



INRCOG

COG *Connection*

Strengthening
Local Governments
Through
Cooperation

Serving the counties of Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, and Grundy.

January - March 2017

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Iowa Northland Regional
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GRANTS AWARDED

The following grants were written by INRCOG and awarded October-December 2016. If you would like more information, please contact [Kevin Blanshan](#).

<u>Grant</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project</u>
Iowa Finance Authority	INRHC	\$274,680	INRHC Housing Trust Fund
Iowa Finance Authority	City of Waterloo	\$153,667	Housing Trust Fund
State Recreational Trails	Butler County	\$664,678	Rolling Prairie Trail--Allison to Bristow
CAT	Black Hawk County	\$480,000	HRNC Interpretive Center Renovations
REAP	City of Dunkerton	\$50,000	Riverwalk Trail Extension
REAP	City of Fairbank	\$75,000	Portage and Riverfront Park
REAP	City of New Hampton	\$75,000	Multi-Use Path
REAP	City of Waterloo	\$200,000	Boathouse Enhancements

John Miller Named 2016 INRCOG Regional Citizen of the Year

At INRCOG's Annual Meeting on December 21st, Executive Director Kevin Blanshan presented John Miller the 2016 INRCOG Regional Citizen of the Year Award. John was first elected to the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors in 2004 and retired from the Board at the end of his term in December and, according to Blanshan, "has been a friend of INRCOG for many years." Miller served as INRCOG's Flood Coordinator in 1993 after which he went on to serve as the Director of FEMA Region VII in Kansas City for seven years. He has also been actively involved with the National Association of Counties, serving as chair of the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Subcommittee, which led to the County's adoption of the Stepping Up initiative, a nationwide effort to reduce the number of adults with mental illness and/or substance use disorders in our jails.



Frank Magsamen, Board Chair (l) and Kevin Blanshan, Executive Director (r) present John Miller with the 2017 INRCOG Regional Citizen of the Year Award.

Miller has served numerous terms as chair of the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Iowa Northland Regional Transportation Authority. Blanshan explained that "there is no better example of his passion for the safety and well-being for not just Black Hawk county residents, but all citizens of Iowa than the interchange at Highway 218 and County Road C-57. After receiving an impassioned phone call from Sheriff Tony Thompson, of yet another fatality at that intersection, he along with Sheriff Thompson and I drove to Burlington to meet with the Iowa DOT Commission, pleading for an interchange at this location. You can now see the results of this effort!"

Congratulations, John!

INRCOG Staff Donates to the Cedar Valley Refugee Newcomer Services



During 2016, INRCOG's staff donated nearly \$800 to the Cedar Valley Refugee Newcomer Services (CVRNS). CVRNS provides ongoing refugee support through services such as filing for benefits, translating, and providing necessities.

INRCOG's staff was pleased to present their donation to Liberata Aung, CV Newcomer Case Advocate and Billie Allen-Williams, Community Resources Director with Operation Threshold.

INRCOG Welcomes New Staff Member

Ryan McKinley joined INRCOG as a Community Planner in October. Ryan received his Bachelor's Degree in Community and Regional



Planning from Iowa State University. Prior to joining INRCOG, he served as a Community Development Intern for the City of Pleasant Hill and prior to that was a Regional Planning intern at the Northwest Iowa Planning and Development Commission in Spencer.

Join us in welcoming Ryan!

Find us on 

2017 Executive Board

Frank Magsamen Chair
Black Hawk County Supervisor
 Duane Hildebrandt..... Vice-Chair
Bremer County Supervisor
 Mark Schildroth..... Secretary
Grundy County Supervisor
 Gary Gissel Treasurer
Buchanan County Supervisor

At-Large Members

Jim Brown
Mayor of Cedar Falls
 Steve Geerts
Chickasaw County Supervisor
 Quentin Hart
Mayor of Waterloo
 Charles Infelt
Mayor of Waverly
 Larry Young
Mayor of Shell Rock

DEVELOPMENT

Housing Trust Fund Awards Announced

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) has announced its 2017 Local Housing Trust Fund Program Awards and both the Iowa Northland Regional Housing Council (INRHC) and the Waterloo Housing Trust Fund (WHTF) were funded. The INRHC was awarded \$274,680 to support housing activities in the INRCOG region; the WHTF was awarded \$153,667 to encourage housing activities within the City of Waterloo. Both awards will begin to be implemented in early 2017. Statewide, IFA awarded over \$6.2M to 25 different local housing trust fund programs. If you have questions regarding these programs, contact [Brian Schoon](#) or [Cindy Knox](#).

Black Hawk County Conservation Receives CAT Award

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board was recently awarded a \$480,000 Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grant by the Enhance Iowa Board for the renovation of the Hartman Reserve Interpretive Center. The renovation will add additional space without increasing the existing building footprint. The upper floor plan includes a large multi-purpose room, kitchen, offices, restrooms, library, and a four-season porch as well as bringing the building up to ADA standards by installing an elevator, leveling the entrance, and renovating the restrooms. The lower floor plan includes a learning lab with direct access to the outdoors and a multimedia room. Work is on schedule for the renovated center to open October 2017.

INRCOG assisted the Conservation Board with preparation of this grant application. For more information regarding this project or the CAT program, contact [Kyle Durant](#).

Disaster Recovery Updates

Following the flooding that occurred in late September, INRCOG staff has been working with the cities of Clarksville, Greene, and Shell Rock to recover as well as take mitigation actions to reduce any impacts of future events. As a result, each of the cities has been awarded Community Development Block Grant funding from the Iowa Economic Development Authority for housing rehabilitation work outside of the floodplain.

In addition, all three communities are in the process of developing applications for acquiring damaged properties within the Special Flood Hazard Areas of each jurisdiction. These buyout application processes are being managed by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management which will be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for consideration. If you have any questions regarding the flooding recovery efforts, please contact [Brian Schoon](#).

Cedar Valley Marketing Region Receives IEDA Funding

INRCOG recently received a \$38,500 award from the Iowa Economic Development Authority to support economic development through marketing of the INRCOG region in partnership with the Cedar Valley Regional Partnership (CVRP) consisting of economic developers in the INRCOG region. In combination with \$42,500 in local match, funds will be used for a variety of marketing initiatives to promote the region to attract businesses and workforce. Those initiatives include Site Selection Consultant Meetings to attract new and expand existing businesses; a Business Retention Program to retain existing interstate commerce companies; a Workforce Recruitment Initiative to develop an inventory of photos and videos of regional attractions, quality of life amenities, local events, and interviews to be used in recruitment materials; and a Digital Marketing Initiative that includes development of a marketing plan focused on targeted industries, businesses, and site selectors. This marketing effort will follow the unveiling of the CVRP's new website in 2017.

Wheels and Meals

The Iowa Exchange (IWE), a program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's Financial and Business Assistance (FABA), has a consortium of non-profits that are contacted when materials become available that align directly with the respective organizations' missions.

One of those non-profits includes Feed the Hungry whose mission includes delivery of needed food, supplies, and emergency relief to nations adversely affected by natural and other disasters. Through Feed the Hungry, IWE has matched thousands of tons of materials previously destined for the landfill with those who need them most. In July 2016, INRCOG Environmental Planner and IWE Area 3 Resource Specialist Ben Kvigne facilitated such a match which came in the form of bicycles from Luther College in Decorah. Over the years, students have left bicycles behind and Luther staff recently assessed that they had more abandoned bicycles on-site than storage space available. Luther College contacted Kvigne to find an alternative to scrapping the excess bikes. Dave Flowers of Feed the Hungry was immediately interested in the bicycles as they are the primary mode of transportation and a life-line for those who transport their goods to market in many of the countries served by Feed the Hungry. Flowers facilitated the logistics to have the bicycles picked up and they are now being distributed to those in need. For more information about the Iowa Waste Exchange contact Ben Kvigne or visit www.iowadnr.gov/FABA. For more information regarding the mission of Feed the Hungry, visit <https://feedthehungry.org>.

DEVELOPMENT

Winthrop Awarded Siren Grant

The City of Winthrop was recently notified by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division that it will be awarded just over \$15,000 in federal funds from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program toward a new warning siren project; these funds will be combined with approximately \$5,000 from the City. Justified in Buchanan County's Hazard Mitigation Plan, the City applied for the funds in late 2014. If your community would like information about this type of project or the HMGP program, contact [Brian Schoon](#).

TRANSPORTATION

Butler County Conservation Receives State Recreational Trails Award

The Butler County Conservation Board was recently awarded State Recreational Trails funding by the Iowa Department of Transportation. The Conservation Board received \$664,678 to help fund the construction of 5.45 miles of the Rolling Prairie Trail from Allison to Bristow. Construction is anticipated to begin spring 2017.

INRCOG assisted the Conservation Board with preparation of this grant application. For more information regarding this project or the State Recreational Trails program, contact [Kyle Durant](#).

REAP Awards for Dunkerton, Fairbank, New Hampton, and Waterloo

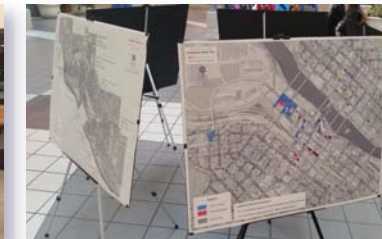
The Iowa DNR Natural Resource Commission announced Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program awards in October. Through the City Parks and Open Spaces grant program, the Commission approved \$50,000 for the City of Dunkerton, \$75,000 for the City of Fairbank, \$75,000 for the City of New Hampton, and \$200,000 for the City of Waterloo.

The City of Dunkerton will use the funding to construct an extension onto the city's existing Riverwalk Trail. The project will add approximately 2,000 linear feet of trail and will travel along Crane Creek and a woodland area before terminating next to the Dunkerton Community Schools. The project will connect residents in the southern half of the community to the valuable natural resources that have been developed on the city's north side. REAP funding for the City of Fairbank will be used for the development of recreational amenities along the Little Wapsipinicon River in West Bentley and East Bentley Parks including the development of a canoe/kayak access on both sides of the dam, construction of a park shelter, and expansion of the riverfront recreational trail.

The City of New Hampton will use the funding to construct a multi-use path from Garnant Park to Mikkelson Park. The path will connect the two parks, a beach area, a campground, a public pool, and adjacent residential neighborhoods using a combination of paved trail segments and on-road accommodations. This project is a segment of a larger planning effort to develop a cross-city trail to extend through the city to the High School and Chickasaw Wellness Center. REAP funding for the City of Waterloo will be used to construct enhancements to the Waterloo Boathouse located on the Cedar River including a scenic river overlook; patio; pedestrian and parking lighting; bicycle racks; a ten-foot-wide trail to connect the boathouse to the nearby shelter, restroom, and city trail system; and paved parking lot.

INRCOG Hosts Pedestrian Master Plan Public Input Meetings

Throughout November, INRCOG staff held six public meetings in Waterloo and Cedar Falls to gather input on specific projects to be included in the Black Hawk County MPO Pedestrian Master Plan. The projects presented at each meeting were based on a mail-out survey conducted last year completed by 344 randomly selected households. Input from the November meetings will help guide sidewalk construction and other pedestrian improvements for years to come. Altogether, the Pedestrian Master Plan will be based on input from over 1,100 residents. For questions, contact [Codie Leseman](#).



Emergency Food and Shelter Funds Awarded in Bremer and Buchanan Counties

The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP) recently awarded \$2,800 each to Bremer County and Buchanan County. These federal funds are made available through the Dept. of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the EFSP National Board Program. The funds are allocated to applying agencies that provide food and shelter programs. INRCOG provides the administrative support to an EFSP Local Board made up of representatives from each county who met jointly to award the funds to one agency in Bremer County and three agencies in Buchanan County. For more information about this program, contact [Sheri Alldredge](#).

Calendar

January

2 Monday
Office Closed for Holiday

12 Thursday
10:00 a.m.
MPO Technical and Board

16 Monday
Office Closed for Holiday

19 Thursday
12:00 Noon
INRCOG Executive Committee
1:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Authority

25 12:00 Noon
City Clerks/County Auditors Assn.

February

9 Thursday
10:00 a.m.
MPO Technical and Board

16 Thursday
10:30 a.m.
INREDC Board
12:00 Noon
INRCOG Executive Committee
1:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Authority

20 Monday
Office Closed for Holiday

March

9 Thursday
10:00 a.m.
MPO Technical and Board

16 Thursday
10:30 a.m.
RTC Advisory Committee
11:30 a.m.
INRCOG Executive Committee
12:00 Noon
INRCOG Board
1:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Authority
3:00 p.m.
Iowa Northland Regional
Housing Council

29 12:00 Noon
City Clerks/County Auditors Assn.

INRCOG Staff

Kevin Blanshan Executive Director
Brian Schoon Director of Development
Ed Holm Director of Transit
Sheri Alldredge Director of Administrative Services
Kyle Durant Transportation Planner
Cindy Knox Housing Planner
Ben Kvigne Environmental Planner
Codie Leseman Transportation Planner
Ryan McKinley Community Planner
Brenda Ponto Accountant
Jacki Schares Safe Routes to School Coordinator
Dan Schlichtmann Data Services Coordinator
Jacob Tjaden Community Planner
Hayley Weiglein Administrative Assistant



INRCOG

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grant

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
CDBG - Water/Sewer (due quarterly)
Community Attraction & Tourism Program (CAT) (due quarterly)
State Recreational Trails
Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) - Immediate Opportunity

Deadline

March 15, 2017
April 1, 2017
April 15, 2017
July 1, 2017
As Needed

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Program is a federally funded grant program administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources that provides matching funds up to 50 percent for outdoor recreation area development and acquisition. Iowa's cities and counties are eligible to participate. Competition for funding is intense, but this program provides an opportunity to develop a wide range of outdoor recreational projects that are in high demand. Popular projects in recent years have included skate parks, playgrounds, new and renovated swimming pools, sport complexes, campgrounds, and multipurpose trails. Contact [Jacob Tjaden](#), [Codie Leseman](#), or [Kyle Durant](#) for information.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs

The federal CDBG program is authorized under the Housing and Community Development Act and its main goal is to "develop viable communities by providing decent housing and suitable living environments and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low and moderate incomes or to address blighted areas." In Iowa, the CDBG program can be used to fund eligible activities including public assets such as water and sewer infrastructure and community facilities, housing rehabilitation programs, economic development efforts, and downtown revitalization. We encourage cities that have a project that may be eligible for CDBG funding to contact INRCOG as soon as possible for assistance with the pre-application requirements and the application process. Contact [Brian Schoon](#) or [Jacob Tjaden](#) for additional details.

Community Attraction & Tourism Program (CAT)

The Community Attraction & Tourism (CAT) Program is an opportunity for cities, counties and non-profit organizations to ask for financial assistance for vertical infrastructure projects including museums, recreation centers, aquatic centers, sports arenas and other attractions. Applications are submitted to the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the Vision Iowa Board on a quarterly basis. Applicants are reminded that the Vision Iowa Board will require city, county and private funding for each project. Contact [Kyle Durant](#) for information.

State Recreational Trails

The Iowa Department of Transportation is soliciting applications for the State Recreational Trails Program. The program is restricted to acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails that are open for public use or trail that will be dedicated to public use upon completion. Applications are due July 1, 2017, and will cover 75 percent of eligible costs, if successful. Contact [Kyle Durant](#) or [Codie Leseman](#) with questions regarding this funding program.

Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE) – Immediate Opportunity

Rebuild Iowa's Sound Economy Immediate Opportunity (IO) funds through the Iowa DOT require an immediate funding commitment to secure developers or firms in the location of business facilities that will result in permanent job creation or retention. IO projects may be located on primary roads, secondary roads, city streets, state park roads, or county conservation parkways. All incorporated cities and counties are eligible to apply for RISE IO funds. Applications are submitted on a year-round basis. For more information, contact [Kevin Blanshan](#) or [Kyle Durant](#).