



Story County Economic Development Group Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2025

Maxwell Community Center – Maxwell, Iowa

ATTENDEES: Shannon McKinley (Story City), Amy Kohlwes (Colo and McCallsburg), David Haugland (Huxley), Jaeda Davies (Kelley), Steven Gast (Maxwell), Wendy Crabtree (Maxwell), Dylan Kline (Ames), Brenda Dryer (Nevada), Amy Womeldorff (Zearing), Barb McBreen (Cambridge), Katie Baldwin (Collins), Greg Piklapp (Ames Alliance), Bart Clark (Story County Planning and Zoning Commission), Latifah Faisal (Story County Board of Supervisors), Crystal Davis (Story County Staff), Bryce Garman (Story County Staff), Ken Jans (Maxwell), Dale Higgins (Maxwell)

ZOOM ATTENDEES: Linda Murken (Story County Board of Supervisors), Lisa Heddens (Story County Board of Supervisors), Leanne Harter (Story County Planning and Development), Macy Wing (Gilbert)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Shanon McKinley called the meeting to order.
Wendy Crabtree, Maxwell City Clerk, welcomed everyone to the Maxwell Community Center, pointed out restrooms, and invited guests up for refreshments.

2. Approval of Agenda

Haugland/McBreen - Motion to Approve (MCU)

3. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2025

Kline/Haugland - Motion to Approve (MCU)

4. Old Business

None

5. New Business

a. Annual Report Review and Action

McBreen/Kohlwes – Motion to Approve (MCU)

b. Annual Eligibility Determinations and Action

Crystal Davis explained the annual eligibility requirements that determine if cities are eligible for funds. Roland is currently ineligible due to not attending 75% of the meetings, either via Zoom or in-person.

Crystal also shared that Slater turned in their annual report late due to the city being without a city clerk. Crystal went to Slater and sat with City Councilmember, Sue Erickson, and explained how to enter data.

Discussion was held among the group about whether they were going to waive the 75% meeting requirement and allow Roland to be eligible for the funds or determine them ineligible.

Steven Gast made the motion to waive the 75% meeting requirement and allow Roland to be eligible. David Haugland seconded.

Roll call vote. 9 yes – 3 abstain

Yes (Ames, Cambridge, Collins, Gilbert, Huxley, Kelley, Maxwell, Nevada, Zearing)

Abstain (Colo, McCallsburg, Story City)

c. Annual Allocation Amounts and Action

Crystal Davis updated the group on the history of allocations. Previously, ending in 2023, calculations were made based off population. Starting with FY24 Ames got one lump sum, then the rest of the remaining funds were divided equally among the other communities. This method was used for FY24 and FY25.

Crystal presented two options to the group.

- Option A: Ames takes a cut, taking the difference between Nevada's FY23 allocation and what they received in FY24/FY25. Nevada gets its FY23 allocation. The rest of the communities remain at the FY24/25 allocations (if eligible).
- Option B: Ames stays at a flat \$50,000; Nevada gets its FY23 rate of \$8,360.68, then remaining communities take a small hit of going down by \$55.70 in their allocations (if eligible).

Dylan Kline made the motion to approve Option A for FY26. Steven Gast seconded.

Roll call vote. MCU.

d. Recommendation to Form Two Committees

- i. SCEDG Bylaws and Programs Guidelines Committee
Shannon McKinley, Katie Baldwin, David Haugland
- ii. SCEDG Strategic Planning Committee
No volunteers.

Shanon McKinley shared that she and Crystal Davis have been having discussions on where the group can go and how we can best utilize our resources to make a difference. They believe creating two committees to look at our bylaws, draft changes, and bring them back to the group and to develop a strategic plan that can guide the group.

6. Community and County updates

Participants presented updates from the communities that were in attendance.

Linda Murken gave an update about broadband work and BEAD funds, heating/cooling center discussions, and the transition from the Resource Recovery Plant. Linda shared that Assistant Ames City Manager Brian Phillips is planning to get the Mayors of the Story County communities and the Board of Supervisors together to talk about the changes and possibilities of partnerships.

Supervisor Latifah Faisal provided an update on her trip to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference. She shared about her experiences in meetings with other county leaders of similar sizes and how rural communities can prosper. She shared information regarding data center discussions.

7. Comments Regarding Non-Agenda items

No comments.

8. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, October 23, 2025 – Location TBD (Zearing)

9. Adjournment

Kline/McBreen - Motion to Approve (MCU)