GREEN PAPER

Recovering from the Storms, Planning for the Future: A Safer, Smarter, Stronger Iowa

*In Britain, a **green paper** is a tentative government report of a proposal without any commitment to specific action; the first step in changing the law. A green paper presents a concept and serves as a discussion document intended to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation on a particular topic. The State of Iowa's Rebuild Iowa Office adopted the term and intention of a green paper to invite interested individuals and organizations to contribute views, data, and information surrounding this title topic.*

Rebuild Iowa Office

Community and Regional Recovery Planning

July 2009, Revision 2

Comments, data, and feedback on the proposals outlined in this green paper are requested. Please submit information to:

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SECTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

May 25 through August 13, 2008: 85 of Iowa's 99 counties were coping with what has been documented as one of the most devastating natural disasters in the United States. Lives were lost, homes and business destroyed, farmland and animals were laid to waste. The disruption and loss to people, businesses, agriculture, and the economy, as well as to the infrastructure of our communities, education, cultural, and health care systems, is still being calculated a year later.

On June 27, 2008, governor Culver signed Executive Order Seven, which set in motion an intense process to engage Iowans at all levels to make recommendations to the Governor on rebuilding and recovery of the State. Immediately, the Governor named a 15-member Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) and created the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO) to give structure, focus, and support to this process.

While damage assessments are estimated between $8 and $10 billion dollars to date, the focus of this green paper will not be on recovery programs. The focus will be on what the State can do towards policy development aimed at "rebuilding a resilient Iowa that's safe, sustainable, and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment and rich cultural history today and tomorrow;"[1] the vision that grew from RIAC members listening to what Iowan's voiced as their need and desire for the future.

In an urgent call to action, RIAC reported priority recommendations (see *Appendix A*) to the Governor and Legislature in November 2008 in its 120-Day Report. To achieve the vision for a safer, smarter, stronger Iowa, recommendations and strategies for implementation call for the State of Iowa to:

- Take the lead in and provide technical assistance to support communities and regions in developing local land use policies and practices to support flood plain management and hazard mitigation.

[1] From Rebuild Iowa Office, April 2009 Quarterly Report, Letter from the Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director, a summary of RIO vision statement, Page 3.

- Lead in planning and establishing policy regarding incorporation of smart development principles, green building practices, energy efficiency measures, universal design, and livability into infrastructure and housing initiatives.
- Develop guidance and support for an integrated, regional planning process for recovery and ongoing initiatives.
- Adopt a core or base-level land use policy to protect Iowans from the impacts of flooding, based on current data and with involvement of local governments in the process. Establish state policy for development and redevelopment in floodplains that is linked with statewide floodplain and watershed management efforts, providing guidance to individuals and developers.
- Take the lead in and provide incentives and resources for communities within watershed regions of Iowa to convene a regional approach to flood plain planning and management.

In summary, RIAC recommendations call upon the State of Iowa to engage in integrated, regional, and state-wide planning to address disaster recovery in such a way that mitigates future loss, protects our resources, and adapts our economy to a changing environment. This is the essence of a safer, smarter, and stronger Iowa.

OBJECTIVE

While the mission of the RIO is focused on recovery and rebuilding after the 2008 disasters, the vision of the agency looks toward the future; building a resilient Iowa that is safe, sustainable, and economically strong. It is toward this end and based upon the RIAC recommendations that RIO is engaged in long-term planning. **The objective of this green paper aims to set forth a statewide planning framework that includes over-arching smart growth principles, a plan of action with strategies for implementation, and a structure to support the planning process.** It summarizes important background information about research on living with floods, discusses various planning efforts that are currently taking place independently, and aims to prepare a debate about a shared responsibility for developing integrated planning on a local and regional level that meets state-level standards and policy. It presents a basic framework from which to build a planning process and structure, and suggests various strategies, tools, and incentives for consideration.

It is clear that this must be a comprehensive effort and the RIO therefore invites stakeholders to contribute data, knowledge, and views on the most efficient policy instruments to reach this objective as well as debate the merit of the overall concept. With the collective data, knowledge, and input gathered from stakeholders, a policy proposal could be drafted recommending a smart growth planning process for the State of Iowa.

PROCESS TIMELINE

SUMMER 2009: discuss green paper with key stakeholders and gather data, opinions, information and knowledge to advance the concept of state-wide planning into action. Collaborate with key stakeholders to draft proposal on local, regional, and statewide planning processes based upon smart growth principles incorporating information learned during the green paper discussions.

FALL 2009: share proposal with key stakeholders and gather additional input.

October 1st – submit legislative proposal to the Governor.

In addition to the proposal, RIO, working in collaboration with other state agencies, will be submitting policy recommendations based on related RIAC recommendations, including:

- Floodplain Management Task Force :(HF756) requires Iowa's Water Resources Coordinating Council (IWRCC) to submit funding and policy recommendations by 11/15/09 promoting watershed management to reduce the adverse impact of future flooding on residents, businesses, communities, and soil and water quality.
- Flood Insurance Report: (HF759) A report will be compiled by 11/15/09 by the commissioner of insurance, in collaboration with the Rebuild Iowa Office (RIO), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD) to include recommendations on policies and incentives to expand the availability and procurement of flood insurance in the state.
- Weather Safe Rooms: (HF705) requires State Building Code Commissioner to develop standards for use by property owners who wish to incorporate weather safe rooms into public and private buildings and work with RIO, HSEMD, and DNR in recommending best safe room practices to the governor and general assembly by 12/15/09.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM LIVING WITH FLOODS

To strengthen the connection between the 2008 flooding in Iowa and the need for integrated, comprehensive planning even further, we turn to Dr. Gerald Galloway[2], one of the county's

[2] A civil engineer, public administrator and geographer, Dr. Galloway has served as a consultant to the Executive Office of the President, and has assisted the U.S. Water Resources Council, World Bank, Organization of American States, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and various other organizations in water resources related activities. From 1989-1990 Galloway was president of the Universities Council on Water Resources, an association of nearly 100 universities and colleges active in water resources research and education. He served as a presidential appointee to the Mississippi River Commission (1988-1995) and was assigned by the White House to lead the Interagency Flood Plain Management Review Committee (1993-1994) in assessing the causes of the 1993 Mississippi River floods and proposing a long-term approach to floodplain management. He has lectured and written extensively on the management of water resources. He is a Professor at the University of Maryland.

leading experts in the management of water resources. With his unique perspective and keen understanding of flooding, Dr. Galloway presented "Learning from the 1993 Flood: Lost Recommendations, Politics, and the Future"[3] at the 2009 Iowa Water Conference held March 10, 2009, at Iowa State University. He also has ties to Iowa as a major partner of the Hydroscience & Engineering Department at the University of Iowa in Iowa City for a Science and Technology Center Initiative grant submitted to the National Science Foundation to develop the "Center for Integrative Research and Collaborative Learning."

Part of Dr. Galloway's "Learning from the 1993 Flood's" presentation is re-capped in the remaining portion of this section:

> Flooding is a national problem and the problem with flooding is us (due to our desire to utilize flood-prone land for our own purposes).
>
>
>
>
> After the great floods of the lower Mississippi in 1927 the U.S. Congress set policy for us. They understood that the drainage basin in the Midwest, that takes care of 41% of the United States, sends a lot of water south and they established the Flood Control Act of 1928 to enable the federal government to take charge of flood control in the Lower Mississippi Valley.
>
> Later, after even wider flooding, U.S. Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1936 through which the federal government took charge of flood control for the nation. This act states, "destructive floods upon the rivers…constitute a menace to national welfare; it is the sense of Congress that flood control is a proper activity of the Federal Government." It goes on to say, "…the Federal Government should improve or participate in improvements…for flood control purposes if the benefits to whomsoever they accrue are in excess of the estimated costs…."
>
> Flood control measures began with engineered structures such as levees, dams, and floodwalls which have without question provided protection to millions of people and billions of dollars of property. However, the result of upland and flood plain development has substantially altered the natural environment and has caused severe problems for habitats and ecosystems. Beginning in the 1940's, Dr. Gilbert White at the University of Chicago and later Jim Goddard with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) advocated for non-structural approaches for land use to hold water where it falls, as additional means of dealing with flooding.

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[3] Dr. Galloway's presentation, "Learning from the 1993 Flood: Lost Recommendations, Politics, and the Future" 2009 Iowa Water Conference, March 10, 2009, Iowa State University; http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/p26487614/

As flooding continued and destruction was becoming more costly, the U.S. Congress added disaster relief programs, including the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 that made flood insurance available to property owners in the 100-year flood plain if the community agreed to local land use controls and flood plain management ordinances. For example, the owners of structures located in the 100-year floodplain elevated the first floor above the floodplain.

Following the devastating 1993 floods Dr. Galloway was asked to chair the Flood Plain Management Review Committee to examine the causes of the 1993 flood, evaluate flood plain management programs, and to recommend changes in policies, programs, and procedures. This report was submitted to the President of the United States in 1994 with the conclusions of the study to follow:

1. Major floods have been significant hydrometeorologic events meaning it rained, and rained, and rained.

2. Major floods will continue to occur. We are facing climate change; we know that things will change. "We don't know when the next 100-year flood will be; there is a 1% chance each year and it could occur three or four years in a row."

July 1993, significant hydrometeorologic events produced so much rain that another great lake seems to appear on this Doppler radar graphic.

3. People and property are at risk in the flood plain throughout the United States. Fourteen percent of non-federal property in the contiguous United States is located in the flood plain. Most flood plain residents don't understand the risk, many structures are unnecessarily located in the flood plain, and people are not buying flood insurance.

4. The situation isn't getting any better given increased development and growth, climate change and climate variability, and the uncertainty of the future. We know that there will be perhaps less rainfall but when it comes it will be gully washers and big floods.

5. There is no silver bullet. We cannot look towards one single thing to deal with the problem.

The Review Committee focused on three goals in 1994: to reduce flood damages, protect and enhance the natural environment, and to continue growth for a healthy

economy. The challenge is to tie sustainable development principles in land use strategies on a local, regional, state, and national level.

The Review Committee made the following recommendations.

1. Share responsibility and costs for flood plain management among federal, state and local governments and impacted populace. When the federal government took over with legislation many state and local governments and the people who live there stepped away to let the federal government deal with the problems with flooding. However, land use determination begins at the local and state level. Planning must be a shared responsibility.

2. Avoid the use of the flood plain for development if you don't need to. When there are other alternatives, use them. Often development happens in a flood plain because the land is flat and less expensive.

3. Minimize damages to development that does occur and has occurred. This can be done by:

    - Holding more water on the land where it falls, restoring upland areas, holding water in wetlands, and by the use of dams -- large and small.

    - Flood proofing structures. This includes elevating above the 100-year flood plain, reinforcing walls and doors, and moving critical utilities and heirlooms to second story.

    - Acquiring marginal lands; structures in these areas are not serving people well if they are repetitively hit by floods.

    - Use levees and floodwalls when justified**.** It makes sense to use this method when it is economically feasible.

        i. While levees and floodwalls may be viable options, the Committee made the following critical observations:

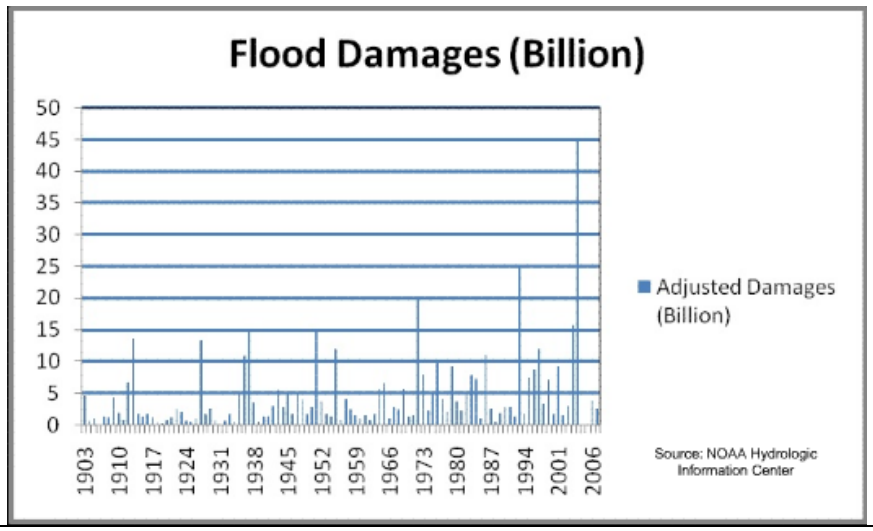
            1. The current flood damage reduction system in the Upper Mississippi River Basin represents a loose aggregation of federal, local, and individual levees and reservoirs. This aggregation does not ensure the desired reduction in the vulnerability of flood plain activities to damages.

            2. Many levees are poorly sited and will fail again in the future. Without change in current federal programs, sources of these levees will remain eligible for post-disaster support.

            3. Population centers must be protected against at least the 500-year or greater flood.

4. Mitigate damages that will occur in future flood events by use of early warning systems, insuring those at risk, and educating present and potential flood plain occupants.

5. Take advantage of technology. We have the technology to map out where risks and challenges are located.



Borrowed from Dr. Galloways' presentation; this graph illustrates the rising cost of disaster damages between 1903 and 2006. If a trend line were added to this graph, it would show that costs are increasing exponentially.

Memories of floods fade. Governments lead people to believe they are safe, and we don't like to talk about or prepare for disasters. Levees are poorly sited and will fail again. Monetary damages continue to increase. Remember, nature bats last.

The challenge is to tie sustainable development principles in land use strategies on a local, regional, state and national level.

Dr. Galloway described a way that we can live with floods by recognizing and managing the risks. The Flood Plain Management Review Committee's report[4] to the President of the United States in 1994 and Dr. Galloway in March 2009 outlined the many challenges that we faced in Iowa then and now. Land use strategies are not without controversy; the challenge is to find ways to tie smart growth principles to land use for the protection of our resources and for future generations of Iowans. Section II outlines a proposed pathway to meet the challenge.

[4]Flood Plain Management Review Committee, Dr. Galloway, Chair, *Sharing the Challenge, Flood Plain Management into the 21st Century*, 1994, http://www.floods.org/PDF/Sharing_the_Challenge.pdf

SECTION II: IOWA SMART GROWTH

FRAMEWORK FOR INTEGRATED LOCAL, REGIONAL, & STATE PLANNING

This section proposes a framework for considering the principle attributes of an integrated local, regional, and state-wide planning system for the State of Iowa. These sections are to be considered working drafts and are put forward for discussion and debate. The framework consists of:

- Smart growth principles to guide strategy and policy development.
- A plan of action including strategies for a comprehensive approach to planning.
- A proposed structure to support the process including suggested tools for implementing an integrated planning system.

A. Iowa Smart Growth Principles to Guide Strategy and Policy Development

The Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) envisioned "rebuilding a resilient Iowa that's safe, sustainable, and economically strong for its people, reaffirming its ties to the land, rivers, environment, and rich cultural history today and tomorrow," and called for the development of smart development principles to guide recovery decision-making. Borrowing and synthesizing ideas from other states and government agencies, research publications, and Iowa's values and circumstances, draft Iowa Smart Growth Principles are proposed in *Appendix B*. **All proposed land use and watershed management policies, guidelines, and standards within this framework are intended to be measured against these principles.** The principles may aptly be considered sustainable development concepts as they comprehensively address economic, environmental, and cultural vitality.

Iowa Smart Growth Principles

1. Promote Clean Energy Production & Increased Energy Efficiency
2. Increase Diversity of Job & Business Opportunities
3. Concentrate Development & Mix Land Uses
4. Expand Diversity in Housing Opportunities & Choices
5. Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
6. Protect, Preserve & Wisely Utilize Natural Resources & Working Lands
7. Incorporate Green Building & Infrastructure Design
8. Provide for a Variety of Transportation Choices
9. Advance Equity: Predictable, Fair & Cost Effective Development Decisions
10. Stakeholder, Community & Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions

See *Appendix B* for full page version.

Intent of Smart Growth Principles

Iowa shall protect, maintain, and wisely utilize its built and natural environment by incorporating smart growth principles in development and resource management decisions. Application of these principles through integration and coordination of policies, programs, and investment decisions will ensure Iowa grows in a manner that improves resilience in the face of natural disasters, grows and adapts our economy, protects our natural resources, and safeguards our quality of life.

Questions

- Does your agency/organization have established principles regarding sustainability concepts to guide program development and investment decision-making?
    - Are they mandatory?
    - How do you measure compliance?
    - How do you measure impacts or objective achievement?

B. Plan of Action

A one-page Plan of Action is proposed outlining a comprehensive set of priorities and strategies for future land use and resource management decisions that are consistent with the proposed Iowa Smart Growth Principles. These strategies were developed with the underlying premise that impacted individuals, communities, regions, the State, and Federal government have a shared responsibility in the risk, burdens, and benefits of land use and resource management decisions. These strategies represent a compilation of RIAC recommendations, consultation with experts, and research.

The strategies are divided into three priority categories:

- Reduce damage from natural disasters and enhance public safety
- Protect and enhance our natural resources
- Identify, plan, and manage future growth

APPENDIX C

Proposed Smart Growth Plan of Action with
Proposed Key Priorities and Strategies for Implementation

Priority: Reduce Damage from Natural Disasters & Enhance Public Safety	*Priority:* Protect & Enhance Our Natural Resources	*Priority:* Identify, Plan & Manage Future Growth
Shared Responsibility of impacted individuals, communities, regions, state & federal entities		
Strategies: A. Manage Flood Plains & Watersheds B. Hold Water Where it Falls C. Integrate Local Hazard Mitigation Plans D. Identify & Measure Risk E. Prepare & Educate	*Strategies:* A. Manage Flood Plains & Watersheds B. Hold Water Where it Falls C. Integrate Local Hazard Mitigation Plans D. Identify & Measure Risk E. Prepare & Educate F. Acquire Environmentally Sensitive Lands G. Preserve Prime Agricultural Lands	*Strategies:* A. Manage Flood Plains & Watersheds B. Hold Water Where it Falls C. Integrate Hazard Mitigation Plans D. Identify & Measure Risk E. Prepare & Educate F. Acquire Environmentally Sensitive Lands G. Preserve Prime Agricultural Lands H. Implement Green Building & Infrastructure Techniques I. Develop Distinctive, Healthy Communities with a Strong Sense of Place J. Engage in Integrated Local, Regional & State Planning K. Ensure Fair, Equitable & Efficient Decision-Making Processes L. Utilize Transparent & Meaningful Public Input Processes
Strategies will drive land use & watershed management policy/guidelines/standards that will affect local/regional/state planning & development.		
The Iowa Smart Growth Principles will guide the development of policy/guidelines/standards.		
As land use and watershed management policy/guidelines/standards are developed, the implementation structure, process & tools must support the multi-jurisdictional nature of these strategies and active participation of all interested stakeholders.		
		Descriptions of proposed strategies follow.

See *Appendix C* for full page version.

The chart, *Appendix C*, is intended to be read from left to right, with the strategies cumulatively building across the categories. It is important to understand that these strategies could be carried out pragmatically through coordinated efforts of existing State agencies such as the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM), Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), and the Department of Transportation, to name a few. **It is not suggested in this green paper that one single state agency or department would have authority for implementing these strategies independent of current agencies.**

A brief description of the proposed strategies can be found in *Appendix C* following the chart. Policies, guidelines, and/or standards will be developed from these strategies and measured against the Iowa Smart Growth Principles.

The remaining emphasis of this paper proposes a structure in which to implement a statewide, integrated planning process; however, further development of these strategies into policy or guidance is an ongoing, parallel effort. An integrated approach to implementing these strategies will ensure greater effectiveness and efficiency.

Questions

- What strategies would you add to this framework?
- What decision-making and public input processes work well for you?

C. Statewide Planning Structure & Tools

RIAC members made the creation of an integrated, regional planning process for disaster recovery and ongoing initiatives one of its priorities for rebuilding safer, stronger, smarter Iowa. Such a structure should provide for a shared responsibility in the development and implementation of smart growth strategies on a local, regional, and state level. It is important that the planning and implementation processes be internally consistent (plan is consistent with other policies and ordinances in the jurisdiction), horizontally consistent (plan is consistent with plans of neighboring jurisdictions), and vertically consistent (plan is consistent with overlapping jurisdictions, such as a region or the State) among various jurisdictions.

1. Best Practices in State Planning

In addition to those already outlined in this paper, coordinated planning among local, regional, and state governments can provide many benefits, including:

- Effectively address issues of regional or state-wide importance that are beyond the capacity of one jurisdiction.
- Enhance the efficiency of government services.
- Produce complimentary decisions across levels of government that meet mutual expectations and provide mutual benefits.
- Create more conducive environment for private investment due to predictable, transparent planning structure.
- Reduce sporadic, uncoordinated planning by local governments.

Iowa, Minnesota, and Texas are the only US states that do not list in code elements that should or must be included in a local comprehensive plan.*
*Institute for Business & Home Safety

In May 2007, the Louisiana Recovery Authority produced a document outlining best practices in state planning.[5] At the date of publication, eleven states had enacted some

[5] Louisiana Recovery Authority, "Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan," Appendix C: Best Practices in State Planning, May 2007: www.louisianaspeaks.org.

form of comprehensive state-sponsored planning or growth management programs: Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington. California and North Carolina have more limited programs. Additionally, at least 24 states mandate local comprehensive planning, including Iowa's neighbor, Wisconsin (last amended in 2008). Of those 24, ten states specifically require that mandated plans pay attention to natural hazards. "Where state governments require planning and specify the elements that it must contain, local entities tend to do a much more thorough job. Where state governments do not require or encourage it, the local entities usually do not make planning a priority"[6].

There are numerous approaches to state-sponsored planning across states. The approaches below are additive and include:

- Voluntary Planning

  Under this scenario, few guidelines or requirements are placed before local communities or regions. The most robust planning often occurs in larger communities with greater financial and staff resources.

- Issue-Specific Planning

  Under this scenario, state government or other jurisdictions plan for critical issues, but do not necessarily plan comprehensively. For example, the state may create a state-wide transportation plan for the next 10 years, but this is not connected to any other state investment decisions. Few planning guidelines or requirements are placed before local communities or regions. The most robust planning occurs in larger communities with greater financial and staff resources.

  The definition above generally describes Iowa's current situation. In order to better define Iowa's current planning activities, a table is being constructed, located in *Appendix F*, to outline current activities. It is requested that you send information about the planning activities you are involved with or know of to assist in completing this table. Information you provide is greatly appreciated.
  ***Please submit information to**:*
  Aaron Todd (515) 242-5299; Aaron.todd@rio.iowa.gov; and
  Annette Mansheim (515) 242-5544; Annette.mansheim@rio.iowa.gov

- State-Mandated Planning

  Under this scenario, state law sets mandatory aspects of planning considered to have statewide importance. Regional and/or local planning agencies are required to follow these standards, which can vary in specificity depending upon the relative importance of each area of policy. A state entity can review plans for consistency, but does not take a central role in coordinating planning (such as in Oregon and Florida). This form of state planning relies on the expertise and resources of regional and local governments, leading to widely varying levels of implementation in different parts of the state. State-mandated planning can be supplemented by other programs that use targeted initiatives for goals such as planning for healthy communities.

[6] Institute for Business and Home Safety, www.disastersafety.org.

- State-Directed Planning

  Under this system, the state plays a central role in the planning process – setting minimum requirements and objectives, reviewing and ensuring consistency between smaller governmental entities, and developing a state-wide plan for future growth that may represent a collection of regional and/or local plans. These plans can be policy-driven or can include spatially specific land use maps implemented through a state regulatory process. Some state planning processes include specific land use mapping exercises, while others are policy-focused. This system leads to greater consistency in implementation.

2. Proposed Integrated Local, Regional & State Planning Structure for Iowa

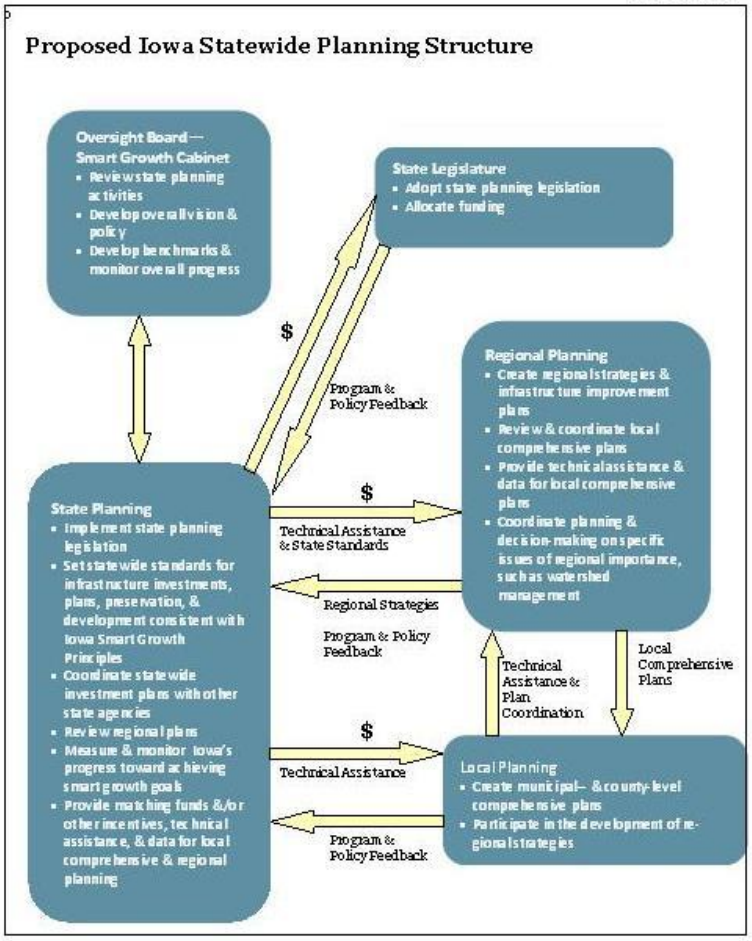
Below is a proposed framework for an integrated local-regional-state planning system and associated tools to assist and incentivize implementation. These ideas are submitted for discussion purposes and to elicit innovative ideas for implementing integrated, sustainable planning practices in Iowa.

The most important attribute of an effective institutional planning structure is coordination – internally, vertically, and horizontally. The strategy outlined below begins at the state level, where overall policies and principles are set. Next, a regional framework is described for coordinating decision-making for issues of concern beyond one municipality or county. Finally, a framework for local comprehensive planning incorporating hazard identification and mitigation is presented.

All three levels of planning interact with each other and form a feedback loop. All policies set at the regional and state level will be informed by the experiences and input of citizens and leaders at the local level, in addition to topical experts.

It is envisioned that a process for phasing-in this system and associated activities would be the best method of implementation.

APPENDIX D



See *Appendix D* for full page version.

A. State of Iowa Planning

An independent Office of State Planning and Program Coordination would be created to carry out the following functions:

- Articulate priorities/policies (infrastructure, watershed management, sustainability, renewable energy, etc) consistent with Iowa Smart Growth Principles to guide planning and investment decisions.
- Work with the Legislature on state policy development and implementation.
- Coordinate state-level planning and public investment decisions to achieve complementary and synergistic results.
- Review regional plans for horizontal consistency between regions and vertical consistency with statewide plan; mediate conflict.
- Measure and monitor success of Iowa's progress toward achieving smart growth goals.
- Offer technical assistance, funding, and incentives for regional and local planning.

An Oversight Board or Smart Growth Cabinet would be created to provide oversight for the state planning office, as well as set policy and coordinate efforts with other state agencies. The structure of the board could be designed in various ways. One design could be a board that represents State departments, local and regional officials, and citizens knowledgeable about the planning and development field. A state coordinating council would consist of department directors of state agencies most directly involved with smart growth efforts (Department of Transportation, Department of Economic Development, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Office of Energy Independence, etc.) to ensure collaboration between state agencies.

State agencies would continue to be responsible for long-term planning and decision-making regarding public investment (infrastructure, etc.) within their respective fields. The State Planning Office would foster greater collaboration between state agencies to help ensure that all state agency plans are horizontally consistent and support Iowa Smart Growth Principles. The Oversight Board would not oversee all actions of other state agencies.

Possible tools to assist with implementation:

- Technical Assistance
  Provided to communities and regions to assist them in designing and implementing a planning process, incorporating smart growth principles, reviewing codes and ordinances for consistency with smart growth principles, providing education about green building and infrastructure practices, etc.

- Develop reports on best practices and important issues.

- Smart Growth Scorecard

  Used to assess progress on smart growth concepts within a region and/or community, highlight areas in need of improvement (which could be eligible for

additional technical assistance), and assist in making funding decisions (see Arizona[7], U.S. Environmental Protection Agency examples[8]).

- Smart Growth Toolkit
  Provided by the state office and utilized by regions, communities, developers, and citizens to meet robust economic development goals that incorporate smart growth principles. May include model subdivision, zoning codes; techniques for energy efficiency promotion and renewable energy production; recommendations for green building; and other topics (see Massachusetts example[9])

- Risk Management Audit & Community Resilience Index
  Risk management audit is used to review local plans and ordinances to ensure safeguards are in place to minimize impact of hazards. Resiliency indices measure communities' ability to bounce back after a disaster and recommend methods to improve scores.

- Annual Governor's Smart Growth Award to highlight exemplary projects and communities that have made large gains in their smart growth efforts.

- Funding or other incentives to subsidize planning, as well as to fund innovative projects that further sustainable design and development.

Questions

- What planning is currently underway throughout the state? Refer to *Appendix E* for a table of planning activities. Your input is needed to complete this table.
- What other implementation tools would you suggest?

B. Regional Planning

There is a need for a regional component to coordinate and apply state standards on a local level. Regional entities or field staff are the primary source of technical assistance because they are more familiar with the issues, needs, and resources of local communities.

1. Scope of Regional Strategy

Many issues cannot be adequately addressed at the state or local level alone. For instance, major transportation investments impact neighboring communities. Land use decisions upstream impact river flows and potential flooding downstream. While working with communities across eastern Iowa, the Rebuild Iowa Office often heard local leaders calling for regional discussion and collaboration regarding storm water and watershed management; these issues extend beyond community and county boundaries. There are no adequate means

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[7] Arizona Smart Growth Scorecard: http://www.commerce.state.az.us/SmartGrowth/Scorecards/
[8] U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Scorecard Examples: http://www.epa.gov/dced/scorecards/index.htm
[9] Massachusetts' Smart Growth Toolkit: http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeeamodulechunk&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Eoeea&b=terminalcontent&f=eea_sgse_toolkit&csid=Eoeea

of addressing such issues currently in Iowa. In essence, people and communities do not live in a vacuum and must make decisions that consider impacts on those around them.

Additionally, the people of Iowa demand that government services be streamlined. Many government services, such as mass transit, energy and other utilities, economic development initiatives, among others are best delivered more effectively and efficiently via regional collaboration and cooperation. A key benefit of a regional strategy is leveraging the resources of multiple locations for the benefit of the entire region. For instance, unique assets along a stretch of highway running through multiple towns could be developed into a tourist destination. Or a group of communities could combine efforts on a new economic development initiative aimed at the bio-technology industry.

This proposal would produce regional strategies that address objectives and implementation steps regarding issues of regional importance. These strategies need to align with State priorities and principles. Such sections may include:

- Regional Vision & Goals
- Demographic Analysis & Population Forecast
- Housing
- Transportation
- Watershed & Flood Plain Management
- Energy, Utilities, & Services (including methods of increasing reliance on renewable energy)
- Economic Development (including cultural resources, community facilities & recreation)
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources
- Intergovernmental Cooperation & Collaboration
- Implementation & Connection to Iowa Smart Growth Principles

Each of the above sections would address hazard identification and mitigation.

Regional plans could be developed by councils of government or metropolitan planning organizations, or some other entity(s) already in existence or created in the region. These organizations would review local plans to ensure horizontal consistency of local plans with neighboring jurisdictions, and vertical consistency with the regional and state plans. These regional organizations may also complete local comprehensive plans within their regions and offer other planning technical assistance.

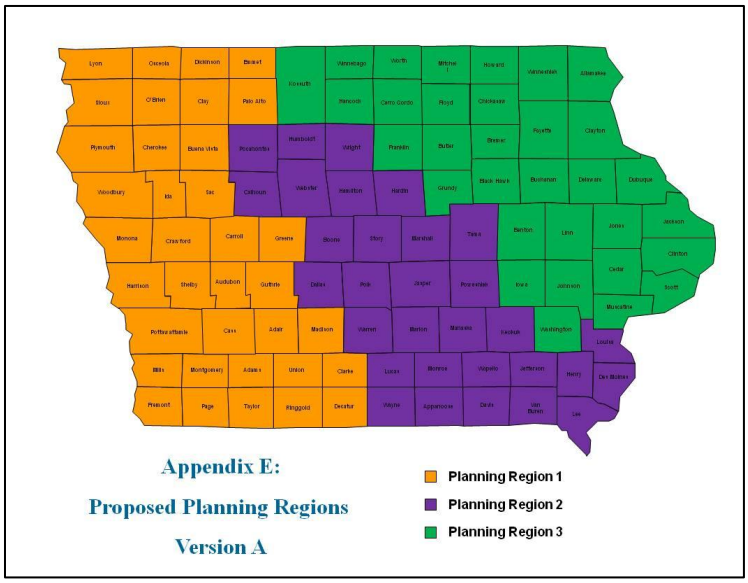
2. Intergovernmental Relationships

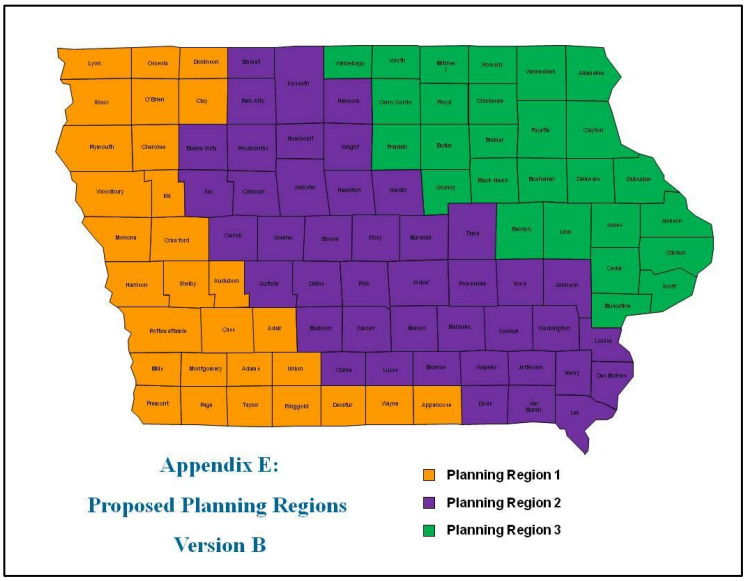
Regional field staff would play an integral part in a state-wide planning system by offering direct technical assistance in the application of state standards on a local level and coordinating regional issues for the maximum benefit. Regional staff would also ensure horizontal consistency between regions.

3. Geographic Regions

There are countless ways to divide the state into regions, as well as many existing regions used by various state agencies and other organizations. For the sake of discussion, two potential regions are presented. Each version is on a manageable scale for implementing regional smart growth planning and coordination. Both maps generally leave major economic regions in tack.

The first map generally follows major watershed basins and respects current councils of government boundaries.[10] The second map more closely follows watershed basins and manipulates some councils of government boundaries.





See Appendix E for larger version.

[10] Visit the Iowa Association of Regional Councils to view a map outlining councils of government regions: www.iarcog.com

Questions:

- What are strengths and weaknesses of the recommended geographic regions?
- What other geographic regions should be considered; what are the strengths and weaknesses of those?
- What topics do you address on a regional basis in your agency? What topics should be addressed regionally but currently are not?
- What do you view as the most pressing issues of regional importance?

C. Local Planning

A local community's or county's comprehensive plan is the blueprint by which the local government outlines a vision for the future, as well as steps to make that vision a reality. The comprehensive plan generally includes sections devoted to demographic analysis, current and future land use, economic development, transportation, and others. While this document typically focuses on the positive, for it to be meaningful, it must also realistically address challenges. It is not realistic to ignore natural hazards and the need to mitigate their potential impact. Natural disasters can torpedo otherwise viable community goals faster than almost any other event. Hazard identification and mitigation is a necessary component of proper land use decision-making.

Across Iowa and most of the United States, it is common for emergency managers or councils of government to complete local hazard mitigation plans with minor involvement from land use planners or with little direct consideration of the plan's impact on land use and economic development decisions. Some communities take the hazard mitigation planning and implementation process very seriously; others do the minimum amount of work necessary, do not adequately implement mitigation activities, and view the hazard mitigation plan as independent of other planning initiatives and land use decisions. The floods of 2008 vividly illustrated that the latter situation is no longer acceptable. The hazard mitigation plans are completed primarily to ensure public assistance funding from FEMA should a natural disaster occur, are updated every five years, and must be approved by FEMA. Additionally, hazard mitigation planning costs are often fully covered by FEMA through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) or Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) following a disaster. As a result, the hazard mitigation planning process is often the most robust planning activity many smaller communities ever conduct.

Embedding hazard mitigation goals in local comprehensive plans with clearly established responsibilities for implementation is the most effective way to guarantee both visibility for those goals and the desired results. In addition, the hazards section should reference other elements of the comprehensive plan that are clearly implicated in specific mitigation goals, and those should link back to the hazards section. Virtually all other elements of the plan have potential linkages to hazard mitigation goals.

This proposal would produce local and/or county comprehensive plans that would consider the following concepts:

- Public Participation Process & Results
- Community Vision & Goals

- Demographic Analysis & Population Forecast
- Hazards Identification & Mitigation (perhaps also including a strategy for post-disaster recovery)
- Housing
- Transportation
- Energy, Utilities, & Services (including methods of increasing reliance on renewable energy)
- Economic Development
- Agricultural & Natural Resources
- Cultural Resources, Community Facilities & Recreation
- Current & Future Land Use & Community Design
- Intergovernmental Cooperation & Collaboration
- Implementation & Connection to Iowa Smart Growth Principles

The plans would look many years into the future (for instance, 20 years). Communities could choose to create their own plan or partner with their respective counties. Counties would develop plans for areas not located within municipal boundaries. Plans should be internally consistent with local ordinances (such as zoning ordinances), horizontally consistent with neighboring communities and/or counties, and vertically consistent with regional and state plans. Plans would be updated regularly (for instance, every 10 years) and approved by the regional planning office or field staff. City councils and/or county boards of supervisors would be required to approve the plan before it becomes official policy, thus investing the legislative body in the implementation process. It is important to note that the local jurisdictions would implement local comprehensive planning, with technical (and potentially financial) assistance from State and regional entities.

Questions

- What are your thoughts concerning integration of hazard identification and mitigation activities in local comprehensive plans?
- What tools and other types of assistance would be needed to make the planning process effective?

E. Example Scenario

Consider the issue of watershed and flood plain management. What are the goals and objectives? What are the current risks, and what level of risk is deemed acceptable? Who are the stakeholders? What policies currently exist? What are the gaps and shortcomings of existing policies? How do current policies and standards measure against the proposed Iowa Smart Growth Principles? How are current policies implemented on a local level and what are impacts regionally? How could current policies and guidelines be strengthened - or scrapped and rewritten - to achieve the stated goals and objectives? What changes regarding implementation and coordination are necessary to meet stated goals and objectives? How is mitigation planning tied to the management of flood plains? Who holds the responsibility to address all of these questions? Who coordinates these efforts?

Answering these questions (and many others not listed) would require collaboration between multiple state agencies, regional and local stakeholders, and other

interested entities to achieve a truly comprehensive solution. This collaboration and coordination does not currently exist in Iowa. The framework presented in this document - once finalized via input from all interested stakeholders - attempts to fill this void and answer those questions, producing a safer, smarter, stronger Iowa.

SECTION III: CONCLUSION & APPENDICES

CONCLUSION

The challenge before us is to tie sustainable development principles and land use strategies to reduce damages from natural disasters, protect and enhance our natural environment, and manage future growth while adapting our economy to a changing environment. This green paper lays out a pathway to meet that challenge based upon the premise that it is a shared responsibility of impacted individuals, communities, regions, the state and federal entities to participate in developing and implementing such strategies. Additionally, it is emphasized that a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges is necessary. Iowa has experienced multiple "500+ year" flood events in just 15 years. The uncertainty of climate change and its potential impacts on Iowa's economy and resources compounds the situation. The status quo methods for addressing these challenges are no longer acceptable.

This green paper is a call to action, as articulated by the Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission. This document outlines proposed Iowa Smart Growth Principles to guide planning and decision-making; a comprehensive Plan of Action, including strategies; and a framework for an integrated state-regional-local planning system. RIO invites input, critique, and suggestions on this framework to move this concept forward in an innovate manner.

This paper intentionally does not address the costs of implementing the proposed strategy to focus on developing the overall framework; costs will be estimated once input has been obtained and the framework becomes more formalized. However, all costs of the new strategy must be weighed against costs incurred by the status quo: repetitive repair to infrastructure and public and private property; economic disruption caused by physical damage to businesses, displaced businesses and residents, road closures, and general uneasiness of doing business in Iowa due to reputation for flooding; poor land use decisions; lack of coordination of public investment and services, resulting in higher costs; and many other tangible and intangible costs.

How many more $8 to $10 billion dollar disasters must Iowa experience before we enact meaningful, systematic change? It is RIO's intention that this paper facilitates meaningful discussion leading to innovative reform, laying the foundation for greater economic growth opportunities.

APPENDIX A

Rebuild Iowa Advisory Commission (RIAC) Recommendations

VISION: Iowans will thrive in a state that values, safeguards, and invests in its sustainable future, resilient communities, welcoming environment, vital economy, treasured lands and natural resources, rich cultural history, global role, and all of its people.

1. Individual Services and Guidance – Iowa will provide advice and support to individuals and families seeking assistance in making their way through the challenges of rebuilding their lives in a disaster case management framework that has ongoing, lasting organizational capacity and processes in place to be sustained during non-disaster times.
2. Housing – State and local governments will place a high priority on ensuring availability of adequate, affordable housing and the ability of individuals and families to rent or purchase those homes.
3. The state should provide incentives for Iowa's struggling small businesses, microenterprises, and non-profits for restoration and rebuilding of their businesses from this disaster and future major disasters.
4. Infrastructure Investments – The state should lead in planning, establishing expectations statewide, and securing funding for infrastructure repair, rebuilding, and/or construction.
5. The state should identify, create, and sustain funding options and provide flexibility for local and state governments to assist in rebuilding an even better Iowa.
6. The state must invest in local emergency management agencies for the central coordination function and work in all areas of emergency management – preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation – to achieve the baseline capacity needed to keep Iowa safer from future disasters.
7. The state should ensure policy and programs that sustain community identity, quality of life, and cultural heritage.
8. The state will lead in developing guidance and support for integrated, regional planning to address recovery and leverage multi-jurisdictional strengths for ongoing initiatives.
9. The state will move state policy forward and lead the discussion with regional and local interests on floodplain and watershed management.
10. The state will complete floodplain mapping for the entire state using state-of-the-art technology. The state will pursue and implement the mapping process and related activities as expeditiously as is reasonable and practical.
11. Rebuild Iowa Office Roles and Responsibilities – The state must formalize the Rebuild Iowa Office and associated responsibilities related to the 2008 Disaster recovery.
12. All involved agencies, governments, and interested parties should promote and support communications and outreach initiatives to educate and support Iowans as they recover and plan for future disasters.

The complete RIAC 120 - Day Report to the Governor and Legislature can be accessed here: http://rio.iowa.gov/assets/RIO_120_DAY_REPORT.pdf. You will notice that the smart growth principles proposed in this green paper are themes carried throughout each of the 12 recommendations and associated strategies.

Proposed Iowa Smart Growth Principles

Iowa shall protect, maintain, and wisely utilize its built and natural environment by incorporating smart growth principles in development and resource management decisions. Application of these principles through integration and coordination of policies, programs, and investment decisions will ensure Iowa grows in a manner that improves resilience in the face of natural disasters, grows and adapts our economy, protects our natural resources, and safeguards our quality of life.

1. Promote Clean Energy Production & Increased Energy Efficiency

Maximize energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and consumption of fossil fuels. Iowa should retain its position as a leader in renewable energy production.

2. Increase Diversity of Job & Business Opportunities

Improve access to education, training, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Support the growth of a diversity of local businesses and green collar jobs. Attract businesses and jobs to locations near existing housing, infrastructure, and transportation options to ensure business owners and employees can access resources, reduce travel time, and improve quality of life.

3. Concentrate Development & Mix Land Uses

Facilitate the revitalization of established town centers and neighborhoods by promoting development that conserves land, protects historic resources, promotes walkability, and integrates uses. Encourage remediation and reuse of existing sites, structures, and infrastructure as a priority over construction in undeveloped areas.

4. Expand Diversity in Housing Opportunities & Choices

Support the construction and rehabilitation of homes to meet the needs of people of all abilities, income levels, and household types. Build homes near jobs, transit, and where services are available. Foster the development of housing in a way that is compatible with a community's character and vision.

5. Foster Distinctive, Attractive Communities with a Strong Sense of Place

Craft a community vision and set standards for development and construction which respond to local values and architectural distinctiveness. Such communities are interesting, unique, and foster the types of physical environments which support a more cohesive community fabric.

6. Protect, Preserve & Wisely Utilize Natural Resources & Working Lands

Protect, preserve, and restore environmentally sensitive lands, natural resources, agricultural lands, and cultural and historic landscapes. Increase the quantity, quality, and accessibility of open spaces and recreational opportunities. Construct and promote developments, buildings, and infrastructure that conserve natural resources by reducing waste and pollution through efficient use of land, energy, water, and materials.

7. Incorporate Green Building & Infrastructure Design

Developments should incorporate green building concepts, including consideration of lot siting; connectivity to surrounding development; water conservation; energy efficiency; and reused, recycled, or renewable materials. Promote development and implementation of green infrastructure best practices, including green solutions for storm water management.

8. Provide for a Variety of Transportation Choices

Maintain and expand transportation options that maximize mobility, reduce congestion, conserve fuel, and improve air quality. Prioritize rail, bus, shared-vehicle and shared-ride services, bicycling, and walking. Ensure transportation options are integrated and consistent with land use objectives.

9. Advance Equity: Predictable, Fair & Cost Effective Development Decisions

Individuals, communities, regions, state and federal government have shared responsibility to promote the equitable distribution of development benefits and burdens. Provide technical and strategic support for inclusive community and regional planning and decision-making to ensure social, economic, and environmental justice. Make regulatory and permitting processes for development clear, predictable, coordinated, and timely.

10. Stakeholder, Community & Regional Collaboration in Development Decisions

Support the development and implementation of local and regional plans that have broad public support, are consistent with all of Iowa's Smart Growth Principles, and have horizontal and vertical consistency. Consider the long-term costs and benefits to the State of Iowa and future generations.

APPENDIX C

Proposed Smart Growth Plan of Action with Proposed Key Priorities and Strategies for Implementation

Priority: Reduce Damage from Natural Disasters & Enhance Public Safety	*Priority:* Protect & Enhance Our Natural Resources	*Priority:* Identify, Plan & Manage Future Growth
Shared Responsibility of impacted individuals, communities, regions, state & federal entities		
Strategies: A. Manage Flood Plains & Watersheds B. Hold Water Where it Falls C. Integrate Local Hazard Mitigation Plans D. Identify & Measure Risk E. Prepare & Educate	*Strategies:* A. Manage Flood Plains & Watersheds B. Hold Water Where it Falls C. Integrate Local Hazard Mitigation Plans D. Identify & Measure Risk E. Prepare & Educate F. Acquire Environmentally Sensitive Lands G. Preserve Prime Agricultural Lands	*Strategies:* A. Manage Flood Plains & Watersheds B. Hold Water Where it Falls C. Integrate Hazard Mitigation Plans D. Identify & Measure Risk E. Prepare & Educate F. Acquire Environmentally Sensitive Lands G. Preserve Prime Agricultural Lands H. Implement Green Building & Infrastructure Techniques I. Develop Distinctive, Healthy Communities with a Strong Sense of Place J. Engage in Integrated Local, Regional & State Planning K. Ensure Fair, Equitable & Efficient Decision-Making Processes L. Utilize Transparent & Meaningful Public Input Processes
Strategies will drive land use & watershed management policy/guidelines/standards that will affect local/regional/state planning & development.		
The Iowa Smart Growth Principles will guide the development of policy/guidelines/standards.		
As land use and watershed management policy/guidelines/standards are developed, the implementation structure, process & tools must support the multi-jurisdictional nature of these strategies and active participation of all interested stakeholders.		

Descriptions of proposed strategies follow.

PROPOSED PLAN OF ACTION - SMART GROWTH STRATEGY DESCRIPTIONS **APPENDIX C**

A. Manage Flood Plains
Provide for the systematic reduction in flood damage by applying modern flood plain management techniques at the watershed and basin level. Regional cooperation is essential. Understand and utilize natural systems whenever feasible; build levees and floodwalls when justified and economically feasible. Do not allow development in the 500-year flood plain unless needed. Move structures out of the 500-year floodplain when feasible. Elevate and take other flood proofing measures when structures cannot be moved or must be constructed in 500-year flood plain.

B. Hold Water Where it Falls
Water is a precious resource. Infiltration, which mimics Iowa's historic landscape, rather than piping away water is the preferred method to managing storm water runoff. Improved filtration will assist in times of water abundance by slowing the path to rising rivers, as well as times of drought by recharging aquifers and groundwater supplies.

C. Integrate Local Hazard Mitigation Plans
The development of hazard mitigation plans is the most intensive - or only - planning process in which many areas of Iowa ever participate. However, these plans are often not considered in development decisions. Hazard mitigation plans, which are funded by FEMA, may serve as the foundation for developing an integrated comprehensive community and regional planning process and structure in Iowa.

D. Indentify & Measure Risk
Before risk can be mitigated, it must be identified and understood. Once risks are understood, an assessment of consequences can be conducted. Government entities and property owners should determine the level of risk that can be tolerated and take steps to ensure protection to that level. Development decisions should be intricately linked to risks. Systematic updating of flood plain maps is one tool used to identify risk.

E. Prepare & Educate
Government entities and individuals share a responsibility to prepare for disasters. Serious implementation of the hazard mitigation plan and process is the first step in protecting communities and citizens. These plans should be integrated with future land use decisions and planning on a community and regional level. Public/private partnerships should be created to develop and implement educational opportunities regarding natural disasters, risks, and response. Establish early warning systems. Participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is one way communities and property owners can prepare for and more easily recovery from floods. Iowa communities with flood hazard areas within their borders are now required to participate in NFIP. Individual property owners are encouraged to participate.

F. Acquire Environmentally Sensitive Lands
This concept is related to utilizing natural systems for flood protection via conservation easements or other means. The concept also includes protecting areas that are unsuitable for development (due to grading issues, high water table, etc), wetlands, historic and cultural landscapes, unique and scenic areas, habitats for rare plants and animals, and other valued landscapes. Structures in these areas are not serving people well if they are repeatedly flooding.

G. Preserve Prime Agricultural Lands
Rich, productive farmland is one of Iowa's greatest assets. While future development on the fringe of communities will be necessary to accommodate economic and population growth, infill development

and other efforts should be implemented to protect this vital aspect of Iowa's economy and culture to the extent possible.

H. Implement Green Building & Infrastructure Techniques
Green building techniques are a necessary component of community sustainability. Such developments produce healthier living and working environments, reduce urban heat island effects, reduce energy consumption and costs, and other benefits. Green infrastructure techniques, particularly those dealing with storm water runoff, reduce flash-flooding risks, improve water quality, mimic natural infiltration, and reduce grey system infrastructure costs.

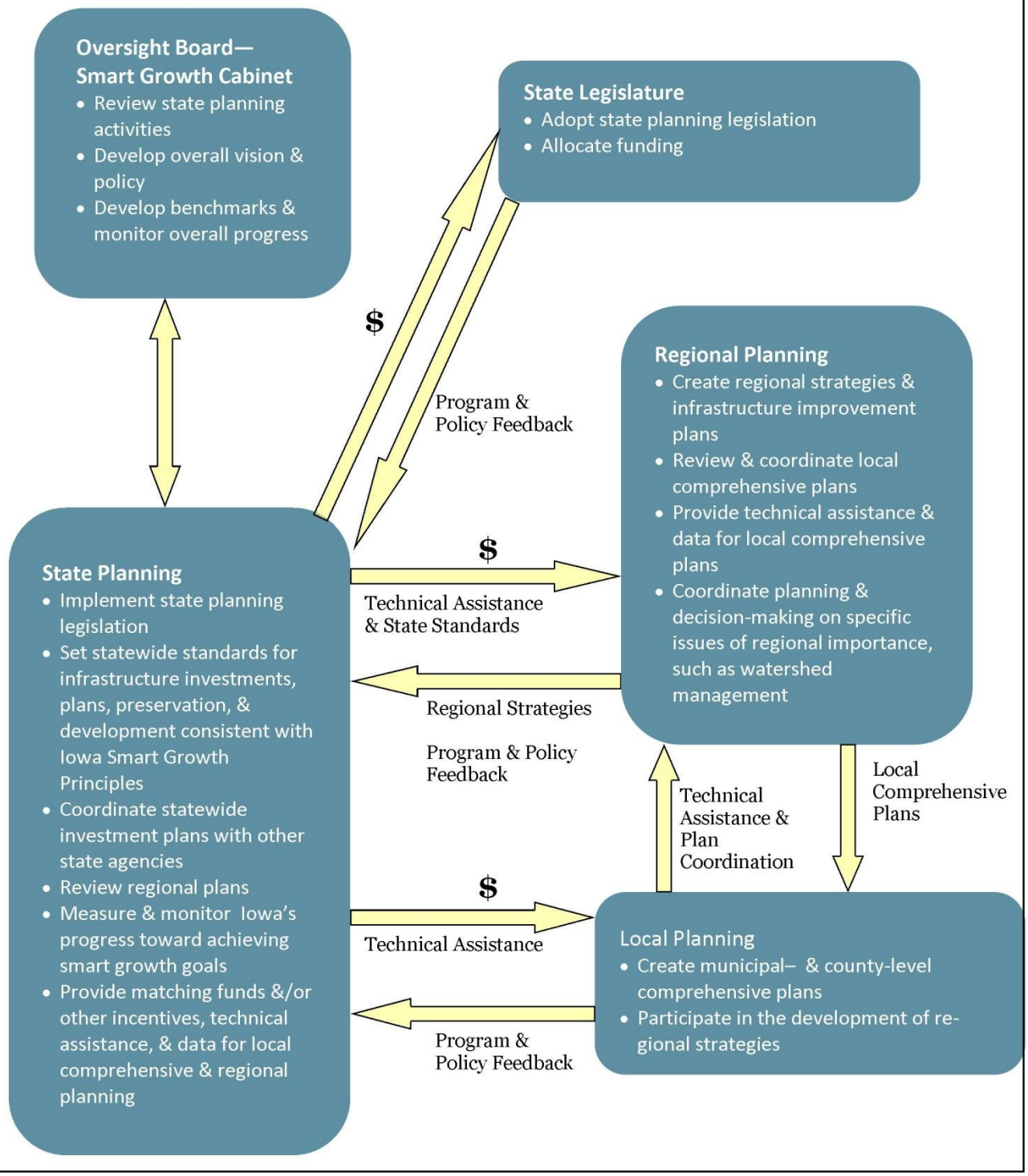
I. Develop Distinctive, Healthy Communities with a Strong Sense of Place
A thriving economy requires communities that attract workers and residents by their high quality of life. Communities that recognize, protect, and enhance their unique qualities produce authentic, dynamic neighborhoods and town centers.

J. Engage in Integrated Local, Regional & State Planning
The decisions of one community can have a dramatic impact on its neighbor. Many issues and services are most efficiently and effectively addressed or provided via collaboration with neighboring communities. Regional planning and approaches can reduce costs, bureaucracy, liability and risk, and facilitate equitable decision-making across multiple jurisdictions.

K. Ensure Fair, Equitable & Efficient Decision-Making Processes
Fair, equitable, and efficient decision-making processes are necessary to ensure that stakeholders come to the table and trust that their views and concerns will be heard. The interests of all impacted and interested entities should be balanced, all parties should be treated equally, and processes streamlined and easily understood.

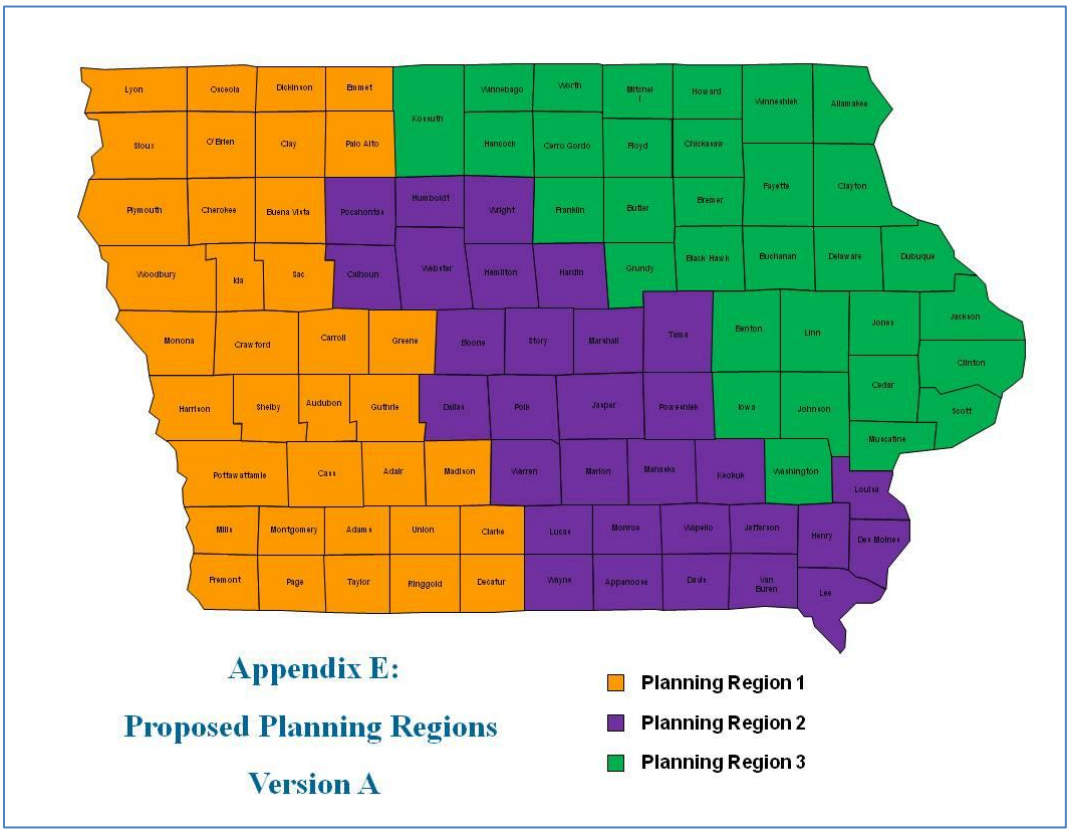
L. Utilize Transparent and Meaningful Public Input Processes
Residents and business owners should feel empowered to be active in community change and decision-making. Government processes should be clearly and easily understood, public information and input activities should take place in readily accessible areas, and information should be easily obtained. Activities, programs, and decision-making processes should strive for inclusiveness and representation that mirrors the impacted population.

Proposed Iowa Statewide Planning Structure



Proposed Planning Region Map Option A:

This map respects Council of Government (COG) boundaries and generally follows watershed boundaries.



Proposed Planning Region Map Option B:

This map more closely follows watershed boundaries and manipulates COG boundaries**.**

APPENDIX F

Table of Planning Activities in Iowa

To inform the development of an integrated planning system, it will be helpful to understand the planning activities already occurring in Iowa. We know that the chart below is far from complete; please help in this effort by filling-in the chart below.

Local Planning

Plan	Responsible Entity	Description	Required by Iowa Code? If so, please reference code.
Local Comprehensive Plan	Cities or Counties	Land use document that outlines a framework and policy directives for land use management	No.
Hazard Mitigation Plan	Cities or multi-jurisdictions	Creates a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damages to lives, property, and the economy from future hazards; identifies hazards and steps to mitigate damage	No. (required by federal law to be eligible for mitigation project funds)

Regional Planning

Plan	Responsible Entity	Description	Required by Iowa Code? If so, please reference code.
Cedar River Initiative	Cedar River Initiative Board; INRCOG	Goal is to increase public use and enjoyment of the Cedar River and its watershed, enhance environmental health, cultural heritage, and economic development opportunities of this special resource.	No.

State-wide Planning

Plan	Responsible Entity	Description	Required by Iowa Code? If so, please reference code.
Iowa Hazard Mitigation Plan	Homeland Security & Emergency Management	Describes Iowa's understanding and evaluation of the hazards the state faces and the strategies, goals, and activities it will pursue to address them.	Yes. Iowa code 29C.8

OTHER STATE PLANNING SYSTEM EXAMPLES APPENDIX G

Louisiana

The State of Louisiana has proposed and implemented an integrated state-regional-planning system in the wake of recent devastating hurricanes. You can view information about their planning processes here: www.louisianaspeaks.org

Wisconsin

Wisconsin recently adopted local comprehensive planning legislation. Here are the general plan components:

1) Issues and Opportunities
2) Housing
3) Transportation
4) Utilities and Community Facilities
5) Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources
6) Economic Development
7) Intergovernmental Cooperation
8) Land Use
9) Implementation

California

California requires a hazard element within local comprehensive planning.

[THIS SECTION IS STILL BEING DRAFTED; SUGGESTIONS FOR SPECIFIC STATE EXAMPLES ARE WELCOME.]

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER **APPENDIX H**

Iowa Smart Growth Principles (page 10)

- Does your agency/organization have established principles regarding sustainability concepts to guide program development and investment decision-making?
    - Are they mandatory?
    - How do you measure compliance?
    - How do you measure impacts or objective achievement?

Plan of Action (page 11)

- What strategies would you add to this framework?
- What decision-making and public input processes work well for you?

State of Iowa Planning (page 15)

- What planning is currently underway throughout the state? Refer to *Appendix E* for a table of planning activities. Your input is needed to complete this table.
- What other implementation tools would you suggest?

Regional Planning (page 18)

- What are strengths and weaknesses of the recommended geographic regions?
- What other geographic regions should be considered; what are the strengths and weaknesses of those?
- What topics do you address on a regional basis in your agency? What topics should be addressed regionally but currently are not?
- What do you view as the most pressing issues of regional importance?

Local Planning (page 19)

- What are your thoughts concerning integration of hazard identification and mitigation activities in local comprehensive plans?
- What tools and other types of assistance would be needed to make the planning process effective?

Other Questions/Comments/Critique/Suggestions?

The Rebuild Iowa Office welcomes discussion and feedback on the concepts contained in this document. Please send comments or call:

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