

**Official Minutes  
Iowa Flood Mitigation Board  
State Capitol, Room 19  
Des Moines, Iowa  
May 28, 2014**

The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board meeting was called to order at 1 p.m. by Chair Mark Schouten. A quorum of voting board members was present.

*In attendance:*

**Board Members:**

Mark Schouten, Amy Kaleita, John Torbert, Ronald Herrig, Carolann Jensen for Dave Jamison, Lori Glover, Lori McDaniel for Chuck Gipp, Jake Friedrichsen for Michael Fitzgerald.

Ex-officio: Robert Hogg\*, Daniel Lundby\*.

*Excused Absences:* Dan Zumbach\*, Jared Klein\*, Jim Gillespie for Bill Northey

(\* = nonvoting)

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Schouten welcomed Mr. Ronald Herrig as the Governor's newest appointee to the board.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair recommended amending the agenda moving Public Comments ahead of the presentation to accommodate the schedules of those members of the public in attendance.

**Lori Glover moved for approval as amended of the May 28, 2014 agenda; John Torbert seconded. The motion carried.**

III. PROPOSED BOARD RESOLUTION

The board reviewed the resolution acknowledging the accomplishments of Arnold Honkamp. A copy of the resolution will be sent to Arnold Honkamp's wife.

**Ronald Herrig moved for approval pending a correction to the resolution; John Torbert seconded. The motion carried.**

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DEC. 4, 2013

**Lori McDaniel moved for approval of the December 4, 2013 minutes as amended; Jake Friedrichsen seconded. The motion carried.**

V. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF FEB. 28, 2014

The minutes were amended to state that Jake Friedrichsen was in attendance for Treasurer Fitzgerald.

**Jake Friedrichsen moved for approval of the Feb. 28, 2014 minutes as amended; Lori Glover seconded. The motion carried.**

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Winterset's Mayor Olsen came to thank the board for their support in trying to fund the grant portion of the Ch. 418 program. Winterset wants to officially withdraw their application and may come back in the future.

The City of Cedar Rapids, provided an update to the board. The senate and house passed the infrastructure bill which authorizes the federal project and funding is anticipated to be allocated within a year. It is consistent with the application approved by the board. The city is looking for public feedback on the greenway planning on the west side and are looking on the east side to raise the Quaker Oats Building. There is a proposal for a high rise to be approved in June. Part of that design includes a floodwall.

Daron Muehring, City of Dubuque, provided an update on the city's funding effort. The city is borrowing through negotiated bond sales on the first portion of their debt. The city has received a downgrade in their bond rating but are still within their projection.

Teri Goodman, City of Dubuque informed the board that the city has been invited by the EPA to present on the Bee Branch project. The EPA is interested in the Flood Mitigation Board and how the program works. They feel this could be a national model. The city has also been invited to speak at the regional DNR.

The final day applications will be accepted by the board is Jan. 1, 2016. Senator Hogg suggested the board collect applications for entities that are interested, and present them to the legislature so the level of the need can be measured. In addition, to the small communities.

VII. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

John Benson presented the draft language for the administrative rules. The rules cannot be filed until the Governor signs House File 2473. The rule changes the definition of eligible applicant and would include sanitary districts that may be combined with water districts. At this time the revenue rules have not been drafted.

**Carolann Jensen moved that the notice of intended action is approved and filed after the Governor signs the HF2473 and it takes effect; seconded by John Torbert and approved by the board.**

VIII. APPLICANT PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION - CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS

Terry Brown presented on the application by the city of Council Bluffs and city officials Mayor Matthew Walsh, Matthew S. Cox, City engineer, and Greg Reeder, Director of Public Works,

were present to answer questions. The levee system improvement and accreditation, and the Indian Creek Channel Rehabilitation. The Channel needs to be rehabilitated following multiple flooding events and natural wear on the 80 year levee structure which protects the city, its residents, and economy. The levee currently meets FEMA standards but seepage is an issue. Maintenance has been performed but much of what is done is to meet the new FEMA standards. If the levee is de-accredited, an additional \$23M will be paid out in insurance. Project funding: over \$2.4 CBDG, \$20M from Corps, \$34M city, asking \$57M over 20 years from the Iowa Flood Mitigation Fund.

There have been areas of negative increment sales tax growth in the three of the past five years due to flooding. The city has a plan in place in case of a negative increment. The city's 20-year projection was 2.1 percent growth but used a conservative 1.6 projection. The city is prepared to fund this project even with negative growth and has a bonding capacity of \$80M.

Members of the board inquired on other applicants. It was reported that Spencer, Ottumwa and Ames have voiced interest but no other applications have been submitted. The federal funding partner element limits participation.

**Lori McDaniel made the motion:** The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board approve the application and the attached project plan for the city of Council Bluffs filed with the Board on May 28, 2014. I further move that the Board approve the use of sales tax increment revenue to support the project plan in a total amount not to exceed \$57,000,000. I further move that annual sales tax increment amounts shall be limited to the lesser of the state fiscal year annual projection submitted as a part of the approved application and project plan for the City of Council Bluffs or the actual annual eligible tax increment as determined by the Iowa Department of Revenue.

**The motion was seconded by John Torbert. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

#### IX. APPLICANT PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION – CITY OF DES MOINES & WASTEWATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

Carol Tomb presented the application by the Des Moines and Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRF). There were some minor changes to the initial application the board had received however, the \$95.5M increment request remains the same.

The WRF was extremely close to being inundated in 2008 and 2010 which would have impacted residents and state agencies. The city and WRA have entered into a 28E agreement and is comprised of 17 communities. GDP for Des Moines is \$42B annually, \$115M daily. In addition to the higher risk of flooding, the levees downtown do not meet FEMA's 100-year standard. Since 1993, there have been 327 property buyouts and over \$60M of improvements have been made. The proposed flood protection plan include four phases:

Phase 1: Since 2008 over \$60M of improvements.

Phase 2: Allows both the city and WRA to better manage and return floodwater and storm water to the river in flooding emergencies.

Phase 3: Future (1-5 years) – The projects increase flood storage and taking out ag levees.

Phase 4: Removes things that restrict water. Negative impacts will have to be addressed to receive Corps approval. The proposed purchase of District 9 area will allow for the reestablishment of wetlands.

The proposed projects will harden flood protection for the WRF. The total amount of the project is \$276.3M. Of that amount: \$118.5M is federal funding, \$62.3M is local funding, and \$95.5M would be sales tax increment. The city's average projection of growth is 2.1 percent. The 28E agreement stipulates the funding be split 50/50 between the WRA/DSM.

Des Moines Mayor Cownie and E.J. Giovannetti, WRA Vice-Chair both stated that the project has the support of 17 communities and will offer assurance to those communities of mitigating future flooding impacts.

Some improvements that are not included in the DSM/WRA project, such as the railroad bridge. DSM/WRA are working with those issues to put in some relief bridges to improve flow. These projects will help to create hundreds of acres of wetlands and opens up the greenbelt area. This is outside of the project but it's all connected. Mayor Cownie stressed the need to work together for an integrated plan that helps preserve our environment. We have a responsibility to work on the water quality issues together.

Carolann Jensen requested the board be provided projections if the projects could be front loaded to alleviate funding issues down the road and to fully use the portion of the \$30M that has not been allocated in the first few years.

**Carolann Jensen made a motion to table the application until such time the Governor signs the bill that sets out the amendment; seconded by John Torbert. Following a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

X. ADJOURNMENT

**John Torbert made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Carolann Jensen. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.**

The Executive Summary and the presentation will be available on the website:  
<http://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/>