

TO: STATE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM: IOWA PUBLIC INFORMATION BOARD (IPIB)

RE: STATE EMPLOYEE EFFICIENCY SUGGESTIONS AND BOARD AND COMMISSION REVIEW – November 6, 2013, Inquiry

The IPIB opened for business on July 8, 2013. Just five months after the Iowa Public Information Board opened its door for business, 232 citizens, government officials, law enforcement officers, legal counsel and media employees have contacted the IPIB for information about Chapters 21 and 22 --- Open Meetings and Public Records. In November 2013 alone, the four-month-old IPIB website (www.ipib.iowa.gov) registered 2,515 page views – with 480 unique viewers spending an average of two minutes, 57 seconds on the site.

Annualized, the IPIB is on track to log around 550 cases this fiscal year. Our assumed caseload was 300 to 350 cases. We have to make every effort to operate as efficiently as possible. As a staff we continually monitor processes and seek efficiencies. We have discussed the issue of overall state government efficiency as per your request of November 6. We have not had the experience necessary to come to any specific recommendations. We have discussed the payroll system for verification of employee hours because it is very convoluted and requires more time every two weeks for entry than we think it should. But we are adapting to that system and realize it would take a software design investment to make a significant improvement. As someone new to state government, I have been very impressed with the services we received from numerous state employees and entities in establishing our new entity.

We have a full time staff of two attorneys and one administrative assistant. We are governed by a board of nine volunteer members which has been meeting monthly since appointment in July, 2012. We have no boards or commissions within our purview.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Luchtel, JD
Executive Director
Iowa Public Information Board