



### Upcoming Events

**March 15 — 18, 2010**  
Gas Pipeline Welder Qualification Workshops (Des Moines Area Comm. College, Ankeny, March 15 —17; Iowa Lakes Comm. College, Emmetsburg, March 15 —18). *Register/more information: [Here](#)*

**March 25**  
Utility Clerks Webinar: Debt Collection & Debt Prevention. *Register/more information: [Here](#)*

**April 5 — 9, 2010**  
Gas Bootcamp Operator Qualification Workshop. *More information: [Here](#)*

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

### Clerk webinar will look at debt prevention, collection

◆ The latest edition of IAMU’s utility clerk webinars will be held March 25, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

It will focus on debt collection and debt prevention and will be conducted by Gordon Greta of the Ahlers and Cooney law firm, a noted speaker on the topic. He will cover service rules that address cost recovery, bad debt prevention, collection of bad accounts and necessary deference to protections afforded customers who threaten or declare bankruptcy.

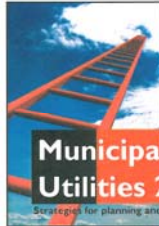


Gordon Greta

For more information and to register, click [here](#) (or see the link on the home page of the IAMU web site, [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org)).

IAMU offers monthly webinars for utility clerks. Contact Amanda James, IAMU Legal Counsel, at [ajames@iamu.org](mailto:ajames@iamu.org) or 800-810-4268 for more information.

## Agenda, registration for Municipal Utilities 2030 is set



April 7 & 8

◆ The agenda is set and registration is now open for IAMU’s “Municipal Utilities 2030” conference April 7 & 8. This all-new event will present strategies for planning and sustainability designed to help your utility successfully meet the future.

A strong lineup of speakers will cover numerous important topics such as changing demographics, infrastructure planning, carbon sequestration, climate change, Smart Grid, dynamic pricing, renewables, water supply and more. A trip to the nearby Des Moines Area Community College Energy Resource Station for a look at energy efficient outdoor lighting will be part of the activities the evening of April 7. Utility managers, board/council members and engineers are among the individuals who will benefit from participating. The event will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Ankeny.



The conference brochure and registration form has been emailed to IAMU member utilities. Electronic registration and more information is available [here](#) (or click on “Calendar/Registrations” on the IAMU web site home page, [www.iamu.org](http://www.iamu.org)). Registration is \$150 per person and **IAMU Risk Management Coupons will be honored** for payment. A block of guest rooms for the conference is available at the Courtyard by Marriott. To reserve, call 515-422-5555 and mention the IAMU conference. Room reservation deadline is March 17.

## IAMU members among cities awarded CDBG funds

◆ Governor Chet Culver has announced that numerous Iowa communities will receive an estimated \$12.4 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through the Community Facilities and Services Fund and the Water/Sewer Fund.



The Community Facilities and Services Fund provides grants to communities for a variety of projects and activities primarily benefiting low- and moderate-income persons, including day care facilities, senior centers, vocational workshops and other community services such as stormwater projects. Projects are required to incorporate and support Iowa’s state sustainable principles.



The Water/Sewer Fund is available to cities and counties on an annual competitive basis. Assisted activities include sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storm sewer projects related to sanitary sewer system improvements, and rural water connections. The awards are contingent upon receipt of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Water and Sewer awards for IAMU members are as follows: **Beaman**, \$210,000; **Bedford**, \$500,000; **Bridgewater**, \$178,000; **Corydon**, \$500,000; **Early**, \$300,000; **Elk Horn**, \$300,000; **Farnhamville**, \$300,000; **Fayette**, \$500,000; **Gladbrook**, \$500,000; **Lakota**, \$255,000; **Leon**, \$500,000; **Lewis**, \$300,000; **Lu Verne**, \$299,000; **Manchester**, \$600,000; **McCallsburg**, \$300,000; **Melvin**, \$243,000; **Minburn**, \$300,000; **Mingo**, \$269,000; **Montezuma**, \$500,000; **Odebolt**, \$500,000; **Osceola**, \$500,000; **Oxford Junction**, \$300,000; **Redfield**, \$300,000; **St. Ansgar**, \$500,000; **Superior**, \$142,000; **Terril**, \$300,000; **Wellman**, \$500,000. **Rock Valley** was awarded \$600,000 as part of the Community Facility awards.

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## DNR Watershed Planning Grant deadline April 1

◆ The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is reminding Iowans interested in improving their local lakes, rivers and streams of the April 1 application deadline for DNR Watershed Planning Grants.

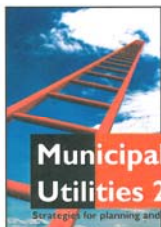
The grants offer \$10,000 to \$50,000 to develop Watershed Management Plans that address problems and create solutions for



rivers, lakes and streams on the state's impaired waters list. Making changes in

the watershed, which is the land that drains to a lake, river or stream, can reduce pollution reaching the state's waters. With a completed Watershed Management Plan, a local group can then apply for additional funds to put the plan in practice. The DNR offers one-on-one assistance to review project ideas and answer questions. Local or regional groups, organizations or agencies (public or private) are eligible. Applications for this round of Watershed Planning Grants are due April 1, 2010 by 4:30 p.m. A location's respective DNR regional Basin Coordinator should be contacted to begin the process.

For a list of Basin Coordinators, application forms, contact information and additional details, visit the DNR's Watershed Improvement Program web page [here](#) or contact Steve Hopkins at (515) 281-6402 or [Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Stephen.Hopkins@dnr.iowa.gov).



Register today!

Click here



April 7 & 8

More information on Page 1

## Application deadlines extended for fed telecom grants



◆ A limited extension of time for applications has been granted for some projects qualifying for Round Two of the federal broadband stimulus program. A deadline of March 15, 2010 was originally imposed for all grant applications. The extension, to March 26 and March 29, will apply in some cases.

In addition, because the formation of broad partnerships is important for successful applications, Iowa has a web site, <http://collaboration.iowa.gov/>, to help Iowa broadband service providers join with institutions, organizations, and individuals across Iowa when applying for these funds.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) are the two federal agencies awarding the funds made available by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The NTIA administers the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), which provides grants for broadband infrastructure, public computer centers, and sustainable broadband adoption projects. The RUS administers the Broadband Initiatives Program (BIP), which provides grants and loans for broadband infrastructure projects in rural areas (**now accepted until March 29, 2010**).



In this second round of funding, the NTIA will focus on funding Comprehensive Community Infrastructure (CCI) projects (**now accepted until March 26, 2010**). The CCI category includes middle mile broadband infrastructure projects which improve broadband service to community anchor institutions such as schools, libraries, healthcare providers, public safety entities, colleges, and other community support organizations; involve public-private partnerships between governments, non-profit and for-profit entities, and other key community stakeholders; intend to promote growth in economically distressed areas; and which commit to serve community colleges and public safety entities, among other components. Second-round BTOP funds will also be available for public computer centers and sustainable Broadband adoption projects. The RUS will target second-round awards to projects that improve last mile broadband connections to homes and businesses in rural areas.

Applicants that receive federal awards for Broadband infrastructure projects may be eligible to apply for grants for supplemental funds from the Iowa Broadband Deployment Governance Board. Additional information about the many funding opportunities for Broadband projects can also be found at the Iowa Broadband Development Governance Board web site, [here](#), and the Federal Government ARRA web site, [here](#).

## Second disaster declaration will cover January storm



◆ Governor Chet Culver has confirmed that Iowa has received a Presidential Disaster Declaration authorized by President Obama for 12 counties impacted by a severe winter storm beginning January 19, 2010. This is in addition to the first Declaration announced last week covering 21 counties impacted by the December, 2009 winter storm (see the March 2 IAMU Informer).

This declaration provides assistance to state and local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations (including rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities) for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities. Counties included in the declaration are: **Adair, Audubon, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Crawford, Guthrie, Harrison, Madison, Pottawattamie, Sac and Shelby.**

Public Assistance program funds are available to public entities and select non-profit agencies to rebuild damaged infrastructure that may include roads, bridges, culverts, and other public facilities, or to cover costs of emergency work during the storms. Downed power lines that occurred as a result of the storm are also covered. In addition, the Governor received notification that the Presidential Disaster Declaration includes funding to conduct hazard mitigation activities for the entire state.

Cities and utilities are reminded that the first step in acquiring assistance is completing and submitting a Request for Public Assistance. The form and other information can be accessed [here](#). Completed forms should be submitted to Jim Grandquist, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, at [jim.grandquist@iowa.gov](mailto:jim.grandquist@iowa.gov). Please note: The form does not provide a space to list the event for which relief is being applied for; this should be stated in the text of the email to Mr. Grandquist.