



A Bright Look Ahead™

The Update

Serving Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Montgomery, Page,
Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties

SWIPCO · Southwest Iowa Planning Council-Region XIII

January 2010

SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING COUNCIL CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) is celebrating 35 years of service in 2010.

SWIPCO was organized in September 1975 when 6 counties in southwest Iowa recognized the need for a regional community development group. Over the years, 2 more counties joined to form the SWIPCO region of today that serves 64 cities and 8 counties in southwest Iowa. What started as a small office in the City of Griswold and one staff member, has moved twice, and now has 17 staff members in Atlantic. Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA) was added in 1978 and employs over 50 transit drivers throughout the region.

SWIPCO's accomplishments are region wide and too numerous to list; a few notable accomplishments include:

- ⇒ Approximately \$55 million in grant dollars for infrastructure & community facilities. These additional funds made it possible to complete \$185 million worth of projects in southwest Iowa.
- ⇒ 55 Hazard Mitigation Plans, 60 Code of Ordinances, 30 Urban Renewal & Revitalization Plans, 40 Community Builder Plans, and dozens of other plans, studies, and reports
- ⇒ 90 Water, Waste Water, & Sewer Construction Improvements
- ⇒ 782 homes rehabilitated
- ⇒ 30 homebuyers assisted with down-payments
- ⇒ Over 300,000 public transit rides were given in Fiscal Year 2009 alone

Although the board of directors and staff are proud of these past accomplishments, the focus of the organization is always on the current and future needs of our area. SWIPCO is currently administering over a dozen infrastructure projects in the region with another ten pending funding this spring, has two comprehensive plans underway, and is completing hazard mitigation plans in six counties.

SWITA continues to grow and adapt to meet the increasing demand for public transportation in southwest Iowa, and has recently added new vehicles and completed improvements to the maintenance facility in Atlantic to enable SWITA to improve transit services.

SWIPCO created a revolving loan fund in 2009 to help businesses create and retain jobs. The first loan is awarded and several applicants are in the approval process. The program is receiving more phone call every day from business owners and banks.

The housing department continues to expand options for affordable housing. In FY09, the housing staff served 143 households. SWIPCO recently submitted grant applications on behalf of 6 cities to rehabilitate another 60 homes.

As we celebrate our 35th year, we look forward to serving the cities and counties of southwest Iowa with as much dedication as we have for the last 35. Remember, you created us to serve you!

MJ Broomfield

Executive Director

BUSINESS RLF UPDATE

SWIPCO closed its first economic development loan in October of 2009 for \$20,000.

The loan was awarded to a start-up business that will bring 4 full time jobs and 9 part time jobs to the southwest region in the next 5 years.

In addition, SWIPCO received three more applications in the last month. These applications will be reviewed at the next RLF board meeting January 22.

SWIPCO still has \$400,000 available for businesses that need assistance

for working capital, expansion, start up funds, construction, and equipment purchases.

Please contact Ryan Fincel at 1-866-279-472 or ryan.fincel@swipco.org for more information.

Happy Anniversary

To

Dave Riedemann
Jan. 9 ~ 3 years!

Jeremy Middents
Jan. 10 ~ 10 years!

JUMPSTART HOUSING ASSISTANCE UPDATE

The Jumpstart housing assistance for the 2008 natural disasters is nearing completion, with the last projects scheduled to be finished this summer.

The program began in October 2008. Since that time, Jumpstart State Assistance has rehabilitated 31 homes for \$404,466. Jumpstart Express has rehabilitated 9 homes for \$107,991, and Jumpstart CDBG Federal assisted 12 homes for

\$373,250 in southwest Iowa.

In addition, one business received assistance through the Jumpstart Business assistance funds with \$7,500 in funding.

Assistance was given to home owners based on income, direct damages from the disasters, housing location, assessed value, and the home condition.

CDBG AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Three cities within the SWIPCO region were awarded supplemental Community Development Block Grants in November.

The grants awarded include (grant amount in parentheses): Avoca, sewer line repair (\$221,000); Elliott, sewer lift station replacement (\$292,555); Pisgah, sewer lift station replacement (\$267,250).

These grant awards are part of the federally declared flood disaster of 2008 and are in addition to the normal annual CDBG awards.

SWIPCO also secured disaster related CDBG funds earlier in the year for projects in Braddyville, Essex, Farragut, Logan, and Shenandoah.

UPCOMING GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

Grant	Funding Uses	Eligible Applicants	Deadline
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Construction or modification of structures in natural disaster areas	Local Governments	March 15
I-JOBS Water Quality Fund	Water and wastewater projects	Cities with less than 10,000 population	March 30
Iowa West Foundation (IWF)	Education, human and social needs, community development, & economic development	Local governments & non-profits	April 1
Community Attraction & Tourism (CAT)	Tourism and recreation infrastructure projects	Local governments & non-profits	April 15
River Enhancement Community Attraction & Tourism (RECAT)	Recreation projects around rivers and lakes within cities	Local governments & nonprofits	April 15

Happy Birthday

To

Mark Hansen
January 6

Sarah Jespersen
January 26



ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR JUMPSTART BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) has additional funding available for businesses that sustained damage in the 2008 natural disasters. This funding is available through three different programs.

The Expanded Business Rental Assistance Program will provide financial assistance to eligible businesses located in, or planning to locate in, a business rental space that was physically damaged by the 2008 natural disasters. Assistance is in the form of rental assistance to help off-

set building rental lease payments for a maximum of six months, not to exceed a total award amount of \$50,000. Additionally, recipients will be allowed to use the funds for expenses associated with replacing damaged machinery, office furniture, supplies and other equipment. In-home businesses are not eligible for the funds through this program.

The Loan Interest Expense Program provides funds to business owners to pay for the interest on an SBA or private loan for disaster recovery. Up to a total of \$50,000 in funds will be

provided to a business, for a maximum of 3 years.

The Commercial Rental Income Gap Program is designed to assist with cash flow for commercial building owners to offset lost revenue from vacant rental space that was physically damaged by the disaster. A maximum of \$25,000 for lost rent will be reimbursed to the commercial landlords per unit.

For more information on any of these programs, please contact Ryan Fincel at 712-243-4196 or ryan.fincel@swipco.org.

RPA 13 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Application forms are now available for Regional Transportation Enhancement Projects. Projects in Cass, Fremont, Montgomery, and Page Counties are eligible.

Eligibility requirements include meeting one or more of the follow: facilities for pedestrians or bicycles; acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or

historic sites; scenic or historic highway programs, including tourist and welcome centers; landscaping and other scenic beautification, including graffiti and litter removal; historic preservation; rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structure, or facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors, including the conversion and use of

those corridors for pedestrian or bicycle trails; control and removal of outdoor advertising; archaeological planning and research; mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff, including projects that reduce vehicle-caused wildlife mortality while maintaining habitat connectivity; safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists; and establishment of

transportation museums.

Completed applications must be in the Southwest Iowa Planning Council office by 4:30 p.m. on March 15, 2010. If you know of a potential Transportation Enhancement Project and are interested in an application, please contact Jeremy Middents at 712-243-4196 or Jeremy.middents@swipco.org

EMPLOYMENT HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE

The Iowa Association of Regional Councils, along with Von Bokern Associates, is offering the latest edition of *The Employment Law Handbook* to Iowa cities and counties.

This handbook is a personnel summary guide

for Iowa cities and counties and addresses issues relating to Hiring, Workplace Administration, and Termination for public employers.

The original handbook was written in 1995 and has been updated 3

times, most recently in 2005. Since that time many human resource issues have changed dramatically. Some of these changes include Age Discrimination, ADA, FLSA, FMLA and numerous other issues of concern.

Copies are available for \$125 by contacting Tammy DeBord at 243-4196.



SWIPCO SUBMITS ANNUAL CDBG APPLICATIONS, PREPARES FOR I-JOBS GRANTS

SWIPCO staff submitted 8 new applications to the Community Development Block Grant Program in November 2009 for possible funding in the spring of 2010.

These applications included water and sewer projects around the region. This is an annual program, and disaster damage is not a criteria for selection.

The grant applications include: Braddyville, water treatment; Carson, sewer; College Springs, connection to rural water; Elk Horn, water system improve-

ments; Little Sioux, water system improvements; Mondamin, sewer; Shambaugh, water treatment; and Shenandoah, water treatment.

Additionally, SWIPCO also submitted State Revolving Fund (SRF) applications for these projects. SRF is not only a potential source of loan funds to help pay for the projects, but an accepted application to the SRF program is a requirement for applications for I-Jobs funding at the end of March.

In addition to the communities already men-

tioned, SWIPCO staff also prepared an SRF application for water system improvements in Shelby, in anticipation of submitting an I-Jobs application for that community as well.

If your community has a potential need for a major infrastructure improvement, it's not too early to start thinking about the 2010 CDBG grant application cycle. Call John McCurdy or Jeremy Middents at 712-243-4196 to discuss qualifications for your community.

SWIPCO Policy Council

Cass County

Frank Waters

Dave Jones

Fremont County

Earl Hendrickson

Pat Shull

Harrison County

Gaylord Pitt

Sherman Struble

Mills County

Richard Crouch

Montgomery County

Donna Robinson

Brad Wright

Page County

James Richardson

Byron Harris

Shelby County

James Burmeister

Terry Arentson

Pottawattamie County

Lynn Grobe

At-Large

Dorothy Duran

Karen Goehring

Mike Kolbe

DATES TO REMEMBER



- Monday Jan. 18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- RPA 13 Policy Board meeting Thurs. Jan. 21, 1:30 p.m. in Red Oak
- RLF Board meeting Friday Jan. 22, 9 a.m. in Atlantic
- SWIPCO Policy Council meeting Thursday Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m. in Atlantic

- Sunday Feb. 14 Valentine's Day
- Monday Feb. 15 SWIPCO Office closed in observance of President's Day
- SWIPCO Policy Council meeting Thurs. Feb. 25, 1:30 p.m. in Atlantic



MJ Broomfield	Executive Director	Kelly Davis	Transit Coordinator	Sarah Jespersen	Transit Assistant
Mike Albin	Community Development	Tammy DeBord	Administrative Assistant	Karen Mauer	Finance Manager
Christy Bates	Transit Assistant	Ryan Finsel	Community Coordinator	John McCurdy	Community Development
Jeff Beckner	Transit Director	Mark Hansen	Fleet Mechanic	Jeremy Middents	Community Development
Crystal Cappel	Finance Director	Sandy Hansen	Housing Specialist	Dave Riedemann	Housing Programs Administrator
Alyssa Christensen	Administrative Aide			Teresa Wright	Transit Assistant