



Story County Economic Development Group Meeting Minutes

October 23, 2025

Dakins Community Center – Zearing, Iowa

ATTENDEES: Shannon McKinley (Story City), Amy Kohlwes (Colo), Jenna Gilbert (McCallsburg), Jaeda Davies (Kelley), Dylan Kline (Ames), Brenda Dryer (Nevada/Ames Alliance), Amy Womeldorff (Zearing), Martin Herr (Zearing), Sandy Perisho (Zearing), Katie Baldwin (Collins), Latifah Faisal (Story County Board of Supervisors), Lisa Heddens (Story County Board of Supervisors), Linda Murken (Story County Board of Supervisors), Crystal Davis (Story County staff), Bryce Garman (Story County staff), Sandra King (Story County staff), Nate Thompson (Story County Medical), Mary O'Connor (NESCO Family Medical Center)

ZOOM ATTENDEES: Leanne Harter (Story County Planning and Development), Sonia Arellano Sundberg (Gilbert), Bart Clark (Story County Planning and Zoning Commission), Mellisa Mattingly (Roland), Steven Gast (Maxwell), Wendy Crabtree (Maxwell), Doug Miller (Maxwell), Jerry Moore (Slater), Barb McBreen (Cambridge), Mark Jackson (Story City), Barb Barrick (Huxley)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Shanon McKinley called the meeting to order.

Martin Herr, Zearing Mayor, welcomed everyone to the Dakins Community Center, pointed out restrooms, and invited guests up for snacks/refreshments.

2. Approval of Agenda

Kohlwes/Kline - Motion to Approve (MCU)

3. Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2025

Mattingly/Kohlwes - Motion to Approve (MCU)

4. Rural Healthcare Panel

We hosted a panel of local healthcare providers that specialize in rural healthcare. Nate Thompson with Story County Medical, Mary O'Connor, ARNP, with NESCO Family Medical Center, and Darla Nederhoff, Director of Clinics for Hansen Family Hospital.

The panel discussed real-world impacts of President Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, state level legislation that they are concerned or supporting, barriers to care that our citizens face, ambulance and EMS services throughout the County, and ways we can assist the aging population.

5. New Business

a. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget

Kohlwes/Kline – Motion to Approve (MCU)

b. Calendar Year 2026 Meetings

Kline/Gilbert – Motion to Approve (MCU)

6. Community and County updates

Participants presented updates from the communities that were in attendance.

Linda Murken gave an update about the transition away 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 shared that she would be visiting Washington D.C. in the next couple of weeks and offered any communities an opportunity to share issues they are facing with their federal legislators.

Sandra King, Story County Director of External Operations and County Services, provided an update on the new Housing Stability Manager position and the pilot program for combatting homelessness across the County. She shared that Josh would be reaching out to the city clerks and librarians to make contacts.

7. Comments Regarding Non-Agenda items

No comments.

8. Next Meeting

a. Thursday, January 22, 2026 – Story County Administration Building, Nevada

9. Adjournment

Kline/Womeldorff - Motion to Approve (MCU)