

# QUARTERLY REPORT

## *NOVEMBER 2015*

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Capital Crossroads is **a bold but achievable vision** pushing Central Iowans to dream big, not settle for good enough, think long term, and work together.

## CAPITAL CORE

*Russ Cross and Scott Sanders*

The Capital Core strategies are based on the philosophy that a strong, growing region needs a healthy central city in order to thrive. The Capital Core work focuses on three main areas: neighborhoods, downtown Des Moines, and public safety.

For the **Neighborhood Improvement** subcommittee, Viva East Bank! reported that over \$9.3 million has been invested to date in revitalizing the Capitol Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and Capitol East neighborhoods. The investment includes physical improvements to infrastructure and recreational amenities, housing and business districts, as well as new youth programs and community building events.

6<sup>th</sup> Avenue Corridor launched a Multi-Cultural Market, with a diverse array of products including textiles, artisan goods and food. The Market is open on the first Sunday of each month through November.

The major challenge to this Capital Core initiative continues to be implementation resources, including funding (\$18-22M needed/year), and involvement from the private sector. There also is a need for community leadership to champion the cause of, and need for, neighborhood improvement.

For the **Downtown Des Moines** team, the convention hotel continues to make progress. The IEC Hotel Corporation is in the final stages of negotiating with Hilton to operate the hotel. The IEC Hotel Board reviewed the schematic design in September. The Development and Design team outlined that the hotel was \$5-7 million over the total capital cost budget of \$101M. Today, the overage has been reduced by about \$3 million. Design review is ongoing with Hilton as the design develops. Further cost reductions are expected while still complying with Hilton space and design standards and our community's expectations for high quality architecture and building construction. Demolition of the existing building is underway; construction is expected to commence in March 2016.

The downtown residential population continues to grow. With an almost non-existent vacancy rate, housing development continues to expand. Approximately 1,000 housing units were under construction during the 2015 construction season; hundreds of units are planned for 2016 construction.

Groundbreaking on Krause Gateway Center took place in October. Designed by world-renown architect, Renzo Piano Building Workshop, the corporate headquarters for Kum & Go fills one of the last remaining large building sites along Gateway Park.

A new, local developer, Blackbird Investments, has acquired the remaining Younkers building and vacant lot with plans to implement the housing and commercial project in the existing building. The first phase of the streetscape implementation is planned for 2016.

Construction throughout downtown continues on many of the "key development sites" identified in the Downtown Core implementation plan, including:

- AC Hotel in the East Village
- 201 E. Locust (full block redevelopment including extended stay hotel and market rate housing)
- 420 Court (Hy-Vee and market rate housing)

- Wilkins Building (western half of the former Younker's block)
- Hotel and housing in Gray's Landing
- The Bridge District (formerly River Hills)
- Artisan Row townhomes
- Polk County Courts district
- R&T Lofts (conversion of former Register Building to affordable and market rate housing)
- Randolph Hotel conversion to market rate housing
- 7th and Grand (demolition planned to begin in September)
- Principal Financial campus blueprint projects, including major renovation of corporate headquarters at 711 High
- Demolition at YMCA and 7th and Grand Parking/former YWCA

## BUSINESS CAPITAL

*Kathryn Kunert, Mark Miller, and Mike Crum*

With a continued focus on targeted industries, partners, entrepreneurship, and international, the Business Capital took on many activities over the past quarter.

The Advanced Manufacturing Council and the Information Solutions Council held meetings during the third quarter of 2015. The Advanced Manufacturing Council conducted a Foreign Trade Zone Seminar at DMACC's FFA Enrichment Center on July 31<sup>st</sup>. Sean Murray, partner with Miller & Company, provided an overview on foreign trade zones. Immediately following Sean's remarks, Scott Folkers, VP, General Counsel and Secretary with Winnebago Industries, and Kyle Uhen, Manager of U.S. Import Compliance with Deere & Company, discussed the benefits of a foreign trade zone. About 40 manufacturing representatives and local economic development professionals attended the meeting.

The Capital Crossroads Information Solutions Council and the Greater Des Moines Partnership hosted a reception for IT students on the evening of September 29<sup>th</sup>, which was just prior to the Iowa State University College of Business Career Fair.

The region continues to enhance its global connectivity. In the third quarter, the following international activities took place:

- The Partnership hosted a visit in July by Brad McDearman and Ryan Donahue with the Global Cities Initiative, a joint program of the Brookings Institution and JP Morgan Chase. Des Moines has been selected to participate in this program to develop a foreign direct investment (FDI) plan. While in Central Iowa, Brad and Ryan meet with SPAL USA, Availon United Wind Services, Barilla America Inc., ACH Foods (Tone's) and Siegwark USA.
- The Greater Des Moines Partnership assisted the Iowa Sister Cities in hosting a delegation from Kosovo in September. Kosovo is considering setting up a Consulate office in Des Moines. The Partnership staff provided the Kosovo delegation a tour of downtown office space options. The delegation signed an MOU with the University of Iowa regarding educational exchanges and had discussions with DMACC on helping Kosovo establish technical training schools.
- The Partnership was a sponsor of an IEDA China symposium and dinner for a high ranking Chinese delegation on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The delegation signed 24 agreements to purchase \$5.3 billion worth of soybeans.

Central Iowa economic development organizations assisted on the following expansion projects:

- **American Packaging Corporation**, in Story City, announced a proposed \$44 million expansion project. The company is a flexible packaging converter specializing in flexographic and rotogravure printing, multi-ply extrusion and adhesive lamination of film, paper and foil. In order to stay competitive with the market, the company's proposed expansion would add two new printing presses, a tri-plex laminator, ancillary equipment and a building addition. The project will create 94 jobs.
- **Probioferm**, a probiotic contract manufacturing company, is constructing a 22,000 square foot facility in Urbandale to accommodate the additional space needed for manufacturing and distribution operations. The new facility will allow them to bring the packaging of their product in-house. Construction of the new \$1.9 million building should be completed by the end of the year.
- **Global Aviation Resources**, a component sales and service company for the commercial large body aircraft, plans to build a new 27,000 sq. ft. facility in West Des Moines to meet their need for additional repair and component service space, warehousing and office. The company will make a \$5 million capital investment and add 29 jobs.
- **Beck's**, the largest family-owned, retail seed company in the United States, purchased an 80 acre site in Colfax. The company announced plans to invest \$15 million and build a 90,000 square foot seed distribution facility, which will be completed by the fall of 2016. This project will create 50 jobs.
- The **3M** plant in Knoxville is planning to invest \$25.8 million in new technology for producing and converting tapes and adhesives. These plant and equipment investments are designed to meet global demand for new products and to increase manufacturing capacity for existing products. The project is expected to create 9 jobs and retain 52 jobs.
- **Xpanxion**, an Ames software services company providing solutions to Fortune 1000 enterprise level companies, announced expansion plans. The proposed expansion project adds dedicated training, research and development labs, and equips these areas with additional software, hardware and network infrastructure to allow the company to continue its growth. The project will create 45 jobs.
- **Vermeer Corporation** broke ground on the Vermeer Applied Technology Hub to be located at 2710 South Loop Drive; a state of the art facility that will house offices, meeting spaces and a high bay space. Vermeer intends to create an environment for software engineers to excel in the development of practical, affordable and modular equipment technology. The unique space will provide office space to allow students and faculty from Iowa State and other schools to work collaboratively on technology advancements for Vermeer industrial and agricultural equipment. As technology is developed, Vermeer intends to utilize the high-bay facility for testing and validation. Vermeer will initially occupy approximately 23,000 of the 35,880-square-foot facility, which will be built, owned and operated by ISU Research Park. The remaining 12,880 square feet is currently available for lease.

Several Central Iowa companies received Iowa Innovation awards during the third quarter:

- **Priority 5**, located in Ames, was founded in 2006 based upon the recognition of one key market need -- providing situational awareness to operational personnel. Although many technology solutions were being created that increased the data available to operators within specific information silos (e.g., camera feeds, sensors and alarms, radar and sonar, video analytics, 911 calls), none of them were helping decision makers assimilate and understand the aggregate impact of these expanded data streams. The company developed the platform that would become the Touch Assisted Command and Control System (TACCS™), the first software to represent all elements of true situational awareness. The company was awarded a \$250,000 loan from the Innovation Acceleration Fund for market planning and entry activities and key personnel.
- **Inland Sea LLC** is an Ames-based joint venture formed in 2014 between Heartland Global and Global Aquaponic Foods. The company is planning to build state-of-the-art recirculating aquaculture system (RAS) facilities for salmon production. The first facility will result in a weekly harvest of almost 90,000 pounds of salmon or approximately 4.4 million pounds annually. This Iowa facility will be the first in a series of large-scale, efficient, bio-secure aquaculture production sites in the U.S. and global inland locations. Inland Sea possesses the technology and systems needed to construct and operate one of the most technologically advanced, highly automated recirculating grow-out tank systems in the world. The company was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Proof of Commercial Relevance Fund for expenses in conjunction with validation of market channels for salmon from the Iowa production facility.
- **1Comm Medical, Inc.** is an Ankeny-based technology provider and distributor that was formed to help solve the inefficiency, and sub-standard care, of managing blood coagulation in patients. The company's patent pending solution offers: 1) an off-the-shelf device; 2) related consumables for testing; and 3) proprietary software created by the company, allowing healthcare providers the opportunity to shift their patients to a remote monitoring solution. The company received a \$300,000 loan through the Iowa Innovation Acceleration Propel Fund.
- **BirdDogHR** provides a complete talent management solution including recruiting and applicant tracking, onboarding, performance management, learning management and succession planning. As a leader in delivering easy-to-use software and services, BirdDogHR's proven cloud-based solution enables organizations to manage the entire employee lifecycle and improve candidate quality and flow, shorten time to hire, centralize learning, and increase employee productivity and readiness to take on more responsibility. Previously, BirdDogHR partnered with a third party to offer the onboarding module of the solution. The company wants to accelerate its growth by purchasing the code or building from scratch the onboarding module and then significantly enhancing it to meet the needs of customers and prospects. The company received a \$300,000 loan through the Iowa Innovation Acceleration Propel Fund.
- **BOGO Bowl** is a Des Moines-based pet food company that opened for business in 2012. The company sells pet food, almost exclusively online, to customers across the country. The company plans to expand its market by producing a "single-serve" size as well as by placing these products into a new-to-the-industry retail category – the convenience store (C-store) market. The company was awarded a \$25,000 Proof of Commercial Relevance grant.
- **ClinicNote** is an Iowa-based company formed to streamline the reporting process between Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) and insurance companies. Their product is a medical note taking platform designed for SLPs that allows the aggregation of individual session notes into a

progress report for health insurance companies. Their initial focus is private practice SLPs with plans to eventually expand into schools and hospitals. As they continue to grow, they have plans to build out functionality for other therapy disciplines including physical therapy and occupational therapy. The company was awarded a \$25,000 Proof of Commercial Relevance grant.

- **Fastpath** has developed technology that enables organizations to automate audit processes, resulting in compliance and cost savings in employee time and hard costs. This technology also allows companies to standardize audit and risk management processes across applications and organizations. This consistency provides best practice in audit, a framework for future audits and a departure from a traditionally manual process. The company received a \$300,000 loan through the Iowa Innovation Acceleration Propel Fund for product enhancements and marketing support.

## CULTIVATION CORRIDOR

*John May*

The Cultivation Corridor is focused on completing the build-out of the initiative and on maximizing its impact moving forward.

The Cultivation Corridor continued to see achievements across its three work platforms in the last quarter, including the release of the 2016 tactical plan and an updated strategic communications plan, the attendance of 45 Central Iowa business leaders at the Corridor-coordinated special access tour of key research and innovation installations at Iowa State University, and the opening of DuPont's cellulosic ethanol facility – the largest in the world – in Nevada.

The quarter also saw the completion of the Iowa Ag/Bio Asset Database project, a comprehensive inventory of information related to the agribusiness, biosciences and health industries and a dynamic database that houses the information. The asset database will see a public rollout in the next quarter. The Corridor partnered with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Biotechnology Association, Iowa State University, and the University of Iowa for this project.

In the last quarter, the Corridor had 16 earned media placements, seven paid media buys, and released two new pieces of collateral related to [agtechnology](#) and [biofuels](#) within the ag industry infographic series. One more piece will bring the series of collateral to a close, making a set of five.

During the quarter, the Corridor represented the region at the John Deere Classic, the International Food Technologists Annual Meeting and Food Expo in Chicago, the US Department of Agriculture's National Stakeholder Forum in Washington D.C., and at BIO World Congress in Montreal – the largest bio-industrial industry gathering in the world. Additionally, the Corridor hosted a Trade Commissioner with the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis and traveled to Chicago with partners from the Greater Des Moines Partnership and the Global Insurance Accelerator to place a series of consulate and client calls, meeting with consulate staff from the UK, Canada, Japan, Australia, Italy, and Israel.

In recent months, Vermeer Corporation, a Corridor founding stakeholder, broke ground on its Applied Technology Hub at the Iowa State University Research Park, production began at the Biopolymer

Processing Facility at Iowa State's BioCentury Research Farm, and DuPont's Integrated Seed Science Center in Johnston and REG's headquarters in Ames expanded.

During its October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Cultivation Corridor Board of Directors unanimously approved the elevation of Gage A. Kent, Chairman and CEO of Kent Corporation and a founding Corridor stakeholder, as its next chairman. Kent's two-year chairmanship will begin July 1, 2016. He will succeed current Chairman John May of Deere & Company. Additionally, Corridor founding board member Chris Nelson, President and CEO of Kemin Industries, was appointed to co-chair the Governor's STEM Council, along with Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds.

## WELLNESS CAPITAL

*Jami Haberl and Rick Kozin*

The Wellness Capital is focused on developing a Healthy Community Toolkit, ensuring effective coordination, and conducting a Wellness and Community Study. The Wellness Capital took on several activities to support these goals during the last quarter.

The Wellness Capital reconvened for the first time with new chairs and included members from the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Steering Committee. The Wellness Capital will align its work with the CHAN once it is complete in December.

Health Homes East Bank – a partnership of the three hospitals, the Polk County Health Department, HCI-VNS, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation, and other community partners – launched. The goal of Healthy Homes East Bank is to reduce pediatric asthma hospitalizations and emergency room visits through housing remediation strategies.

The Healthiest State Initiative hosted "Walk at the Whistle." Over 290 walks were registered throughout the region.

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is providing small grants to communities for complete street projects, and the Partnership for a Hunger Free Polk County is kicking off an awareness and fundraising campaign.

The *Business Record* published an article entitled "Health is built into the community – or not." It features an essay by Polk County Health Department Director and Wellness Capital co-chair Rick Kozin. The piece is available at <http://www.businessrecord.com/Content/Health-Wellness/Health-Wellness/Article/Health-is-built-into-the-community-or-not/174/836/69411>.

## HUMAN CAPITAL

*Dave Wilkerson and Chris Littlefield*

The Human Capital is divided into two focus areas: 1) a comprehensive Cradle thru Career approach to education and talent preparation called EDGE – Education Drives our Great Economy; and 2) talent retention & attraction. The EDGE initiative is a collaboration of the Business Education Alliance and the Greater Des Moines Partnership and is under the direction of the EDGE Board of Director. The talent

attraction & retention work is being directed and implemented through the Partnership’s Workforce Development/Education Board and staff.

With collaboration and input from over 140 education, business, non-profit and public stakeholders, EDGE has developed a robust community goal to: “Increase the percentage of Central Iowa adults who have high-quality degrees, certificates and other credentials to 75 percent by 2025 with educational outcomes aligning to workforce needs.”

EDGE’s stakeholders are working to accomplish this goal by aligning to all the great programs that are already in existence. An ongoing Cradle through Career approach focuses our region on linking schools, employers and our community. All stakeholders are taking a proactive stance on education issues to ensure that Central Iowa is ready to compete and businesses secure educated and skilled workers.

A new, different and aggressive campaign, “75X25” is being developed to serve as a rally cry for all Central Iowan’s to get behind to continue positioning our region as a competitive global marketplace. The campaign will launch with in all stakeholder groups and GDMP’s member businesses and organizations during the fourth quarter of 2015. “75X25” marketing collateral, website, and other initiatives will be rolled out to launch the campaign.

The **talent attraction and retention** team unveiled a new talent attraction brochure that aligns with the Greater Des Moines Partnership’s overall CarpeDM – Seize Des Moines campaign. The Partnership began distributing the brochures during their fall college campus recruiting efforts across the Midwest. In total, the team was on 70 college and university campuses in 2015, nearly three times the goal of 25.

Utilization of the Partnership’s key attraction/retention tool , CarpeDM – Seizedesmoines.com, continues to grow in terms of growth in number of users and improving the experience by users. Since January 2015, the number of both Unique Visitors/Users and overall Visits/Sessions have more than doubled from the same time period in 2014. Below are analytics comparing 2014 statistics of the site to 2015 activity through mid-September, 2015.

<b>Analytics</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015 (thru 9/14)</b>
Unique Visitors	20,938	32,363
Overall Visits/Sessions	30,006	48,883
Pages/Visit	3.88	3.77
Returning Visitors	30.3%	34.8%
Average Time on Site	3:23	3:23
States Reached	50 + DC	50 + DC
Iowa Cities	200	245
Cities	1965	2810
Countries	88	119

In September, the Partnership announced the formation of the Des Moines Immigration Initiative in an effort to make Central Iowa a premier destination for foreign-born talent and continued economic advancement. This initiative will be implemented in conjunction with the Partnership for a New American Economy, who bring years of research and expertise to help guide the process for recruitment and retention of immigrant talent in the Des Moines metro.

The project will include a task force of government, business, education and community leaders that will put forth policy recommendations for Greater Des Moines that draw on the experience of other cities with such initiatives and partnerships across the country. Once the recommendations are issued, the Initiative will disseminate its findings to raise awareness about immigration's positive effects on the local and state economy and assist the Partnership in developing a global talent attraction/retention strategy.

In August, the Partnership concluded the seventh season of Do More in the City, a series of community engagement and professional development opportunities for summer interns. All interns and college students working in the Greater Des Moines area are invited to participate in Do More in the City. The Partnership interacted with over 250 participants representing colleges and universities across the Midwest, US, and the globe—from Drake University to Universidade de Sao Paulo.

Each session of the 6-part series featured components of personal and professional development and leadership mastery presented by panels of community leaders as well as social and community awareness opportunities. The topics included:

- Networking and Business Etiquette
- Intra/Entrepreneurship
- Building Your Brand Online
- Community Engagement
- Finding Your Leadership Style
- Arts and Culture

The Partnership awarded a “Mastery of Community Leadership Certificate” to more than 90 interns that participated in three or more of the events. In addition, all interns had an opportunity to enjoy a small group breakfast or lunch with a dozen executives from the community.

## SOCIAL CAPITAL

*Angie Dethlefs-Trettin and Phil Hodgkin*

The Social Capital team is focused on leadership, diversity, and civility. The committee has subgroups for the Regional Leadership Council, Community Connect, the Diversity & Inclusion Council, the Civility Initiative, and the Emerging Leaders Collaborative; their respective reports are as follows.

The **Regional Leadership Council (RLC)** has continued to meet and has successfully secured the bid to host the regional ALP conference in June of 2016. Collectively, the group will help inform the overall programming as well as plan the evening event for the conference.

In addition, the RLC hosted the second annual Converge Conference where Dr. Matt Davidson presented on intentional leadership through integrity and civility. The session was done in collaboration with the Ray Center at Drake University and seven sponsors joined the RLC in the event. More details can be found at <http://gdml.com/event-2027807>.

The LeadershipLink platform through United Way launched as a platform to provide a way for nonprofit organizations to post leadership roles to those seeking opportunities to serve.

In an effort to continue refining the curriculum to focus on purpose and mentor connection, **Community Connect** reached out to Christi Hegstad, a local consultant who focuses on helping leaders find meaning and purpose in their personal and professional lives. Christi's approach is very practical and applicable, and it is evident that she truly listened to Community Connect's goals when she submitted a high level proposal. This and other options for the new curriculum are under consideration. Community Connect will host an informational session on the program later this month; details are available at <http://www.gdmli.com/event-2069629>.

The **Diversity & Inclusion Council** launched the Inclusion Award nomination & application period. The D&I Council hosted the Multicultural Reception with over 500 in attendance and also hosted a roundtable discussion on young professionals in the workplace. The Council coordinated the National Disability Employment Awareness Month Series, a presentation for the D&I Council from Easter Seals, the Diversity Career Fair, and a D&I roundtable focusing on the military.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Executive Forum on D&I will take place later this month. The topic is Race Relations: From Understanding to Action. Attendance is expected to be 300-400 people. Planning 3rd Annual Executive Forum on D&I "Race Relations: from Understanding to Action" - Est attendance 3-400.

In the last quarter, the **Civility Initiative** has focused on civility in the Iowa caucus. The team has been attending candidate events to distribute Show Some Respect information and has started asking candidates how they plan on showing civility during the campaign. The Election Edition of the Civility Pledge and other materials have been met by the public with a lot of enthusiasm.

The Drake University interns have started building a student committee. They have been using an informational table on campus to talk to students and hand out Show Some Respect stickers.

The Civility Initiative is continuing to build community partnerships to advance the message and has booked a date to bring in a national speaker on civility in January.

The **Emerging Leaders Collaborative (ELC)** continues to build a reference library of best practices for young professional groups. Engagement from group members has increased, and additional groups have been added to the collaborative. All focus areas are being addressed. Increased collaboration, the sharing of resources, and coordinated events and efforts between groups are leading to successes that are shared by all.

## CULTURAL CAPITAL

*Mary Cownie and Brian Laurenzo*

The Cultural Capital is focused on three key components: communication, collaboration, and sustainable funding and capacity.

The Iowa Arts Advocacy Caucus, a joint project of Americans for the Arts, Iowa Arts Council, Bravo Greater Des Moines, Iowa Alliance for Arts Education, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, included over 175 participants from across the state. Advocates were trained on messaging relating to arts and culture needs in the community and the nation. Strategies and tactics to interject arts issues into the upcoming

presidential caucus cycle were also included. This joint project of both local and national arts agencies helped enhance communication about the arts across the state, solidified new collaborations among arts agencies and helped increase awareness about funding needs.

The first annual Cloris Awards were held at the Des Moines Social Club. The Cloris Awards celebrate local theater in Central Iowa. Awards were presented in 11 categories, and nearly 200 people attended the awards.

Bravo will announce capital campaign awards by the end of the month. These awards will infuse \$450,000 in capital projects to support the arts across the region. The Bravo Community Cultural Plan initiative is in early formation stages. This project will be a direct build on Cultural Capital work to date and will lead into Capital Crossroads 2.0.

Airport aesthetic improvement planning is underway to enhance traveler exposure to arts and culture within the Des Moines International Airport, and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and Bravo helped develop the Greater Des Moines Partnership's Government Policy Council (GPC) Quality of Life Agenda.

Bravo, the Iowa Arts Council, and the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs hosted Jane Chu, Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), in early November. She had official visits with six cultural organizations in Central Iowa and spoke to more than 100 guests from around the region at a town hall event. This visit was part of the NEA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and is a direct result of the region's quality of life initiatives over the last ten years.

## PHYSICAL CAPITAL

*Michael Sadler and Dave Caris*

The Physical Capital committee is focused on three key components: transportation, stormwater and flood control, and communications.

The Transit Future Work Group held two successful fact finding visits regarding Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Local stakeholders and interested parties have traveled to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Kansas City, Missouri, to meet with transit officials, advocacy groups, and elected and community leaders to learn from their experiences in implementing new forms of transit and transportation in their communities.

The Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Plan is complete and can be found at [www.fourmilecreekwatershed.org](http://www.fourmilecreekwatershed.org). The Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority (WMA) is currently setting up the implementation process, which includes the creation of a watershed coordinator position to assist with the implementation. The Wastewater Reclamation Authority (WRA) is looking at several streambank restoration projects along Fourmile Creek. These will provide protection to WRA infrastructure as well as substantially reduce pollutants from eroding streambanks. Polk County and the City of Des Moines are continuing property buyout along Fourmile Creek in Des Moines. These voluntary buyouts are focused on repetitive flooding loss structures. The next phase of this work will include the development of a master plan for the buyout area to protect and enhance the greenway area.

A draft plan will be presented to the Walnut Creek WMA at its meeting next week. The plan will include recommended actions for addressing key issues identified throughout the planning process, including approaches suited for rural, developing, and developed areas of the watershed. The Walnut Creek WMA also is working with other WMAs to plan for ongoing coordination and water quality monitoring.

The Mud, Camp, and Spring Creek Watershed Plan is scheduled to be completed in April. To date, watershed goals and objectives and goals have been developed and approved by the steering committee and WMA board. Remaining work includes the development of an implementation plan and the final report.

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has created a single, comprehensive online map for exploring upcoming transportation projects in Greater Des Moines. This will be of great benefit to the public and community at large.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is currently working on the Preliminary Engineering and Tier 2 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) activities for the Moline to Iowa City segment of the overall Chicago to Iowa City intercity passenger rail route. When completed in 2017, these activities will result in more details engineering estimates and the necessary environmental clearances so that the project is ready for the next step. Unfortunately, due to an increase in costs to continue the project to the construction and implementation phases, the state must acquire additional federal funding and the required state match. At this time, there is not a federal funding program in place for passenger rail implementation activities such as these.

The Iowa DOT is also currently working on updating the State Rail Plan, which will have detailed information on both passenger and freight rail in Iowa. Future passenger rail corridors will be discussed and recommendations for federal funding opportunities to support these corridors will be recognized. The plan will also provide detailed information on the current passenger/freight rail system that exists in Iowa as well as the trends, issues, goals and objectives for the future passenger/freight rail network.

## GOVERNANCE CAPITAL

*Gretchen Tegeler and Bob Andeweg*

The Governance Capital committee is focused on reinvigorating the MAC, identifying opportunities to regionalize certain public services, and maintaining the momentum of the Local Government Collaboration Project.

MAC received a report from the Governance Capital on November 10<sup>th</sup> and was encouraged to take an active interest in the projects that are underway.

Work continues on the uniform building code. Multiple subcommittees have been formed, focusing on the building and existing building code, the electrical and energy code, the fire code, the joint fire and building code, the mechanical/fuel gas/plumbing code, and the residential code. The Capital Crossroads team is supporting this work. More information is available at <http://www.capitalcrossroadsvision.com/central-iowa-code-consortium/>.

Projects have been selected for collaboration among libraries and human resource professionals across the metro. DMACC again is facilitating these discussions. Following their work in the Local Government Collaboration project, metro-area parks and recreation directors continue to meet to discuss regional trail maintenance standards.

The Clive/Windsor Heights fire merger was voted down by Windsor Heights City Council. Possible fire/EMS collaborations will be explored with other western suburbs.

Exploration of the long-run implications of regional water production continues via a technical committee of the Central Iowa Regional Drinking Water Commission (CIRDWC); however, the continuation of the commission itself is in question.

## NATURAL CAPITAL

*Larry James, Jr., and Adam Hammes*

The Natural Capital continues to make great strides in its four focus areas: land use, zoning, and climate; outdoor recreation and trails; air/water/soil; and, marketing and education.

Iowa's Water Future has been formed. It is comprised of thought leaders in business, agriculture, public policy, and academia. The goal is to identify funding sources for all water-related projects. This may include layers of solutions such as legislation, education, and technology. Approximately 100 stakeholders are involved with this group, which has set a goal of December 1<sup>st</sup> to deliver its recommendations.

The Polk County Conservation Board is developing a county-wide water quality monitoring plan. This will provide the vehicle to obtain water quality data for streams throughout Polk County that meet or exceed Iowa Department of Natural Resources monitoring protocol.

Multiple Watershed Management Authorities (WMAs) continue to advance their work; this is summarized under the Physical Capital.

Work on the comprehensive blue and green network continues to move forward. The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is finalizing the foundational mapping work, which received financial support from Growing Green Communities. This baseline mapping work will guide the branding process as well as policy and technical recommendations.

The Iowa District Council of the Urban Land Institute (ULI) played a key role in eliminating parking restrictions in downtown Des Moines. This work is part of a larger effort to make downtown more pedestrian friendly and generate more business activity. In addition, 12<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown was converted to a two-way street.

The Mid America Trails and Greenways (MATAG) conference is a biannual conference that brings together trail managers, developers, advocates and users from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin that have an interest in the development and

management of trails, greenways, and blueways. This year's conference took place October 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in downtown Des Moines. About 183 people from all over the region participated in the conference.