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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 22, 2019



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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### GOVERNOR'S FLOOD RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP

**Meeting.** The Economic Development Working Group of the Governor's Flood Recovery Advisory Board met on May 13, 2019, in Des Moines. The Economic Development Working Group is one of six working groups created by the Advisory Board and is being supported by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

**Members.** The members of the Economic Development Working Group include:

- Rick Allely — Director of Mills County Economic Development Foundation.
- Scott Swenson — Regional Director of Iowa Small Business Development Center.
- Mark Ford — People, Parts, and Service Director, AgriVision Equipment Group.
- Mary Ann Hanusa — Iowa State Representative for District 16.
- John Rider — Regional Manager, Economic Development BNSF Railway Company.
- Lonnie Mayberry — Mills County Supervisor.
- Mark Reinig — Economic Development Program Manager at Iowa State University.
- Kathryn Kunert — Vice President, Economic Connections and Integration at MidAmerican Energy.
- Jeffrey Roiland — CEO at Western Iowa Networks.
- Casey Woodside — Business Development Manager at Black Hills Energy.
- Rebecca Socknat — Emergency Management Coordinator at Woodbury Emergency Management.

**Economic Development Issues.** Members of the Working Group discussed issues that are impacting their efforts to reopen businesses. Examples of these include:

- Reluctance to return until levies are repaired.
- Utility repair timelines and nonfunctional sewer systems.
- Concern that residents deciding to not return to the area may dissuade businesses from reopening.

**Other Issues.** Group members had a general discussion on the following:

Housing Issues:

- Damage to residential property and limited temporary housing is likely to reduce both workforce and customer bases for area businesses.
- Utilities are coming back into the area and restoring services upon request wherever possible, but some communities remain without gas, sewer, or electric services.
- The Working Group intends to coordinate with the Workforce and Housing Working Group to expedite restoring and establishing temporary housing.

Agricultural Issues:

- Much of the local economy is connected to agriculture, loss of harvested crops and inability to plant for the 2019 growing season will have long term effects on the local economy.
- The Working Group intends to coordinate with the Agriculture Working Group to aid local agricultural producers.

Next Steps:

- Initiate a regional survey of residents and businesses to discover what resources are needed.
- Hold round tables with local businesses to get them operational as soon as possible.

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- Partner with local banks to investigate viability of small loans for operating capital to keep businesses solvent until they can reopen.

**Additional Information.** The following websites have additional information related to Iowa's flood and disaster recovery:

- [2019 Iowa Floods](#) has flood-related information, including flood recovery and road closures.
- The [Rebuild Iowa Office](#) website has archived information from the flood event in 2008.

**Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Economic Development Working Group is tentatively scheduled for the middle of June in Glenwood, Iowa. The next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for Friday, May 24, 2019, in Malvern, Iowa.

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