



# FEMA

## *Flood Mitigation Project Will Help Allamakee County Save Thousands of Dollars*

**Waukon, IA** — In Spring 2008, the banks of the Upper Iowa River were damaged by severe storms and flooding. However, repairs to a section of gravel road leading to a canoe launch site on the river were performed to higher standards that will help protect the road against future destruction.

“With FEMA’s assistance toward this project, the State of Iowa is now better prepared for future flood events, while saving taxpayers’ dollars during this difficult economic season,” said Iowa Governor Chet Culver. “This is a good example of the progress that can be made simply by working together with one goal in mind: rebuilding Iowa safer, stronger, and better than before.”

At the request of Gov. Culver, the President signed a major disaster declaration for Iowa as a result of the storms, floodwaters, and tornadoes, which hit the State between May 25 and August 13, 2008. Sections of the road bed and embankment were then damaged in June of 2008 when heavy rains fell across the State. A 30-inch reinforced concrete culvert pipe that ran under the entrance of the road became exposed, separating the sections. Another 24-inch culvert, which ran parallel to the road and empties in a ditch running into the river, was also clogged with soil and debris.

An application for funding was made to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Public Assistance Program to assist in the cost of repairing the damaged road. This program reimburses eligible government jurisdictions and certain non-profits for the costs of debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair or restoration of damaged public infrastructure. In most cases, the funding through the program helps repair and restore the damaged infrastructure back to pre-disaster conditions.

For this particular project, the 30-inch reinforced concrete culvert was replaced with a corrugated metal pipe 12 inches larger in diameter and had a corrugated metal pipe apron added at both the inlet and outlet to help disburse the water and minimize erosion. In addition, the 24-inch corrugated metal pipe was replaced with a 48-inch corrugated metal pipe. An additional 56 feet was added to the pipe’s length, as well as adding an apron at the inlet. A one-way steel flap gate was placed at the outlet to prevent floodwater from backing up into the pipe.

The original cost to repair the road and culverts would have been \$31,296. The mitigation construction on the project was an additional \$16,501, bringing the total cost of the project to \$47,798. FEMA provided 90 percent (\$43,018) of the grant funding for the Allamakee County mitigation project; the State paid the remaining 10 percent. The potential savings for the next flood event is \$31,300.

“This is an excellent example of a modest investment in infrastructure improvements that will pay dividends for years to come,” said FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Parker.

“In Iowa, we know that investing in mitigation not only lessens the impact of a disaster on a community, but is also a smart way of doing business,” said David Miller, administrator of the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.



Allamakee County,  
Iowa



### Quick Facts

Year:

**2008**

Sector:

**Public**

Cost:

**Amount Not Available**

Primary Activity/Project:

**Flood-proofing**

Primary Funding:

**Other FEMA funds/ US Department of Homeland Security**