



Story County Economic Development Group Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2024

McFarland Park – Ames, Iowa

ATTENDEES: Amy Kohlwes (Colo and McCallsburg), Bart Clark (Story County Planning and Zoning Commission), David Haugland (Huxley), Jennifer Davies (Slater and Kelley), Steven Gast (Maxwell), Doug Miller (Maxwell), Katie Baldwin (Collins), Dylan Kline (Ames), Shanon McKinley (Story City), Sonia Arellano Sundberg (Gilbert), Brenda Dryer (Nevada), Mark Jackson (Story City), Greg Piklapp (Ames Alliance), Leanne Harter (Story County Planning and Development), Mike Cox (Story County Conservation), Jim Pease (Story County Conservation Board), Linda Murken (Story County Board of Supervisors), Lisa Heddens (Story County Board of Supervisors), Latifah Faisal (Story County Board of Supervisors), Sandra King (Story County Staff), Crystal Davis (Story County Staff), Bryce Garman (Story County Staff)

ZOOM ATTENDEES: Barb McBreen (Cambridge), Michelle Winscott

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Shanon McKinley called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Sundberg/Haugland - Motion to Approve (MCU)

3. Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2024

Gast/Davies - Motion to Approve (MCU)

4. Old Business

a. Broadband Update

Linda Murken provided an update on broadband initiatives happening with the County and local partners. Murken shared there is a Digital Equity Grant application currently in, which would expand libraries' hotspot programs. MIPA assisted in the writing of the application.

b. Housing Study Update

Leanne Harter reviewed projects and tasks currently underway by MIPA and County staff associated with implementation of the Housing Action Plan. She shared with the group that two Homes for Iowa have been placed in Story County – more on the way.

A housing resource guide that includes a dashboard of housing resources was handed out to members of the group last meeting. Harter recapped those documents.

Harter thanked the city clerks for keeping their vacant lot lists current.

A survey gauging the desire and need for a code enforcement position at the County will begin at beginning of year.

c. **Subcommittee Reports**

No updates – subcommittees did not meet.

5. **New Business**

a. **Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Discussions**

Dryer shared she'd like to see Nevada's allocation return to what it was two years ago. Jackson/Haugland – Motion to Approve (MCU)

b. **Approve Calendar Year 2025 Meetings**

Dryer/Kline – Motion to Approve (MCU)

6. **Community and County updates**

Participants presented updates from the communities that were in attendance.

Lisa Heddens, Story County Board of Supervisors, gave an update about HIRTA.

7. **Comments Regarding Non-Agenda items**

Sundberg brought up the ongoing waste recovery plant issues in the County. The group spent time discussing methods that have worked for them, companies they have had successes with, and problems they encountered.

8. **Dates to Remember**

- a. January 23, 2025 – Huxley (Huxley Communications)

9. **Adjournment**

Kohlwes/Sundberg - Motion to Approve (MCU)

Story County Conservation Director Mike Cox and Conservation Board President Jim Pease gave a presentation about the Story County Water and Land Legacy Bond.