

## Pottawattamie County Flooding



Lynn Grobe, Chairman of the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors, spoke at the Optimist Club on September 24. After the river reached flood stage, Pottawattamie County mainly supplied labor to help with sandbagging and monitoring the levy South of Council Bluffs.

In the past week the river level has gone down three feet at Sioux City. In a few days the water level should decrease here also.

Pottawattamie County applied for emergency federal assistance earlier, but it was denied. At the time there were not have enough houses classified as substantially damaged. They are starting a new application.

I-29 is open North of Council Bluffs. There are some railroad tracks along that route that have no dirt under them. This week the EPA has been picking up fuel and propane tanks that floated down the river and lodged various places.

Some farmland that was flooded is being cleaned up now. They recommend that soybeans, not corn, be planted in those areas because it softens the soil and adds nitrogen. Corn will not

loosen the soil as much.

For natural disasters, the federal government usually picks up 75% of the cost, the state 10%, and the county 15%. The county contribution can consist of in-kind labor. Council Bluffs did a great job preventing flooding, but they will not get reimbursed for much of it, because it was preventive, not actual damage.