

The Board of Supervisors met on 2/24/26 at 10:00 a.m. in the Story County Administration Building. Linda Murken, and Lisa Heddens, with Murken presiding. Latifah Faisal absent. (all audio of meetings available at [storycountyiowa.gov](http://storycountyiowa.gov)); any resolution is effective upon signature and can be inspected during business hours, Monday-Friday, 8-4:30, at 900 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, Iowa)

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:** Heddens moved, Murken seconded adopting the agenda as listed. Motion carried unanimously (MCU) on a roll call vote.

**AMES REGIONAL ECONOMIC ALLIANCE WORKFORCE RE-TRAINING QUARTERLY REPORT:** Shannon Thiele, Vice President of Affiliate Programming, reported on programs, participation statistics, outreach efforts, social media reach, events, and the unemployment rate.

**CHILDSERVE ANNUAL REPORT:** Kate Reynolds, Ames Area Director, highlighted the following: grants, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, building expansion, kitchen renovation project, growth potential for programs, increase in clients served, staffing, and family engagement.

**CHILDSERVE ANNUAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) REPORT:** see previous item.

**CITY OF COLO AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) ANNUAL REPORT:** Amy Kohlwes, City Clerk, reported the funds will go towards 15 houses in a development that can potentially have 90 houses. Fifteen new homes is significant for Colo and will benefit the entire community as well as the school district.

**MINUTES:** 2/17/26 Minutes – Heddens moved, Murken seconded approving the Minutes as presented. Roll call vote. (MCU)

**PERSONNEL ACTIONS:** 1) new hire, effective 3/2/26, in a) Secondary Roads for Ryan Rasmussen @ \$30.80/hr. Heddens moved, Murken seconded approving the Personnel Actions as listed. Roll call vote. (MCU)

**CLAIMS:** 2/26/26 Claims of \$1,117,804.47 (run date 2/20/26, 31 pages, on file in the Auditor's Office) and authorize the Auditor to issue checks in payments of these claims and payment requests from CIDTF (\$18,973.79), Holding-Seized Funds (\$18,357.63), Emergency Management (\$898.50), E911 (\$23,384.61), County Assessor (\$2,597.92), City Assessor (\$81,216.61). Heddens moved, Murken seconded approving claims as listed. Roll call vote. (MCU)

Heddens moved, Murken seconded approving the Consent Agenda as listed.

1. Setting Bid Opening for 3/3/26, at 10:00 a.m., in the Public Meeting Room at the Story County Administration Building for RCB Culvert New–Twin Box on 310<sup>th</sup> Street, over drainage, in Section 20 of Collins Township (L-COL20--73-85), and RCB Culvert New-Twin Box on 590<sup>th</sup> Avenue, over an overflow for drainage district Milford 13 in Section 21 of Milford Township (L-M22--73-85)
2. Setting Bid Opening for 3/3/26, at 10:00 a.m., in the Public Meeting Room at the Story County Administration Building for RCB Culvert New–Single Box on 730<sup>th</sup> Avenue, over an unnamed stream in Section 25 of Lincoln Township (LFM-L25--7X-85), and RCB Culvert Replacement–Single Box on 580<sup>th</sup> Avenue, over a small stream in Section 29 of Union Township (L-U28S--73-85)
3. Bird Friendly County Reapplication to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF)
4. Resolution #26-61, Setting a Date and Time for a Public Hearing for 3/3/26, for First Consideration of Consideration of Ordinance No. 329, Amending Chapter 85, General Provisions and Definitions and Chapter 86, District Requirements of the Story County Code of Ordinances–Land Development Regulations for a Text Amendment to Rescind Ordinance No. 311
5. Resolution #26-62, Setting a Date and Time for a Public Hearing for 3/3/26, for First Consideration of Ordinance No. 330, Amending Chapter 85, General Provisions and Definitions; Chapter 86, District Requirements; Chapter 88, General Site Planning Standards; and Chapter 90, Conditional Uses of the Story County Code of Ordinances–Land Development Regulations for a Text Amendment to Address Uses for Digital Asset Mining, Cryptocurrency Operations, Data Processing Centers and/or Battery/Energy Storage Solutions on properties located in unincorporated Story County
6. Appointment of Nathaniel Kuhn (Banker/Auctioneer/Appraiser) to the 2026 Condemnation Commission
7. Amended Story County Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Policies and Procedures
8. Utility Permit: #26-8765

Roll call vote. (MCU)

**RESOLUTION #26-53, TO ENTER INTO AN UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENT WITH THE IOWA POWER AND LIGHT (IPL) COMPANY IN SECTION 22, TOWNSHIP 85N RANGE 22W (WARREN TOWNSHIP):**

Mike Cox, Director, reported the easement allows IPL to place an underground electrical line across County property next to the Praeri Rail Trail. He reported on the location and stated the easement will not impact the trail. The Conservation Board recommends approval. Murken opened the public hearing at 10:19 a.m., and, hearing none, she closed the public hearing at 10:19 a.m. Heddens moved, Murken seconded approving Resolution #26-53, to enter into an Underground Electric Line Easement with the Iowa Power and Light Company in Section 22 of Warren Township. Roll call vote. (MCU)

**CONSERVATION QUARTERLY REPORT:** Director Mike Cox, reported on school and public programming, natural resources, staff, bond projects, and upcoming events.

**LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS UPDATES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS:** All Board members reported on multiple items.

Heddens moved, Murken seconded to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. Roll call vote. (MCU)

Story County Board of Supervisors  
Tentative Agenda  
Administration Building, 900 6th St., Nevada, IA  
2/24/26

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: - This Meeting Is Also Being Offered Via Zoom. While Joining Via Zoom, If You Have A Question And/Or Comment, You May Raise Your Hand To Speak During Public Forum Or Use The Chat Feature And The Chair Will Ask The Zoom Moderator To Review All Comments During Public Forum.

**Members of the public can participate by using the information below:**

To join the zoom meeting by computer, tablet, smartphone :

Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join.

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/84805508697?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84805508697?pwd=2YHCFNMLRKFAX9LBIS8CJK6BETSZNP.1)

[PWD=2YHCFNMLRKFAX9LBIS8CJK6BETSZNP.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84805508697?pwd=2YHCFNMLRKFAX9LBIS8CJK6BETSZNP.1)

Webinar ID: 848 0550 8697

Passcode: 646002

Or One tap mobile:

+13017158592,,84068041164# US (Washington DC)

+13052241968,,84068041164# US

Or join by phone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 305 224 1968 or +1 309 205 3325 or +1 312 626 6799 or  
+1 646 931 3860 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 360 209 5623 or +1 386 347 5053 or +1 507  
473 4847 or +1 564 217 2000 or +1 669 444 9171 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 689 278 1000  
or +1 719 359 4580 or +1 253 205 0468 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799

Webinar ID: 840 6804 1164

2. CALL TO ORDER: 10:00 A.M.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC COMMENT #1:

This comment period is for the public to address topics on today's agenda

6. AGENCY REPORTS:

- I. Ames Regional Economic Alliance Workforce Re-Training Quarterly Report - Shannon Thiele, Vice President Of Affiliate Programming

Department Submitting Board of Supervisors

Documents:

ALLIANCE QTR RPRT.PDF

- II. ChildServe Annual Report - Kate Reynolds, Director Ames Area

Department Submitting Auditor

Documents:

CHILDSERVE.PDF

III. Childserve Annual American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Report - Kate Reynolds

Department Submitting Board of Supervisors

IV. City Of Colo American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Annual Report - Amy Kohlwes, City Clerk

Department Submitting Board of Supervisors

7. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

I. 2/17/26 Minutes

Department Submitting Auditor

8. CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS:

I. Action Forms

1) new hire, effective 3/2/26, in a) Secondary Roads for Ryan Rasmussen @ \$30.80/hr.

Department Submitting Auditor

Documents:

ACTION FORM.PDF

9. CONSIDERATION OF CLAIMS:

I. 2/26/26 Claims

Department Submitting Auditor

Documents:

CLAIMS 022626.PDF

10. CONSENT AGENDA:

(All items listed under the consent agenda will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a request is made prior to the time the Board votes on the motion.)

- I. Consideration For Setting Bid Opening For March 3, 2026, At 10:00 AM In The Board Room At The Story County Administration Building For RCB Culvert New - Twin Box On 310th St., Over Drainage, S20-T82-R21. (L-COL20-73-85) And RCB Culvert New - Twin Box On 590th Ave., Over Overflow Of Milford 13 In, S21-T84-R23. (L-M22-73-85)

Department Submitting Engineer

- II. Consideration Of Setting Bid Opening For March 3, 2026, At 10:00 AM In The Board Room At The Story County Administration Building For RCB Culvert New - Single Box On 730th Ave., Over Unnamed Stream, S25-T85-R21. (LFM-L25-7X-85) And RCB Culvert Replacement - Single Box On 580th Ave., Over Small Stream, S29-T82-R23. (L-U28S-73-85)

Department Submitting Engineer

- III. Consideration Of Bird Friendly County Reapplication

Department Submitting Conservation

Documents:

BFI REAPPLICATION.PDF

- IV. Consideration Of Resolution #26-61, Setting A Date And Time For A Public Hearing For March 3, 2026, For First Consideration Of Consideration Of Ordinance No. 329, Amending Chapter 85, General Provisions And Definitions And Chapter 86, District Requirements Of The Story County Code Of Ordinances—Land Development Regulations For A Text Amendment To Rescind Ordinance No. 311.

Department Submitting Planning and Development

Documents:

RES 26 61.PDF

- V. Consideration Of Resolution #26-62, Setting A Date And Time For A Public Hearing For March 3, 2026, For First Consideration Of Ordinance No. 330, Amending Chapter 85, General Provisions And Definitions; Chapter 86, District Requirements; Chapter 88, General Site Planning Standards; And Chapter 90, Conditional Uses Of The Story County Code Of Ordinances—Land Development Regulations For A Text Amendment To Address Uses For Digital Asset Mining, Cryptocurrency Operations, Data Processing Centers And/Or Battery/Energy Storage Solutions On Properties Located In Unincorporated Story County.

Department Submitting Planning and Development

Documents:

RES 26 62.PDF

- VI. Consideration Of Appointment For The 2026 Condemnation Commission; Bankers, Auctioneers, Appraisers – Nathaniel Kuhn

Department Submitting Board of Supervisors

Documents:

2026 KUHN CONDEMNATION COMMISSION.PDF

- VII. Consideration Of Amended Story County HIPAA Policies And Procedures

Confidential

Department Submitting Human Resources

VIII. Consideration Of Utility Permit #26-8765

Department Submitting Engineer

Documents:

UT 26 8765.PDF

11. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:

- I. Consideration Of Resolution #26-53, To Enter Into An Underground Electric Line Easement With The Iowa Power And Light Company In Section 22, Township 85N Range 22W, Story County, Iowa - Mike Cox

Department Submitting Conservation

Documents:

RESOLUTION 26 53.PDF

IPLC EASEMENT.PDF

12. ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

13. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- I. Conservation Quarterly Report - Mike Cox

Department Submitting Auditor

Documents:

CONSERVATION QTR.PDF

14. OTHER REPORTS:

15. UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS:

16. PUBLIC COMMENT #2:

Comments from the Public on Items not on this Agenda. The Board may not take any Action on the Comments due to the Requirements of the Open Meetings Law, but May Do So In the Future.

17. LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS UPDATES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE SUPERVISORS:

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Story County strives to ensure that its programs and activities do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Persons requiring assistance, auxiliary aids or services, or accommodation because of a disability may contact the county's ADA coordinator at

(515) 382-7204.

Story County Board of Supervisors

Agenda

2/24/26

NAME

AGENCY

Amy Komuves  
Sharon Thiele  
Kate Reynolds  
Sandra [Signature]

City of Cold  
Ames Alliance  
Child Serve  
BoS

## QUARTER 4, 2025

### RETRAINING PROGRAM



**Programs Offered in Q4:**

- Office Specialist, IT Help Desk, Sterile Processing, CNA, Phlebotomy, CDL, MIG Welding

**16 Participants** (Ames, Nevada, Boone)

**Average Age:** 43 Years Old



**LIVABILITY  
 MEDIA**

“Inside America’s Best Cities” Livability Media Podcast  
 – Maximize Your Workforce with Short Term Training

**2025 Totals:**

- 48 participants
- Ames, Collins, Slater, Madrid, Nevada, Boone
- 1961-2005 birthdate range
- CNA, Sterile Processing, Phlebotomy, CDL, Office Specialist, IT Help Desk, CPR, MIG Welding



**Rodah Runanu-Ndlela**



**Hanna Petrova**

### Live Work Play in Ames

- **798 Job Postings** (632 in Story County)
- **154,071 Views** on Facebook in 2025
- LWP in Ames brand on **Fareway Semi**
- **Story County Unemployment Rate: 3.2%**

**“Coming from Kenya, I wasn’t sure what to expect, but people here went out of their way to make me feel included and cared for. I was also pleasantly surprised by how diverse and connected the community is — despite being a smaller city, there’s a real sense of belonging and togetherness.” - Rodah Runanu-Ndlela**

#### Q4 EVENTS RECAP

- Young Professionals of Iowa Conference
- State of the AREA
- UEA Ribbon Cutting
- Downtown Trick or Treat
- Campustown Fall Classic
- Huxley Business Breakfast
- Annual Event - Breakfast & Luncheon

#### UPCOMING Q1 EVENTS

- 2026 Economic Outlook Breakfast
- Rising Leaders City & County Govt’ Day
- AREA Housing Summit
- 2026 State of Wellness
- Women in Leadership International Women’s Day
- 2026 Agr Breakfast/ Rising Leaders Agriculture & Manufacturing Day

# WORKFORCE EVENTS



## AREA YP Lunch & Learn with Debi Durham

Debi Durham, Director of the Iowa Finance Authority and Economic Development Authority, shared the latest updates on economic development in Iowa and the Ames region, and highlighted the opportunities that make our state a thriving place to live, work, and play.



## AREA YP Fundraiser for Boys & Girls Clubs of Story County

AREA YP raised \$5,000 for The Boys & Girls Clubs of Story County by hosting a Bags Tournament.

These funds will help serve 1,667 hot meals to our youth.



## Highway 30 Career Fairs

40 employers with 200 job seekers in Central Iowa

Cities included: Tama, Marshalltown, Ames, Boone



## Rising Leaders Academy Entrepreneurism and College Day

Students toured the Iowa State University Student Innovation Center, visited the Des Moines Area Community College Ames Hunziker Center, and participated in a presentation and activity with the ISU Pappajohn Center for Entrepreneurship.



## Rising Leaders Academy Resume Building, Interview Skills, and AREA Annual Luncheon



## Story County Child Care Feasibility Study

Pendulum Dependent Care Solutions conducting community survey to better understand current and future need of child care.

**Partners include:** Ames Regional Economic Alliance, United Way of Story County, Iowa State University, City of Ames, Story County Board of Supervisors, Story County Medical Center, Nevada Economic Development Council



**childserve**<sup>®</sup>  
*Believing in the spirit of a child.*

# ChildServe – Ames Report for Story County Board of Supervisors

*February 24, 2026*



### Our Mission

We partner with families to help children with special healthcare needs live a *great* life.

### Our Vision

To transform lives by continuously improving pediatric healthcare.

### Our Values

We believe in *caring* for others with acceptance and love. We believe in building *partnerships* through *trust*, collaboration and commitment. We believe in *integrity*, uncompromising standards of business and the passionate pursuit of *excellence*.



## ChildServe

- **Iowa's largest pediatric rehabilitation provider** for children with special healthcare needs. We have 174 occupational, physical and speech therapists – 30 in Ames.
- **Iowa's only CARF-accredited rehabilitation program** with specialties in pediatrics and brain injury.
- **Physician-led** by board-certified pediatric physiatrist, Dr. Rachel Blankenship.
- **215 team members** employed at ChildServe – Ames, with 4.8 years average tenure for full-time staff.

## Governance

ChildServe is governed by a Board of Trustees and a Board of Directors. Our Ames Community Advisory Board meets quarterly to give feedback on community engagement and program needs.

### Meet our Ames Community Advisory Board:

- **Nic Bulver** – Chevron
- **Jennifer Conrad** – VisionBank
- **Amy Edwardson** – Story Construction
- **Ben Hershey** – Country Landscape
- **Scot Kinne** – Fareway Stores, Inc.
- **Yvonne Kinzler** – Kinzler Construction Services
- **Nate Kuhn** – Northwest Bank
- **Grace Larkey** – Chevron
- **Alicia Sloan** – Household Manager



## Accreditations and Honors



**3-Star Rating on Iowa's new Quality Rating and Improvement System**  
ChildServe's Ames Childcare Center holds a 3-star rating on this enhanced and prestigious rating scale.



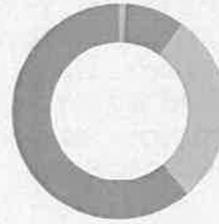
**CARF Accreditation**  
ChildServe currently holds a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).



**Top Workplace**  
ChildServe has been named a Top Workplace in Iowa by the Des Moines Register every year since 2014.

## Programs & Funding

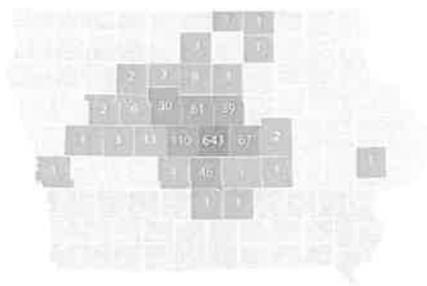
- **Applied Behavior Analysis** – Insurance and Medicaid/MCOs
- **Childcare** – ASSET funders, DHS childcare assistance and private pay
- **Outpatient Therapy and Adaptive Equipment** – private insurance, private pay and Medicaid/MCOs
- **Respite and Supported Community Living** – Central Iowa Community Services, Children at Home funds, ARC of Story County funds, private pay and Medicaid/MCOs
- **Day Habilitation, Medical Childcare, Autism Day Program** – private pay and Medicaid/MCOs



### FUNDING SOURCES

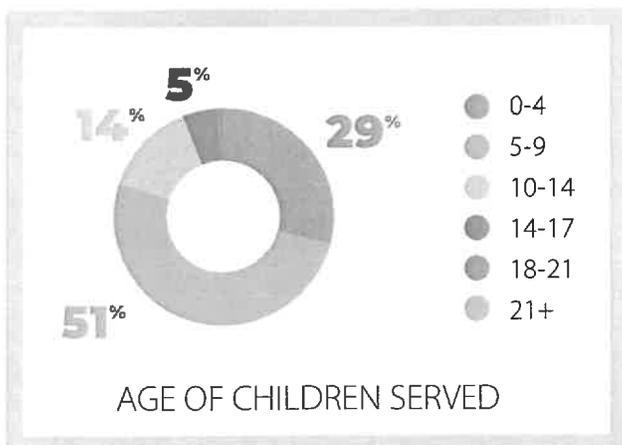
1%	ASSET
1%	DHS
8%	Insurance
29%	Private Pay
61%	Medicaid/MCOs

## Impact By The Numbers: ChildServe – Ames\*



### SERVING CHILDREN FROM 28 OF IOWA'S 99 COUNTIES

Pediatric Rehabilitation	# Served
Durable Medical Equipment	1
Outpatient Therapy	896
Behavioral Health & Autism	
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	22
Autism Day Program	38
Mental Health Therapy	1
Community-based Services	
Childcare	127
Day Habilitation	25
Medical Childcare	16
Respite	90
Supported Community Living	43



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



STAFF SATISFACTION



\*FY 2024-25

## 2025 ChildServe – Ames Highlights

- **Childcare Kitchen Renovation Complete:** Thanks to generous grants received from the Story County Board of Supervisors and United Way of Story County, ChildServe was thrilled to complete a construction project that enhanced the size and capabilities of our kitchen. Each day, the ChildServe team uses our kitchen to make over 100 meals for children in our Childcare program. Since ChildServe – Ames first opened in 2000, we have now tripled the number of meals served from this space each day.

Thanks to generous grants received, we were able to enhance the kitchen's size and capabilities. We're especially grateful to have received grants from the Story County Board of Supervisors and United Way of Story County for this project.

- **Launch + Learn 2025:** The 6th annual ChildServe – Ames Launch + Learn event raised \$30,965 to help children with special healthcare needs live a *great* life! Since 1995, we've supported thousands of children in the Ames area through life-changing services, including over 1,000 children served last year. Launch + Learn supports ChildServe's specialized programs that empower children and young adults with developmental delays, disabilities, injuries and other special healthcare needs.

A special thank you to Chevron, Fareway Stores, Ames Golden K Kiwanis, Story Construction, Ames Home Builders Association, Ames Ford Lincoln, VisionBank, Greater Iowa Credit Union, The Carson King Foundation, Country Landscapes and Northwest Bank.

- **Support from Altrusa International of Ames:** We're grateful to Altrusa International of Ames for selecting ChildServe as the beneficiary of funds raised by their annual Holiday Home Tour in 2024. With their support, ChildServe purchased a new wheelchair platform swing, which will provide physical, emotional and social benefits for children and young adults with mobility needs.
- **Support from Story County Community Foundation:** At ChildServe, we take playtime seriously! We're grateful to receive a grant from Story County Community Foundation that will help us place a large indoor play structure in our therapy gym. The structure will include specialized flooring for safe play with a jungle gym, climbing ladder and swings. The play structure is designed not only for fun, but also promotes developmental skills in areas such as strength and coordination, visual processing, speech, and sensory integration. The play structure will foster opportunities for social skill development and help reduce challenging behaviors with structured, therapeutic outlets for movement and play.

Thank you to our friends at Story County Community Foundation, including their first director, Suzy Shierholz, for helping kids with special healthcare needs live a *great* life. We can't wait to see the new play equipment bring smiles, joy and *great* life moments to the kids and families we serve.



Kitchen remodel



Brooke, Launch + Learn's featured teen in 2025, with her family.



Indoor play structure



Story County Conservation Board - McFarland Park 56461 180<sup>th</sup> St. - Ames, Iowa 50010-9451  
Phone (515) 232-2516 - Fax (515) 232-6989 - Email: conservation@storycountyiowa.gov  
www.storycountyconservation.org

Memorandum

To: Story County Board of Supervisors  
From: Michael D. Cox, Director  
Date: February 24, 2026  
Re: Consideration of Bird Friendly County Reapplication

We are asking for your consideration of maintaining our status as a Bird Friendly County through the required annual reapplication process.

Story County received designation as a Bird Friendly County in 2020, celebrating the good work we are doing to protect and restore valuable habitat, reduce threats to birds, and educate and engage people in birding and conservation. The designation was a statement that Story County values, policies, procedures, and educational efforts promote conservation of birds, and that we'll continue to find additional ways to be bird-friendly in the future.

This year, Story County was officially recognized with HIGH FLYER STATUS. by Bird Friendly Iowa's highest level of bird friendly achievement.

Staff urges your approval.

  
Approval

Disapproval

2/24/26  
Date

Date

# Bird Friendly Iowa (Story County)

Part of the Bird City Network

ACHIEVEMENTS (DRAFT APPLICATION)

**APPROVED** **DENIED**  
Board Member Initials: gmm  
Meeting Date: 2/24/26  
Follow-up action: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1. Habitat

### 1.1 - Promote best management of community habitat

*1.1.1 - Community has prepared a habitat assessment or management plan for one or more of its natural areas or parks, and is implementing the plan.*

Story County Conservation manages and protects Robison Wildlife Acres, which is a 78-acre park near Maxwell, Iowa. The wildlife refuge has a large variety of habitats including remnant prairie and savanna, upland forests, riparian forests, shrubland and a man-made pond. The County was awarded Wildlife Diversity Grants in both 2011 and 2018 to conduct habitat assessments and implement habitat improvement. In 2011, Dr. Tom Rosburg was contracted out to do a baseline study for the area. For this study, he established four permanent plots from which plant and bird communities would be inventoried over time. He identified 135 plant species between the four sites. For these plant species, he provided statistical analysis of plant density and frequency along with basic ecological information to help guide future management. Thirty bird species were also observed at the study sites.

After seven years of management (2018), Dr. Rosburg returned to the four permanent plots to replicate his prior habitat assessment. He discovered an additional 39 plant species that were not present in 2011 which brings the total plant species for the area up to 174. Of the total plant species, 19 were of the non-native variety. With this new set of data, the land managers were able to see how the plant communities became healthier over time in three of the four sites – they increased in total native species richness and decreased in non-desirable plant stem density. One site didn't show significant improvement or decline. For this site, a new method of disturbance from the historic regime will be implemented.

All management that was conducted between 2010 and 2017 was recorded in Dr. Rosburg's final report. These management activities included mechanical woody clearing, goat grazing, and fall and spring controlled burns.

This habitat assessment has been an extraordinary resource to justify that staff time, money and resources applied to this area have been beneficial and that the County is on the right track to restoring the Robison Wildlife Acres area to its native state. The County has and will continue to manage the area using the proven beneficial management techniques as well as utilizing additional land management recommendations that were outlined in the habitat assessment. It should be a priority to conduct an

additional bird survey at the park to see if the bird species abundance has increased due to the overall habitat improvement.

Dr. Tom Rosburg's final report is attached.

2022 - Breeding bird surveys were completed by volunteer Tyler Harms at Carroll Prairie and the Deppe Family Area. Results from these surveys will help guide the management of the areas. Conservation Corp Iowa was contracted to do several habitat improvement projects that will benefit birds. Tree clearing as part of grassland/prairie restoration projects was done at Jennett Heritage Area, Doolittle Prairie Preserve, Carroll Prairie and the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. Timber stand Improvement (TSI) for savanna restoration was done at Christiansen Forest Preserve and Robison Wildlife Ares. TSI work was also performed at McFarland Park and Hickory Grove Park.

Over \$15,500 worth of local ecotype prairie seed was hand and combine harvested at local prairies. This seed was used along with other seed for prairie plantings at Sleepy Hollow (3 ac.), Osheim Prairie and Slough Preserve (6.5 ac.) and Jennett heritage Area (11 ac.). Staff conducted 27 prescribed fires across the county totaling 258 acres.

2023 - The Natural resource Specialist and their seasonal staff conducted over 1,800 hours of invasive species removal, TSI, and tree removal work at multiple locations across the county. In addition, \$23,000 was used to contract Conservation Corp of Iowa to conduct tree removal at Jennett Heritage Area and the Prairie Rail Trail, and timber stand improvement work at Jordan Wildlife Area and Christiansen Forest Preserve. Prescribed fires were conducted on 439 acres of prairies and woodlands. 42 volunteers conducted two native tree plantings at the Tedesco Environmental learning Corridor and Dakins lake. One acre of prairie planted with local hand harvest and combine run seed at Prairie Valley and goat grazing was used to control invasives at Christiansen Forest Preserve and Hickory Grove park.

*1.1.2 - The Community follows sustainability principles as recommended by natural resource professionals, for land use planning and resource management recommended by aligned organizations such as the County Conservation Board, Iowa DNR, NRCS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program.*

Land use planning is driven by the goal of returning land to its native condition or by improving the condition of the land which may already be in its predominantly natural state. Story County recognizes the internal and external strengths and resources available for developing plans and managing resources. Story County regularly partners with other agencies to develop the best plans and means possible to manages resources. A few examples of partners include the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa State University, Drake University, the USDA NRCS, and to a lesser extent, the USFWS.

*1.1.3 - Indicate how Community public land management and/or acquisition provides native habitat for birds, plants and other wildlife.*

Story County recognizes the sparsity of undeveloped land in Iowa. Natural resources—both plant, animal, and water suffer greatly as a result. Significant efforts are taken to increase the amount of land managed for its natural resources and to improve the natural resource condition of land previously protected. This goal is accomplished through a variety of methods with a variety of partners. Protection/improvement of land whether by easement, title, agreement, or landowner assistance, always results in that land being placed on a path toward sustainable native plant and animal communities. Within approximately the last ten years 1,300 acres have been permanently protected and many more are on that trajectory.

*1.1.4 - Community has created (or adopted) and implements a local or regional land use or habitat master plan focused on creating, protecting, managing natural areas and connecting corridors (e.g. Smart Growth plans or similar) or can otherwise document that current community planning seeks to provide additional bird habitat.*

Story County adopted a comprehensive plan in 2016. This plan improved land development and zoning protections for natural resources. These improvements have manifested natural resource improvements across the county. [Future Land Use Plans | Story County, IA - Official Website \(storycountyia.gov\)](https://www.storycountyia.gov/land-use-plans)

*1.1.5 - Community forms/maintains a diverse team that supports and manages participation in the Bird Friendly Iowa program including working with community members and managing the application and renewal process. Please UPLOAD a current list of project team members including official contacts and community partners.*

Submitted

*1.1.7 - The Community, or one of the towns within a county, is currently designated as a TREE CITY USA.*

Three communities in Story County are designated as a Tree City USA: Ames (for 35 years), Nevada (for 17 years), and Story City (for 23 years). These communities not only adhere to but exceed the four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry and celebrating Arbor Day.

## **1.2 - Create and protect habitat**

*1.2.4 - A substantial portion of the Community's land has legal protection through public ownership or conservation easement. These lands include managed native habitats that support at least 10 Greatest Conservation Need Iowa native bird species. The applicant must justify why it feels this protection is "substantial".*

Story County, Iowa, contains 367,127 acres of land area. In the unincorporated area, outside of city corporate limits, there are 344,775 acres. There are 4,780 acres (1.3%) of publicly owned and managed lands countywide for conservation purposes. In addition to lands owned and/or managed by Story County Conservation, the 4,778 acres includes almost four acres owned by the City of Slater, one acre owned by the City of Cambridge, and 12 acres owned by the City of Maxwell that are part of the Heart of Iowa Nature Trail. It also includes areas owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources—the Bob Pyle Marsh, Hendrickson Marsh, and Interstate 35 Prairie—and parts of the Colo Ponds, Doolittle Prairie, and Skunk River Flats owned by the IDNR and Story County Conservation. And it includes several acres of land owned by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in the Skunk River Greenbelt for which Story County Conservation has a conservation easement. Not included are 494 acres of land owned by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation. In total, with the land owned by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, there are 5,274 acres in public ownership or management. While this is 1.2% of the county's land area, it is almost as many acres as are owned by Iowa State University and the Board of Regents. The University and Board have ownership of approximately 5,912 acres in Story County for its campus, research park, and research farms. Based on this comparison, there are a substantial number of acres that are publicly owned or managed in Story County.

Beyond public management, natural resources in Story County have several different types of legal protections through the Story County Land Development Regulations (the County's adopted zoning code for the unincorporated area) and future land use plans. First, under Chapter 88.05 of the Story County Land Development Regulations, in areas designated as natural resources areas in the County's Cornerstone to Capstone Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map, no more than 15% of a natural resource may be removed without mitigation requirements. If an area is proposed to be subdivided, a 60-foot wide stream easement is required to be dedicated to Story County Conservation as part of the subdivision. The chapter also requires buffers for construction activities from natural resources ranging from 50 feet for streams and 100 feet from wetlands, lakes, and reservoirs. These standards would also apply to areas designated as Natural Areas in the Ames Urban Fringe Plan Land Use Framework Map, which serves as the future land use plan for areas within two miles of the City of Ames. Further, regarding restrictions on new development in these areas, a principle of the Ames Urban Fringe Plan is that new non-farm residential development is not supported. A principle of the C2C plan is to "generally discourage development within these areas. In unique circumstances where appropriate development types may enhance the area, recognize and encourage such approaches." Finally, the Story County Land Development Regulations Chapter 92 do not permit the rezoning of a parcel with 50% or more of its area designated as a natural resource area unless it is a rezoning to a more restrictive district, such as the Greenbelt Conservation District or Residential Conservation Design Overlay District, where the areas cannot be developed, or an easement protecting the areas is provided. In total, the acres protected by these natural areas designations is 41,406—12% of the land area in unincorporated Story County.

Finally, Story County has a zoning district, the Greenbelt Conservation District, that provides further protections for the Skunk River Greenbelt north of Ames by restricting certain uses. The

Statement of Intent for the district is:

"to provide special regulations for resource conservation of lands containing sensitive environmental conditions. These regulations permit reasonable economic use of property and at the same time protect the natural resources and recreational assets of the area. This District is designated to promote water quality and conservation, to protect aquifers, alluvial soils and slopes; and to protect areas which possess outstanding scenic, vegetation, wildlife habitat, and travel corridors, geological, historic or recreational values. Structures inconsistent with the permitted uses shall not be allowed in the Greenbelt-Conservation District."

Permitted uses of properties in the district include agriculture (no clear cutting permitted), truck gardening, nurseries, orchards, apiaries, tree farms, livestock grazing, but not including feedlots and poultry farms, sustained yield forestry, wildlife preserves, soil and water conservation activities, cultural and historic restoration, drainage and water retention, water measurement, and water control facilities, recreational uses such as canoeing access, boat launching ramps, swimming areas, primitive camping, hiking, horseback riding trails and similar open space uses. Parking and other accessory uses are also permitted in conjunction with permitted uses. Mineral extraction may be permitted through a conditional use permit approved by the Story County Board of Adjustment. There are 2,042 acres in this zoning district.

There have been 327 species of birds documented to exist on the 4,780 acres of publicly owned and managed lands in Story County. Importantly, 147 of these species have nested in Story County, with at least 140 of these bird species nesting on public land. There have been 106 Species of Greatest Conservation Need documented in Story County, with 103 bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need documented on Story County public land, especially benefitting from the well-managed native (and restored to native) habitats that exist on these lands. Many area sensitive species and most of Iowa's Endangered and Threatened bird species exist on these lands, as well. There are few (if any) other counties in Iowa that have documented this many bird species, this many nesting bird species, and this many bird Species of Greatest Conservation Need on lands that have legal protection within the county. Much of the protected land in Story County exists in riparian corridors, where there is excellent habitat connectivity; and much protected land exists in substantially large landscapes of particular habitats that are now rare on privately owned land. These public land habitats include large blocks of forest, large blocks of wetlands, large blocks of grasslands, and some significant size blocks of savanna. It is the quality of these public land habitats, their size, and their connectivity that enables these habitats to support the lives of so many birds, including 103 Species of Greatest Conservation Need birds, and these are the main reasons why these public and legally protected lands of Story County are "substantial." See attached.

## 1.3 - Promote native plants

*1.3.3 - HIGH FLYER - The community has an ongoing program to incorporate native trees and native shrubs in its public landscaping (for cities that do not choose to meet Tree City criteria).*

2022 - Approximately \$5,000 in materials and labor went into planting native trees and shrubs in three areas. Trees were planted at Hickory Grove Park and along the Praeri Rail Trail in McCallsburg, IA to replace dead ash trees. A variety of trees and shrubs were planted in an old alfalfa field at Sleepy Hollow Park to create habitat for birds and other wildlife. These efforts are a result of the county philosophy to manage land consistent with its native land cover. Plantings only consist of native species, not cultivars or non-native species.

## 1.4 - Control invasive plants

*1.4.1 - Community offers public information about controlling or removing invasive plant species.*

Each year during National Invasive Species Awareness Week, Story County Conservation includes invasive species content in their social media posts. Many of these posts get engagement and facilitate conversations. For an example of one of these posts, see photo: "National Invasive Species Awareness Week Post".

Invasive species have also been a focus of several annual volunteer workdays. In 2019, Story County Conservation partnered with Weed Wrangle on a garlic mustard pulling event. This partnership brought more awareness and visibility to this growing problem. See "Weed Wrangle Volunteer Event" photo. Story County Conservation has also partnered with a local brewery on several "Mustard Pull and Pints" events where volunteers are rewarded with discounted pints after a garlic mustard pull. These informal events foster more conversations with staff and help broaden the target audience of our outreach efforts.

Christiansen Forest Preserve in Huxley, IA has a significant problem with invasive oriental bittersweet. Surrounding landowners were given a brochure detailing the issues surrounding oriental bittersweet so they can be monitoring for the plant on their properties as well. Story County Conservation is educating park visitors through an audio stop as part of the Dial and Discover Program <https://storycounty.oncell.com/en/12-oriental-bittersweet-137724.html>.

2023 - A landowner options guide was added to our website to assist private landowners in finding contractors to help with habitat restoration work.

*1.4.4 - HIGH FLYER - The community (especially the county) promotes the health of native trees and native shrubs in the landscape with an ongoing program that removes non-native invasive*

*trees, shrubs, and forbs from at least 5 acres of public forest, woodland, or savanna annually, on average.*

2022 – Seasonal and full-time staff spent over 1,800 hours removing invasive species such as honeysuckle, buckthorn, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, wild parsnip and oriental bittersweet from various county owned and managed areas. Three trained and certified Natural resource Steward Volunteers spent 888 hours removing invasive woody vegetation mostly at the Deppe Family Area, Robison Wildlife Acres and Christiansen Forest Preserve. In addition to this manual labor, Story County Conservation used goats at McFarland Park and Hickory Grove Park to graze down invasive species regrowth in areas previously cleared.

2023 – Seasonal and full-time staff spent over 2,000 hours removing invasive species such as honeysuckle, buckthorn, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, wild parsnip and oriental bittersweet from various county owned and managed areas. Three trained and certified Natural resource Steward Volunteers spent 619 hours removing invasive woody vegetation mostly at the Deppe Family Area, Robison Wildlife Acres and Christiansen Forest Preserve. In addition to this manual labor, Story County Conservation used goats at McFarland Park and Hickory Grove Park to graze down invasive species regrowth in areas previously cleared.

## 1.5 – Provide nesting habitat

*1.5.2 – HIGH FLYER – The community facilitates Scout or other conservation groups in such bird projects as establishing nest boxes for Iowa Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN): like Eastern Screech Owl, American Kestrels, or Barn Owl; as well as for non-SGCN species, such as Eastern Bluebird.*

2022 – Story County Conservation’s IRVM program has long been installing and maintaining nest boxes for American Kestrels in county road rights-of-way. Barn Owls are another SGCN species for which SCC has installed nest boxes; two boxes were built and placed at Hickory Grove Park near Colo. These boxes have been monitored and the data reported to the Iowa DNR. Volunteers monitor over fifty bluebird nesting boxes in placed in appropriate bluebird habitat on Story County Conservation managed public land all season long. Volunteers collect data regarding nesting habits and submit to NestWatch online to be used by real-life researchers, as well as removing unwanted nests like tree sparrows to prevent competition with bluebirds. (Roughly 10 volunteers involved).

*1.5.3 – The Community strongly discourages destruction and removal of bird and wildlife native habitat during nesting seasons (i.e., through its permitting process).*

Story County has a well-developed and active Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) program. IRVM maintains a safe travel environment on the county rights-of-way with an emphasis on conservation – much of the staff time is spent

planting and managing prairie, and educating Story County citizens about the importance of quality roadside habitat. Presence at community events, distribution of brochures, articles in the conservation department's newsletter, and press releases regarding the value of this habitat are some of the ways in which Story County's IRVM program spreads a conservation message.

*1.5.4 - The Community has ordinance language or other means for enforcing state law regarding time constraints for mowing roadsides.*

2022 - The following press release was sent out in early June.

### **Roadside Mowing Prohibited Until July 15**

SCC's Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) unit reminds Iowans to protect roadside habitat for nesting game birds and song birds this spring and early summer by holding off on roadside mowing until after July 15.

According to Iowa Code 314.17, mowing roadside ditches is restricted until July 15, to protect young pheasants and other ground-nesting birds until they are ready to fledge. The law, which applies to county secondary roads as well as state primary and interstate highways, also protects habitat for pollinators and other beneficial insects, including crop-pest predators.

Non-essential mowing, including cutting for hay, is strictly prohibited. Exceptions for visibility and weed control are built into the law. Exceptions can be [viewed here](#).

## **1.7 - Ensure clean water in natural waterways**

*1.7.1 - A storm water management program is established within the Community that reduces polluted runoff and ensures protection for wetlands (including riparian and other aquatic ecosystems) and also promotes use of native plantings to accomplish management goals.*

Story County recently adopted a stormwater management program through its amended stormwater management and erosion and sediment control ordinances. The stormwater management ordinance requires development that disturbs one or more acres of land to submit a stormwater management plan. The plan must illustrate how criteria for stormwater management area met, including that a site:

Is designed to manage the water quality volume of rainfall depth of 1.25 inches and to manage corresponding recharge volume through infiltration practices.

To protect stream channels, is designed to provide 24-hours of extended detention of the channel protection volume determined for the 1 year, 24-hour storm.

Is designed to limit the post development rate of runoff from the site area during the 5- year through the 100-year, 24-hour storm events to the lesser of the following values: runoff rates equivalent to those from a storm event of the same intensity and duration based on pre-development conditions or runoff rates equivalent to those from the 5 year storm event based on conditions which exist as of the date of the proposed improvement plans (row crop agriculture cover, contoured in good condition and surface soil types as identified from County Soil Maps; unless otherwise approved).

The stormwater management plan must include maintenance provisions for practices and must be prepared by a professional engineer.

The County's new erosion and sediment control ordinance includes requirements for development under one acre in size--the State of Iowa's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit applies to sites over this threshold. Erosion control requirements include minimizing the disturbed area, having an appropriate concrete washout and stabilized construction entrance, and stabilization of exposed soils if work will not continue on an area for 14 days. Special requirements also apply to sites with natural areas including construction buffers and additional controls.

The City of Ames also has a Regulated Stormwater Program with a stormwater permit (MS4— Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to discharge stormwater to the water of the State. As required by the permit, Ames has a Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance for runoff from construction activities that disturb one acre or more and a Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinance that applies to sites that disturb over one acre or create 10,000 square feet of impervious surface. The Construction Site Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance includes a quarterly review of sites by the City to inspect practices. The Post-Construction Stormwater Management Ordinance encourages Low Impact Design and Green Infrastructure, requires rates of runoff from the site are equal to or less than the runoff prior to development of the site (pre-developed conditions), requires water quality measures to remove pollutants from runoff prior to leaving the developed sites, and requires a maintenance plan. As part of the permit, the City has a Good Housekeeping program for municipally-owned properties including spill prevention plans, the inspection of catch basins and City-owned stormwater management facilities, and staff training on fertilizers and pesticides. The City has an adopted Illicit Discharge Ordinance to prevent discharge of pollutants into the storm sewer system and has several public education, outreach, and participation efforts, including rebates for homeowners who install stormwater management practices and education programs in schools and for contractors/builders.

## **2 . Threats to Birds**

### **2 . 2 - Address collisions with glass**

#### *2 . 2 . 3 - The Community uses strategies to reduce window collisions on public buildings.*

Bird anti-collision film was added to most of the windows at the Conservation Center (at McFarland Park), and several interpretive signs (explaining the window collision prevention system) are placed throughout the conservation center.

### **2 . 4 - Address direct human-related threats**

#### *2 . 4 . 1 - Community supports and provides information on bird-friendly construction and placement of communication towers.*

Both commercial and noncommercial communication towers are required to meet standards in the Story County Land Development Regulations (the County's zoning ordinance), including lighting standards. Towers are not permitted to be lit, unless required by the FAA. The FAA requirements must be provided in writing from the FAA to allow lighting for commercial towers. The FAA typically requires lighting on structures 200 feet above ground level or if in a location may impair aviation safety.

Further, for commercial towers, the application is routed to County Departments, including Story County Conservation and the permitting process allows the recommendation of conditions on a tower if concerns are raised about environmental impacts. The Board of Adjustment must approve the permit and any conditions as well.

#### *2 . 4 . 2 - The Community has receptacles for used fishing line at one or more fishing areas on public land.*

Fishing line recycling receptacles were built and installed by volunteer groups at our major fishing spots in 2018. The receptacles continue to be monitored by volunteers and the collected fishing line is dropped off at a local sporting goods store to be sent to Berkley's fishing line recycling program. See photos: "Fishing Line Recycling Receptacle" and "Map of Existing Receptacles" (blue line indicates future location following the completion of a lake restoration).

#### *2 . 4 . 3 - Community has regulations on infrastructure lighting to reduce risk to birds.*

Both commercial and noncommercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems (wind turbines) are required to meet standards in the Story County Land Development Regulations (the County's zoning ordinance), including lighting standards. Noncommercial wind turbines are not permitted to be lit, unless required by the FAA. Commercial wind

turbines are also not permitted to be lit “except to the extent required by the FAA or other applicable authority. Lighting, including lighting intensity and frequency of strobe, shall adhere to but not exceed requirements established by Federal Aviation Administration permits and regulations. Red strobe lights are preferred for night-time illumination to reduce impacts on migrating birds. Red pulsating incandescent lights should be avoided. Exceptions may be made for meteorological towers, where concerns exist relative to aerial spray applicators” (Story County Land Development Regulations 92.08).

Further, for commercial wind turbines, the application is routed to County Departments, including Story County Conservation and the permitting process allows the recommendation of conditions on a tower if concerns are raised about environmental impacts. The Board of Adjustment must approve the permit and any conditions as well.

**2.4.4 – HIGH FLYER – *The community regulates construction and siting of communication towers to mitigate their risk to migrating birds.***

Towers and turbines require conditional use permits. CUPs are reviewed for impact to natural resources like wetlands, native prairies and savannas, waterways, etc. Impacts are either not allowed in the case of towers or, in the case of turbines, are either not allowed or require mitigation.

## **2.5 – Address the threat of pesticides and other toxins**

**2.5.2 – *The Community has requirement(s) for non-toxic ammunition use on public hunting areas.***

Traditional lead ammunition has been known for decades to pose significant threats to nontarget birds and other animals. The Story County Conservation Board is cognizant of the unintentional effects of this ammunition on humans and wildlife. As a result of these effects, the conservation board required the use of non-toxic ammunition on all county-owned hunting areas. This rule took effect in 2018. An emphasis has been placed on education. Conservation staff worked with partner NGO’s and 2 local firearms retailers to offer discounts on the purchase of non-toxic ammunition.

## **3. Education & Engagement**

### **3.2 – Increase awareness of birds and their habitats**

**3.2.2 – *Community staff and volunteers actively educate about birds, which includes providing information about identification, natural history, habitat needs, and/or environmental and human threats to bird populations.***

The Story County Conservation environmental education unit provides several classroom and outdoor experiences about bird identification, natural history, habitat need,

and threats to bird populations. This year we have five 2.5-hour Birding Bonanza scheduled for 225 1st and 2nd grade students. During this experience, students scour different habitats to learn about bird adaptations, practice using binoculars, and identify birds by sight and call. Twenty-eight 2.5-hour Bird Nerds! are scheduled for 700 students. First graders will discover how adult bird behaviors help young birds survive and thrive. Students will design a safe nest, protect and feed their “nestlings,” and hike to meet the birds in their habitats. A one-hour Birds of a Feather classroom program where pre and kindergarten classes discover how birds use their special adaptations are scheduled for 25 class (570 students.) Story County Conservation also uses a resident raptor from a local rehabilitation clinic to conduct 13 raptor classroom visits for 560 students. Participants will learn about raptors and their special adaptations that allow them to function and survive. In 2019, we will have conducted over 120 hours of bird related education and contacted over 2,000 students.

2022 - The Story County Conservation environmental education unit provides several classroom and outdoor experiences about bird identification, natural history, habitat need, and threats to bird populations. This year we had ten 2.5-hour Birding Bonanza outdoor experiences scheduled for 329 3rd grade students and adult chaperones. During this experience, students scour different habitats to learn about bird adaptations, practice using binoculars, and identify birds by sight and call. Twenty-eight 2.5-hour Bird Nerds! were conducted for 836 students and chaperones. First graders will discover how adult bird behaviors help young birds survive and thrive. Students will design a safe nest, protect and feed their “nestlings,” and hike to meet the birds in their habitats. A one-hour Birds of a Feather classroom program where pre and kindergarten classes discover how birds use their special adaptations were presented to 21 classes (333 students.) A bird feeding program was presented at a local senior living facility and a bird watching hike was led for the ARC of Story County for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. All totaling, 257 adults and 1,276 youth were educated about birds.

2023 - School program numbers are similar to 2022.

*3.2.4 - A program is in place to help students and Community members, in general, take part in developing a community bird species checklist.*

The Jennett Heritage Area (Jennett HA) is a 171-acre property in Story County that has been surveyed for birds in 2010 and 2019. See attached: “2010 Breeding Bird Survey for Jennett Heritage Area” and: “Breeding Bird Survey of Jennett Heritage Area: Final Report to Story County Conservation-2019” on page 85. The Jennett HA holds diverse habitats and includes 25 acres of remnant prairie, oak savanna, woodlands, two streams, two ponds, and a shallow wetland. After a decade of habitat restoration work on the property, Story County Conservation was interested to learn what bird species are utilizing the area compared to before restoration work began. While 57 species were detected during the 2010 bird surveys (in ~22.5 hours of field time), 101 species were detected during 2019 (in ~13 hours of field time). More importantly, there were 15 SGCN (Species of Great Conservation Need) breeding birds documented in the 2010 survey,

increasing to 28 SGCN breeding birds documented in the 2019 survey. During 2010, probable and confirmed evidence of breeding occurred for 20 species, and in 2019, probable and confirmed evidence of breeding occurred for 80 species. The results of these two surveys provide strong supportive evidence that habitat restoration work (by Story County Conservation) on Jennett HA is responsible for a dramatic increase in the number of species that nest on this property, and that the large scale of the restoration, particularly prairie, has increased the quality of the vegetation (as well as the space) that is needed for nesting by SGCN. For instance, several area-sensitive grassland birds, including state threatened Henslow's Sparrow, was found during 2019 surveys and not during the 2010 surveys. Jennett HA has become an area of critical importance to breeding SGCN grassland birds; particularly to Sedge Wren, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Dickcissel, Bobolink, and Eastern Meadowlark.

Ada Hayden Heritage Park is a 430-acre complex that includes two lakes, several wetlands, much grassland, and some wooded areas. Wolfgang (Wolf) Oesterreich, who lives beside the park, has kept a bird list for this area every year since 1997. The area is owned by the City of Ames; Story County Conservation has helped with some management. From 1997 through 2018, Wolf has documented 274 bird species at the site. It seems safe to say that no other 430-acre area in this state has had as many species of birds documented. The water quality of the lakes is some of the highest in Iowa, and much effort has been made to manage and restore the entire area of the park to native vegetation.

### **3 . 3 – Educate and engage all ages**

*3 . 3 . 1 - Schools in the Community are implementing "Flying WILD", or similar curriculum, to help insure students learn about the full life cycle conservation needs of birds.*

Story County Conservation works with Big Bluestem Audubon to provide Audubon Adventures Classroom kits free of charge. Ten grade levels in seven different schools will have received 55 classroom kits total this year. This partnership has been ongoing since 1998.

*3 . 3 . 2 - The Community provides age-appropriate public programming on one or more bird information topic. This may include field trips, speaker series, displays, or other media.*

Story County Conservation offers a handful of public programs related to birds each year. O.W.L.S. (Older Wiser Livelier Souls) programs are offered once each month (September -May) at the conservation center. These one-hour free programs are followed with an optional lunch. Usually one of the presentations each year is about birds. Presenters have covered topics such as the raptors of Iowa and peregrine falcons.

Other public program offerings include an annual night hike designed for families. The experience includes information about owls and allows participants to try their hand at hooting. In June 2019 Story County Conservation held their first Get Outdoor Day

celebration and Iowa Young Birders was present to teach youth and adults about bird identification and lead bird viewing walks.

### **3.5 – Involve the community in conservation and stewardship**

*3.5.1 – The Community has a program that involves schools, garden clubs or other organizations in habitat development or butterfly & bird conservation activities.*

Story County Conservation environmental education staff helped three schools transform mowed grass into a flower-filled pollinator habitat. Students at Nevada Central Elementary, Collins-Maxwell and Roland-Story elementary schools grew native plants in classroom mini-greenhouses and planted them in their schoolyard. Throughout the school year, Story County Conservation naturalists and project partners taught students about the vital relationship between plants and their insect visitors. Story County Conservation received a Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program grant to fund the projects.

Children have opportunities to investigate native plants from seed to flower along with the diversity of insects drawn to their habitat. Story County Conservation naturalists present educational programs to the schools. The pollinator program, developed for the schoolyard projects, introduces students to pollination and highlights their schoolyard's place in the "Monarch Highway," a federal effort to increase pollinator habitat along the I-35 corridor. Prairie Rivers of Iowa staff helped students design the habitat. Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge provided students with seeds to grow in mini-greenhouses in their classrooms, and Story County Conservation coordinated planting the habitats. Story County Conservation shares lesson plans through [www.teachersgoinggreen.com](http://www.teachersgoinggreen.com).

Beyond the schoolyard, the habitats also model how individuals, community organizations, and businesses can provide shelter and food to pollinators within towns. Collins-Maxwell Elementary has involved a variety of community members by expanding the project on their own. They created an outdoor classroom and vegetable garden alongside the pollinator habitat. Through donations of materials and labor, they built a seating area, outdoor whiteboard, and examples of shelter boxes for birds and bats.

More text

*3.5.3 – HIGH FLYER – The community maintains a birding trail, viewing site or platform, or birding "hot spot" location that includes educational signage and/or literature.*

Story County maintains many areas for bird viewing. Some of these are multi-function areas and some are specifically designed for viewing. McFarland Park has two specific bird viewing areas which are utilized extensively by student and the general public. Both bird viewing areas at McFarland Park offer educational signage and/or literature for a

variety of ages to help with bird ID. The Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor has several bird viewing areas over different habitat types.

### 3.6 – Promote scientific research and monitoring

*3.6.1 – The Community is represented in at least one bird monitoring program such as the Great Backyard Bird Count, Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, or other actively coordinated citizen science project.*

The Ames Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Story County has occurred every year since 1923. The CBC area surveyed includes a 7.5-mile radius circle that is centered in south-east Ames (approximately where Highway 30 intersects with I-35). Sponsored by Big Bluestem Audubon Society, each year as many as 43 participants contribute a total of up to 104.5 hours on the day of the event, counting every bird (up to approximately 27,000 individuals) seen while driving roads, walking (in fields, parks, and wildlife areas), or sitting while observing birds at feeders. The data collected by observers allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations. This collected data provides a picture of how bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years, it informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and it helps identify environmental issues with implications for people, as well.

The Christmas Bird Count is the first citizen Science Project of this continent and began in 1900. Ames Christmas Bird Count (Story County) has occurred annually since 1923, documenting 50 to 75 species of birds each year. Sponsored by Big Bluestem Audubon Society, as many as 43 participants contribute a total of up to 104.5 hours on the day of the event, counting every bird (up to approximately 27,000 individual birds) seen while driving roads, walking (in fields, parks, and wildlife areas), or sitting while observing birds at feeders. The data collected by observers allow Audubon researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations (both locally and across North America). When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, this collected data provides a picture of how bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years, it informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and it helps identify environmental issues with implications for people, as well.

In 2016, National Audubon Society's climate scientists piloted a new research project to see how climate change is affecting birds. Volunteer birders and community scientists from across the country run specific survey routes, twice a year (at the same time) to primarily count bluebirds and nuthatches. The goal is to see how both species are moving across the landscape to adjust to global warming. While bluebirds and nuthatches were selected as the focal birds, all birds observed at the predetermined survey sites on the route are recorded into the database. Starting in the May 15 – June 15, 2019 survey window, Climate Watch Survey volunteers were asked to also focus their search for goldfinches, towhees, and painted buntings. Currently, Story County has 2 established Climate Watch Survey routes that are being run twice each year, since 2016.

### **3.7 – Mobilize support / funding for community bird conservation**

*3.7.1 – Provide an officially-enacted resolution supporting your community’s designation as a member of Bird Friendly Iowa. Please do not submit a proclamation. The resolution must be voted on and passed by the appropriate council/board and submitted with the initial application. (County resolutions must be approved by the Board of Supervisors)*

Submitted

## **4. Sustainability**

### **4.1 – Educate residents about climate impacts and renewable energy**

*4.1.1 – HIGH FLYER– Describe your community’s efforts to educate residents about climate change and solutions, particularly as it relates to impacts on birds.*

A study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences has found that rising global temperatures are affecting the timing of bird migration and breeding, resulting in a mismatch between the start of spring and birds’ readiness to reproduce. Anything we can do stop or reduce the rising global temperatures will benefit birds. We submit monthly “green” themed articles/graphics for the county’s monthly employee newsletter promoting positive things employees can do at work and home that help combat climate change. SCC held four public programs educating people on how to start a climate change conversation with friends and neighbors and help them develop stories and strategies based on personal experience to share with others. Climate change messaging was incorporated into the Garbologist (4th grade) and Biodiversity Bonanza (5th–8th grade) in-class programs reaching over 400 students last year and we added an electric vehicle to the environmental education vehicle fleet.

# Bird Friendly Iowa

## Application Invoice



**Please include a copy of this document with your check**

Annual Application Fee for Bird Friendly Iowa Community Designation	
2/17/2026	
Story County	\$100.00
Mike Cox (conservationoutreach@storycountyiowa.gov)	

**Mail to:**

**Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Attn: Bird Friendly Iowa, 505 5th Ave. STE 444, Des Moines, IA 50309**

For any questions regarding payment, please contact us at [birdfriendlyiowa@gmail.com](mailto:birdfriendlyiowa@gmail.com).

DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE ABOVE, RESERVED FOR RECORDER  
Prepared By: Leanne Harter, Story County Planning and Development, 900 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (515) 382-7245

STORY COUNTY IOWA  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RESOLUTION NO. 26-61

SETTING DATE AND TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 3, 2026, FOR FIRST  
CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 329, AMENDING CHAPTER 85, GENERAL  
PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS AND CHAPTER 86, DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
STORY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES – LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR A  
TEXT AMENDMENT TO RESCIND ORDINANCE NO. 311

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors approved the *Code of Ordinances of Story County, Iowa*, on May 21, 2013, and amended on May 29, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.11 (2)(A) of the Ordinance Adoption Procedure of the Story County Code of Ordinances requires that a proposed ordinance must be considered and receive a favorable vote by a majority of the supervisors at two regular meetings of the Board;

AND WHEREAS, Section 1.11 (2)(B) of the Ordinance Adoption Procedure of the Story County Code of Ordinances requires that the title of the proposed ordinance shall be published prior to its first consideration by the Board. Copies of the full text of the ordinance shall be made available to the public at the time of publication at the office of the County Auditor, and the published notice shall specify where such copies may be obtained.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing date on this matter be held on the proposed Ordinance No. 329 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2026, at the Story County Administration Building, Nevada, Iowa, at 10:00 AM and the Board of Supervisors directs Planning and Development staff to place copies of the full text of the ordinance with the Office of the County Auditor.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Board of Supervisors and the County Auditor are authorized and they are hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution upon its approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Dated this 24 day of Feb, 2026

[Signature]  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

Attest:  
[Signature]  
County Auditor

ROLL CALL FOR ALLOWANCE  
Latifah Faisal Yea 1 Nay 0 Absent 1 ✓  
Lisa Heddens Yea 1 ✓ Nay 0 Absent 0  
Linda Murken Yea 1 ✓ Nay 0 Absent 0

ALLOWED BY VOTE OF BOARD  
Yea 2 Nay 0 Absent 1

CHAIRPERSON Above tabulation made by [Signature]

DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE ABOVE, RESERVED FOR RECORDER  
Prepared By: Leanne Harter, Story County Planning and Development, 900 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201 (515) 382-7245

STORY COUNTY IOWA  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RESOLUTION NO. 26-62

SETTING DATE AND TIME FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR MARCH 3, 2026, FOR FIRST CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 330, AMENDING CHAPTER 85, GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS; CHAPTER 86, DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS; CHAPTER 88, GENERAL SITE PLANNING STANDARDS; AND CHAPTER 90, CONDITIONAL USES OF THE STORY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES – LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS FOR A TEXT AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS USES FOR DIGITAL ASSET MINING, CRYPTOCURRENCY OPERATIONS, DATA PROCESSING CENTERS AND/OR BATTERY/ENERGY STORAGE SOLUTIONS ON PROPERTIES LOCATED IN UNINCORPORATED STORY COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors approved the *Code of Ordinances of Story County, Iowa*, on May 21, 2013, and amended on May 29, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Section 1.11 (2)(A) of the Ordinance Adoption Procedure of the Story County Code of Ordinances requires that a proposed ordinance must be considered and receive a favorable vote by a majority of the supervisors at two regular meetings of the Board;

AND WHEREAS, Section 1.11 (2)(B) of the Ordinance Adoption Procedure of the Story County Code of Ordinances requires that the title of the proposed ordinance shall be published prior to its first consideration by the Board. Copies of the full text of the ordinance shall be made available to the public at the time of publication at the office of the County Auditor, and the published notice shall specify where such copies may be obtained.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a public hearing date on this matter be held on the proposed Ordinance No. 330 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of March 2026, at the Story County Administration Building, Nevada, Iowa, at 10:00 AM and the Board of Supervisors directs Planning and Development staff to place copies of the full text of the ordinance with the Office of the County Auditor.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Board of Supervisors and the County Auditor are authorized and they are hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution upon its approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Dated this 24 day of Feb, 2026.

[Signature]  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

Attest:  
[Signature]  
County Auditor

ROLL CALL FOR ALLOWANCE  
Latifah Faisal Yea \_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_ Absent   
Lisa Heddens Yea  Nay \_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_  
Linda Murken Yea  Nay \_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_

ALLOWED BY VOTE OF BOARD  
Yea 2 Nay 0 Absent 1

CHAIRPERSON  
Above tabulation made by B



NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

PERSON APPOINTED: Nathaniel Kuhn

BOARD COMMISSION OR COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO:  
2026 Condemnation Commission - Bankers, Auctioneers, Appraisers

LENGTH OF TERM: 1 year

IS THIS APPOINTMENT TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM? \_\_\_\_\_

IF SO, WHOSE TERM:  
\_\_\_\_\_

WHO NEEDS TO BE NOTIFIED? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPOINTED: 2/24/26

DATE TERM EXPIRES: 12/31/2026

**APPROVED** **DENIED**  
Board Member Initials: JKM  
Meeting Date: 2/24/26  
Follow-up action: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**STORY COUNTY  
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES  
FOR  
COMPLIANCE WITH THE  
HEALTH INSURANCE  
PORTABILITY  
AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF  
1996**

**“HIPAA”**

**APPROVED** **DENIED**  
Board Member Initials: AM  
Meeting Date: 2/24/26  
Follow-up action: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Amended December 2013

Amended June 2018

Amended December 2024

Amended February 2026

This HIPAA compliance manual was prepared for the benefit of the Iowa State Association of Counties in 2013. The manual was updated in 2018 to correct minor typographical errors and update the policy on Iowa law to include information about care coordination. The manual was updated in 2024 to include policies and procedures to comply with new rules to strengthen the Privacy Rule by prohibiting the disclosure of protected health information related to lawful reproductive health care in certain circumstances. The manual was updated in 2026 to remove references to the provisions of the HIPAA Privacy Rule to Support Reproductive Health Care Privacy that were vacated by a court in June of 2025 and to update the Notice of Privacy Practices to include information about substance use disorder patient records. This HIPAA compliance manual is not intended to be legal advice and should not be relied upon as a substitute for legal advice or professional services. Persons seeking legal advice regarding the application of this HIPAA compliance manual, or HIPAA, should consult with an attorney.

## STORY COUNTY UTILITY PERMIT

Date 2/12/26

To the Board of Supervisors, Story County, Iowa:

The MidAmerican Energy Company, incorporated under the laws of Iowa, does hereby make application requesting permission to occupy certain portions of public right-of-way and that the County Engineer be directed to establish the location of lines of transmission of electric on secondary route 335th, from \_\_\_\_\_ to POLE REPLACEMENT, a distance of \_\_\_\_\_ miles.

Agreements: The utility company, corporation, applicant, permittee, or licensee, (hereinafter referred to as the permittee) agrees that the following stipulations shall govern under this permit.

1. The Permittee will file a plat setting out the location of proposed line on the secondary route and that the description of the proposed installation including type, height, and spacing of poles, maximum voltage, lengths of cross arms, minimum clearance and number of wires, type, size and capacity of underground cables, conduits, tile lines, and pipe lines, maximum working pressures for pipe lines carrying gas or flammable petroleum products are described as follows:
  
2. The installation shall meet the requirements of county, state, and federal laws, franchise rules, and of the Iowa State Commerce Commission Regulations and Directives, Utilities Division, the Iowa State Department of Health, and any other laws or regulations applicable. Utility depth requirements shall meet Iowa Administrative Code 761—115.13(306A).
  
3. The Permittee shall be fully responsible for any future adjustments of its facilities within the established highway right-of-way caused by highway construction or maintenance operations.
  
4. Story County assumes no responsibility for damages to the Permittee's property occasioned by any construction or maintenance operations on said highways.
  
5. The Permittee shall take all reasonable precautions during the construction and maintenance of said installation to protect and safeguard the lives and property of the traveling public and adjacent property owners.
  
6. The Permittee, and its contractors, shall carry on the construction or repair of the accommodated utility with serious regard to the safety of the public. Traffic protection shall be in accordance with Part VI of the current Iowa Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Control Devices for Streets and Highways.
  
7. The Permittee shall be responsible for any damage resulting to said highways because of the construction operation, or maintenance of said utility, and shall reimburse Story County for any expenditure the County may have to make on said highways because of said permittee's utility having been constructed, operated, and maintained thereon.

8. The Permittee shall indemnify and save harmless Story County from any and all causes of action, suits at law or in equity, or losses, damages, claims, or demands, and from any and all liability and expense of whatsoever nature for, on account of or due to the acts or omissions of said Permittee's officers, members, agents, representatives, contractors, employees or assigns arising out of or in connection with its (or their) use or occupancy of the public highway under this permit.

9. Noncompliance with any of the terms of permit, or agreement, may be considered cause for shut down of utility construction operations, or revocation of the permit.

10. The following special requirements, if applicable, shall apply to this permit:

Whenever the route of the proposed cable line runs along a paved secondary highway, the location of said cable shall be constructed in the ditch bottom near the backslope or on top of the backslope near the r.o.w. line.

Whenever the route of the proposed cable line runs along a dirt or gravel surfaced highway, the location of said cable shall be constructed on top of the road surface and as near possible to the shoulder line

Whenever a cross road culvert or bridge is encountered along the route of the proposed cable lines, said cable shall be constructed around the ends of said cross road culvert or bridge even though this looping is not designated on the situation plans attached hereto.

The crossing of the cable line from one side of the highway to the other shall be accomplished at a near right angle rather than diagonally so as to disturb the roadbed of the traveled way as little as possible.

Whenever the route of the proposed cable line is to cross a paved highway, such crossing shall be in a bored hole rather than open cut trench.

Date 2-12-26

MidAmerican Energy Co.  
Name of Company (Applicant - Permittee)

Malinda Hostetter 515-4 10 - 535  
by Phone no.

Recommended for Approval:  
Date 2-12-26

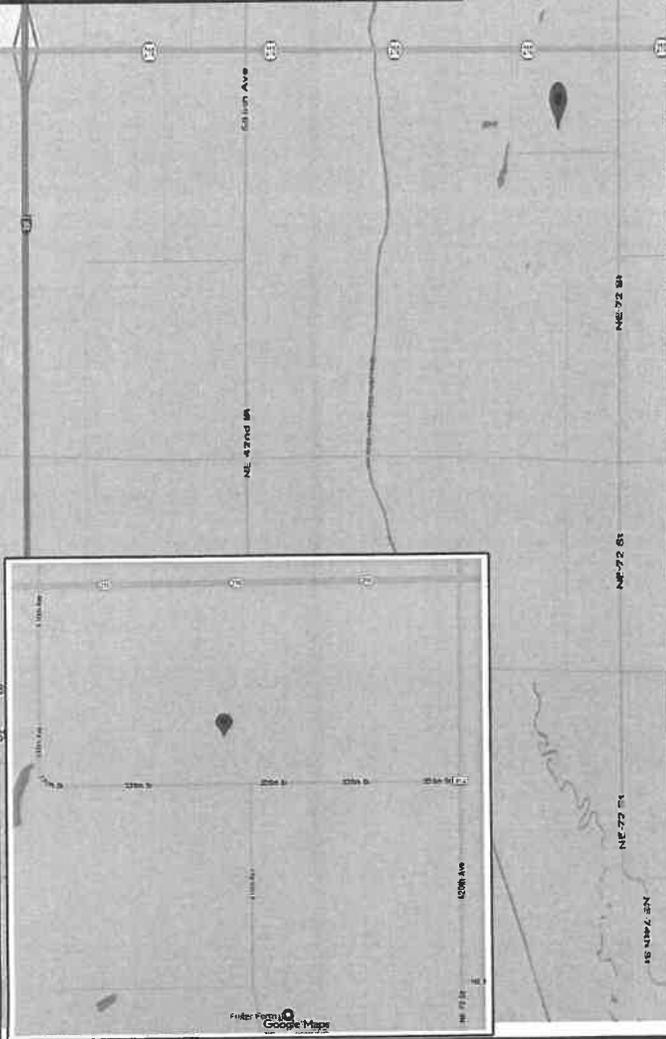
  
County Engineer 515-382-7355  
Phone no.

Approved:  
Date 2/24/26

  
Chair, Board of Supervisors  
Story County, Iowa

**A plat shall be attached to the copy submitted.**

Customer/Project Name	JEFF CLAMAN
Site Address	61453 335TH ST CAMBRIDGE, IA
Designer/Engineering Tech	Malinda Hostetter-515-410-5635 malinda.hostetter@midamerican.com



GRAPHIC	DESCRIPTION
	EXISTING OVERHEAD 1-PHASE CONDUCTOR
	EXISTING OVERHEAD 3-PHASE CONDUCTOR
	EXISTING OVERHEAD FEEDER
	EXISTING OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION
	EXISTING UNDERGROUND 1-PHASE CABLE
	EXISTING UNDERGROUND 3-PHASE CABLE
	EXISTING UNDERGROUND FEEDER
	EXISTING OVERHEAD SECONDARY CONDUCTOR
	EXISTING OVERHEAD STREETLIGHT CONDUCTOR
	EXISTING UNDERGROUND SECONDARY CABLE
	EXISTING UNDERGROUND STREETLIGHT CABLE
	EXISTING CUSTOMER OWNED SECONDARY
	EXISTING OVERHEAD TRANSFORMER
	EXISTING OVERHEAD TRANSFORMER BANK
	EXISTING OVERHEAD FUSE
	EXISTING OVERHEAD SWITCH
	EXISTING OVERHEAD CAPACITOR BANK
	EXISTING VOLTAGE REGULATOR
	EXISTING RECLOSER
	EXISTING OVERHEAD FAULT INDICATOR
	EXISTING 1-PHASE PADMOUNT TRANSFORMER
	EXISTING 3-PHASE PADMOUNT TRANSFORMER
	EXISTING 4-BAY SWITCHGEAR
	EXISTING 6-BAY SWITCHGEAR
	EXISTING FUSED ENCLOSURE
	EXISTING PRIMARY ENCLOSURE
	EXISTING PAD MOUNT CAPACITOR BANK
	EXISTING SECONDARY PEDESTAL
	EXISTING SECONDARY HANDHOLE
	EXISTING MCO TRANSMISSION POLE
	EXISTING MCO DISTRIBUTION POLE
	CUSTOMER OWNED POLE
	EXISTING DOWNSPOUT
	EXISTING STREETLIGHT
	EXISTING SECURITY LIGHT
	EXISTING FLOOD LIGHT
	EXISTING PRIMARY FIBER
	EXISTING PRIMARY SPLICE
	BASEMENT
	CUSTOMER INSTALLED DUCT
	INSTALLATIONS ARE DISPLAYED IN RED
	REMOVALS ARE DISPLAYED IN GREY

- CUSTOMER SHALL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING**
- E-111 ADDRESSES
  - E-1 ASSESSMENTS & EASEMENTS (METES & BOUNDS) MUST STAKE EASEMENTS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION
  - E-2 STAKING FOR STREETLIGHT PLACEMENT
  - E-3 STAKING LOT CORNERS & LOT MIDPOINTS
  - E-4 TRANSFORMER PADS - REFER TO ELECTRIC SERVICE MANUAL
  - E-5 PAUL GRAD BEFORE CONSTRUCTION
  - E-6 CLEARING & GRUBBING IN EASEMENT AOR ROW
  - E-7 UNOBSTRUCTED PATH FOR TRUCKS
  - E-8 10' LEVEL & CLEAR AREA IN FRONT OF MISC EQUIPMENT DOORS
  - E-9 SERVICE CABLES ON COMMERCIAL & APARTMENT BUILDINGS
  - E-10 TRANSFORMER FIRE BARRIER WALL IF REQUIRED BY AUTHORITIES
  - E-11 ASSESSMENT & IMPLEMENTATION OF SPILL PREVENTION CONTROL & COUNTERMEASURE (SPCC) & OIL CONTAINMENT PLANS SEE APPENDIX B-4, PAGE 58 IN 2014 ELECTRIC SERVICE MANUAL

- CUSTOMER CONDUIT INSTALLATION**
- CONDUIT SHALL BE SCH 40 RIBB PVC PER NEMA TC-2 OR SCH 40 HOPE COULABLE CONDUIT IN GRAY OR BLACK IN RED STRIPE
  - ALL SWEEPS 4" OR LESS IN DIAMETER SHALL BE STANDARD WALL FIBERGLASS PER NEMA TC-4A W/FACTORY ASSEMBLED PLASTIC COUPLINGS ON EA. END TO MATS PVC PER NEMA SCH 40 CONDUIT
  - ALL SWEEPS GREATER THAN 4" IN DIAMETER SHALL BE METAL WITH GROUND LUGS & MUST BE BORED WHERE EXPOSED
  - ALL W/ SWEEPS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM 6" BEND RADIUS
  - BEND SHALL BE BLESSED 1/2" ABOVE GRADE W/PL TAP VISIBLE
  - ALL PRIMARY CONDUIT SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM COVER DEPTH OF 42" & A MAXIMUM DEPTH OF 60"
  - ALL SECONDARY CONDUIT SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM COVER DEPTH OF 24" & A MAXIMUM COVER DEPTH OF 36"
  - NO CONDUIT SYSTEM SHALL HAVE MORE THAN 7/8" IN ONE PULL
  - CUSTOMER TO INSTALL SYNTHETIC SWB TEST PULL TAP IN DUCT
  - CONTACT CUSTOMER PROJECT COORDINATOR WHEN CONDUIT INSTALLATION IS COMPLETE

FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE MANUAL AT:  
<http://www.midamericanenergy.com/midsub/elec-service-manual.pdf>

**MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY** Cust: SUFF  
 Addr: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_

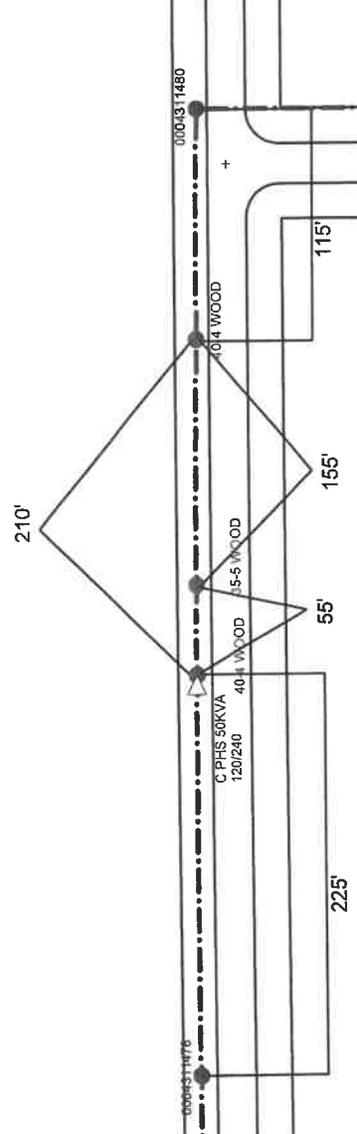
Job Desc: NEW COMMERCIAL UG SINGLE PHASE 200AMP 120/240V, PLACE PADMOUNT 25KVA TRANSFORMER

MX- 5841892  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Scale: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Designer: Malinda Hostetter

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY  
 NOTE: This drawing reflects facilities in place at the time of its preparation and is subject to change at any time. For current facility information, please contact MidAmerican Energy Company. Further, MidAmerican Energy Company disclaims all liability and responsibility for all claims and damages including but not limited to, personal injury, death and property damage, resulting from any authorized or unauthorized use of, or reliance upon, this drawing for any purpose.



- New transformer pole will be placed 55' to the west of the current pole that is getting removed fid# 4311479  
 - New pole to be placed 115' west of pole fid# 4311460 (near intersection) or 135' east of the pole being removed



**MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY** Cust: JEFF CLAMAN  
 Crew HC: DMATN Addr: 61453 335TH ST  
 Job Desc: JEFF CLAMAN- UG COMMERCIAL City: CAMBRIDGE

WMS\_REV: 5841692-1  
 Date: 1/8/2026  
 Scale: 1 in = 96 ft  
 Designer: MALINDA O HOSTETTER

DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY  
 NOTE: This drawing reflects facilities in place at the time of its preparation and is subject to change at any time. For current facility information, please contact Mid-American Energy Company. Further, Mid-American Energy Company declines all liability and responsibility for all claims and damages including but not limited to, personal injury, death and property damage, resulting from any authorized or unauthorized use of, or reliance upon, this drawing for any purpose.

DO NOT WRITE IN THE SPACE ABOVE, RESERVED FOR RECORDER  
Prepared by Michael D. Cox, Conservation Director, 56461 180<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames, Iowa 50010 515-232-2516

STORY COUNTY IOWA  
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
RESOLUTION #26-53

TO ENTER INTO AN UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENT, IN SECTION 22,  
TOWNSHIP 85N RANGE 22W, STORY COUNTY, IOWA, WITH INTERSTATE POWER AND  
LIGHT COMPANY, AN IOWA CORPORATION

WHEREAS, the Interstate Power and Light Company (IPLC) desires an easement on  
county-owned land in order to install and maintain electrical line infrastructure

AND WHEREAS, the Easement grants IPLC the ability to construct, maintain, and use  
said electrical lines on county-owned real estate in Section 22, Township 85N, Range 22W,  
Story County, Iowa.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Underground Electrical Line Easement  
Interest in Property is approved.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Board of Supervisors and the County  
Auditor are authorized, and they are hereby directed to certify a copy of this Resolution upon its  
approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Dated this 24 day of Feb 2026.

  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

Attest:   
County Auditor

ROLL CALL      Latifah Faisal    Yea \_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_ Absent   
FOR ALLOWANCE    Lisa Heddens    Yea  Nay \_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_  
                         Linda Murken    Yea  Nay \_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_

ALLOWED BY VOTE  
OF BOARD                      Yea 2 Nay 0 Absent 1

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRPERSON      Above tabulation made by SB



---

Story County Conservation Board - McFarland Park 56461 180<sup>th</sup> St. - Ames, Iowa 50010-9451  
Phone (515) 232-2516 - Fax (515) 232-6989 - Email: conservation@storycounty.com  
www.storycountyconservation.org

---

Memorandum

To: Story County Board of Supervisors  
From: Michael D. Cox, Director  
Date: February 24, 2026  
Re: Consideration of Underground Electric Line Easement with the Iowa Power and Light Company in Section 22, Township 85N Range 22W, Story County, Iowa.

---

The attached easement with the Iowa Power and Light Company allows the Company to place an underground electrical line across County property next to the Praeri Rail Trail. This easement will not impact the trail.

The Conservation Board urges your approval.

  
Approval

Disapproval

2/24/26  
Date

Date

## UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENT

For and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Story County, State of Iowa (“Grantor(s)”), whose address is 56461 180<sup>th</sup> St, Ames, IA 50010 do(es) hereby warrant and convey unto Interstate Power and Light Company, an Iowa Corporation, its successor and assigns, (“Grantee”) a perpetual easement with the right, privilege and authority to construct, reconstruct, maintain, expand, operate, repair, patrol and remove an underground electric and telecommunications line or lines, consisting of wires, transformers, switches and other necessary fixtures, appurtenances and equipment, (including associated surface mounted equipment) and construction (collectively, the “Line” or “Lines”) for transmitting electricity, communications and all corporate purposes of Grantee together with the power to extend to any other party the right to use, jointly with the Grantee, pursuant to the provisions hereof, upon, under, and across the following described lands located in the County of Story, and the State of Iowa:

See Attached Exhibit A, page 3

together with all the rights and privileges for the full enjoyment or use thereof for the aforesaid purpose.

Grantor reserves the right to use the real estate for any and all purposes, or otherwise dispose of the same subject to this easement, including but not limited to the right to mortgage, sell, lease, grant licenses or other easements for the use and occupation of all or any portion of said real estate, and bill and collect rents, issues and profits therefrom, as long as such use or disposition is not inconsistent with the rights herein granted to Grantee, and as long as such use or disposition does not interfere with Grantee’s use of the easement. Any additional easements or licenses granted by Grantor shall be subject and subordinate to this easement."

Grantor(s) also conveys the right and privilege to trim, cut down or control the growth of any trees or other vegetation on said described land and such other trees and vegetation adjacent thereto as in the judgment of the Grantee may interfere with construction, reconstruction, maintenance, expansion, operation, repair, use of the Line or Lines.

Grantee, its contractor or agent, may enter said premises for the purpose of making surveys and preliminary estimates immediately upon the execution of this easement.

The Grantor(s) also grants to the Grantee the right of ingress and egress to the Line or Lines, under lands now owned by the Grantor(s), for the purpose of constructing, reconstructing, maintaining, expanding, operating, patrolling, repairing and removing the Line or Lines, and the Grantee agrees to

pay to the Grantor(s) or its tenants all damages done to the lands (except the cutting and trimming of trees or other vegetation), fences, livestock or crops of the Grantor(s) or its tenants, by the Grantee or its employees while constructing, reconstructing, maintaining, expanding, operating, patrolling, repairing or removing the Line or Lines.

Grantee shall, at its sole cost and expense, be responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, and replacement of all facilities installed or constructed by Grantee within the easement area, including without limitation all electric and telecommunication lines, wires, transformers, switches, and related equipment and fixtures. Grantee shall, within a reasonable amount of time, repair and restore the easement area and any adjacent property to substantially the same condition existing prior to any damage caused by Grantee's construction, operation, maintenance, or failure to maintain the easement or its facilities, reasonable wear and tear excepted.

In addition to any termination rights provided by law, this easement shall terminate upon Grantee's abandonment of the easement, which shall be deemed to occur if (i) all electric and telecommunication facilities installed by Grantee within the easement area remain continuously nonoperational and unused for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months, excluding temporary outages, maintenance activities, force majeure events, or interruptions caused by regulatory, safety, or operational requirements, unless the parties otherwise agree in writing and (ii) Grantee has received any necessary regulatory approval to abandon.

Upon termination, Grantee shall, within a reasonable time, remove its facilities and restore the easement area to substantially the same condition existing immediately prior to Grantee's initial construction, reasonable wear and tear excepted, including the reasonable restoration of vegetation, fences, and surface grading. Grantee shall have the right to enter the property following termination for the purpose of completing such removal and restoration.

Grantee shall indemnify, defend, and hold Grantor harmless from and against any and all liabilities, obligations, damages, injuries, penalties, claims, demands, actions, suits, judgments, and any and all costs and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) incurred by Grantor arising from or caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of Grantee or Grantee's agents and employees upon the Grantor's property; provided, however, notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth herein, Grantee shall have no obligation to indemnify, defend, or hold Grantor or the foregoing Grantor parties harmless from any liabilities, obligations, damages, injuries, penalties, claims, demands, actions, suits, judgments, costs or expenses arising from or relating to the acts or omissions of Grantor or Grantor's employees, agents or invitees.

Signed this 24 day of Feb, 2026

**GRANTOR(S): Story County, State of Iowa**

By: [Signature]  
LINDA MURKEN, CHAIR, BO OF SUPS  
Print Name and Title

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

**ALL PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

STATE OF IOWA  
COUNTY OF STORY ss:

On this 24th day of FEBRUARY AD. 2026, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared

LINDA MURKEN

X to me personally known  
or \_\_\_\_\_ provided to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence

to be the persons(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.



NOTARY SEAL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Sign in Ink)  
MICHELLE BELLILE  
(Print/type name)

Notary Public in and for the State of IOWA  
My Commission Expires: 10/2/27

**CAPACITY CLAIMED BY SIGNER**

\_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL  
\_\_\_\_\_ CORPORATE  
Title(s) of Corporate Officers(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Seal is affixed  
\_\_\_\_\_ No Corporate Seal procured

\_\_\_\_\_ PARTNER(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Limited Partnership  
\_\_\_\_\_ General Partnership

\_\_\_\_\_ ATTORNEY-IN-FACT  
\_\_\_\_\_ EXECUTOR(s),  
\_\_\_\_\_ ADMINISTRATOR(s),  
\_\_\_\_\_ or TRUSTEE(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_ GUARDIAN(s)  
\_\_\_\_\_ or CONSERVATOR(s)  
X OTHER  
Government

**SIGNER IS REPRESENTING:**

List name(s) of persons(s) or entity(ies):  
STORY COUNTY

Exhibit A

EASEMENT AREA:

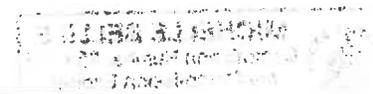
A portion of land for easement purposes being the West Ten (10) feet

AND

A portion of land for easement purposes being Ten (10) feet in width, lying Five (5) feet on each side of centerline as constructed, as described as follows:

Part of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section 22, Township 85 North, Range 22 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Story County, Iowa , as described in the Quit Claim Deed recorded on December 10, 1978, in Book 173, Page 194-195 in the office of the Recorder in and for Story County, Iowa.

Located in the part of the Northeast Quarter (NE1/4) of Section Twenty-two (22), Township Eighty-five (85) North, Range Twenty-two (22) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Story, County, Iowa.



Project Title:	
ERP Activity ID:	WR
Tract No.:	01
REROW No.:	

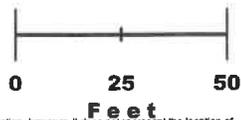


**OWNER:**

**Address:**

**Parcel # :**

- Transformer
- Proposed Easement
- Parcels



This map is intended to give a general idea of planned construction, however, it does not represent the location of existing and planned facilities to survey-grade accuracy or scale.

**Proposed Easement:**  
**10' EXISTING EASEMENT**  
**10' EASEMENT**

**STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION  
QUARTERLY REPORT  
February 24, 2026  
Michael D. Cox, Conservation Director**

---

**Educational Programming**

- Normal countywide school and public programming is underway
- Planning is underway for Wild Women of the Woods which will be held October 9 and 10 at Hickory Grove Park
- We are hosting a Wildness First Aid training March 12 and 13 for naturalists statewide.

**Natural Resources**

- Oak Wilt mitigation is underway at Hickory Grove Park.
- Timber Stand Improvements initiatives are ongoing at numerous parks via staff and volunteer efforts. Conservation Corps of Iowa have removed honeysuckle from the ravine at Deppe Family Conservation Area

**Personnel and Administration**

- Selection is underway for the Watershed Coordinator
- Seasonal position offers have been made
- Story County has been awarded the High Flyer status with Bird Friendly Iowa. This is the highest achievement level for bird friendly practices.

**Story County Land and Water Legacy Bond**

- Construction is complete on the oxbow restorations at Wicks Family Wildlife Area and at Carroll Prairie.
- Design is underway for Hanums Mill Dam Mitigation, CJ Shreck Water Trail Access, R38 Alternative Trail ROW analysis, and Hickory Grove Beach and Accessibility Improvements.
- Bids are being solicited for the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor Shelter and the Dakins Lake Cabin.

**Select Upcoming Events**

March 18, 1-3:00 p.m. **Global Recycling Day at Cambridge Tract.**

This is a joint effort with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation to remove discarded tires and other trash from this prospective new wildlife area.

March 28, 10-11:30 and 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. **Rain Barrel Workshop at McFarland Park.**

This workshop will teach participants stormwater runoff mitigation and they will construct rain barrels for them to use at their homes. A session is also being offered at the Nevada Public Library on March 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

For a complete list of events please see: <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1579/Conservation-Parks>