contact me at shorner@iowacounties.org if you ever have any comments or suggestions regarding ISAC conferences and events.

We look forward to seeing everyone at ISAC's 2014 Fall School of Instruction being held November 12-14 at the Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. Registration and conference hotel room blocks for the 2014 fall school will not open until late summer, so please do not make your reservations until conference details are announced this summer. Thanks again for another great ISAC event!



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2014 ISAC Legislative District Meetings Update

Traditionally, ISAC staff has traveled to the six ISAC districts to conduct a series of legislative district meetings in June to provide county officials with a summary of the legislation that passed during the session. To begin the planning process of moving our November conference to August in 2017, we will be holding a legislative webinar this year following the session in place of the legislative district meetings. The legislative summary book will be available on the ISAC website. We encourage affiliates to hold district meetings of their own as needed. More details including the webinar date and time will be available in the future.



Emancipation Part 2: Slavery in the Civil War

By: *Grant Veeder*

Black Hawk County Auditor
NACo Board of Directors



As mentioned in the last installment, not only did Abraham Lincoln feel that slavery was constitutionally protected in the states where it existed, he felt that to suddenly uproot it would be dangerous to the social fabric of the nation. Still, he fought to keep slavery from being allowed in the national territories, because his hope was that slavery would be so constricted that the public mind would “rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction.” Lincoln well understood that “ultimate extinction” of an institution as fiercely defended as slavery could take a long time. How did the Civil War telescope that process?

It didn't happen right away. The rush to arms in the Northern states was not prompted by a desire to free the slaves. Racism was nearly as prevalent in the North as it was in the South, and there were fears that millions of freed slaves would move north and take jobs from white laborers. Many officers and soldiers stridently emphasized that they did not fight to free the black people in bondage, but only to save the Union. But the issue of slavery couldn't be ignored. Slaves soon sought sanctuary with federal forces occupying Confederate territory. Their owners, with more consistency than rationality, asked for the return of their property under the Fugitive Slave Law. Some federal officers reasoned that if the fugitives were property, then they were subject to confiscation, because they were being used for the purposes of the rebellion, and were thus contraband of war. Soon, all escaping slaves were called “contrabands,” and thousands of them settled in camps that were under the protection of Union forces. Did this make them free? Not really. Whenever the war ended, they could no longer be seen as contraband. What would happen to them then? A suggestion of how they would have been treated under the law (without the protection that the 13th Amendment brought) is provided by the case of a slaveowner in the loyal border state of Kentucky who sued an army officer who refused to return his escaped slave. The slaveowner was awarded damages in 1871, six years after the war ended.

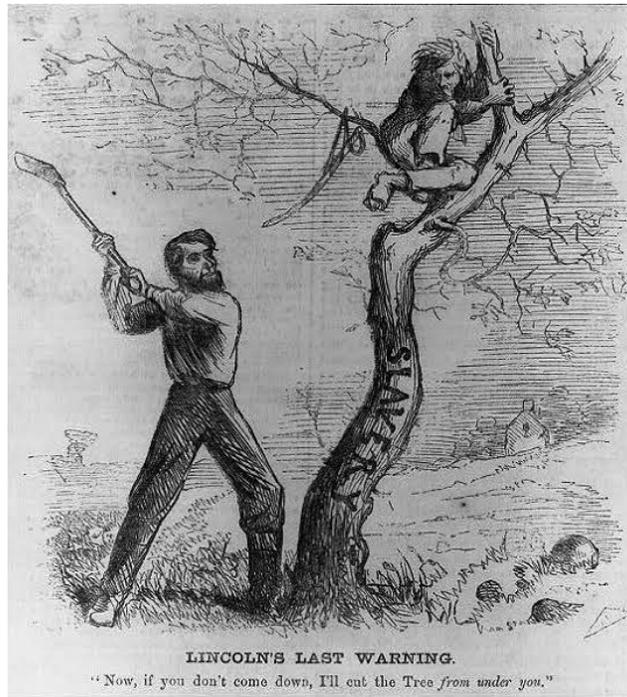
As with General Burnside in the Vallyandigham affair, U.S. Army commanders with authority over vast regions sometimes took matters into their own hands. Both on the East Coast and in Missouri, Union generals declared that slaves were free by military edict. These moves were popular with the growing number of anti-slavery people in the North who felt that this was no more than the secessionists deserved, but President Lincoln ordered one edict revised and voided the other. In the case of General John C.

Frémont in Missouri, Lincoln wrote confidentially to a friend, “If the General needs [the slaves], he can seize them, and use them; but when the need is past, it is not for him to fix their permanent future condition.”

This was in keeping with the notion of escaped slaves as contraband, which means they were still considered property. But Lincoln also faced the very practical problem of keeping the northernmost slave states from joining the Confederacy. In the same letter, Lincoln expressed his fear that if not modified, Fremont's order would drive neighboring Kentucky out of the Union, and create a domino effect: “I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the

whole game,” he wrote. “Kentucky gone, we can not hold Missouri, nor, as I think, Maryland. These all against us, and the job on our hands is too large for us.” Because the order was so popular with Radical Republicans, Lincoln asked Frémont to amend it himself, based on existing legislation. When Frémont refused, Lincoln made his suggestion mandatory and relieved Frémont of his command.

This is not to say that Lincoln didn't see the war as an opportunity to end slavery. He had long been an advocate of gradual, compensated emancipation, and in March of 1862 he got Congress to agree to pay cooperating states for their slaves, calculating that it would cost the equivalent of 87 days of war to



Continues on next page.

buy all the Border State slaves at \$400 each. He envisioned a process taking as long as 30 years. Lincoln referenced this offer in his May proclamation that voided General David Hunter's emancipation edict in coastal Florida, Georgia and South Carolina: "The change it contemplates would come gently as the dews of heaven, not rending or wrecking anything — Will you not embrace it?" These pleading words don't sound like the language of a presidential proclamation. They show that Lincoln was becoming passionate on the issue of emancipation, but also that he was unwilling to use the war as an excuse to violate the Constitution and free the slaves by fiat.

In the meantime, Congress passed two Confiscation Acts, the first of which freed slaves being used to aid the rebellion, and the second of which freed the slaves of any owners supporting the Confederacy. (There were qualifications in both cases, and the reader is encouraged to study the subject in greater detail.) Lincoln signed these laws, despite reservations about their effect on the Border States (which were predictably horrified), and about their constitutionality (the Constitution expressly forbids

bills of attainder, which punish people without benefit of a judicial trial). He was unwilling to give slaves any semblance of freedom that would not stand up in court, especially in a Supreme Court still dominated by its proslavery Chief Justice, Roger B. Taney. He had high hopes, though, that his plan for gradual, compensated emancipation would be approved at the state level. But an emancipation bill in Delaware failed to gain traction, and Lincoln's direct appeal in a White House meeting was politely but emphatically rejected by Border State members of Congress.

Lincoln could only shake his head dejectedly at their shortsightedness. As he had warned them, "If the war continue long, as it must... the institution [of slavery] in your states will be extinguished by mere friction and abrasion — by the mere incidents of the war. It will be gone, and you will have nothing valuable in lieu of it." What he didn't say is that he was actively working on providing some friction of his own, in the form of an executive emancipation order.

To be continued.



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Board Meeting Summary - February 19-20, 2014

ISAC President Harlan Hansen called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The ISAC Board of Directors meeting minutes from January 24, 2014 and the ISAC Executive Committee meeting minutes from February 4, 2014 were reviewed and approved unanimously.

The ETC/CSN Board of Directors meeting minutes from January 24, 2014 were reviewed for informational purposes.

The ISAC Board recessed for the ETC Board meeting and reconvened at its conclusion.

Brad Holtan reviewed the ISAC financial report dated January 31, 2014. He reported that health insurance claims are up this year. ISAC will be contracting with SilverStone for certification that our health plans meet the minimum value requirements established by the Affordable Care Act. The financial report was received unanimously by the Board.

Kristi Harshbarger reported that the ISAC tax increment financing webinar was a success with over 100 attendees and great feedback. Educational webinars will be continued in the future. She gave an update on the HIPAA policy rollout and other legal matters.

Brad reported that an increase in the ISAC credit line is needed, and the recommended increases were approved unanimously by the Board.

Robin Harlow reviewed an action plan prepared by the County Strategic Technology Advisory Resource (CoSTAR) that included six main action items of the committee: information collection, awareness campaign, webinars, information clearinghouse website, all day technology summit for county officials, and spring/fall schools.

Bill Peterson presented the proposed ISAC budget for FY 2015 that was recommended by the ISAC Executive Committee. He reviewed significant income and expenditure adjustments and discussed salary adjustments and increased staffing needs. The proposed budget (option 1) recommended the following: a county dues increase of \$200 per county; an increase in conference registration fees of \$20 per registrant; a 3% salary adjustment for the executive director; a 3% increase in the staff salary line item and associated benefit cost increases; the implementation of a short term disability policy for staff;

and a capped retirement contribution of 8.5% for employees. The Board was also presented with another option (option 2) containing a 2.5% increase in the staff salary line item. The Board discussed the budget amply including questions regarding IPAIT losses, the proposed dues increase, and lease costs. Option 1 of the FY 2015 proposed budget was approved unanimously and recommended to the full membership.

The Board discussed the increase in conference registration fees at length. The importance of keeping registration rates low to encourage conference attendance was stressed. It was noted that ISAC's conference registration fees compare favorably with other organizations.

Rachel Bennett gave an update on County Day at the Capitol reviewed the activities being held in conjunction with the 2014 NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. .

Stacy Horner reviewed the 2014 Spring School of Instruction scenario for the Board. Rachel gave an update on exhibitors and reported that a 50/50 raffle will be held during the conference as a fundraiser for the ISAC Education Foundation.

Stacy presented an updated agenda for the 2014 ISAC Fall School of Instruction including a silent auction reception. The Board approved the recommended agenda unanimously.

Jamie Cashman gave an update on the expected status of the ISAC priorities and objectives as of the end of the first funnel. He also reported on a meeting with the Department of Human Services regarding mental health redesign. Hanna De Groot reported on the elections, recorders technical, treasurers technical, records requests and marriage license bills. Lucas Beenken gave updates on gas tax, rural improvement zones, county improvement zones, broadband expansion, enterprise zones, equalization notices, stop signs, and military tax exemptions.

President Hansen presented the Scholarship Selection Committee results. Minor changes were made to the scholarship application to help future committees.

Bill reviewed and discussed the county visit reports that were completed by staff following their 2013 visits. The Board discussed membership suggestions.

President Hansen reviewed the 2014 ISAC Committee Appointments and adjourned the Board.

ICIT 2014 Mid-Year Conference

Ahoy there! Ye be invited to the ICIT 2014 Mid-Year Conference. The Iowa Counties Information Technology (ICIT) Organization's technology conference will be held June 11-13, 2014 in the murky depths of the West Des Moines Marriott on iTreasure Island.

The conference will feature palaver on issues related to aspects of technology implementation, development, security and deployment within Iowa counties and local governments.

ICIT welcomes sundry county and local government GIS and IT staff, technology vendors/exhibitors, or any voyagers interested in learning more about technology. Our hearty wish is to extend a special invitation to all ye scurvy dogs fer learnin' and networkin' opportunities.

This two and a half day cruise will consist of general sessions covering GIS, IT, security, other miscellaneous topics and vendor demos. Arrr. Although the program be not yet finalized, some sessions in the works include: Implementing the United

States National Grid, Introduction to GIS, GIS in the Cloud, Best Practices in Managing Open Record Requests, Network Monitoring and Security, and Next Generation 911.

Don't yer blood rise with anticipation just to read down such a list? Aye, laddie/lassie, it does.

The committee also be workin' on a question and answer session and a lunch with State of Iowa CIO Robert von Wolffradt and some other CIOs, IT and GIS professionals hailing from IDOT, DNR, DHS, the Justice Department, and the State Security Officer, scalawags one and all.

Yer registration covers all three days, all the sessions, two breakfasts, two lunches, a dinner banquet, and an evening of entertainment----but it don't cover yer grog! Arrr!

Mateys, to find more information and to register for the conference, visit our website, <http://www.icitmidyear.com/>.

NACo news

Resilient Counties Forum

Registration is now open for the next NACo Resilient Counties Forum: Growing Stronger Places. As part of NACo President Linda Langston's 2013-2014 presidential initiative, Resilient Counties, NACo is hosting a forum on May 1-2 in San Francisco to bolster county leadership in fostering community resilience.

In order to remain healthy, vibrant, safe, and economically competitive, America's counties must be able to anticipate and adapt to all types of change. Through the Resilient Counties initiative, NACo will work with counties and their stakeholders to bolster their ability to thrive amid changing physical, social, and economic conditions.

Events such as hurricanes, wildfires, economic collapse, and other disasters can be natural or man-made, acute or long-term, foreseeable or unpredictable. Preparation for and recovery from such events requires both long-term planning and immediate action. NACo will work to strengthen county resiliency by building leadership capacity to identify and manage risk and

allow counties to become more flexible and responsive. A particular focus will be on collaborative approaches to service delivery in a time of increasingly shrinking budgets, as well as opportunities to partner with public and private sector partners at varying scales.

Finally, the Resilient Counties initiative will explore ways that counties can develop and implement locally driven strategies to foster economic competitiveness and create great communities. NACo will support counties in identifying ways to leverage changing conditions, to take advantage of new technologies and innovation. A key component of county resiliency is building and supporting those great places where businesses want to locate, people want to live, and communities can prosper.

Please contact Kathy Nothstine at knothstine@naco.org or 202.661.8807 with any questions.

counties in the spotlight

County Holds Thought-Provoking Economic Development Summit

By: *Timothy Huey and Brian McDonough*

Scott County Planning and Development

On February 13, 2014 the Scott County Board of Supervisors hosted an Economic Development Summit. The half-day event focused on bringing together local economic development officials and community leaders to begin a dialogue about the shared economic development goals of communities throughout the greater Quad Cities region. The summit was an outgrowth of the Scott County Board of Supervisors efforts, every two years, to attend a city council meeting of all 13 communities in Scott County; from the smallest, New Liberty, to the largest, Davenport. One of the consistent remarks heard by the Board from these communities is: How can Scott County help with economic development? These communities want more information on access to available funding, such as grants and loan programs. Communities want to develop in an environment where there is an awareness of what neighboring jurisdictions are planning, so that community assets can become interconnected, shared, and promoted across the region.

The Summit opened with a welcome by County Board Chair Larry Minard and then broke into two concurrent sessions; one focusing on regional economic development, and the other focusing on small town and rural development. A luncheon with a keynote address by Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, was held following the sessions. The four panelists for the regional session were: Ernie Goss (PhD Economist with Creighton University), Jeff Rossate (Deloitte Consulting), Mark Norman (Greater Omaha Regional Economic Development Partnership), and Larry Burkhardt (Fox Cities Regional Partnership). The five panelists for the small town session were: Dave Swenson (Iowa State University Economist and Regional Scientist), Ed Raber (Washington Economic Development Group), Sheila

Hlas and Bill Daily (Belle Plaine Community Development Corporation), and Dan Beenken (University of Northern Iowa and Advance Iowa).

There were over 150 attendees, including elected officials, business owners, economic development professionals, bankers, community advocates, and citizens. Both the regional and small town session were well attended and had engaging discussion sessions. In the regional session, Ernie Goss set the stage by explaining market trends in the Quad Cities and Midwest region. Jeff Rossate, who has extensive experience in site selection consulting, emphasized the need for communities to have “shovel ready” sites. “Clients are looking for predict-

ability and a short timeline. After finding a site they want to break ground in three months, and be operational in a year,” said Rossate. He emphasized the need for state and local certified sites programs, where land availability, zoning, utilities, and soil analysis are complete so that prospective companies can make location decisions without delay. Both Mark Norman and Larry Burkhardt offered their perspec-



tives on regional cooperation based upon their experiences with regional economic development partnerships in Omaha and the Fox Cities region near Appleton, Wisconsin. Both stated that it is more important for communities to focus inward and create livable and attractive communities than it is to put together the best incentive packages. “Local officials and politicians often see jurisdictional boundaries, while companies look at a community and see a labor shed,” said Burkhardt. Regional cooperation means that a gain for one community is viewed as a gain for the whole region.

Continues on next page.

counties in the spotlight

The small town session was started by an economic overview from Dave Swenson, Iowa State Economist. Mr. Swenson cited statistics that showed rural Iowa and small towns were not only losing population, but also those losses were highest in the age groups that are most productive and are often the source of leadership in small communities. Even in towns that saw significant job growth, the actual population of the community was often still in decline, and many of those new jobs get filled by people from surrounding towns and counties. Ed Raber and Bill Daily shared perspectives from their local communities and agreed critical factors included knowing and identifying the strengths of your community, getting volunteers involved in a meaningful way, and increasing participation by organizing family and child friendly events. Raber also stated that if you wanted something to happen in your small community it is up to you to do it; you cannot wait around for others.

The Summit helped bring the Quad Cities region together, and started an important dialogue about economic development and regional connections. Debi Durham's keynote address touched on a wide variety of topics, and brought the day's conversation full-circle. In addition to describing the state's role in attracting and retaining businesses, Durham also focused heavy attention on the issue of quality of life. Communities need to focus on

building upon and promoting their strengths, she argued. She stated that landing the next big primary employer is not nearly as much about incentives as it is about having competitive community assets including infrastructure, entertainment opportunities, and an educated and diverse workforce. Durham also encouraged local leaders and elected officials to concentrate on growing existing businesses, both large and small, which is where the great majority of economic growth comes from in Iowa. "The event was a huge success in that it brought together community leaders and initiated new dialogue about our shared economic development goals," said Scott County Board of Supervisors Chairman Larry Minard. "Change is inevitable, but growth is optional. Progress is determined by geography and opportunity, but has to be carried out by local leaders."

Picture caption: Facilitated discussion on Small Town Economic Development Session at Scott County Summit. From left Timothy Huey, Scott County Planning Director (standing), Sheila Hlas and Bill Daily (Belle Plaine Community Development Corporation), Dan Beenken (University of Northern Iowa and Advance Iowa), Ed Raber (Washington Economic Development Group), and Dave Swenson (Iowa State University Economist and Regional Scientist)

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counties in the spotlight

First County Certified as Connected Community

Black Hawk County was recognized as the first Iowa county (fourth community in the state and 20th in the nation) to become a Certified Connected Community. More than 35 residents and community leaders attended the celebration event at the Cedar Falls Utilities building where results of an assessment and details of the county's new technology action plan were unveiled and the county was certified by Governor Terry Branstad and Connect Iowa officials.

Connect Iowa's Connected Community Engagement Program provides a framework that communities can use to work toward to Connect Every Iowan. The program leverages the Connected Community Engagement Program to support local broadband planning efforts in communities across the state.

The Black Hawk County Technology Team has been working the past two years with Connect Iowa to assess the local broadband landscape, identify gaps, and establish actionable goals and objectives to increase broadband access, adoption, and use for families, organizations, and businesses throughout the county. The Technology Action Plan includes actionable projects and objectives for Black Hawk County to increase digital literacy, promote and expand broadband service within the community, and increase utilization of technology resources in the community. Residents and businesses are encouraged to visit the community technology profile and help project leaders populate a directory of technology assets in the county (http://www.connectiowa.org/community_profile/find_your_county/iowa/black-hawk).

The program is a national model designed by Connect Iowa's parent organization, Connected Nation, to establish a frame-

work for broadband expansion planning at the community level. The Connect Iowa initiative is funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce NTIA State Broadband Initiative program. Connect Iowa is working to facilitate the access, adoption, and use of technology throughout the state to create a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, more efficient government, enhanced education, and improved quality of life.

About Connect Iowa: Connect Iowa is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a nonprofit in the state of Iowa to



promote broadband access, adoption, and use. The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access throughout rural Iowa. Connect Iowa was commissioned by the state to work with all broadband providers in Iowa to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and develop a statewide plan for

the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: www.connectiowa.org

About Connected Nation: Connected Nation developed the Connected Community Engagement Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status. Connected certified communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband-supported technologies. Connected Nation through its partners provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative. For more information visit: www.connectmycommunity.org

Government Finance Officers Conference

The Great Plains GFOA is a chapter of the Government Finance Officers Association, which is an international organization with a mission “to enhance and promote the professional management of governments for the public benefit by identifying and developing financial policies and best practices and promoting their use through education, training, facilitation of member networking, and leadership.”

Since its formation in 2009, the Great Plains GFOA has held two conferences each year. Topics have covered a full range of financial and management issues confronting state and local governments. Every conference has qualified for continuing professional education (CPE) credits for those in the accounting profession. Conference dates for 2014 are May 14-15 and October 8-9.

The conference in May will include sessions on leadership in government, responding to change, complying with requests for

information and open meetings laws, budgeting for outcomes, performance metrics, economic development issues, cybersecurity, federal grant reforms and the new single audit standard, healthcare update and GASB update.

Membership of the Great Plains GFOA includes a broad range of finance professionals working in state and local governments in both Iowa and Nebraska. This reflects the organization’s goal of making it easier to reach across jurisdictional and geographic boundaries: sharing ideas and experiences among state finance staff and local finance officials; among city, county and state government agencies; and among multiple states in this region.

In addition to the conferences, the Great Plains GFOA awards an annual scholarship to the national GFOA conference.

Further information about the Great Plains GFOA is available at <http://www.gpgfoa.org/>.



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2014 calendar

April 2014

- 1-2 Governor's Conference on Public Health (Ames)
- 8 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 25 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

May 2014

- 14-16 ISCTA Annual May School (Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, Waterloo)

June 2014

- 8-12 ICAA Spring Conference (Okoboji)
- 11-13 ICIT Midyear Conference (West Des Moines Marriott)
- 25 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

July 2014

- 8 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 11-14 NACo County Solutions and Idea Marketplace (New Orleans, LA)
- 29-1 Auditors Annual Conference (Hotel Blackhawk, Davenport)

August 2014

- 12-15 Recorders Annual Summer School (Isle Casino, Bettendorf)
- 21-22 ISAC LPC Retreat (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)

September 2014

- 11-12 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat (Humboldt County)
- 28-30 Assessors Annual Conference (Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)

October 2014

- 14 CCMS Administrators Meeting (Hilton Garden Inn, Johnston)
- 14-15 IEHA Fall Conference (Best Western, Marshalltown)
- 16-17 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)

November 2014

- 6 CCMS Advanced Case Management Meeting (Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)
- 12-14 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Veteran's Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

December 2014

- 3 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting (ISAC Office)
- 9-11 ICEA Annual Conference (Ames)

2015 Conferences/Events

- January 2015 ISAC New County Officers School (Des Moines)
- February 21-25 NACo Legislative Conference (Washington D.C.)
- March 12-13 ISAC Spring School of Instruction (Des Moines Marriott Downtown)
- July 10-13 NACo Solutions and Idea Marketplace (Charlotte, NC)
- November 18-20 ISAC Fall School of Instruction (Cedar Rapids Convention Complex)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Stacy Horner at shorner@iowacounties.org.

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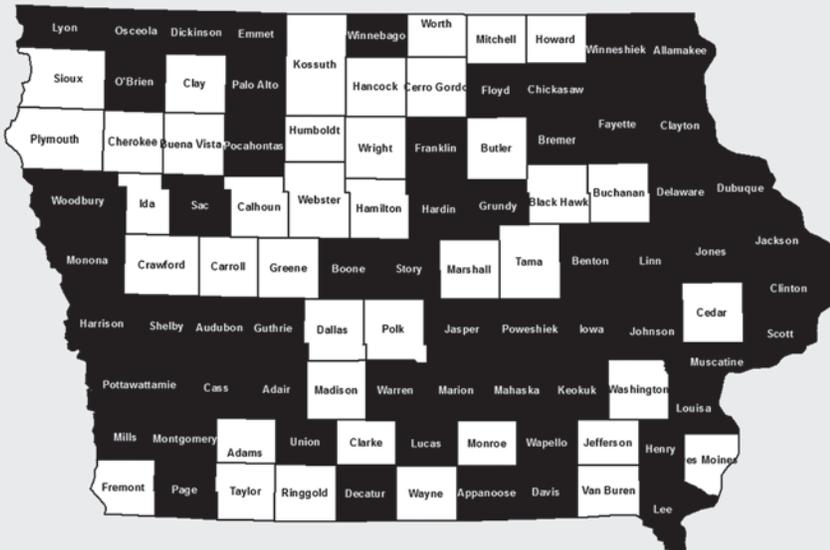
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