

IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Directors
Thursday, August 20th, 2020
10:30 A.M.

INRCOG
229 E Park Avenue
3rd Floor Board Room
Waterloo, Iowa

Note: This meeting will be conducted electronically, as allowed under the Iowa Code (Ch 21.8) in times of impracticality, to further prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. To participate in the meeting, please use the Go to Meeting information below:

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AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Consider Meeting Minutes of May 28th, 2020
3. EDA Planning Grant Supplemental-CARES Act (FY 2020-2022)
 - a. Administrative and Grant Management Plan Consideration
4. EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grant Supplemental-CARES Act (FY 2020-2022)
 - a. Administrative and Grant Management Plan Consideration
5. Grants: Awards and Upcoming Opportunities
6. Regional Project Updates
7. Tentative 2020 Meeting Schedule (3rd Thursdays, 10:30 AM, INRCOG Board Room)
 - a. February 20th, 2020
 - b. May 28th, 2020
 - c. August 20th, 2020
 - d. November 19th, 2020
8. Other Business
9. Adjourn

INREDC 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 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Quarterly Meeting Minutes of the Board of Directors

August 20, 2020 • 10:30 A.M. • INRCOG Board Room (Meeting was conducted electronically via Zoom)

1. The quarterly meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Economic Development Commission (INREDC) Board of Directors was called to order at 10:35 A.M. by Gale Brinkman, via Zoom. The meeting was conducted electronically, as allowed under Section 21.8 of the Iowa Code, because of impracticality caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

Commission members present: Gale Brinkman, Butler County/City of Greene; Ken Kammeyer, Bremer County; Clayton Ohrt /Lisa Kremer, Buchanan County; Jeff Kolb, Butler/Grundy Development Alliance; Tammy Robinson, New Hampton EDC; Bill Werger, City of Waverly; Adrienne Miller, City of Waterloo; Andrew Conrad, University of Northern Iowa; and Aaron Sauerbrei, Hawkeye Community College. Others present: Lisa Ahern and Brian Schoon, INRCOG.

Commission members not present: Linda Laylin, Black Hawk County; Steve Geerts, Chickasaw County; Al Kiewiet, City of Grundy Center; Rick Whalen, Butler Rural Electric Cooperative.

2. The minutes from the May 28, 2020 meeting were presented for consideration. A motion to approve the amended minutes was made by Kammeyer. Second by Conrad. Motion carried.
3. Regarding the EDA CARES (Non-Competitive) Planning Grant, Ahern reviewed the Grant Administration Plan to be submitted to EDA which identifies the activities, timelines, and responsible staff members for carrying out the proposed activities. A motion to adopt the Administrative and Grant Management Plan was made by Sauerbrei. Second by Ohrt. Motion carried.
4. The EDA CARES (Non-Competitive) Revolving Loan Fund Grant was reviewed. Schoon presented the Administrative and Grant Management Plan and reviewed the allowable RLF variances for the CARES RLF. A motion to adopt the Administrative and Grant Management Plan was made by Conrad. Seconded by Kolb. Motion carried.
5. Schoon and Ahern discussed grants recently awarded by IEDA, along with other opportunities. Two CDBG grants were recently funded including a Housing Rehabilitation program in LaPorte City, which will improve six units. A Homebuyer Assistance program was also funded in Grundy County to serve five homebuyers with down payment and closing cost assistance. Ahern also shared the Homes for Iowa (HFI) program which aims to place newly constructed units throughout Iowa – with one unit currently being placed in Grundy Center.
6. Regional Project Updates were then offered including:

Kolb updated members that Trinity Rail was in the hiring process and noted that a majority of the jobs filled to date were from within the community, saving the company relocation expenses. He also noted the need for some cleanup work in Conrad, which was impacted by the derecho storm.

Kremer reported that a \$100,000 Catalyst Grant was approved by IEDA for the Leytze Building. Plans are to restore the façade back to its original 1800's design. The project will also create new apartments on the second floor.

Conrad updated the group that the EDA University Center is continuing its statewide survey efforts, with three additional surveys planned.

Werger stated that work continues on their ball diamond project.

Sauerbrei stated that enrollment at Hawkeye Community has been stable. He also stated they were working on a supply chain project with Deere. An update on Hawkeye's participation with IWD was also noted. Sauerbrei offered HCC's assistance regarding accounting processes.

Miller reported that work continues on the remodel of the TechWorks building, where Lincoln Savings Bank plans to move. Waterloo is also using resources through UNI's Capstone project with a Neighborhood Stabilization Program effort.

Ohrt provided update on the Brandon Annexation project and Innovative Ag Site Project.

Kammeyer provided a brief overview of a Plainfield Bridge project, as well as information regarding the IWD regionalization process.

Robinson stated that Hale Street Apartments has been purchased. She also noted the Milkhouse Candle Company has been facing some expansion challenges due to available workforce.

Ahern reported that the last day for completing the 2020 Census is September 30th and encouraged all members to continue to promote how easy it is to take the Census at www.my2020census.gov.

7. Calendar Year 2020 Meeting Dates were reviewed. The next meeting is November 20th, when Officer Elections will take place.
8. Motion was made by Kammeyer to adjourn the meeting. Second by Sauerbrei. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schoon, Acting Secretary