



Rebuild Iowa Office

Governor Chester J. Culver
Lt. Governor Patty Judge

Lt. General Ron Dardis, RIO Executive Director

March 23, 2009 – Noon to 4:00 PM
State Department for the Blind

Assembly Room
524 4th Street
Des Moines, IA

Meeting attendance

RIAC Members-in person

Lt. General Dardis
Jim Davis
Amy Truax
Bill Gerhard
Brent Halling
Mark Wandro
Mike King
Mike Earley

RIAC Members –on the phone

Beverly Wharton
Bill Bywater

RIAC Members-not in attendance

Karris Golden
Carroll Reasoner
Linda Larkin
Gary Anderson
Nitza Lopez-Castillo
Tim Hurley
Jim Fausett

RIO Staff

Emily Hajek
Tina Potthoff
Adam Bartelt
Juli Probasco Sowers
Jacqui DiGiacinto
Lynn R. Zook

**Stephanie Kindred
Susan Dixon
Ron Randazzo
Aaron Todd
Annette Mansheim
Susan Judkins Josten**

Guests

Dave Miller HSEMD

Media

**James Lynch-The Gazette
WHO-TV Camera
Bill Petrowski-The Des Moines Register
Rob Dillard-Iowa Public Radio
Rox Laird-The Des Moines Register**

Observers

**Lori Morrissey-Story County Emergency Management Coordinator
Douglas Wulf-LSA**

12:00 PM Welcome and Opening Comments

Lt. General Ron Dardis, Commission Chairman

General Dardis opened up with his comments-

“Good afternoon, so nice to be here with you today as we at the Rebuild Iowa Office give you updates on how far we’ve come on recovery.

As RIO staff gives updates on what the state Legislature is doing, the budget, the staff, Community and Regional Recovery Planning team efforts and more, please jot down your thoughts about how we are doing, whether we are meeting your expectations, and what our mission should be as we move forward with long-term recovery.

I and the staff also want to hear what you are hearing from your areas: the positives, the negatives and the frustrations, a forthright conversation about how recovery is going.

We also want to know whether this staff and this office are carrying out your recommendations in the way you have envisioned them.

We've left time after the updates for roundtable discussions about the recovery effort and for discussion of your role as we move forward. Be thinking about how often you want to meet, whether you need reports more often, or need different types of reports. Are you receiving the information you think you need?

As you ponder some of the items I've already mentioned, let's consider the scope of the 2008 Iowa disasters.

For people wondering why the recovery process is taking so long, the RIO staff has made some significant comparisons between the 2008 Iowa disasters and Hurricane's Katrina, Ike, and Gustav. Shortly RIO Chief of Staff Emily Hajek will be presenting that information, including comparative charts showing the comparisons and how Jumpstart funds are moving into communities.

We already know that the scope of last year's disasters was enormous. Iowa's 2008 floods and tornados will eventually rank as the fifth largest disaster in U.S. history when one looks at the cost in terms of public assistance dollars. Our recovery efforts go beyond just getting people back into their homes. Our recovery efforts require future preventative action and building bigger, better and stronger than before.

The state of Iowa has been promised more than \$2 billion in disaster-related assistance over the last eight months. Most of that is federal dollars, however does not come close to covering the amount of estimated damage which is estimated at \$8 to \$10 billion for this disaster.

Long-term recovery is a complicated process with many moving parts. It is extremely complex. It takes patience, planning and strong leadership, leadership you have helped provide.

The sheer scope of the disaster requires a continued effort to keep Iowa's needs in the federal limelight and to ask for additional federal disaster-related assistance."

General Dardis commented on his trip to Washington, D.C.:

"To that effort, I, along with Governor Culver, traveled to Washington D.C. to discuss disaster aid and recovery two weeks ago. We met with Shaun Donovan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and with Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to President Obama.

Iowa has been allocated more than \$282 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, but only \$157 million has been made available for the state to access from HUD since last year's record tornadoes and flooding. Once Iowa actually obtains access to CDBG dollars, the funds are distributed on a reimbursement basis by the state to various programs that assist recovery efforts such as the Jumpstart Housing Program and flood mitigation programs. Since CDBG funds are not intended to be disaster-relief funds, they come with a number of restrictions which result in a lengthy

and involved process, particularly for disaster-affected homeowners applying for housing assistance.

Both Governor Culver and I expressed frustration with CDBG limitations and asked for more flexibility in order to expedite the process and access the \$125 million already set aside for the state. Greater flexibility with the CDBG funds would allow money to be delivered directly to struggling Iowans and communities faster, helping them recover from last summer's disasters.

Another issue we discussed with officials in Washington involved seeking additional waivers to regulations regarding lead paint abatement. Right now, homes that were built before 1978 must go through this process before homeowners can receive more than \$25,000 in federal dollars through the Jumpstart Housing program. If Iowa were granted a waiver to the current regulation, more Iowans could get back into their homes sooner.

In addition, the Governor and I asked HUD to change its formula and methodology in determining disaster-related allocations of future CDBG dollars to states. The current administration still has \$4 billion in funds to distribute to 33 states that suffered disasters in 2008. In order to accurately reflect the magnitude of disasters in future allocations, all disaster-related needs and impacts should be taken into account.

We also met with Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary and former Iowa Governor, to discuss agricultural needs that came about as a result of the devastating floods and tornadoes of 2008.

It is because of these issues and others that we are here today, with all of you, the people who created the Rebuild Iowa Office.

With all this in mind, let's get started with the updates. . .”

12:15 PM Introduction of Rebuild Iowa Office Update

Emily Hajek, RIO Chief of Staff-

Emily reviewed the current Rebuild Iowa Office set-up, staff and budget (handouts are available online.)

Emily noted that with the Governor signing HF 64 in February the RIO is now an official office and is currently fully staffed; the RIO has staff from other state agencies as well as employees through Merit Resources hired as a temporary basis up to 18 months. Emily continued reviewing the organizational chart.

We are providing case management coordination from the state level. The RIO office organized a conference March 12th for case management in Cedar Rapids. There will be continued needs and the RIO office is aware of the future needs of case

management funds. The Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant Program has rolled out. It is administered by local long term recovery centers. This program will provide up to \$2500 for reimbursement or vouchers for unmet needs.

New housing production is in the works. Some CDBG funds will be used for buyouts, new multi family, and single family new-construction. The hope is to be able to finish construction by the end of 2009 on some of these projects. Also, there are low income housing tax credits available. RIO is working to pair up funds with needs. Businesses and non-profits were other recommendations. SBA and Jumpstart loans have helped businesses that were affected by the disaster. Department of Labor will be rolling out a program for businesses with fewer than 25 employees. Also, a rental program for businesses to help with rent of space in flood-affected areas as well as commercial landlords fill their spaces will be rolling out soon.

RIO is trying to promote sustainable smart growth building principles. The office is also working on historical preservation bills. Also, legislation was filed to allow for more projects for Historic preservation grants. House File 95 local option sales tax for Linn County passed. Legislation introduced for National Flood Insurance Program participation. There is work on legislation requiring participation in NFIP.

In the beginning of the RIO office, we were working with 10 communities; we have expanded that to include an additional 22 communities.

New floodplain mapping is currently underway. Fifteen million dollars has been identified out of CDBG funds that can be used for floodplain mapping. It will be a multiyear mapping process, but this will create up-to-date accurate maps for the entire state.

The RIO office is working on a strategic planning process. Ron Randazzo is using his experience gained when he worked on strategic planning with the National Guard. The RIO office is going through an intense process to ensure that we will meet our strategic goals.

Emily stated most programs not within RIO. There are other departments within the state that we are coordinating with. RIO is working with more than 16 other state agencies as well as 20-25 federal agencies.

- **Review of 120-day report recommendations and status (handout is available online)**
 1. Individual services and guidance
 - \$1.3 million to case management
 - Long Term Recovery Committee Summit held on March 12, 2009 in Cedar Rapids
 - \$10 million in State funds for unmet needs, \$2,500 for personal property, food, furniture, mental health, and home repairs.
 - Our toll free number and Iowa concerns hotline are still active and assist callers. It also allows us to track some of the main issues.

2. Housing

- Rental repair pilot program was the first of its kind in the U.S. and it went well and we are hoping that FEMA will use in the future.
- 187 people have moved out of FEMA mobile homes.
- There are reports that FEMA has been pushing people out of FEMA mobile homes. We are trying to work with those individuals to assist them in finding an individual permanent housing solution
- Over 2,000 people have benefited from Jumpstart Housing
- Funding is now available for rental property repair
- Low income housing tax credits are available
- Program guidelines are being finalized for new housing production

3. Business and Non-profits

- Jumpstart forgivable loans
- SBA loans
- \$5,000 grant through Iowa Workforce Development
- Rental assistance for businesses through IDED

4. Infrastructure

- EPA Smart growth has 5 communities that have qualified.
- Infrastructure study through IDED is currently underway.
- Community Development Block Grant funds have been awarded
- Bonding legislation is in process

5. Funding City and Counties

- Legislative issues to assist local governments (HF64)
- Flexibility in times of disaster

6. Community Identity

- Cultural heritage and sustain community identity.
- Working with non-profits and museums on their funding sources
- Historic preservation

7. Regional Planning

- Started with 10 communities and now we are offering assistance to 22 more communities.
- Language in HF64 to create a coordinating council and we are in the process of setting that up.
- Coordination with Councils of Government
- Inter-Agency meetings help regularly with state and federal partners

8. Flood planning and Management

- Legislature following bills to require community to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program
- Promoting tornado safe rooms

- Green and sustainable growth principles
9. Floodplain Mapping
 - \$15 Million has been identified to complete mapping
 10. RIO Establishment
 - RIO established a strategic plan
 - RIO created in code through HF 64
 11. Promoting, supporting, and communications
 - Promoting communication and outreach will discuss more in Tina's presentation

General Dardis wanted to make sure it was understood that the programs Emily discussed are not all RIO programs. We are the coordinating agency. The programs are administered by Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD) Iowa Workforce Development (IWD), Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and more. There are approximately 16 state and 20-25 federal agencies with which we coordinate. The only program directly administered by our office is case management. We are not trying to take the credit for all of these programs and want to acknowledge the other agencies while providing an overall recovery report.

1:00 PM

Legislative Report

- **Susan Judkins Josten, Intergovernmental Affairs Director**

Susan stated that every one of the RIAC recommendations put into legislation survived the first legislative funnel deadline in one way or another. The focus is mainly going to be on appropriation bills as it is crunch time now with legislation.

Susan then did a bill by bill review of the RIO Legislative Tracking handout (available online).

Follow up Questions

1. Brent Halling-
 - a. Where does funding for RIO stand?
 - i. \$1.25 million has been added to Administration and Regulation budget this week. Rep. Bruce Hunger stated that all budget amounts most likely will be reduced. All budget totals can change. The \$1.25 million is what is needed for RIO through the sunset date and is requested up front. If the amount is reduced, we will have to come back next year and ask for more.
 - ii. Sunset date of June 2011-\$48k is needed in FY 09. FY 11 is when most of it will be needed. EDA and CDBG funding is being utilized now.

- b. Jim Davis wanted to state that though HF64 and SF44 passed with unanimous support and that is a great accomplishment, there are still many with unmet needs.

1:30 PM

Overview of Community and Regional Recovery Planning (CaRRP) team work

• Susan Dixon, RIO Long-Term Recovery Director

(Handouts available online)

The actual tool kit being utilized and community plans are available on www.rio.iowa.gov.

- CaRPP activities are directly tied to some RIAC recommendations.
 - #4 Infrastructure Investments, incorporation of smart development principals.
 - #7 Ensure policies and programs sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.
 - #8 Lead in developing guidance and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multijurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.

- Inter-Agency Coordination Team Meetings (IACT) are organized and lead by the RIO office. The purpose of these meetings is to share information and agency updates, coordinate and collaborate disaster response and recovery activities. Also, these meetings provide an opportunity to review and discuss specific recovery projects.
 - IACT has reviewed projects and recovery issues including:
 1. Waverly Inflatable Dam
 2. Parkersburg Emergency Services Building
 3. Parkersburg Plaza
 4. Coralville Transit Project
 5. Iowa City Wastewater Treatment relocation
 6. Cedar Rapids Co-Generation
 7. Lead Base Paint Abatement issues
 8. Debris removal and solid waste/landfill issues

- CaRPP has teamed up with FEMA Long Term Recovery to assist several communities. The process includes:
 1. Assistance
 2. Vision
 3. Goals
 4. Projects and programs
 5. Implementation

RIO's CaRPP team is working on community recovery planning in 10 communities in a partnership with FEMA and local COGs.

Common needs for recovery were identified and the following recovery tools were developed:

1. Communications Mapping tool
2. Decision making tool
3. Project and program development guild
4. Iowa resources guide

CaRPP is reaching out to 22 additional communities to ensure these communities have the tools needed to address recovery issues. Also, this provides the opportunity for the leaders in these communities to share information about the challenges they face in the recovery efforts.

The Smart Growth Technical Assistance Program is very competitive. 8 out of our 10 main communities put in applications. Five communities were selected for this assistance. No Iowa community has every received this type of assistance in the past. Susan Dixon said, "Incorporating sustainable redevelopment policies in Iowa's recovery not only reduces our impact on the environment, but also fosters economic growth and helps to reduce the potential impacts of future natural disasters."

2:00 PM

**Overview of media activities, including weekly expenditure update
Tina Potthoff, RIO Communications Director (handout available online)**

Tina thanked everyone for taking the time to be at the meeting today.

One thing the RIO Communications team wants to do is ensure our press releases provide one common recovery message.

RIO's communication team is working to communicate their message effectively to all forms of media including using the RIO Web site, press releases, Twitter and Facebook. There are many communities that use the information on the RIO Web site to post on their own Web site. The communications team is happy to offer that service to them.

Communications is working to:

- Communicate- get the word out there.
- Further convey – take that information that might be given to the media and make sure it reaches the community
- Clarify- clarify the message. There are many messages out there that reach the communities. Make sure the message is clear and understandable.

In order to provide transparency, we post RIO press releases on the Web site. Those constituents who do not have access to printers can request a hard copy press release and they will be mailed.

Press conferences are one way the RIO Communications team accurately communicates its message. One such event was Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano's visit to Iowa. There were some reporters that asked why she did not go in to some flood-affected neighborhoods. There were a number of reasons, including time and weather. However, she did have a packet with information and pictures about the flood affected communities. Another important press conference was the opening of the RIO Cedar Rapids office. This satellite location in Cedar Rapids is located in the same building as the Linn County Long-Term Recovery Committee.

Right now, we are working on a press conference for the Iowa Unmet Needs Disaster Grant program. \$10 million is available under the program. Families and households can apply for \$2,500 in assistance for unmet needs. We want to ensure Iowans are aware of this program.

RIO's Web site is a great resource to help disaster-impacted constituents navigate their way through the recovery progress. It has links to all sorts of disaster programs. There is also the ability for constituents to submit photos and stories for posting.

The RIO Web site averages 3,200 visits each month, which skyrocketed to 7,100 in September and October due to the rollout of the Jumpstart Housing program.

The Iowa Recovery Times focuses on an audience of disaster victims and those involved in disaster recovery. There is also a one-page information handout produced once a week geared toward lawmakers called the Legislative Weekly.

RIO Communications is working with HSEMD and FEMA to send out letters to those who have reached their FEMA max award and will likely qualify for the Iowa Unmet Needs Grant. They are also working to put out the program information using resources other than just press releases.

RIO is teaming up with Iowa Workforce Development to promote their Emergency Public Jobs program. It allows those who have been displaced by the floods to get back on their feet. The database for those who are offering a job is smaller than those looking for jobs.

The Businesses Rental Assistance Program will be rolling out soon. The program will be separate from Jumpstart Small Business and will offer an easier application that will be available for businesses to help with rental assistance for up to \$50,000.

In the weeks ahead, the RIO Communications team wants to show positive stories of recovery by focusing on rebuilding and progress.

RIO communications has been tracking what funds have been promised/committed to Iowa by releasing charts every Friday to show where the money is in the system. Iowa is ahead of every disaster except for Ike and Gustav in terms of overall funding.

We are also trying to help tell the story of when people are promised money versus when they actually receive the money through this tracking system. This is very complex and the better people understand that this money will not move as fast as we would like, the easier it will be to manage expectations. This tracking program can also be used to make agencies more accountable for progress and disbursement of funds.

Recoveries are painful and difficult and take a long time. But when you compare Iowa with Texas, it took Texas 30 months to disburse any Community Development Block Grant funds and it only took Iowa 7 months to do so.

Tina also reviewed slide information on Future Projects.

Emily Hajek-Review of Expenditures slide presentation

Every Friday we have been releasing charts on expenditures (charts were not printed but were emailed to Commission members and are available online).

- Blue is money spent, Green is what has been approved for state and local use, yellow is what has been allocated to Iowa.
- CDBG dollars- Money has to be drawn down, and can't be spent until the bid is secured and the contractor is secured. It can only take 10 days at the state level, and then another 10 days to get it out to the contractor locally.

One comment on CDBG dollars-you can never get money to the affected areas fast enough. Has the disbursement in Iowa been fast enough? No, but if you want to compare us to other states, Ron Randazzo will be doing some apples to apples comparisons with similar disasters.

FEMA will use Iowa as a pilot state on what went well, what went wrong and what could have gone better. This will assist in future planning for disasters nationwide.

2:30 PM Commission members' roundtable discussion Facilitated by Ron Randazzo, RIO Strategic Planner

Questions:

1. What's coming out of your communities and are we on track?

Mark Wandro-

Mark said he didn't have as close of a connection to the disasters. One of the things he'd like to see happen is for government to waive the strings that bind during a disaster. Oakville for example was worried about flooding again, levees weren't fixed,

etc. Lives and property are at risk, during times of emergency -- those restrictions need to be lifted.

Brent Halling-

Brent said he wasn't affected either. He did encourage the RIO to keep federal agencies involved, especially with the levees. He said the difference between tornadoes and flooding is that when it comes to disasters like Parkersburg, timeliness and quickness need to happen as quickly as it did in Parkersburg.

Amy Truax-

Community Disaster Grants that passed in HF 64 -- based off the formula that was used, the allocations came back differently than what was originally stated.

Dave Miller responded about the formula. The issue with the CDG formula that the legislature wanted to use was to get money out the door quickly. The thought was to get base funding information. HSEMD encouraged them to wait for Public Assistance data to be done. The first of May would have been the completion of the Project Worksheets that would have delayed it. When the initial allocations were made by zip code, it wasn't a true demonstration of where the damage occurred. Since then, HSEMD geo-coded the information. The application deadline is April 1st which was set by the legislature. The zip code formula is no longer being used.

Amy Truax-

Amy said the CDG money helps, but there are still shortfalls. Some of the other issues she stated involved there is a difference between tornadoes and floods. There are homes that are rebuilt already; due to the zoning, coding and inspection issues she now has a leak in her new bathroom. There needs to be something to enforce those things. Contractors are getting paid and then paying sub contractors, now there are lien issues.

She also said she had some positive information to report from Parkersburg -- in April, playgrounds will be rebuilt, Miracle playground equipment is helping provide equipment, and it was a miracle that no children were killed. May 25 is the commemoration weekend celebration.

Jim Davis-

Jim has been back in his home for 3 weeks now. He said, it is a great experience for him but wanted everyone to keep in mind how many are still without. Hazard mitigation grants take time and it leaves Iowans in limbo and that is really tough when a citizen is displaced from a home. Jim said he tells everyone to go to rio.iowa.gov because he knows they will get help there. The Jumpstart programs have been used in his region.

Bill Gerhard-

He sees people grappling with do we stay here or do we move? Where should we go? Rebuild or relocate? How do we come up with solutions?

Mike Earley-

He said it appears the people in Central Iowa have forgotten what Eastern Iowa has been through. He hears the concern for the future is extremely high and that nothing has been done to prevent this from happening again. The recession and the fallout have really affected this process as well. School enrollments are lower, and it's hurting the communities. It's not on RIO. He said RIO's communication levels have been phenomenal but Central Iowa has already forgotten what other communities have been going through.

Mike King-

Mike said he echoed the others concerns. In SW Iowa, they had homes that were flooded, but the further west you go --not a lot of money appeared to be flowing to his counterparts as quickly. He said he hears there are so many disaster assistance programs that it confuses people who don't work with them every day. He was especially concerned about the COG's.

RIO stated that it brought all the COG's together and tried to streamline the process for everyone, and continue to try and find out what each of them need. There is administrative assistance available, but it is not always taken.

Emily Hajek commented that RIO is trying to assist in making the rules and guidelines more clear and easy to access.

General Dardis commented that we're working on a guide to assist in the process.

Mike King stated that there is a lot of red tape and he is a firm believer in the time of disaster we need to streamline this with accountability.

General Dardis stated that during disasters and emergencies less red tape is definitely needed. He said the RIO is involved and trying to make improvements to the programs.

Mike King said the hassle they went through to get the county landfill, which is owned by the county but the county had to wait for the Mayor. EMA has done a great job of planning for the future if something like Parkersburg should happen again.

Beverly Wharton-

Beverly said being in the NW part of the state it's hard for her since it's not a topic of conversation. The press releases that come from RIO are helpful and keep her informed.

Bill Bywater-

Bill said he thinks we're making progress getting funds where they are needed.

2. We've been working hard on continuous improvement at the RIO, what is your guidance to us are we on the right track? Does this Commission continue?

Jim Davis-

Jim said it's only been a little over 10 months, and we've been building a new small business from scratch and making it up as we go along, getting staff cherry picked from all different agencies. Jim said what we wanted early on was a clearinghouse for all information, that's what we wanted and that is RIO.

Bill Gerhard-

Bill said he is anxious to hear how this disaster compares to those in other areas. He also congratulated the Governor, Commission and staff.

Mark Wandro-

Mark stated that it was good to see the list that was created from this Commission is still getting worked on everyday and not sitting on a desk.

General Dardis stated we've come a long way because of the RIAC's credibility. Legislators are taking a hard look at all recommendations.

Mike King asked when we will have mitigation funding available for communities.

Dave Miller said the timeline for applications for property acquisitions which has been pared down to meet the benefit cost analysis -- communities had until April 1, 2009 to get their information in. HSEMD is working with FEMA to get through the process quickly. Dave said we tend to think of mitigation as a recovery process, it's not. It's to lessen the damage that will occur during the next disaster.

Emily Hajek-

Emily said we have an opportunity with the new administration, but right now money gets put into existing programs and not changed to fit what is needed. We're working with other funding sources to help with other funding, such as the Governor's bonding bill, the USDA funding, CDBG for infrastructure.

Dave Miller-

Dave said the only timeline he can provide is the timeline for applications. For the housing flood mitigation, for removing housing from the flood plain, the timeline depends on what FEMA approves and we are working to speed up that process. Don't forget to look at federal issues, from CDBG funding, EDA funding. A lot of these agencies are not meant for disaster recovery. We are trying to make these funding sources work for disaster recovery for Iowa.

Emily Hajek-

Emily said we looked at what people needed and created a new program revolving around that. We need federal programs that can be turned out in times of disaster. We are working with other funding sources. EDA has money that we are working with for infrastructure, a USDA program for retaining the water, and CDGB infrastructure funds for an inflatable dam in Waverly. We are working on a variety of ways to use these funds. Yet, people and their homes and businesses must come first when balancing these things.

Bill Bywater-

Bill said earlier in the day we discussed the mapping, \$15 million, is that enough?

Emily –

Emily said it's approximately \$23 million, but they had money set aside so all that was needed was \$15 million.

2nd part of the question-does this commission continue to go every 3 months and if so, do we look at Gen Dardis staying Chair?

General Dardis-

One of the things added from HF64 was a coordinating council with more members, legislative and others. The only oversight for the RIO is this commission; General Dardis said he thinks it's still viable and asked how often the RIAC would like to be updated.

Mike Earley-

Mike said he thinks the RIAC completed what it was set out to do. He said he is proud of the recommendations and would hate to see another commission sitting around taking up valuable time.

Bill Gerhard-

Bill said he'd like to stick around for the Mitigation part of things.

Jim Davis-

Jim said that there is a large part of him that wants to claim a huge victory and go home. We provided reports that were done on time. HF 64 was significant; all of the RIAC's recommendations have been transcribed into legislation. As a business man, he agrees with Mike Earley. He said we've turned this over to policy makers.

General Dardis-The Rebuild Iowa Office sunsets in 2011 but the recovery will still continue. We owe the legislature a transition plan when we sunset.

Emily Hajek-

Emily said we want to reiterate that we do use the 45 and 120 day reports. They are living documents. In fact, RIO sat down with these reports to go to

the legislature. One of the things we will lay out when RIO ends is what else needs to be done to keep the recovery process going.

Amy Truax-

Amy said she likes that there is so much interaction from so many different types of businesses and communities. She didn't know if the Commission needed formal meetings, but the phone calls with email documentation would be helpful.

Brent Halling-

Brent said the RIAC has met the criteria that was set before them, but he wanted to ensure that water issues would be addressed.

Beverly Wharton-

Beverly said she concurred with the comments and that she was not sure at this point how much she could add to the process.

Bill Bywater-

Bill said he thought the discussion would be better suited after the legislative session.

Mike King-

Mike said he agreed with the others, but if needed—he was willing to come back.

Mark Wandro-

Mark said if the RIO needed the RIAC, he would be willing to be there and help provide oversight to the RIO.

General Dardis-

General Dardis said more discussion needs to happen with the Governor and that the RIAC would wait until the legislature convenes prior to making the decision on the Commission.

Tina Potthoff-

Tina asked if the commission members can be part of the coordinating council.

Emily Hajek-

Emily said that might be a possibility. Regardless, we will continue to keep members involved with calls, presentations, and meetings if they choose. The RIAC can call anytime with questions or updates. The RIO is required to provide quarterly reports throughout 2009.

**3:30 PM Discussion of the future role of the commission, quarterly reports
Facilitated by Ron Randazzo, RIO Strategic Planner**

RIAC quarterly reports will be used as the Legislative quarterly reports

3:50 PM Closing remarks and plans for next meeting

Lt. General Ron Dardis, Commission Chairman

Closing comments-

“Thanks for being here. I am proud of the RIO team, and have their heart and soul in this. And you should have a sense of comfort with the RIO team. We are part of the overall recovery. We have a role to play to develop your recommendations; RIO will continue to get your recommendations passed, if not this year, next year. We’re going to try and secure all the dollars we can, and may need to take a few trips to DC to get it done we’ll go back again, Iowa needs it’s fair share. Communication needs transparency; we’ll keep the status of programs out there so people know. Being involved in trying to improve the process is very important. Being involved in trying to improve the process is very important. The federal programs need improvement. We need to help redesign these federal programs. We came together last summer. There was a lot of time required for trips and task force meetings. We all stepped up and did what we set out to do. We created the 120 day report where we looked more long range strategies. I’ve listened to people tell their stories, I’ve been to the neighborhoods. Thank you for your hard work serving on the commission.”