

CITY of WINTERSET

124 W. COURT AVENUE
WINTERSET, IOWA 50273-1545

James C. Olson, Mayor
Mark Nitchals, City Administrator

Phone (515) 462-1422
FAX (515) 462-1963

February 27, 2014

Iowa Flood Mitigation Board
Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

RE: Appropriations to Flood Mitigation Fund (Funding source established within the Iowa Flood Mitigation Program created within Code of Iowa, Chapter 418)

Dear Board Members:

The City of Winterset would like to express our appreciation to the Board and Homeland Security regarding the Flood Mitigation Fund. Money provided through this fund would help approximately 5,000 residents in our City and protect our drinking water supply from the effects of floodwaters conveyed through the Cedar Lake spillway.

In the State of Iowa approximately 1.47 million people live in urban areas with a population of greater than 10,000; conversely approximately 1.58 million people live in rural areas and communities with less than 10,000 (2010 United States Census). There are 947 cities in the State of Iowa, only 38 have populations greater than 10,000 (2010 United States Census). The Sales Tax Increment as established within the Program is working extremely well for approximately half of Iowa's population. The other half of Iowans dispersed in over 900 communities that are unable to generate the necessary sales tax increment to fund flood mitigation projects need your support and assistance.

A letter prepared May, 1994 by Governor Branstad was included in a report prepared by Homeland Security regarding the Floods of 1993.

"Adversity is the true test of character. Iowans met the challenge of 500-year flooding in 1993 with courage, hard work, and a determination to overcome ruination and disaster by helping each other move ahead. Neighbors helped neighbors. There were no strangers. Everyone pitched in and pulled together. People who suffered losses helped those still fighting and sandbagging. The outpouring of volunteers and contributions was phenomenal. It was paramount in bolstering our efforts to save lives, protect property, clean up, and restore our life to normal." "...We continue to be determined to help deliver quick assistance to those in need and assist in long-term recovery efforts."

All across the State of Iowa there continues to be record rainfall events (e.g. 2008 the Upper Iowa River received 10.5 inches of rainfall in 30 hours; 2010 the Maquoketa River watershed received 13 inches of rainfall in 48 hours; 2012 the Bee Branch/North Fork Catfish Creek watershed received over 11 inches in 13 hours. The list of significant flood events occurring post-1993 in the State of Iowa is astounding. Some locations and communities within the State have experienced four flood events since 1993 which have exceeded the 1% Annual Chance (100-Year Flood Event).

Small communities all across Iowa are still hoping for assistance with long-term recovery, property protection, and our lives to be returned to normal as stated in Governor's Branstad's letter. The climatology in our state may never return to "normal" but we can mitigate the effects of this "new normal" with a little assistance. We urgently request this board to support the Flood Mitigation Fund and to make clear, concise recommendations to the Governor's Office and General Assembly. This money will make it possible for communities like Winterset to repair and replace infrastructure and be prepared for the next "normal" flood event.

Sincerely,



James C. Olson
Mayor

City of Winterset, Iowa