

THE REVIEW



REGION XII COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

SERVING AUDUBON, CARROLL, CRAWFORD, GREENE, GUTHRIE & SAC COUNTIES IN WESTERN IOWA AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS; CITIES OF LINDEN, PERRY & REDFIELD

REGION XII MOVING FORWARD WITH BUILDING EXPANSION

The COG is planning an expansion of its Carroll offices. To date we have received nearly \$500,000 in grant funding to aid in making the maintenance and storage areas of our transit facility larger. When we built our building in 1994 it was adequate for our needs. It has now become too small for our operations. In addition to the transit expansion, we will also be adding onto the offices and remodeling some of the existing interior. It is our hope to have an adequate reception area, an appropriate number of offices, and a good-sized meeting room. If all goes as planned, the project will be complete by this time next year.

REGION XII COG RECEIVES EDA PERFORMANCE AWARD *RICK HUNSAKER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

By now you may have heard that Region XII was the recipient of a performance bonus award from the Economic Development Administration. This award was certainly a surprise as EDA has not previously been authorized to provide these to planning agencies. In addition, we were selected from among 90 entities in a 10 state region on which to be bestowed this honor. While the recognition is certainly a good feeling (and the cash is also nice), it is especially humbling to think that we were chosen from among a group of what I know to be hardworking effective organizations. I am grateful to both Joe Behrens and Kevin Ketelsen, my team members for EDA, without whom this award would not have been possible.

WATER WELL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

Region XII recently received funding from USDA Rural Development to establish a new water well assistance program. The funds will provide 1% interest loans over 20 years to repair or replace the household wells. The program is limited to those whose incomes are less than 100% of the County median income level. Call Laurie at 712-792-9914 for more information.

STAFF CHANGES

Randy Blohm resigned as Housing Inspector in August. As a result, Nancy Muhlbauer (former Housing Programs Assistant) has replaced him in that capacity. Jean Blum has returned to the COG as a Housing Office Assistant and is filling some of the void in the housing department from Nancy's transition to new duties. We wish Randy well and are glad to have Jean back.

NEED HELP FINDING WORKERS?

If your business is looking for employees, be sure to list the positions with Iowa Workforce Development, so they will get included within the database and marketed with Western Iowa Advantage efforts. Western Iowa Advantage has partnered with IWD to market job openings via the Internet to prospective workers and is another way to get job applicants. Visit the Workforce Development page on our website to view current openings.

In this Issue of The Review...

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Region XII COG Executive Board

- Neil Trobak, Chair, Carroll Co. Supervisor
- Jack Bensley, Vice Chair
Sac Co. Supervisor
- Vernon Venteicher, Secretary
Audubon Co. Supervisor
- Guy Richardson, Treasurer
Greene Co. Supervisor
- Jerry Caraher, Guthrie Co. Supervisor
- Robert Lohrmann, Crawford Co. Supervisor

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TO FILE A COMPLAINT OF DISCRIMINATION, WRITE USDA, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS, ROOM 326-W, WHITTEN BUILDING, 1400 INDEPENDENCE AVE., SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20250-9410 OR CALL (202) 720-5964 (VOICE AND TDD). USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

REGION XII PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Contributions to the 2007 Region XII Partnership Program have been received from several of the region's businesses and organizations. Region XII COG greatly appreciates the contributions of all of our partner businesses. Proceeds from this program are used to leverage federal and state funds to provide assistance to our region. For more information on the Partnership Program, contact Rick Hunsaker at the COG. Members for 2007 are:

GOLD MEMBERSHIP—\$1,000

Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
West Central Cooperative, Ralston

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

Amazing Energy, Denison
Drees Company, Carroll

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

Ace Hardware, Audubon
Agri-Drain Corporation, Adair
Badding Construction, Carroll
Bank Iowa, Denison
Breda Savings Bank, Breda
Bruner & Bruner Law Office, Carroll
Carroll Area Development Corporation, Carroll
Chamber and Development Council, Denison
Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
Denison Job Corps Center, Denison
Farmers State Bank, Lake View
Farmers State Bank, Yale
Farner Bocken Company, Carroll
Glidden REC, Glidden
The Graphic Edge, Carroll
Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center
HGM Associates, Council Bluffs
Home State Bank, Jefferson
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Landmands National Bank, Audubon
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company, Elk Horn
Panora Telecommunications, Inc., Panora
Power Lift/Conner Athletic, Jefferson
Raccoon Valley Bank, Perry
Snyder & Associates, Ankeny
Sundquist Engineering, Denison
Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
Thermalfab/Hillcrest House & Garden, Denison
United Bank of Iowa, Glidden
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Denison
Westside State Bank, Westside

RWIB BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

The **Regional Workforce Investment Board** (RWIB) is looking for a few good members. This board meets quarterly at most and oversees the workforce programs for the region. We are in need of women and men in the business community (owners, HR professionals, managers, etc.) who would be willing to serve. This is a board that relies upon persons with a strong civic commitment. Meetings are in the evening (we cover your travel & dinner) and we try to make them as painless as possible. We need people, though, to serve, attend, and provide opinions. If you are interested or know of someone who would be good, please contact Rick at 712-792-9914 or rhunsaker@region12cog.org.

EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AVAILABLE

Are you looking for a way to increase your earning potential? Going back to school may be your answer. Iowa Workforce Development labor market studies printed in the Job Outlook for Region 8 (IWD Region 8 is the Region XII service area) states that the more education obtained, the wider the door opens to career choices and the possibility for increased wages. Also, in Iowa, almost 45% of all occupations will require a post-secondary education or above by the year 2012.

Iowa Workforce Development and the Region XII Council of Governments WIA Program work together to help people seeking employment or better employment. The purpose of our programs is to help workers get jobs and increase earnings.

Training and retraining resources are available for continuing education, updating skills or acquiring skills in a new field. Assessing your skills, abilities, values and interests could lead you to choose occupational skills training to transition to a new occupation.

You may be eligible to receive WIA Dislocated Worker services if you have lost your job and are eligible to receive unemployment insurance benefits or have exhausted them and you are unlikely to return to your previous occupation or industry. Services are also available to adults and youth with low incomes.

To find out if you are eligible, contact a Region XII WIA Career Development Specialist at this number 712-792-9914. We look forward to hearing from you and helping with your individual employment needs.

HRDP DOCUMENTARY COLLECTIONS GRANTS

The State Historical Society of Iowa recently announced that they will offer a special round of grants aimed at preserving collections of letters, diaries, minute books, local government records, newspapers, photographs, business and church records and other original records and documents so they can be used for research now and in the future. All projects must focus on Iowa resources.

Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, public libraries, city and county governments, historical museums and local historical societies, businesses, individuals, and American Indian tribes. Contact the COG if you are interested in applying or if you have questions.



GRANT/FUNDING NEWS

RECENTLY FUNDED GRANTS

<i>ENTITY</i>	<i>FUNDING PROGRAM</i>	<i>AMOUNT</i>	<i>PURPOSE</i>
City of Panora	Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program	\$3,000	Local hazard mitigation plan
Carroll County	Iowa Watershed Review Board	\$150,000	Maple River Wastewater project
City of Carroll	Peter Kiewit Foundation	\$75,000	Carroll Aquatic Center
Halbur Fire Dept.	Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	\$138,225	Firefighting vehicle
Region XII COG	USDA—Household Water Well System Grant	\$176,000	Use as revolving loan fund to assist installation of well systems in Carroll, Crawford, and Sac Counties
Stuart Fire Dept.	Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	\$33,685	Rescue equipment

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

<i>FUNDING PROGRAM</i>	<i>PURPOSE</i>	<i>DEADLINE</i>
CDBG/HOME	Housing projects	November 30
Fire Prevention and Safety Program	Fire prevention activities	November 30
Surface Transportation Projects	See below	December 7
CDBG—Community Facilities	Community Facilities/Storm Sewer	December 13
HRDP Documentary Collection Grant	Document preservation (See page 2)	January 15
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Mitigation plans, projects (See page 4)	Ongoing

REGION XII SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Region XII COG is preparing the 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These funds are available to any city or county in Region XII (Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie or Sac Counties).

Region XII has approximately \$1,800,000 in Surface Transportation Project (STP) monies available for projects. Projects that are eligible include roadway construction and reconstruction, operational improvements, safety programs, and traffic management and control.

Highway, Road or Street Projects must be classified as a Major Collector or above on the Federal Functional Classification System. Roadway projects within an urban area (cities with a population over 5,000) must be classified as a Collector or above on the Federal Functional Classification System.

STP funds can also be used for transit projects and other ride-share projects such as park-and-ride facilities. The sponsoring governmental agency must provide at least 20% of the total project cost in cash.

Applications are due by 4:00 PM on December 7, 2007. STP Project Applications are available on the Region XII COG website at www.region12cog.org under the Downloads & Publications section, by contacting Chris Whitaker at the COG at 712-792-9914 or via email at cwhitaker@region12cog.org.

QUICK NOTES...

Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program Update

There is usually high interest in the AFG program each year. The Department of Homeland Security began announcing awards in July. To date, several of the region's departments have received funding. Those awarded through mid-October include:

- ♦ *Bagley Ambulance*—\$114,000 (ambulance)
- ♦ *Deloit Fire Dept.*—\$24,831 (firefighting equipment & personal protective gear)
- ♦ *Halbur Fire Dept.**—\$138,225 (vehicle)
- ♦ *Manilla Fire Dept.*—\$9,500 (firefighting equipment)
- ♦ *Stuart Fire Dept.**—\$33,685 (rescue equipment)
- ♦ *Westside Fire Dept.*—\$187,863 (vehicle)

* Denotes grant was authored by Region XII

The next round of AFG applications will likely be in March/April 2008. Watch for future announcements.

Perry Selected as One of Iowa's Great Places

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs recently announced that Perry has been designated as an Iowa Great Place. Iowa Great Places is a program that calls on state agencies to partner with Iowans by combining state resources with local assets to make Iowa's communities, neighborhoods, districts and regions great places where people want to live, work and raise a family. Congratulations to Perry!

HAZARD MITIGATION FUNDS AVAILABLE

The State of Iowa will receive FEMA funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). This is the third Presidential Disaster Declaration this year that will provide funding under the HMGP. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires a FEMA-approved local mitigation plan in order to apply for HMGP project funding. DMA 2000 also requires that jurisdictions update their FEMA approved mitigations plans every five years. Communities with plan approval dates prior to June 2005 should consider updating their plan with funding assistance through an HMGP planning grant.

If interested in a planning or project grant, the first step is to submit a Notice of Interest to the Iowa Homeland Security Emergency Management Division. The state staff will review NOI's for basic eligibility and send invitations to apply shortly thereafter. Because of the large amount of HMGP grant funding available from the three disasters, the NOI and application period will remain open indefinitely.

The first funding announcement came out in June and Region XII is in the process of applying for funds to update or develop 33 local hazard mitigation plans and three potential projects. If you are interested in applying or have questions, contact Kevin at the COG.

IOWA WASTE EXCHANGE NEWS, *FRED KESTEN*

CONFUSION ABOUT COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS



Recently I was listening to some talk show discussion about the disposal of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL). According to the caller, a person in another state broke a CFL in her home, she called the local hazardous materials team, which called the state environmental agency, and she was given a \$3,000 bill for clean-up and fines. Whether true or not, some clarification about CFL's is needed as they become more popular.

CFL's are reported to use 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs and last up to ten times longer, making up for the increased purchase cost. The bulbs contain 5-6 milligrams of mercury, compared to 8.3 milligrams for a 4-foot fluorescent bulb. The Environmental Protection Agency has encouraged the use of CFL's, believing that the decreased energy use will result in less mercury emissions from coal-powered electrical plants. Thus, at this time, EPA has not classified CFL's as a hazardous waste after its useful life is expended. Wal-Mart has planned to sell 100 million bulbs this year as part of its environmental plan to decrease air pollution, decrease greenhouse gases and improve energy efficiency.

At this time there is virtually no infrastructure to collect and properly dispose of the bulbs. EPA is encouraging manufacturers and retailers to establish take-back programs for consumers. There is concern that, as the bulbs become more popular, more will find their way to landfills, since they are smaller and much easier to toss into a garbage bag than fluorescent bulbs, of which the majority of spent bulbs are already landfilled. As a result, there may be future efforts to regulate CFL's as more mercury is landfilled, potentially exceeding safe levels. As a comparison, there is enough mercury in a 4-foot fluorescent bulb to contaminate 6,000 gallons of water beyond safe levels.

As with most hazardous materials and pollution prevention issues, industry will probably be the first to be regulated, even though households will be using the majority of the bulbs. Universal waste regulations already apply to businesses. EPA has left it to state agencies and legislatures to implement stricter CFL rules and laws. Some states have banned CFL's from landfills.

In the meantime, spent and broken bulbs should be placed in two plastic bags and placed in outside trash for the next trash collection. Broken bulbs should be scooped up with stiff paper or cardboard, while wearing protective gloves. Wipe the area clean with damp towels. Place everything into a plastic bag and put that bag into a second bag. Windows should be opened and the room vacated at least 15 minutes prior to this procedure.

As a side note, the 2008 Iowa Environmental Regulatory Workshops are scheduled for late January and February. There will be five workshops across the state. Contact me for more information or visit the IWE section on our website for more details.

WESTERN IOWA TRANSIT SYSTEM NEWS

BURNS APPOINTED TO GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL

Jim Burns, Transit Director for Region XII Council of Governments has been appointed by the Governor's Office to serve on the Governor's Climate Control Advisory Council. Burns will be serving as a representative of the Iowa Public Transit Association. The committee will have 23 members from various industries. Iowa Code 455B.851 requires that the Council submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly by January 1, 2008 that includes short, medium, and long term scenarios designed to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions, including one scenario that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050. The council must also establish a baseline year for purposes of calculating those reductions.

FUNDING CUTS

The Federal Legislature has cut the earmarks from the FY2007 Transit Budget which has effectively eliminated our chances to receive funding for any new vehicles for this year through the normal processes. The Federal Transit Administration asked for large applications as they had funds for capital projects. The Iowa Dot Office of Public Transit and the Iowa Public Transit Association submitted a combined application for \$15.0 million in rolling stock replacements.

The FTA announced after September 1st that instead of funding the smaller projects they were going to fund the "Urban Partnership Congestion Initiative" and gave the funds to six of the larger cities only.

The rest of the transit industry is pretty much in shock and is not clear on the direction we should go. Our Washington contacts do not know what this means for the future of funding for capital rolling stock for the small transit systems in Iowa.

NEW SERVICE AND EXPANSIONS

Jim Burns, with the help of Don Luensmann, the Director of Chamber and Development Council of Crawford County, has met with representatives from Tyson Foods to investigate the possibilities of starting a work shuttle or van pool for employee transportation to work.

The firm was concerned in part, by the costs their employees were paying to get to work. Western Iowa Transit is looking into the possibilities of establishing a van pool program that would help localize the service and bring people in to Denison for work. A vanpool could be established that would bring 12-15 people from an area 40 or more miles away in one vehicle. Without a vanpool, those same 12-15 people may be traveling in as many as five or more vehicles. Even though it costs more to drive the large van the costs divided among the number of riders has the potential of saving the individual a substantial amount of money.

Vanpooling offers members an opportunity to travel to work with people who probably share similar interests. The members save gasoline and wear and tear on their own vehicle and do not have to face the stress of the daily routine by themselves.

YEAR END UPDATES

	FY2007	FY2006
Total Rides	254,452	231,876
Revenue Miles	1,144,982	1,094,542
Total Operating Expenses	\$1,788,609	\$1,590,677

The increase in ridership came primarily from the students and general public. The shuttle for St. Anthony's Hospital was also prominent in the increase. A substantial amount of the increase in expenses was due to the increases in energy related costs.



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