State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER SEVEN

WHEREAS, on Sunday, May 25, 2008, and continuing, severe storm systems moved across portions of Iowa, spawning severe weather including tornados, heavy rains, wind, hail and severe thunderstorms; and

WHEREAS, the severe damage and flooding resulting from these storm systems have caused unprecedented devastation and damage to communities through much of the state, including its people, economy, infrastructure, natural resources and critical institutions; and

WHEREAS, given the devastation caused by these storms, we have the opportunity to turn tragedy into opportunity by building back smarter, stronger, more sustainably, and safer than before; and

WHEREAS, unprecedented state, federal and other private and public resources will be committed to the rebuilding of these areas; and

WHEREAS, such resources must be coordinated, targeted and leveraged with traditional resources to maximize their impact as well as to improve efficiency and to avoid duplication of efforts; and

WHEREAS, the importance and magnitude of the rebuilding undertaking requires that a single unit of government be charged with such a task, and that recovery efforts be effectively coordinated; and

WHEREAS, such unit must be administered by a professional staff whose members shall be guided by a capable and experienced council, to ensure that the redevelopment is conducted to the highest standards of integrity, quality and transparency; and

WHEREAS, this unit must work across levels of government and with the citizens and businesses of the state to develop and realize a comprehensive long-term vision for a rebuilt and renewed Iowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chester J. Culver, Governor of the State of Iowa, by the power vested in me by the laws and the constitution of the State of Iowa, do hereby order as follows:

I. A REBUILD IOWA OFFICE shall be established.

   A. The purpose of this OFFICE shall be to coordinate state activities concerning the rebuilding effort following the most recent series of natural disasters in Iowa.

   B. The OFFICE shall be formed as a separate legal entity under a 28E Agreement entered into by several public agencies and any private agencies as necessary.

   C. The OFFICE shall be authorized:

      1. To exercise and enjoy all of the powers, privileges and authority conferred by law on any public agency joining in the 28E Agreement;

      2. To enter into agreements with departments and agencies of state government, pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28D, as necessary, to staff the OFFICE;

3. To be the recipient of intra-departmental or interdepartmental transfers of funds, pursuant to Iowa Code section 8.39, as determined appropriate by the Iowa Department of Management;
4. To enter into contractual agreements with vendors and consultants, consistent with Iowa statutes and administrative rules related to procurement, to carry out the purposes and duties the OFFICE; and
5. To perform all other lawful actions consistent with the purposes and duties of the OFFICE, as set forth herein.

D. The duties of the OFFICE shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Establishing and realizing short-term priorities for recovery and long-term plans for redevelopment on behalf of the Governor and the State of Iowa;
2. Establishing federal and state legislative agenda for the recovery and rebuilding efforts and for coordinating between levels and branches of government to implement that agenda;
3. Identifying funding sources and/or innovative financing alternatives to adequately fund recovery and redevelopment;
4. Receiving, establishing priorities and creating guidelines for disbursing and overseeing the use of all funds made available to the State of Iowa as a result of these disaster events, including, but not limited to, Federal disaster program funds administered by the State under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, and special appropriations;
5. Establishing timelines and benchmarks by which progress in disaster recovery and long-term reconstruction can be measured;
6. Providing means for the public, businesses, non-governmental organizations, communities and other stakeholders to have input into the recovery process; and
7. Providing state and local units of government with guidance for long-term recovery after a disaster.

E. The OFFICE shall have a professional staff.

1. The OFFICE shall have an Executive Director who shall be appointed by the Governor and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
2. The Governor's direction to all gubernatorial appointees, cabinet officials, agency and department heads as it pertains to the rebuild efforts and operations of the REBUILD IOWA OFFICE and the REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION shall be expressed through the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall serve as the executive and administrative officer of the REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION and shall discharge all operational, administrative and executive functions of the OFFICE, subject to the control, jurisdiction and supervision of the Governor.
3. The OFFICE, in addition to regular staff members provided to it, may draw upon staffing and other resources from any other executive branch agency, as needed.

II. A REBUILD IOWA ADVISORY COMMISSION shall be established, whose members shall meet at regularly scheduled public meetings and at the call of the Chairperson.

A. The duties of the COMMISSION shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. To provide leadership in the development and execution of agreements, as may be needed, pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28E, by which the REBUILD IOWA OFFICE will be established, and agreements pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28D, as necessary;

2. To provide ongoing vision, creativity, leadership and assistance to the OFFICE in carrying out its duties, as described herein;
3. To assist the Governor and the OFFICE by recommending policies associated with recovery and rebuilding, and assisting with the identification of strategic issues and broad-based needs and priorities;
4. To coordinate, make recommendations for and oversee the OFFICE's efforts to direct recovery planning and resource allocation affecting programs and services for the recovery; and
5. To provide oversight of the activities of the OFFICE.

B. ADVISORY COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP:

1. The ADVISORY COMMISSION shall have 15 voting Members, to include a Chairperson, all of whom shall be appointed by, and who shall serve at the pleasure of, the Governor.
2. ADVISORY COMMISSION vacancies shall be filled by the appointment of the Governor.

C. ADVISORY COMMISSION TASK FORCES:

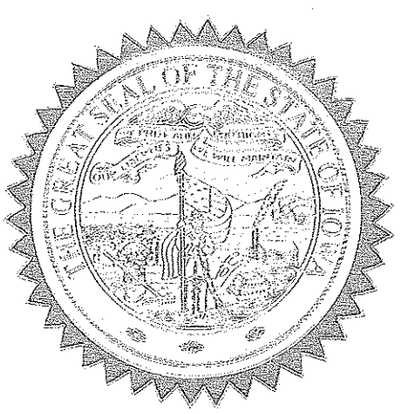
1. The ADVISORY COMMISSION shall have TASK FORCES, which may include members of the ADVISORY COMMISSION and other state agencies and stakeholder groups, to assist the ADVISORY COMMISSION in carrying out its duties and responsibilities.
2. The initial TASK FORCES shall initially include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, the following topics:
   a. Housing;
   b. Infrastructure and Transportation;
   c. Economic and Workforce Development;
   d. Public Health and Healthcare;
   e. Environmental Quality and Review;
   f. Education;
   g. Flood Plain Management and Hazard Mitigation;
   h. Records Retention and Management;
   i. Cultural Heritage; and
   j. Long-Term Recovery Planning.
3. Thereafter, TASK FORCES shall be created and shall disband as shall be directed, from time to time, by a majority vote of the ADVISORY COMMISSION.
4. The initial activities for each TASK FORCE shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
   a. Fact gathering and identification of best-practices;
   b. Community outreach;
   c. Public education; and
   d. The preparation of public reports and development of recommendations of recovery-related policies and priorities.
5. The ADVISORY COMMISSION shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly within 45 days of its first meeting. This report shall include an assessment of the storms' impact on the state's people, schools, businesses, and private and public infrastructure, with recommendations for initial steps to be taken by the legislative and executive branches to assist in recovery.
6. No later than October 31, 2008, the ADVISORY COMMISSION shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly its comprehensive long-term vision for rebuilding a safer, stronger, and better Iowa. In developing its recommendations for strategies to achieve that vision, the COMMISSION

shall work with all levels of government, private sector businesses, and citizens from all parts of the state.

7. Thereafter, the ADVISORY COMMISSION, in cooperation with the OFFICE, shall submit a written comprehensive report quarterly to the Governor and to the General Assembly, addressing short-term and long-term priorities and planning for issues addressed by each of the TASK FORCES, and other issues, as warranted.

D. ADVISORY COMMISSION COMMITTEES. The ADVISORY COMMISSION shall appoint or disband COMMITTEES comprised solely of ADVISORY COMMISSION members, by majority vote, as the ADVISORY COMMISSION shall deem necessary to carry out its purposes and duties.

III. This EXECUTIVE ORDER, and any agreements entered into pursuant to this ORDER, shall include a termination date no later than three years from the date this ORDER is signed.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 27th day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand eight.

CHESTER J. CULVER
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

MICHAEL A. MAURO
SECRETARY OF STATE