



IOWA LAKES CORRIDOR
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BUENA VISTA, CLAY, DICKINSON & EMMET COUNTIES

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For more information, contact:

Samantha Heerd, 712.264.3474

Delegates leave for Washington, DC Summit

SPENCER – Delegates from all counties in the Iowa Lakes Corridor Region met Wednesday, March 3, to finalize plans for the fifth annual Washington, DC Summit. The purpose of the summit is to build and strengthen relationships with congressional representatives and their staff, and to gain their support for key infrastructure projects needed to support economic development in the region. The group will leave for our nation’s capital Wednesday, March 10.

Projects the delegates will advocate for include upgrade of Highway 86, Storm Lake restoration project and south side sewer, Spencer storm sewer project, Superior wastewater treatment collection system, East Center Lake drainage, Clay County geothermal pilot project, Storm Lake wastewater improvement project and support for the completion of US Highway 20.

The group of 15 delegates is comprised of elected officials and business leaders, led by Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation President Kathy Evert. They will meet with Senator Grassley, Congressman Latham, Congressman King and Senator Harkin. Trips like these are quite common among economic development and Chambers of Commerce in Iowa and around the country each year. While they may not produce immediate results, they do eventually, according to Evert.

For the upgrade of Highway 86, \$2 million of federal funding will be requested in the Transportation Reauthorization Bill. Federal EPA Funds in the amount of \$500,000 is requested for the Storm Lake restoration project. Federal funding assistance of \$2.5 million for the first \$10 million Spencer storm sewer project is requested. The city of Superior is seeking verbal and written support from representatives for the Community Development Block Grant and USDA-Rural Development applications that have been submitted for the wastewater treatment collection system. For the East Center Lake drainage project, \$2 million of EPA funding is requested. The Department of Energy will be requested to fund \$400,000 for the Clay County geothermal pilot project; the total project will cost approximately \$800,000. For the Storm Lake wastewater improvement project, \$3 million of EPA funding will be requested; the total cost of the project is estimated to be \$10.4 million.

“Our Congressional representatives and their staff devote a great deal of time and attention when groups like this visit Washington, DC,” said Evert. “We appreciate their time, support and advice and know that, eventually, these projects will be completed with some Federal support.”

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The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation is the regional economic development agency for Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson and Emmet counties. Its mission is to foster, encourage, aid, promote or otherwise assist in the economic growth and development of the region. For more information about the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation, call 712.264.3474 or visit www.lakescorridor.com.