

IOWA VERTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**August 14th, 2008
Meeting Minutes**

The Governor's Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee met at Ft. Dodge Correctional Facility in Ft. Dodge, IA.

Call to Order, Introductions and Roll Call

Committee Members Present:

Les Holland, Chair

Eve Palmer

Terry Slinde

Mary Krier

Dennis Bennett

Dan Prymek

Gary Benshoof

Others in attendance for all or a portion of the meeting included:

Mickel Edwards, Dept. of Corrections

Dean Ibsen, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise

Nick Smith, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise

Ray Walton, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise

Bobby Bailey, Dept. of Administrative Services, Directors Office

Paul Carlson, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise

Christine Suckow, Dept. of Administrative Services, General Services Enterprise

Linda Murken, Ft. Dodge Community Based Corrections

Warden Cornell Smith, Ft. Dodge Correctional Facility

Dru Saathoff, Ft. Dodge Correctional Facility

Don Halligan, Ft. Dodge Correctional Facility

Senator Daryl Beall, Iowa Legislature

Chad Kleppe, Master Builders of Iowa (conference call)

Mark Johnson, Department of Administrative Services, Core (conference call)

Welcome and Introductions

Les Holland convened the meeting at approximately 11:15am. Warden Smith welcomed the committee to the facility. He said that the prison had just recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. He mentioned the facility would be tobacco free on Nov 1st, 2008. The prison has 1162 beds and 7 living units with a current population of 1135. Warden Smith then introduced the plant manager, Don Halligan who went through a brochure on the facility.

Mary Krier asked what prompted the construction of the facility. Warden Smith said that the facility was built to house youthful offenders. Mary also asked if Iowa Prison Industries had an office at the prison. Warden Smith said that they do not right now, but could possibly in the future. He would like IPI to offer some more jobs to the offenders.

Don Halligan said that the facility had numerous problems with the heating 3 years after the facility had been built. Two years after they saw this problem they applied for emergency funding from the executive council. Don documented the problems and with help from the Attorney General's office the State recovered \$500,000.00 from the construction team. Don said he is amazed at the amount of maintenance required at new facilities which rely on technology to operate.

Review of Projects Completed/Underway

Paul Carlson reviewed Department of Administrative Services projects that were completed and underway. He said that Ft. Dodge was possibly the only institution in the entire state that was not on this list for major maintenance projects. Mary Krier asked if the facility was constructed by local or out of State contractors. Don Halligan said it was constructed by a group in Des Moines.

Tour of facility

Lunch

Reconvene

The Committee reconvened at approximately 12:30pm.

Questions and Comments from Committee Members

Dean Ibsen said that the committee would be going to see the new Community Based Corrections facility in Ft. Dodge after the meeting was over.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Eve Palmer made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and Dan Prymek seconded.

Old Business

There was no old business.

Ongoing Issues/Staff Reports

Major Maintenance Progress

Dean Ibsen said that major maintenance money won't be available until November or December, so the money is pending the sale of bonds. He said that DAS has told agencies and project managers that \$19 million of current major maintenance has been allocated but not under contract so money could be moved around if necessary for projects that become more important for institutions. Dean mentioned that roofing projects would be closing out in the coming months.

Routine Maintenance Update

Dean Ibsen said that he was still working on finalizing the square footages for some of the institutions but emails would be sent to the agencies shortly. He said that 1/3 of money would be sent out initially.

Alternative Delivery Systems

Dean Ibsen said that Kathy Shannon would be leaving DAS to go work for the Iowa Veteran's Home, but will be working with closing out new projects before she goes.

Other Initiatives

Dean Ibsen said that the new North Office Building is on hold as well as the elevator upgrades and the inventory and assessment project, but the IUB/OCA building is moving forward.

Staffing, Database, training

Dean Ibsen said that Christine Suckow was the new Management Analyst 2 and that the hiring process for a new Secretary 1 has begun. The hiring Construction Design/Engineer Sr. is on hold right now.

The I/3 system has been upgrade and is being utilized for some reporting. Staff is trying to figure out a way to link it to the existing Microsoft Access database.

Paul Carlson is still working on a joint training session between ISU and the State to train interested State employees in project management skills. The training will probably be conducted in January of 2009.

Consent Calendar

There were four items for the consent calendar. 1) Rockwell City. 2) Cedar Falls Post 9. 3) Osceola Patrol Building. 4) Tuck pointing Independence. Les Holland asked the committee to vote on the items after they went through them one by one. The committee did so and Mary Krier moved to approve the items. Gary Benschopf seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Overview of Fort Dodge Community Based Corrections

Linda Murken from Ft. Dodge CBC gave a presentation to the committee. She invited the committee to tour the new facility after the meeting adjourned.

Linda started off by saying thank you to the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee for giving the CBC support and helping get the funds for the new building in Ft. Dodge. She explained how the CBC gets its funding. They have strong ties with the Department of Corrections. They also receive funding from the Iowa Legislature and the Governor's Budget. There are over 30,000 offenders in the CBC program. 1500 of them live in the residential facilities. There are no offenders with disabilities at this time, but the facility in Ft. Dodge is able to house the offenders.

Brain Storming Session

Les Holland gave a brief introduction and talked about the history of the program.

Nick Smith then explained the handouts and gave another brief description of the program.

Dean Ibsen described past funding allocations of the program, and said that in the past they had a maximum of 40 million dollars in Major Maintenance funding and 5 million in Routine Maintenance. He said that the code calls for funding at least 1% in RM which would be about the equivalent of 20 million dollars. He also said that there was a need of about 460 million dollars in deferred maintenance.

The main question Les, Nick and Dean addressed was how the focus could be brought back to the MM and RM issues.

Several ideas were brought up:

Lobbying, telling the story, survey of states (seeing what other states do), meeting with Gov. Culver and staff, more organization and knowing who legislators are that represent districts housing State facilities.

Les Holland said that he had spent 5 years on the committee. He discussed the problem with the loss of FY2009 MM and RM money. He reiterated that the main question is how to get the legislature to come to meetings and how to get consistent funding.

Chad Kleppe from Master Builders joined by conference call and described what had been done in the past. He said that when the legislature had allocated 40 million dollars, Master Builders and the Rebuild Iowa Coalition had worked together to lobby the legislature. They worked on finding a middle ground for Routine Maintenance where the Legislature could allocate funds for 3-5 years. He said that a key argument is convincing the Legislature that rebuilding will cost more and more, becoming more of a burden on tax payer money.

Chad also mentioned that \$123 million came out of the RIIF fund for non-infrastructure use. He said MM money is coming from the restricted capitals. He also said that the City of Cedar Rapids as an example is looking for around 500 million in maintenance and rebuilding costs so this year it might be hard to convince the Legislature to fund more in Major maintenance.

Les Holland asked the Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee members to briefly give their thoughts on the matter.

Dan Prymek – He said that it's going to take the Governors Office getting involved to really have an effect.

Mary Krier – She said that there should be collaboration on all fronts and that it should be a priority to all Iowans.

Gary Benschopf – He said that we should move forward by highlighting the positive items that had been mentioned in the past.

Dennis Bennett – He said that the problem is how we are going to take care of new buildings when we can't even take care of the old ones. He suggested a video or a DVD that could get community leaders involved.

Terry Slinde- He said that the committee needs to clarify what the real priority is. The projects, he said, were not politically expedient. In the long run this will mean more money will be diverted from people. He wants to know if the priority is the same with this Governor as it was with Governor Vilsack.

Mark Johnson – He said that it wasn't a matter of not knowing what the needs are, he said it's a matter of so many legislators that have specific priorities of their own.

Ray Walton –Pledged to better inform the Governor's Office on Vertical Infrastructure needs.

Paul Carlson – He said that the committee needs to take a more focused approach. They need to zero in on the amount of need and get IDOM and IGOV's staff to get on board and if they agree vet it to the Legislature.

Bobby Bailey – He said that it's important to elevate public knowledge. Dan Miller from IPTV would be a good person to network with especially if the committee decides to do some sort of DVD or video.

Don Halligan – He said that he feels fortunate to work in a newer facility and can't imagine how much the older facilities face when it comes to maintenance.

Eve Palmer – She said that awareness is a big part of the picture and that more needs to be done to tell the story.

Senator Beall – He asked Linda Murken how she mobilized her team when she was trying to get funding for the Ft. Dodge CBC facility.

Linda Murken – She said that it's a team effort, but for a couple years she said things were just not moving along. There has to be an economic plan that's long term. She also said it's key to target opportunities.

Les Holland – He said that a group that needs to be present more in these discussions are the agency directors.

Senator Beall – He said that the Legislature will respond when they see the needs. He also said it's important to lobby the public but he said that the committee should not wait to lobby the legislature. He said the committee should put a face on the issues and the building and not to wait for the lobbyists to do this. He said it's a good idea to invite media and other stakeholders to the meetings. He said that one of the challenging things is that things are piecemealed in the Legislature. He also said that the Transportation, Infrastructure, and Appropriations Committee is the least partisan committee he has ever

worked on. Lastly, he said that the flood poses a huge problem because money is going to need to come from other budgets.

Other Business

Questions and Comments:

Terry Slinde – He asked Senator Beall whether other programs took hits like the Vertical Infrastructure Program. Senator Beall said that yes it was pretty typical for other programs to take hits as well during the past session.

Upcoming meetings:

The Vertical Infrastructure Advisory Committee will meet next at Ft. Madison Correctional Facility and the brainstorming discussion will be carried forward.

Adjourn

Eve Palmer moved to adjourn the meeting. Dennis Bennett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Prepared by Nick Smith and Dean Ibsen

8/28/2008