

DRAFT



Story County Economic Development Group Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2021

Via Zoom

ATTENDEES: Mark Jackson, John Hall, Amy Howard, Amelia Schoeneman, Nick Sorensen, Greg Schlueter, Amy Kohlwes, Barb McBreen, Jordan Cook, Karen Davis, Karen Denger, Jennifer Davies, Latifah Faisal, Lisa Heddens, Mellisa Mattingly, Doug Miller, Teri Gallahan, Shanon McKinley, Leanne Harter, Rita Conner

1. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Greg Schlueter called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Davis/Culhane– Motion to Approve (MCU)

3. Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2021

Hall/Gallahan– Motion to Approve with correction to note Barb McBreen and Amy Kohlwes (MCU)

4. Old Business

a. Housing Study Update

Nick Sorensen provided an update on the housing study being completed by Story County. He shared that the study was available on the County’s website and that he would be meeting with the individual communities to be able to drill down into community-specific information.

b. Update on EDO

Dan Culhane discussed the EDO. Jordan Cook noted that he was supportive of the efforts. Sorensen addressed the possibilities of partnership with the Homes for Iowa program and that the EDO would allow for such capabilities.

Latifah Faisal asked why we don’t have a council of governments (COG). Culhane responded, discussing the resources that come from a COG. Leanne Harter provided an historical perspective.

5. New Business

a. Economic Development Summit Update

Sorensen outlined some potential topics:

- TIF discussion with Jim Thompson with IEDA and someone from Dorsey Whitney – how TIF works, what it does do and what it should not do.
- Financing TIF by Banks
- 657A – Abandoned properties Recent changes to Iowa Code allowed this process to be less time consuming and important for communities to be aware of the opportunities.
- Open to suggestions for special topics from the communities

b. Broadband Study

Amelia Schoeneman reviewed the Central Iowa Broadband Study and the current survey now available. She stressed the importance in have individuals take the survey, even in communities that have good service and access. She asked those present to help promote the survey and noted it was extended up to May 14th. Barb McBreen asked how people take the survey. Schoeneman noted information would be sent out.

6. Community and County Updates

Participants presented updates from the present communities.

7. Comments Regarding Non-Agenda Items

None

8. Dates to remember

- a. Appointed Representative Form Due on or Before June 1st
- b. Annual Eligibility Form Due on or Before July 1st
- c. BOS Approval of Annual Report – July 27th

9. **Next Meeting** – Thursday – July 22, 2021 at 10 A.M in Colo

10. Adjournment

Hall/McBreen– Motion to Adjourn (MCU)