
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 24, 2019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

IOWA FLOOD MITIGATION BOARD MEETING — MAY 20, 2019

Meeting. The Iowa Flood Mitigation Board met in Room 103 of the State Capitol on May 20, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.

Proposed Amendments to Flood Mitigation Program Agreements. Two cities, Iowa City and Cedar Falls, requested an extension pertaining to project completion deadlines for respective projects. Steven Rackis of Iowa City requested to extend the deadline for Phase I of the Riverfront Crossings Park project from January 31, 2018, to July 1, 2019. Due to excessive flooding in October 2018, final wetland and streambank planting was postponed until the spring of 2019. Extending the project deadline to July 2019 allows Phase I to be fully completed and administratively closed out. The Board unanimously approved this request.

The city of Cedar Falls requested an extension pertaining to the project completion deadline of the downtown levee improvement project, which commenced in November 2017. Due to the significant amounts of rainfall, snowfall, and spring flooding in the last year and a half, an emergency flood plan was deployed on March 16, 2019, and levee infrastructure work was delayed until April 2, 2019. The city of Cedar Falls is requesting a project extension until November 30, 2019. The Board unanimously approved the extension.

Legislative Update. John Benson, Legislative Liaison and Chief of Staff of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Board with an update on the recent legislative session. Mr. Benson shared that [Senate File 638](#) (FY 2019 Standing Appropriations Act), Division V, includes a provision that establishes a Flood Recovery Fund under control of the Board. The Fund will provide a funding source to finance approved flood mitigation projects undertaken by local governments. The Board is permitted to award moneys from the Fund to political subdivisions located within a county that has been designated a recipient of Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4421-IA, and where the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Individual Assistance Program has been activated. There are currently nine Iowa counties receiving federal assistance: Woodbury, Pottawattamie, Fremont, Louisa, Scott, Monona, Harrison, Shelby and Mills.

Mr. Benson also discussed the application process for interested political subdivisions to apply for funding. In order to be eligible, subdivisions must provide:

- A description of the project and how the project supports flood response, flood recovery, or flood mitigation, and a description of the financial assistance needed from the Fund.
- Information regarding additional moneys being applied to the project.

[Senate File 638](#) provided an initial appropriation of \$15.0 million for the Fund and allows the HSEMD to implement emergency rules to implement the provisions of the Act.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Board has not been scheduled at this time.

LSA Staff Contact: Christin Mechler (515.250.0458) christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov

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