



**Upcoming Events**

**April 6, 2010**  
Rain Garden Workshop, Bettendorf. Register/more information: [Here](#)

**April 7 – 8, 2010**  
“Municipal Utilities 2030” Conference, Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny. Register/more information: [Here](#)

**April 14 –15, 21 –22 , 29 –30, 2010**  
Consumer Confidence Report Workshops (various locations). Register/more information: [Here](#)  
Note: Coralville location is full

**April 21, 2010**  
Salt & Deicing Workshop. Register/more information: [Here](#)

**April 27, 2010**  
Rain Garden Workshop. Register/more information: [Here](#)

**May 5 – 6 , 2010**  
Gas Plastic Pipe Joining/Operator Qualification Workshop. Register/more information: [Here](#)

**IAMU’s Roger Griffith says farewell to safety groups**



**IAMU Safety Specialist Roger Griffith has announced his retirement from IAMU, and offers the following message:**

Roger Griffith

*I want to thank each and every one in all the safety groups for the courtesy, kindness, and friendship shown to me. It was my privilege and honor to be a part of your safety, and I thoroughly enjoyed each and every visit. I will miss you all as I begin another chapter in my life. Thank you for all you do for your communities. You provide tremendous services. May God bless.*

*Your biggest fan,  
Roger Griffith*

**Shortened legislative session ends; utilities fare well**

By Julie A. Smith, IAMU Legislative Counsel

See the Iowa Legislature web site [here](#)



**Discussion is currently underway as to the overall grade for the 2010 Legislative Session. From the perspective of municipal utilities, it was a good session.** When session started on Monday January 11, there was a lot of skepticism about really finishing in 80 days. The session started off with a massive state reorganization bill and as it progressed it became clear that the goal of finishing early would indeed be met.

IAMU’s main initiative for the session was to clarify our hard-earned 2001 joint financing authority for municipal gas and electric utilities. Bills were sponsored in the House by Representative Doris Kelley and in the Senate by Senators Jack Kibbie, Mike Gronstal, David Johnson, Steve Kettering and Rich Olive. The bill allows a municipal utility to join an existing joint action agency without holding an election to do so, strengthens our bonding ability, and allows a new joint action agency to work with a private entity without subjecting our partners to the public bidding process. Thanks to municipal utility supporters and good work by able floor managers (Representative Kelly and Senator Tom Hancock), the bill passed the house 91-0 and the Senate 50-0. It was signed by the Governor.



*The Iowa Legislature met its self-imposed 80-day deadline, and utility-related bills did well in the shortened 2010 session.*

On other energy-related bills, IAMU supported the efforts of the investor-owned utilities to support the study of nuclear power as a baseload option in the future. We joined other utilities in opposing efforts to require renewable energy billing information and a solar power purchase mandate. Other bills that would have imposed more mandates on utilities did not move this session.

There were several flood plain management bills, one of which would have prohibited construction or reconstruction of utility infrastructure in the 500-year floodplain. The main proposal that won passage will require Smart Planning Principles to be considered during the comprehensive planning process. To sweeten the pot, the I-Jobs Board was given \$30 million to give out in grants to cities which implement smart planning principles.

Newspaper editorials and revelations about financial mismanagement at the Iowa Association of School Boards (IASB) helped make open meetings and records laws a dominant issue at the end of the session. The Senate focused on a new state agency, the Iowa Public Information Board, to enforce the open meetings and public records laws. In the House, efforts turned to increasing scrutiny over taxpayer funded nonprofits. Up until the last few minutes of session and the last bill of session, these issues were the subject of much debate. In the end, no new legislation passed.

**Additional 20 EECBG grants for Iowa cities, counties**



**The Iowa Office of Energy Independence (OEI) has awarded an additional 20 statewide grants to Iowa’s thirteen largest cities – Ames, Ankeny, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Iowa City, Sioux City, Urbandale, Waterloo, and West Des Moines – and ten largest counties – Cerro Gordo, Clinton, Dallas, Des Moines, Johnson, Linn, Muscatine, Polk, Scott, and Warren, under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).**

These grants are in addition to the 78 ARRA-EECBG awards announced by the OEI on March 23, 2010 to bring the total grant funding to approximately \$8.3 million. The awards leveraged about \$9.7 million for a total project amount of approximately \$18.1 million. The projects are from cities and counties across the state which will reduce energy use by approximately 38,852,658.93 kilowatt hours (kWh), produce energy savings costs of about \$3.7 million and enhance the economic development through job creation. To review the awards list go to: [www.energy.iowa.gov](http://www.energy.iowa.gov).