



Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission Meeting Notes

August 29, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.
Telephonic Meeting
Originating at the Rebuild Iowa Office
4459 121st St., Urbandale, IA

Commission Members Participating

Major General Dardis, Commission Chairman, Johnston
Bill Bywater, Iowa City
Jim Davis, Charles City
Mike Earley, Des Moines
Jim Fausett, Coralville
Bill Gerhard, Des Moines
Karris Golden, Waterloo
Brent Halling, Perry
Mike King, Creston
Linda Larkin, Fort Madison
Nitza Lopez-Castillo, Columbus Junction
Carroll Reasoner, Cedar Rapids
Amy Truax, Parkersburg
Mark Wandro, Ankeny
Beverly Wharton, Sioux City

Staff

Tara Deering-Hansen, RIO
Emily Hajek, RIO
Mary Jane Olney, RIO
Bill Riley, RIO
Laura Riordan, RIO
Kevin Teale, RIO
Arlinda McKeen, SPPG
Tom Slater, SPPG

Welcome, Roll Call, and Opening Comments

The telephonic meeting of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission was called to order by Major General Ron Dardis, Commission Chairman at 4:00 pm. Dardis thanked Commissioners for their dedication and passion in coming together to develop the 45-Day Report to Governor Culver. McKeen called roll and recorded the participation of all 15 members of the Commission. Others on the call were acknowledged to be listening; roll was not taken of these public and media observers.

Commission Review and Finalization of the 45-Day Report

The only purpose of this telephonic meeting is to review the draft of the Commission's preliminary 45-day report, suggest changes, and to determine their acceptance of the report as

edited. McKeen outlined the procedure for accomplishing the review, i.e. hearing general comments, followed by a section-by-section review of the content.

Commissioners noted that, in general, the report conveyed the tone and expectations they had for the report. It was suggested that the imperativeness of the issues might be made more evident. Some noted the presentation and format of the report itself was appropriate and effective. Several commented on the photographs. McKeen noted that SPPG continues to proofread and make design adjustments so the Commissioners need not be concerned about those.

Transmittal Letter – The Commission had no suggestions; General Dardis noted he would contact staff later with several preferences in wording.

Acknowledgements – There were no suggested edits to this section.

Executive Summary – Commissioners suggested ensuring the value of the tours of affected areas was included in this section. Other discussion led to turning to the detailed Recommendations section later in the report to discuss wording and style of the recommendations. Suggestions will be reviewed during discussion of that section.

Damage Scope and Estimates – Commissioners noted the appropriate level of detail to this section, including the source information. It was also noted that the importance of considering the data as incomplete and the guidance to readers on how to read and interpret the damage information was conveyed.

Priority Issues – Commissioners suggested underscoring the urgency and importance of these issues by repeating the sentence, “We must act now,” in several other places in the section. This will also take care of the concern stated early in the meeting about the emphasizing the imperative nature of the report and action needed.

Recommendations of the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission – Commissioners generally approved of the presentation of the immediate recommendations with accent on the action steps. Several changes were suggested and agreed to.

- Add “mental health first aid” to the “mental health” item in the bulleted list describing components of case management.
- In all action steps, use uniform language of “should” rather than “will.”
- In immediate recommendation 5, action item 1, clarify the intent of the state paying the entire non-federal match, and holding city and county governments harmless from this cost.
- Wording changes were agreed to in action items 6 and 10 for immediate recommendation 5.
- Add an action item to immediate recommendation 6 calling for a statewide disaster contingency fund with immediate access by local governments for gap funding.
- In immediate recommendation 7, action item 2, include adequate resources to fulfill public health needs.

Several edits were also agreed to in the subsequent recommendations.

- In subsequent recommendation 2, the bullet suggesting very low cost housing be produced by a Prison Industries project was deleted.
- Several wordsmithing edits were made for consistency of the report.

- Cities and counties were added to the first bullet under subsequent recommendation 7.
- A new recommendation was added to the subsequent recommendations to address the need for support and flexibility for local emergency management in performing their designated activities. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Administrator David Miller provided background for this new subsequent recommendation.

Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission Process – No changes were suggested to this section. Commissioners expressed appreciation to SPPG for their support in the process over the past weeks.

Rebuild Iowa Task Forces – No changes were suggested for this section. Staff will review the lists to ensure all members are represented in comparison to the Task Force and Resource Group rosters. McKeen noted formatting of this section was not completed prior to sending the file out, in the interest of allowing Commissioners additional time for review of the document.

Acceptance of the Report As Determined by the Commission

Final comments were shared and each Commissioner indicated she or he was in support of the report with the agreed-upon edits incorporated.

The report with edits was expected to be completed on Saturday and be made available by the time of Tuesday's transmission to the Governor.

Kevin Teale, RIO Public Information Officer, informed the Commission of the tentative plans to hold two events on Tuesday, one in Des Moines and a second in Cedar Rapids. Teale indicated more information would be forthcoming once final plans were determined and indicated that Commissioners would be welcome at these events.

Closing Comments

Major General Dardis thanked Commissioners for their intensive work and indicated information about the next steps toward the report due in the fall will be coming soon. Several members of the Commission noted their continued dedication and interest in ensuring Iowa's strong recovery. Appreciation was expressed for the process and the leadership of General Dardis.

The meeting adjourned approximately 5:40 pm.