

**MEETING NOTICE OF THE
IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
229 E. PARK AVE.
WATERLOO, IOWA**

BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025
12:00 Noon**

TENTATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order; Welcome; and Introductions
2. Consider Approval of Agenda
3. Consider Approval of September 18, 2025, Minutes
4. Financial Reports: Review and Consider
 - a. INRCOG
 - b. RTC/On Board Public Transit
5. Director's Report:
 - a. Grants/Contracts Report
 - b. Human Resource Updates
 - c. 229 E. Park Avenue: Building Updates
 - d. Legislative Update
6. Conduct 2026 INRCOG Officer Elections: Board Officers and Executive Committee Members
7. Consider Setting Fiscal Year 2027 Membership Dues
8. Presentation: Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report
9. INRCOG Employee Recognition-Years of Agency Service
10. INRCOG Regional Citizen of the Year Award
11. Recognition of Outgoing Board Members
12. Other Business
13. Adjourn

Note: Please notify INRCOG at (319) 235-0311 or inrcog@inrcog.org by Tuesday, December 16th, if you plan to participate in this meeting so that appropriate luncheon arrangements can be made.

INRCOG meetings are open to all individuals. Any person requesting reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting must contact INRCOG at (319) 235-0311 at least two business days in advance of this meeting.

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
229 E. PARK AVE.
WATERLOO, IOWA**

**MINUTES
Council Meeting
Thursday, December 18, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments was called to order at 12:02 p.m., by Dewey Hildebrandt, Chair.

Council members present: Dewey Hildebrandt, Bremer County Board of Supervisors; Danny Laudick, Mayor of Cedar Falls; Mark Schildroth, Grundy County Board of Supervisors; Brian Bockhaus, Mayor of Sumner; Lisa Smock, Mayor of Elk Run Heights; DeAnne Kobliska, Mayor of Evansdale; Keith Wieland, Buchanan County Board of Supervisors; Steve Geerts, Mayor of New Hampton; and Linda Laylin, Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors. Attending virtually: Chris Even, Mayor of Jesup; Scott Cerwinski, Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors.

Also present: Brian Keierleber; Bev Keierleber; Vincent Ruggiere, Isaiah Corbin, Cindy Knox, Linda Sires, Sanzida Rahman Setu, Brenda Vavroch, Brenda Ponto, Oghogho Oriakhi, Brian Schoon, and Sheri Alldredge, INRCOG. Attending virtually: Matthew Schmidt, City Manager of Independence.

Motion by DeAnne Kobliska, seconded by Keith Wieland, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mark Schildroth, seconded by Linda Laylin, to approve September 18, 2025, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Schoon presented the November 2025 INRCOG Financial Report. The Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position shows a year-to-date net loss of \$102,878.72. Programs only billed quarterly would add \$111,533.69 in income and expenses being carried for two water trail surveys would add another \$4,082.01 in income, resulting in an adjusted net income of \$12,736.98. Schoon then presented the November 2025 RTC Financial Report. The Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Income shows a year-to-date net loss of \$25,572.09. Schoon explained that several expenses that are not amortized, including audit costs and annual transit-related association membership dues, make up some of the additional expenses. He also explained that higher vehicle expenses are being driven by older vehicles with high miles requiring increased maintenance. Motion by Steve Geerts, seconded by Wieland, to approve the November 2025 INRCOG and RTC Financial Reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Schoon then presented the Director's Report beginning with an update of grant and contract activity. A Housing Preservation Grant application submitted for Buchanan County and a CDBG grant application submitted for the City of Sumner were not funded. Housing Trust Funds for Waterloo, Cedar Falls, and the Iowa Northland Regional Housing Council were funded for a two-year period beginning January 1, 2026. A RISE application has been submitted for the City of Hew Hampton. Recent contract activity includes an agreement with the City of Waverly to administer an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant and a pending agreement with Waterloo and Cedar Falls for administration of the Housing Trust Funds recently awarded funding for 2026-2027.

In an update of Human Resources activities, Schoon announced Sydney Eiselt resigned her position as Environmental Resource Specialist. The position is currently being advertised and the Iowa DNR will participate in the selection of the candidate for this position.

Building updates include the recent replacement of a section of sewer pipe in the basement following a discovered leak.

Schoon gave a legislative update noting that the Iowa legislature begins its session on January 12, 2026, and is scheduled to end April 21, 2026. Of note will be the pipeline issues and property taxes. On the federal level, Schoon notes that INRCOG's funding programs have been in good shape as most of them flow through the State with the exception of EDA funding, whose payments have been received as expected.

Schoon also discussed the realignment of Iowa's mental health regions and that transportation is no longer an eligible expense for those clients. This affects 12 current RTC riders who will lose the transportation funding at the end of December; some have or may find other funding sources to continue transportation services.

Schoon presented a proposed slate of Officers for calendar year 2026 noting that four of the current officers are willing to stay in their positions. He further explained that the Mayors of Waterloo and Cedar Falls have a place on the Executive Committee and the proposed at-large positions include a mix of mayors and supervisors of large and small cities. Motion by Kobliska, seconded by Geerts, to approve the slate of officers as proposed and as follows: Chair-Duane Hildebrandt, Bremer County Board of Supervisors; Vice Chair-Linda Laylin, Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors; Secretary-Mark Schildroth, Grundy County Board of Supervisors; Treasurer-Danny Laudick, Mayor of Cedar Falls. At-Large Members: Greg Barnett, Butler County Board of Supervisors; Keith Wieland, Buchanan County Board of Supervisors; Lisa Smock, Mayor of Elk Run Heights; Steve Geerts, Mayor of New Hampton; and Dave Boesen, Mayor of Waterloo. There being no further nominations, motion carried unanimously.

Schoon reminded the Board that INRCOG's membership dues are based on population, using 2020 Census data, and are used as local match for the transportation and EDA programs. For Fiscal Year 2027, invoices for dues will be sent shortly after July 1, 2026. The request for FY 2027 dues is \$.55/capita, an increase from \$.54/capita for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. Motion by Kobliska, seconded by Danny Laudick, to approve FY 2027 membership dues of \$.55/capita. Motion carried unanimously.

Schoon then presented the INRCOG Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report noting that it would be emailed following the meeting. The Fiscal Year closed in June, and the report provides a snapshot of what was accomplished during the year. He encouraged Board members to reach out to staff for more information on any projects highlighted in the report or if their community is considering similar projects. Grant applications written by INRCOG staff totaled \$3.2 million in awards with nine applications funded out of ten submitted.

Schoon recognized the following employees for their years of service to INRCOG: Nick Fratzke, Transportation Planner-five years; Brenda Vavroch, Safe Routes to School Coordinator-five years; Cindy Knox, Housing Planner-20 years.

Schoon presented the Citizen of the Year Award which recognizes an individual in the region that is a partner with INRCOG and supports regional efforts. This year's recipient of the award is Buchanan County Engineer, Brian Keierleber who has been supportive of INRCOG, a collaborator with its members, and an innovative thinker.

Schoon recognized outgoing Board members who were either not re-elected to their position or did not run for re-election, including the Mayors of Allison, Brandon, Dumont, Fredericksburg, Gilbertville, Greene, Holland, Hudson, Jesup, Nashua, Waterloo, and Waverly.

In other business, Schoon reported that INRCOG has been approved by the Iowa Public Information Board to provide open meeting/open records training. He is looking at holding training sessions for newly elected officials along with INRCOG 101 sessions.

Isaiah Corbin briefly discussed new CDBG programs. More information will be included in the next INRCOG newsletter with more detail forthcoming from IEDA.

There being no further business, motion by Geerts, seconded by Laylin, to adjourn the meeting at 12:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schoon
Acting Secretary