

## **Iowa Flood Mitigation Board – In Person/Virtual Meeting**

Tuesday May 28, 2024 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM (CST)

John Benson, Chair

Jodi Freet, Vice Chair

### **APPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

- 1) Welcome and Introductions- Time: 2:31 pm Director Benson called the meeting to order and completed the roll call-

Voting Members present: *Molly Widen (TOS), Jake Hansen (IDALS), Tim Hall (IDNR), Steven Stransky (IFA), Director Benson (HSEM)(Chair), Jodi Freet (Vice Chair) (Public), Vicki Stoller (Public), Paul Assman (Public), Doug Reed (Public)*

Exficio Members present: *Sami Scheetz, Tom Shipley, Brad Trow, Jon Wolfe, Alison Ver Schuer,*

HSEMD Staff present: *Dennis Harper, Mark Newhall, Jeff Jackson, Jim Marwedel, Terry Brown, Carol Tomb, Larry Gioffredi, Emily Novak*

Public present: *Larry Weber*

- 2) Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve by Jodi Freet, second by Tim Hall. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- 3) Approval of the Minutes of 8/25/2023 meeting

Motion to approve by Jake Hansen, second by Tim Hall. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

- 4) Lower Missouri FRRS (IDNR)

A. Project Update- *Tim Hall shared the flow frequency analysis has been completed and the stage frequency is scheduled to be finished state fiscal year 2025. Number of meetings held in Missouri valley, Nebraska city, and Council Bluffs, was a great chance to update and gather information. Spin off studies done in Missouri and Kansas to study specific areas of the rivers. Would like to do a spin off study for Iowa and Nebraska. Mainly a question of what we would want that to be and having the money. Spent a total of \$7 mil and only \$1.5 is split between states. Iowa's commitment is \$375,000- 2/3<sup>rd</sup> already sent to USACE. Remaining \$131,250 left to pay.*

B. Iowa FRRS Payment- IDNR- . Motion to approve the payment of \$131,250 out of the levee improvement fund appropriation- made by Paul, seconded by Doug Reed,

Discussion was had around communication of the information, motion passes unanimously by roll call vote.

*Discussion was had about ways to communicate the data and messaging from USACE out to those that need it. Director Benson shared that the Office of Levee Safety would be a great program that could amplify that type of message and get it into the hands of the people that need it.*

5) Approval of Projects FRF Extension for 2 years- June 30, 2026-

*Mark Newhall explained that there are several projects not ready to be closed out yet and more time needed to complete and closeout. Both work still being done and also books needing to be closed. Potentially 5 or 6 still underway per Terry Brown. Carol stated Genesis and Hornick should be finalized by the end of the year for construction and paperwork.*

*Doug Reed asked for clarity as to whether two years was necessary in the scope of work or would that lead to more delays.*

*Terry Brown shared that they have a sense of urgency to complete their projects as there is a cost share and other sources as well.*

*Director Benson proposes to table the request until June since the Board will need a meeting in June to approve the items for the Office of Levee Safety. Director Benson stated this would give staff time to put together time frames and other information to help make a more informed decision for the board. Item tabled till June meeting.*

6) Silver Jackets Update- Jim Marwedel (HSEMD)-

*Jim shared about the statewide flood mitigation strategy, focused on water shed, levees, and other methods. Jim shared about the Silver Jackets and their purpose and focus. Also shared their structure. Jim shared about the type of projects they are looking into, the plan, and flood mitigation methods. Jim discussed how the Silver Jackets plan to utilize various partners such as non-profit agencies and also the use of new estimates in flood loss and analysis.*

*Paul Assman suggested that Jim check into the Iowa League of Cities to share this information out to others.*

7) Office of Levee Safety Update

A. Town Hall Recap- *Jeff shared a recap including the 16 town hall meetings with over 170 attendees, and learning about levee issues facing districts. Jeff shared the need to provide educational opportunities to districts and the community around funding, financials, and best practices.*

B. National Levee Safety Program Meeting June 12- 9-11 am (CST)- *Jeff invited attendees if they would like to participate in this virtual meeting.*

C. Levee Improvement Fund Rating System Draft- *Jeff reviewed the levee rating system tool, the criteria, as well as the uses of this tool along with long range planning. The Board will review and provide feedback to Jeff for potential changes and improvements prior to the June meeting.*

- D. Levee Improvement Fund Application Draft- *Jeff provided an overview of the application. Director Benson shared that this document should look very familiar to the stakeholders as it is similar to the Flood Mitigation Form and therefore should be user friendly.*

*Paul Assman recommended adding a space for the ranking of the levee district and/or a space to add the protected value of the levee.*

- E. IGS Hydrosience Proposal- *Larry Weber spoke about the process of data collection and research and value add from previous statewide projects and how this can be helpful for the levee study. Site maps, imagery of the levees, identify anomalies, potential borings and samples to describe the characteristics, hydrology model and threats from a failure standpoint. Also give a ranking of the costs and projects facing that levee.*

*Larry stated it gives the districts a common level platform (planning study) for their levees.*

*Looking at 10 sites this next year from the IGS study and a few others that might benefit from this level of study.*

*There was discussion around the type of report that would be provided. Larry explained that it will not be a complicated engineering report but a report to help districts understand the magnitude of needed repairs and potential projects.*

*Vicki shared about the challenges of hiring engineers and the expense surrounding it. She shared that this report could be a good mitigation proposal.*

Motion to allow the Office of Levee Safety to enter a contract with IHHR based on the proposal presented to them for one year, not to exceed \$100,000. Motion made by Vicki Stoller. Seconded by Tim Hall. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

- F. Additional Funding Discussion and Possible Board Action

- i) Hamburg Grinder System Update- *Terry Brown shared the current status of the project and the obligation of the funds. Terry discussed some possible projects but that all three projects would be over the allocated amount.*

*Director Benson shared that no board action will happen during this meeting because the numbers just came in this morning and the board has not had time to process. The funds are freed up from an appeal with FEMA and this is a pathway for the use of those funds.*

*Jake Hansen shared concerns about some of the changes given that this was a competitive application and an item such as community center might not have received that consideration back in the original selection process. Jake said he would like HSEM Staff to weigh in on this.*

*Doug Reed asked if there was a way to vet if their previous application was still a need or not as time has passed.*

*Director Benson stated that staff will gather more information.*

- 8) Public Comment – *Paul- asked about using AI for real-time river flows and rainfall.*

*Director Benson shared that national level for emergency management has discussed using AI and that IFIS is a great model already considering the use.*

*Tim Hall shared that Water.noaa.gov and NWS water prediction system already uses some of that technology. Tim proposed NWS coming and sharing about this system.*

*June 13<sup>th</sup> a full demo- open meeting- hybrid. NWS sharing about the new Water Hydro system. Email should go out next week as an invitation.*

9) Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Tim Hall, second by Jodi Freet. Motion passed unanimously.  
Adjourned 3:49 pm.