
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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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 June 19, 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.

Economic Development Issues. Members of the working group discussed the following issues:

- Businesses are considering relocating out of the area depending on the future status of the levees.
- Residents are beginning to find permanent housing outside the area, reducing the available workforce.
- Business owners need access to financial resources to cover expenses while closed.
- Repeated flooding is causing irreparable damage to buildings and supporting infrastructure.

Flood Discussion. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

- There are currently 71 counties that qualify for public assistance as a result of flooding. The working group may add members from eastern Iowa in response to recent flooding in that region of the State.
- AmeriCorps is working to clean and prepare homes for repair, prioritizing homes with approved safety assessments. Approximately 300 homes in rural Mills County, Pacific Junction, and Hamburg have been damaged by floodwaters.
- Efforts to reconnect utilities by MidAmerican Energy are being hindered by soft ground, making it difficult to get equipment to repair sites.
- Workforce retention is a priority to keeping business in the area.

Next Steps. The working group established the following next steps of action before the next weekend:

- Distribute and collect surveys to area businesses to collect information on priority needs and concerns.
- Connect with community leaders in cities and regions where flooding has occurred in past years to collect a list of best practices.

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 late July in Hamburg, Iowa.

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