

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

**MINUTES
Council Meeting
Thursday, June 18, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments was called to order at 12:05 p.m., by Duane Hildebrandt, Chair.

Council members present: Steve Geerts, Mayor of New Hampton; Keith Wieland, Buchanan County Board of Supervisors; Lisa Smock, Mayor of Elk Run Heights; Brian Bockhaus, Mayor of Sumner; Dave Boesen, Mayor of Waterloo; Brad Bleichner, Mayor of Independence; Greg Barnett, Butler County Board of Supervisors; Mark Schildroth, Grundy County Board of Supervisors; Danny Laudick, Mayor of Cedar Falls; and Duane Hildebrandt, Bremer County Board of Supervisors.

Also present: Brenda Ponto, Isaiah Corbin, Nick Fratzke, Oghogho Oriakhi, Vincent Ruggiere, Cindy Knox, Sanzida Rahman Setu, Rebecca Kauten, Dan Schlichtmann, Brian Schoon, and Sheri Alldredge, INRCOG.

Motion by Steve Geerts, seconded by Lisa Smock, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mark Schildroth, seconded by Greg Barnett, to approve the March 19, 2026, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Katy Susong with Grow Cedar Valley presented information to the Board regarding a recently completed Population Study for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls metropolitan statistical area. She noted the study was administered by Civic Soul from Austin, Texas, and includes population trends, industry clusters, and benchmarks against other cities. Input was sought from schools and cities in the region and included interviews of former residents. The final report identifies assets, five insights, and the following three “big bets”: Vision, 1 Valley; Innovation That Competes; and Careers Worth Staying For. A five-year Plan identifies what is most important now and a regional dashboard was developed to assess implementation of the Plan.

Brian Schoon presented the May 2026 INRCOG and RTC Financial Reports. The INRCOG Balance Sheet shows the organization is in a solid financial state. The Statement of Revenue, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position shows a \$134,077.75 net loss for the year-to-date. Adding programs that are only billed at the end of each quarter would add \$109,183.03 and adding \$7,967.38 in expenses for Water Trail Planning that have not yet been billed would result in a net loss for the year-to-date of approximately \$16,900.00. The RTC Balance Sheet also shows RTC in a solid financial shape. The Statement of Revenues, Expenses, and Changes in Net Position shows a year-to-date net income of \$18,669.49. Schoon explained that if Vehicle Acquisition Revenue received for the federal share of the purchase of new vehicles were backed out, there would be a resulting net loss of \$118,000 for the year-to-date. Schoon further explained that while staff are looking at internal operations and focusing on making sure transit operations are as efficient as possible, transit rates will likely have to be adjusted to cover expenses. Motion by Keith Wieland, seconded by Barnett,¹ to approve the May 2026 INRCOG and RTC Financial Reports. Motion carried unanimously.

Schoon presented the Grants and Contracts Report by highlighting activity since the last Board meeting. A Housing Preservation Grant application was submitted to the Federal Home Loan Bank for the region, and a RISE Application was submitted to the Iowa DOT for Butler County. A CDBG application was re-submitted for the City of Sumner and awarded \$338,895 for their Y Avenue Water Looping project and a RISE Application for

the City of New Hampton was awarded \$860,542 for a road extension in their South Industrial Park. Additionally, the Schoitz Foundation awarded \$325,000 and the Black Hawk County Gaming Association awarded \$300,000 to the Waterloo Housing Trust Fund's recently established Revolving Loan Fund which will be used for housing repair and rehabilitation and to support other housing efforts in the City of Waterloo. Contract activity includes 5-2-1-0 Program planning for Buchanan County, specifically the East Buchanan Community School District; a Butler and Grundy County Housing Needs Assessment Update; a Cedar Falls Housing Needs Assessment Update; a REAP Plan Update for the Buchanan County Conservation Board; and an Environmental Review for a Habitat for Humanity project in Waterloo.

In Human Resources updates, Schoon noted that Sheri Alldredge will be retiring from her position on July 31, 2026; a Human Resources Manager and Communications Specialist has been hired and will begin on July 13, 2026. Brenda Ponto, Hayley Weiglein, and Schoon will pick up the other duties currently performed by Alldredge.

Building updates include replacement of a restroom exhaust fan, repair of a plumbing leak, and pumping out of the sewer pit to allow for repair of pump parts.

Schoon provided a Legislative Update noting the property tax bill and how it relates to TIF and tax abatement. Iowa State University Extension has a presentation available on this topic.

Schoon presented the Fiscal Year 2027 preliminary budgets for INRCOG and RTC, noting that the final budgets will be presented at a future meeting. The INRCOG budget shows a \$8,455.31 net income; projects added throughout the year will be added to the budget. The RTC budget shows a net income of \$35,812.82 which includes Vehicle Acquisition Revenue. Motion by Danny Laudick, seconded by Schildroth to approve the Fiscal Year 2027 preliminary budgets for INRCOG and RTC. Motion carried unanimously.

Hildebrandt presented the Executive Committee Report noting that the FY 2027 INRCOG Pay Plan had been presented and approved. The Pay Plan outlines employee pay, benefits, salary ranges, and salary increases related to performance evaluations. Also presented to the Committee were FY 2027 insurance renewals (not including health and dental insurance), which are seeing an increase from \$164,000 in FY 2026 to \$175,000 with most of the increase attributable to vehicle and liability insurance.

There being no further business, motion by Barnett, seconded by Geerts, to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schoon
Acting Secretary