



**STORY COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

**Story County Economic Development Group Meeting Minutes**

**January 23, 2025**

**Huxley Communications – Huxley, Iowa**

**ATTENDEES:** Amy Kohlwes (Colo and McCallsburg), Bart Clark (Story County Planning and Zoning Commission), David Haugland (Huxley), Jennifer Davies (Slater and Kelley), Jade Davies (Kelley), Steven Gast (Maxwell), Doug Miller (Maxwell), Katie Baldwin (Collins), Dylan Kline (Ames), Shanon McKinley (Story City), Sonia Arellano Sundberg (Gilbert), Brenda Dryer (Nevada), Martin Herr (Zearing), Greg Piklapp (Ames Alliance), Leanne Harter (Story County Planning and Development), Mike Cox (Story County Conservation), Linda Murken (Story County Board of Supervisors), Crystal Davis (Story County Staff), Bryce Garman (Story County Staff), Andrea Wagner (Guest – Story County Housing Acton Plan), Lucas Young (Guest – Story County Housing Trust)

**ZOOM ATTENDEES:** Latifah Faisal (Story County Board of Supervisors), Andrew Collings

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Shanon McKinley called the meeting to order.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Haugland/Kline - Motion to Approve (MCU)

**3. Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2024**

Dryer/McBreen - 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 that their Digital Equity grant application for hotspots in libraries was not chosen.

**5. New Business**

**a. Story County Housing Trust (SCHT) Presentation**

Lucas Young, representative of Story County Housing Trust, gave an overview of who the housing trust is and the programs they offer to promote affordable housing in Story County. In 2024, the housing trust awarded \$349,890.00 in funds.

**b. Story County Housing Action Plan (HAP)**

Andrea Wagner, Story County Planning and Development and Housing Action Plan representative, gave a brief overview of the housing action plan and their goals. They passed around Story County Housing Resource guides and resources for homebuyers. They also provided an overview of the pilot program for repairs to manufactured homes in the unincorporated areas.

c. **Recognition of Ames Regional Economic Alliance Housing Impact Awards to Colo, Nevada, Story County (Homes for Iowa in Nevada and McCallsburg)**

The group recognized the City of Nevada and the City of Colo for receiving the 2024 Housing Impact awards for their work on affordable housing. Story County, in accordance with the work done by SCHAT, placed two “Homes for Iowa” homes in Nevada and in McCallsburg which earned them their Housing Impact award.

**6. Community and County updates**

Participants presented updates from the communities that were in attendance.

Mike Cox provided an update on on-going and future Story County Conservation projects.

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

No comments.

**8. Dates to Remember**

- a. April 24, 2025 – Location TBD

**9. Adjournment**

Clark/McBreen - Motion to Approve (MCU)