Six communities awarded state mitigation funding

Six Iowa communities will receive funding for flood mitigation projects after they were approved by the Iowa Flood Mitigation Board.

Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Dubuque, Iowa City, Storm Lake and Waverly all pitched their ideas at the Nov. 21, 2013, board meeting. The board met again on Dec. 4 to make the decision whether or not to approve the projects.

The communities’ tax increment funding projects were approved for the following amounts:

- Cedar Rapids: $263,773,493
- Coralville: $9,769,000
- Dubuque: $98,494,178
- Iowa City: $8,497,249
- Storm Lake: $4,083,060
- Waverly: $5,647,004

The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board was created by the Iowa General Assembly and signed into law (Iowa Code, Chapter 418) by Governor Branstad in 2012.

The board is charged with creating a flood mitigation program for Iowa. This program will allow certain governmental entities to submit flood mitigation projects to the board for review and possible approval for funding. The funding will come from either sales tax increments or funds appropriated by the General Assembly. The application period for this funding is open through Jan. 1, 2016.

The board itself is composed of four members from the public, five members from state agencies, as well as four ex-officio members from the General Assembly. HSEMD Director Mark Schouten serves as the board chair.

For additional information about the Flood Mitigation Board, including proposals from each of the applicants and other documents, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov.
Emergency Management Program Development course held

The Emergency Management Program Development course was held Dec. 4-5 at Polk County Emergency Management in Des Moines. Twenty-two students, including emergency managers and representatives from public health, state and other agencies, participated in the course.

The objective of the course was to equip participants with the basic information needed within their emergency management role and to show how they work side-by-side with state colleagues.

Emergency managers and HSEMD staff provided instruction for the course, which covered a wide variety of topics, including: history of emergency management; laws, codes, policies and grant requirements; and programs, people and resources available to provide assistance.

In October, a severe snow storm caused the loss of thousands of cattle in the Dakotas. The loss was tragic in both the loss of animals and the economic impacts to producers. Many producers were caught unprepared due to the early occurrence of the storm.

To increase the preparedness posture of Iowa producers, HSEMD has partnered with the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture (MSP), to develop a resource for rural winter storm preparedness.

At www.prep4agthreats.org, information is available to help individuals, farms and businesses in the rural Midwest prepare for all hazards. The site features a section specific to winter storms at www.prep4agthreats.org/Natural-Disasters/winterstorms. The site also features preparedness information for livestock, pets, home, farm, business and family.

This consortium of states has expanded from nine to 15, as the value of the MSP projects and collaboration efforts have been recognized. It is understood that a major animal or food emergency would not respect state boundaries and that cooperation and collaboration would benefit all.

To learn more about the MSP, visit www.multistatepartnership.org.

Resource available for rural, winter storm preparedness

HSEMD's Curt Sullivan talks about the Department’s Threat Information and Infrastructure Protection Program at the Emergency Management Program Development course held Dec. 4-5 in Des Moines.
Demolition of UI Art Building presents challenges

Recovery work on the University of Iowa Art Building, severely damaged in the 2008 floods, has been challenging for the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The building’s history
Completed in 1936, the design of the original Art Building at the University of Iowa is based on an art deco-style Palladian form. Overlooking the Iowa River, the building is composed of a central block building with a monumental limestone frontispiece inscribed with the words of ancient poet Horace; ARS LONGA VITA BREVIS EST (Life is short but art endures). Long pavilions stretch out on either side of the structure.

The Art Building united both the School of Art and the School of Art History and was part of an innovative “Iowa idea” of appointing practicing artists to a university faculty. One of the first artists hired was Grant Wood, and the north pavilion housed his mural studio during his tenure at the University of Iowa. The construction was part of a federally-funded public works initiative of the Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration, both efforts to put Americans to work in the 1930s.

Three additions were made to the original Art Building between 1968 and 1975 that included printmaking, sculpture and ceramics studios. These additions, however, blocked the grand structure of the main Art Building. The original façade had not been seen since 1968.

Challenges
Substantially damaged by the floods of 2008, the Art Building complex has presented a challenge to HSEMD and FEMA. The building qualified for replacement and relocation. How to handle the demolition of a historically-significant building became the issue.

Through the federally-mandated 1966 National Historic Preservation Act and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, FEMA is required to “stop, look and listen” before making decisions that impact historic properties and the human environment. In going through the complex environmental review process it was determined that the original Art Building was eligible for the National Register of Historic places. Therefore, demolition of the structure would be an adverse effect to the environment. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was established between FEMA, the State Historical Society of Iowa, HSEMD and the University of Iowa to mitigate the adverse effect.

The MOA outlines mitigation measures and provides funding to demolish the newer additions in a sensitive manner that minimizes damage to the original 1936 structure. The original structure will also be mothballed, which includes rendering the building safe and secure as well as providing proper ventilation, climate control, humidity monitoring and utilities to prevent any continued deterioration. Other mitigation measures include a feasibility and adaptive reuse study and raw visual documentation of the Art Building before, during and after the sensitive demolition of the post-1936 additions.

Continued on Page 4...
UI Art Building

...Continued from Page 3

The future use of the original Art Building is as of yet unknown. Because FEMA is funding the demolition and relocation of the Art Building complex, the original Art Building cannot be used to serve the School of Art and Art History functions. It can, however, be used for other identified educational, administrative, or community functions.

The feasibility and adaptive reuse study will identify possible options and outline components of the building that need repairs/updates to meet better energy efficiency, up-to-date climate controls, and building and accessibility modifications based on building code requirements for each identified use.

Demolition of the additions was completed in November 2013 and the original building now stands free of obstructions. Although there are no guarantees, HSEMD, FEMA, the State Historic Preservation Office and the University of Iowa have done their due diligence in ensuring the building will be retained and will stand proudly overlooking the Iowa River for at least another 77 years.

[Submitted by Justine Zimmer, HSEMD Recovery Division Public Assistance lead] Ω

Urban Search & Rescue conducts exercise on Camp Dodge

Recently, Iowa’s Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team traveled to Camp Dodge in Johnston to conduct a mobilization exercise.

Early in the morning of Dec. 5, part of the USAR team left Cedar Rapids and headed to Camp Dodge. The team set up the exercise as an opportunity to test the loading and drivability of their equipment cache.

With six vehicles and trailers full of lifesaving equipment, the team quickly deployed key pieces of equipment and simulated its use at a disaster site. Once set up, the team conducted demonstrations and training for partner agencies, including HSEMD and the Iowa National Guard.

This important exercise proved the team’s ability to deploy and transport itself across the state.

Iowa’s USAR team, built on existing capabilities and resources, is comprised of the Cedar Rapids and Sioux City fire departments. It draws additional membership from fire and rescue professionals from across Iowa.

To learn about the USAR team, visit www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov and choose the “Special Teams” link under the “Programs” menu. Ω

Learn more about EMPG reporting

Are you a county emergency management coordinator? Do you find the guidelines for EMPG confusing and frustrating? You’re not alone! HSEMD’s Tricia Boggs will spell out some of the requirements for EMPG reporting (unique expense and revenue accounting codes) and why they are important for you to receive funding. Check out the HSEMD blog for details at www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov and click on the red “blog” icon or choose “Resource Room” then “HSEMD Blog.” Ω
HSEMD’s Paul Sadler retires

With great regret, HSEMD staff will say good-bye to long-time coworker and friend Paul Sadler when he retires Dec. 31.

Paul started with HSEMD in 1990 when it was called the Disaster Services Division. He was the planner for the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, responsible for the hazmat emergency plan in the county plans, worked with the Local Emergency Planning Committees and as the planning staff member for the Iowa Emergency Response Commission. His first big disaster was the Great Floods of 1993, after which he worked in the disaster recovery center in Davenport for several months. During subsequent disasters, he took on a number of duties, including during the 2008 statewide flooding, when he helped find locations for mobile and fixed disaster recovery centers.

During the next few years, Paul’s duties encompassed county multi-hazard planning and working as the off-site planner for the Quad Cities Nuclear Station. He has been the planner/liaison for Homeland Security District 3 since 2005 and the secretary and administrator for the Iowa Emergency Response Commission.

Paul has served the state of Iowa for 33 years, 23 of those in Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

HSEMD staff departure

Craig Bargfrede has departed HSEMD to work for the Iowa Department of Transportation. Craig had served as the operations lead for the Recovery Division. He also worked as the lead for 2013 preliminary damage assessments, and was assigned as the deputy public assistance officer for the 2013 disasters. Craig had been with HSEMD since 2008. Ω

HMEP application period now open

The application period for FFY 2015 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) planning and training grants opened on Dec. 16, 2013, for all eligible Local Emergency Planning Committees. The application period will close Jan. 29, 2014. The applications for this grant are now available on www.iowagrants.gov.

Lisa Sexton, HSEMD’s HMEP program manager, notes that the federal requirements for the training grant have changed. All training paid from the HMEP grant must meet National Fire Protection Association 472 (2013 edition) standard and Title 29 of the Code of Federal Relations, Part 1910.120. She recommends looking at these documents to ensure courses meet these requirements. These documents, and others, are available on www.iowagrants.gov.

For more information, contact Lisa at lisa.sexton@iowa.gov or at 515.725.3213. Ω
Do you have ideas for next year’s Iowa Homeland Security Conference?

HSEMD is seeking ideas for speakers and topics for next year’s Iowa Homeland Security Conference. Last year’s presenters received very positive reviews. Here are a few of the comments:

Matt Lunn—Responding to the Aurora Theater Shooting: A Coroner’s Perspective
  • The most laughter ever for such a grim topic. Supurb presenter and very valuable.

Rick Fosse—Landfill Fire and ICS Structure
  • Should be a speaker every year, consistent, good analysis, well spoken and compelling.

Mike Neault—Animal Rescue and Sheltering Between State/Local/Nonprofits
  • Interesting and something we need to do in our areas, haven’t even discussed it.

If you have ideas for speakers for next year’s conference, contact Beth Lewis, beth.lewis@iowa.gov, who will share your ideas with the conference planning committee.

Hazardous Materials Awareness Week is Jan. 19-25

For the third year, HSEMD and the Iowa Emergency Response Commission will recognize the fourth week in January as Hazardous Materials Awareness Week. The goal is to provide Iowans a better understanding of hazardous materials use, storage and response.

Watch for more information in the January issue of this newsletter.

ON THE CALENDAR

DECEMBER
Christmas Day (25)*

JANUARY
New Year’s Day (1)*
Hazardous Materials Awareness Week (19-25)
National Volunteer Blood Donor Month
National Radon Action Month

*State holiday. HSEMD offices will be closed.
Training opportunities

2014 Cybersecurity Training

The Safeguard Iowa Partnership (SIP), in collaboration with HSEMD, is offering a cybersecurity training series.

These courses are designed to enhance awareness of cybersecurity issues for government, nonprofit organizations and the business community. The targeted audience includes professionals of all types with an interest in cybersecurity. This may include, but is not limited to, professionals in business continuity, program management, emergency operations center personnel, emergency management, information technology, and management and leadership.

Courses offered:

Promoting Community Cybersecurity: Le Mars, Mason City and Burlington

Community Cybersecurity Tabletop Workshop: Des Moines, Council Bluffs, North Liberty

Essentials of Community Cybersecurity & the EOC’s Role in Community Cybersecurity: Des Moines, Council Bluffs, North Liberty

Register and get more information at https://safeguardiowa.org/CIKR-training. For more information, contact Jesse Truax with SIP at jtruax@safeguardiowa.org or 515.246.1707.

HSEEP Refresher Course

When: Jan. 9, 2014
9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Where: Buena Vista County EOC
411 Expansion Blvd.
Storm Lake

This four-hour course will review HSEEP methodology and terminology. You must have prior HSEEP training to attend this course.

Register at http://homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/training. For more information, contact: Steve Warren (steve.warren@iowa.gov) or Beth Lewis (beth.lewis@iowa.gov) at 515.725.3231.

Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents (ICS 300)

When: Feb. 20-21, 2014
8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Where: Johnson County EOC
4529 Melrose Ave.
Iowa City

To register contact B.J. Dvorak at bjdvorak@jecc-ema.org or 319.356.6762.Ω