

## **Background summary notes from Working Groups**

### **Economic Development Working Group – 7/25/2019 Meeting**

Rick Allely opened the meeting by introducing Mayor Cathy Crain from Hamburg followed by introductions throughout the room and via conference call. Mayor Crain provided an overview of the community's flood impacts which included 73 homes currently identified for demolition with more expected. She noted their entire central business district is impacted with several structures unsafe and needing to be demolished. She thanked Governor Reynolds for working with the community as well as the various state agencies. The community is working with SWIPCO and now has two new homes under construction to begin addressing the housing needs. She noted that many of the impacted residents were low income and/or elderly; thus, compounding the communities housing needs and ability to address them in a timely manner. They are working with IEDA and private developers to begin other new housing opportunities to the north of the community out of the flood plain.

Amy McDermott from Black Hills Energy updated the group on their flood recovery and said they have made tremendous progress in all impacted areas where they can access. Mark Reinig from ISU CIRUS updated everyone on their work with contractors working on the levee temporary and permanent fixes. Mark said they are pleased with the number of interested contractors using their services.

Mark Ford from AgriVision Equipment identified that they have opened the Hamburg facility with very limited services that can be removed quickly should a third round of flooding occur. Mark identified that the Pacific Junction facility remains closed and will until the levees are fully repaired and accredited.

Woodbury County representative Rebecca Socknat and Scott Mitchell Mayor of Hornick gave updates on businesses impacted by the floods. The recovery for the businesses in Hornick has been slow. Scott noted the businesses need financial assistance to help pay for repairs, utilities, and other bills since revenues have been short for nearly four months. Rebecca identified that Sioux City businesses were impacted by recent Coast Guard limitations on river traffic. Allely stressed that the levee rebuild to accredited levels is an absolute must. The businesses as well as developers in Mills County are not willing to take any chances until a permanent solution is in place. Mark Ford echoed those thoughts and said banks and businesses are not willing to loan or invest until the levees are fully in place designed to FEMA accredited levels.

Sandy Winton reviewed the Mills County housing challenges noting that the county is facing over 150 demolitions and a shortage of housing, both single family and multifamily units. She said many people have been hit by high rent and the challenges of the various assistance programs. One example she gave was several military families where members of the family had security clearance impacts as a result of credit and other flood impacted consequences. Jim Thompson of IEDA noted that Hamburg is taking advantage of several programs such as the remediation loan program and the Community Catalyst Building Program. He praised Hamburg for their efforts to tackle the housing and business issues head on.

Rick Peterson provided an update on the recent survey that was distributed to businesses within the declared disaster counties. Allely and Peterson thanked everyone including the local chamber and EDO’s for reaching out to the businesses encouraging their participation. Peterson noted the mayor and council members of Hamburg met with the businesses one-on-one locally. Thirty-seven responses were obtained from throughout the survey area. All 37 respondents answered most of the questions as of 7/24/19. Rick encouraged additional responses if attendees were aware of a business still wanting to reply. Peterson gave a few highlights of the results including 92% of the respondents owned the business with 50% being commercial, 40% retail, and 3% industrial. 68% of the businesses were single story structures while 89% of the respondents had insurance, but only 26% with flood insurance. 66% responded that they were aware of their location being in a flood plain. The good news came with 76% of the impacted businesses responded that they hadn’t moved their location. Scott Swenson noted that the group needs to look deeper into the 24% who have moved so to better understand the impacts. All agreed and stressed that the group needs to take this information and get back to the businesses as quick as possible. Peterson said he will be working with the IEDA team members to compile a summary hopefully next week which will be sent to everyone upon completion. Mark Ford stated this needs to happen quickly or the 24% number will grow.

**Workforce and Housing Working Group – 8/21/2019 Meeting**

On August 21, 2019, Iowa Workforce Development announced that four local areas will receive the National Dislocated Worker Grant (NDWG) to assist 173 dislocated workers impacted by the flooding across Iowa in Spring 2019.

Recipients of the grant include the following regions:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Counties to be Served</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Participants to be Served</b>
2	Franklin	\$813,494	42
7	Bremer	\$16,606	2
11	Polk	\$282,857	15
13	Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Pottawattamie	\$1,749,690	114

Updated DUA numbers as of 8/20/19

<b>DUA CLAIMS DATA</b>					
County	# of claims filed as a result of flooding	# of claims eligible for regular UI	# of claims with DUA pending (Waiting on FEMA Funding)	# of claims approved for DUA (not eligible for regular UI)	# of claims not eligible for UI and have not applied for DUA
Fremont	152	101	0	35	16
Harrison	3	3	0	0	0
Louisa	0	0	0	0	0
Mills	31	21	0	3	7
Monona	2	2	0	0	0
Muscatine	0	0	0	0	0
Pottawattamie	0	0	0	0	0
Scott	62	61	0	0	1
Shelby	0	0	0	0	0
Woodbury	10	5	0	1	4
Out of State	3	3	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Total Regular UI Benefits</b>		<b>\$690,411</b>			
<b>Total DUA Payments</b>		<b>\$123,851</b>			
<b>Pending DUA Payment</b>		<b>\$0</b>			

The Housing and Workforce Working Group held a meeting on July 2, 2019 at the Glenwood Resource Center which included discussion on a number of different topics especially related to whether more DHS case managers were needed in the area. The meeting was followed by a town hall meeting open to the public to talk about home improvement advice and recommendations from the ISU extension office. Approximately 40 people attended and it provided helpful information/answered questions home owners had related to when, whether and how to start home improvement.

As a follow up to the meeting, I had significant discussions with Sheri Bowen, Wendy Mueller and Dena Matthews, case manager coordinators in Mills and Fremont County. It was ultimately determined that there was not a need for more case managers as those who wanted, i.e. had signed up for the service, and were receiving service. A number of community members did not want to sign up for services, just needed single issue support which was provided.

The issues all went back to FEMA and case managers had no more ability to get assistance/resolution from FEMA than individual community members. A survey was taken by the coordinators of individuals who were still in need of housing assistance. The list was provided to Homeland Security who coordinated with FEMA. It is believed, to the extent FEMA can or will do anything for these individuals, it has been done. FEMA is no longer placing individuals in trailers as the deadline for such assistance has passed.

There was also discussion and assistance provided by DPH regarding soil analysis that was conducted in and around Pacific Junction to reassure citizens results were within normal readings.

The Housing and Workforce group helped promote completion of the community survey from Iowa Finance Authority that will take the input of community members in developing CDBG rules.

Things have quieted down in the past few weeks. Our next meeting was scheduled for August 29, 2019 but has since been rescheduled to Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 12 pm to 3 pm at the Glenwood Resource Center. Our plan would be to start focusing on longer term issues/strategies and recommendations.

### **Agriculture and Finance Joint Working Group Meeting– 7/17/2019 Meeting**

Executive Director Amanda De Jong, Iowa Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), provided an update on the federal disaster aid bill, which is estimated to appropriate \$3.0 billion in funding to address a variety of issues arising out of March 2019 flooding in Iowa. There is no timeline available as to when funding can be expected.

Currently, over 370 applications for funding from the USDA Emergency Conservation Program have been received, for a total requested funding amount of \$2.1 million.

Resource Conservationist Robert Mier, representing State Conservationist Kurt Simon from the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), provided information on the USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program. The Program provides options to landowners and local communities to reduce the hazards from floods, droughts, windstorms, and other natural disasters. Over 100 landowner requests for funding have been received, for a total of approximately \$148.0 million in requested assistance. Currently, only \$102.0 million is available for landowner funding requests.

### **Public Health Working Group Meeting– 6/25/2019 and 7/17/2019 Meetings**

Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COADs, also called Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, or VOADs), are dormant frameworks for a working group that can be activated in a disaster to start providing essential services sooner. The group can then coordinate the long-term recovery efforts that the individuals in the community need. All counties generally call these groups something different. The groups are made up of representatives from faith-based, civic, nonprofit, government, business, and other organizations within the community that assist individuals and families as they recover from a disaster.

Some of the counties impacted by flooding already had a COAD in place that was activated at the disaster time, and three new COADs (located in Fremont County, Harrison County, and Mills County) have formed in the wake of this disaster.

Relating to the discussion of long-term recovery was disaster case management. There was some discussion about people acknowledging that they needed help but not wanting to accept assistance immediately, because their neighbors might need it more. There was also discussion about stigma and people wanting to remain independent, so there is a need to figure out ways to reduce those barriers to access.

Mental Health and Recovery:

The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP) consists of two main grant types: an Immediate Services Program (ISP) for up to 60 days after a disaster and a Regular Services Program (RSP) for up to nine months after the disaster. The ISP is currently working under two extensions which will extend the ISP’s length of services to 90 days. The RSP current end date is anticipated to be May 30, 2020.

Disaster Outreach Services to Date

	<u>Clients Served</u>	<u>Proportion of Clients Served</u>
Individual Crisis Counseling	195	4.0%
Group Counseling/Public Education	493	10.1%
Brief Educational/Supportive Contacts	<u>4,190</u>	<u>85.9%</u>
Total	4,878	100.0%

The Department of Public Health’s Substance Use Integrated Provider Network is working with three providers in the impacted areas to expand financial eligibility parameters for treatment services, initiate homeless outreach, and expand a media campaign, among other efforts.

**River Management & Infrastructure Working Group Meeting– 8/16/2019 Meeting**

The River Management & Infrastructure (RMI) met on August 16. The focus of the meeting was to provide an overview of the draft GIS Flood Control Asset Management plan that has been created. In addition, the RMI now has representatives from USACE and BNSF to ensure we develop a comprehensive asset management plan which includes all existing data points and information and design/construction coordination.

Design components across segments from Hamburg to Council Bluffs were reviewed and discussed. Small groups will be designated for each segment to comprehensively review design components and considerations across systems – levees, roadways, drainage apparatuses, railroad, and utilities. An overview of the design discussions will be shown at the next Governor’s Flood Recovery Advisory Board.