



Story County Economic Development Group Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2025

Ames Regional Economic Alliance – Hamilton Room – Ames, Iowa

ATTENDEES: Amy Kohlwes (Colo and McCallsburg), David Haugland (Huxley), Jennifer Davies (Slater), Jaeda Davies (Kelley), Steven Gast (Maxwell), Dylan Kline (Ames), Brenda Dryer (Nevada), Martin Herr (Zearing), Amy Womeldorff (Zearing), Barb McBreen (Cambridge), Greg Piklapp (Ames Alliance), Linda Murken (Story County Board of Supervisors), Lisa Heddens (Story County Board of Supervisors), Latifah Faisal (Story County Board of Supervisors), Crystal Davis (Story County Staff), Bryce Garman (Story County Staff), Elizabeth Ross (Ames Alliance)

ZOOM ATTENDEES: Doug Miller (Maxwell), Leanne Harter (Story County Planning and Development), Sonia Arellano Sundberg (Gilbert)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Shanon McKinley called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

Heddens/McBreen - Motion to Approve (MCU)

3. Approval of Minutes from October 24, 2024

Haugland/Herr - Motion to Approve (MCU)

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

a. Live/Work/Play in Ames Brand and Website Launch – Elizabeth Ross

Elizabeth Ross, representative with the Ames Regional Economic Alliance, gave an overview of their new Live/Work/Play in Ames website and brand. This website will be a one-stop shop for community events, job boards, and renters' guides. Communities can put their own events on the events calendar but will need to work with the Alliance if wanting to add a "landmark".

b. Iowa Creative Places Exchange Recap

Crystal Davis, Barb McBreen, and Latifah Faisal attended the Iowa Creative Places Exchange hosted by the Iowa Economic Development Authority in Burlington. The event

was to showcase how arts and culture can be an economic driver in communities across Iowa. The group learned what other cities/counties are doing to enhance public art and use it to bring more traffic to their downtowns.

c. **SCEDG Annual Report and Membership List**

Crystal Davis updated the group that annual reports will be due on June 13th. Bryce Garman will be sending out the link to the form at the conclusion of the meeting. She reminded communities to please update their representatives if they've changed.

6. Community and County updates

Participants presented updates from the communities that were in attendance.

Crystal Davis gave an update from Mike Cox, Story County Conservation Director, about on-going projects and a ribbon cutting/event in the works for the Heart of Iowa trail connection.

Linda Murken gave an update about broadband work. She shared that even though we did not receive the grant for hotspots county-wide, the Ames Library received funding for them and is working in tangent with other librarians across Story County.

7. Comments Regarding Non-Agenda items

No comments.

8. Next Meeting

- a. July 24, 2025 – Location TBD

9. Adjournment

Murken/McBreen - Motion to Approve (MCU)