

I-JOBS Board Holds First Meeting

The Iowa Jobs (I-JOBS) Board held their first meeting on June 3rd to begin the process of distributing \$165 million in infrastructure projects that will rebuild Iowa's communities affected by last summer's storms and create jobs. The I-JOBS Board was created as part of the \$830 million I-JOBS infrastructure, flood recovery, and job creation initiative approved by the Legislature in 2009.

At the meeting, the board members received an overview of the legislation creating the program and the board. Draft rules were distributed that the board will consider at their next meeting on June 15th. The board plans to approve the rules on an emergency basis, which makes them effective upon adoption by the board. The board also plans to consider identical rules filed under notice, which will allow for public comment.

The I-JOBS board is charged with managing appli-

cations for the \$165 million, and ensuring that funds are distributed in an efficient and transparent manner. The board will distribute \$118.5 million through a competitive grant program for disaster rebuilding, reconstruction of local public buildings, flood control, and flood prevention projects. The board will also distribute \$46.5 million in targeted grants to Linn County, Cedar Rapids, Palo, Elkader, and Charles City for disaster relief and mitigation. All award recipients are accountable to the board.

The 11-member I-JOBS board is chaired by Jeff Pomeranz of West Des Moines. The other members include Joni Dittmer, Eldridge; Kate Gronstal, Council Bluffs; Pat Baird, Cedar Rapids; Toi Sullivan, Sioux City; and Willard "Sandy" Boyd, Iowa City. In addition to the six public members, the board consists of State Treasurer Mike Fitzgerald and representatives of the Iowa

Finance Authority, Department of Economic Development, Iowa Workforce Development and the Rebuild Iowa Office.

Iowans can track all awards at the I-JOBS website: www.iowafinanceauthority.gov/en/i_jobs/.

Tentative I-Jobs Timeline:

- June 15 - Telephonic Board Meeting
- June 24 - Review Committee Meeting (Location: TBD)
- June 15-28 - Regional Meetings (Location: TBD)
- June 29 - Board Meeting (Location: Cedar Rapids)
- July 1 - Application Available
- August 3 - First round of applications due
- August 14 - Review Committee Meeting (TBD)
- August 31 - Board Meeting (TBD)