

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

MINUTES
Council Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2026

The regular meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments was called to order at 12:06 p.m., by Duane Hildebrandt, Chair.

Council members present: Duane Hildebrandt, Bremer County Board of Supervisors; Greg Barnett, Butler County Board of Supervisors; Mark Schildroth, Grundy County Board of Supervisors; Lisa Smock, Mayor of Elk Run Heights; Dave Boesen, Mayor of Waterloo; Scott Becker, Mayor of Gilbertville; Brian Bockhaus, Mayor of Sumner; Michael Schares, Mayor of Dunkerton; Gary Vick, Mayor of Raymond; Keith Wieland, Buchanan County Board of Supervisors; and Steve Geerts, Mayor of New Hampton. Attending virtually: Brad Bleichner, Mayor of Independence; Scott Cerwinske, Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors; and Kristen Happel, Mayor of Waverly.

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

Motion by Gary Vick, seconded by Greg Barnett, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mark Schildroth, seconded by Keith Wieland, to approve the December 18, 2025, minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Brian Schoon presented the February 2026 INRCOG Financial Report. He noted that a change in the Statement of Net Position related to the Certificate of Deposit (CD) that is put out for bid annually. The CD is now earmarked for large capital projects attached to the building as the result of a discussion with the Executive Committee. The Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Position shows a year-to-date net loss of \$117,523.38. Large programs that are billed only at the end of each quarter would add \$120,591.61 in income resulting in an adjusted net income of \$3,068.23. Schoon then presented the February 2026 RTC Financial Report. The Statement of Revenue, Expenses and Changes in Net Income shows a year-to-date net income of \$62,904.95. Schoon explained that if Vehicle Acquisition Revenue received for the federal share of the purchase of a new vehicle were deducted, the result is a year-to-date net loss of \$74,166.05. Motion by Barnett, seconded by Vick, to approve the INRCOG and RTC February 2026 Financial Reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Schoon the presented the Grants/Contracts Report explaining that the handout includes a running total of activity for the fiscal year. Since the last Board meeting, contracts for the administration of the Housing Trust Funds have been executed. Contracts have also been executed for administration of a 5-2-1-0 Planning Program for Buchanan County which will include work with the City of Winthrop and East Buchanan Community School District and with the City of Cedar Falls for a Housing Needs Assessment Update. In grant activity, staff is waiting for word on an EDA application submitted for the City of Waterloo for a Subdivision Storm Sewer Detention Basin and Outfall project. HMGP applications submitted for the cities of Evansdale and Ionia for a Warning Siren for each community have been cleared for award. An application to EDA for INRCOG's annual planning grant has been submitted and is awaiting approval.

Human Resources Updates include the hiring of Rebecca Kauten as Environmental Resource Specialist. Schoon also noted the Sheri Alldredge will be leaving her position in the coming months. Schoon explained that he has started the process of drafting a job description for a replacement of her position and that there will be a change in current IT processes as a result.

Schoon noted that there was nothing to report with regard to the building.

Schoon's Legislative Update included a list of items being tracked related to the services that INRCOG provides. He highlighted items on the Federal level related to Housing, Transportation Reauthorization and the Farm Bill. On the State level, Schoon noted Statewide Urban Design and Standards, the repeal of Smart Planning Principles, Accessory Dwellings, County Zoning, Data Centers, Indirect Cost Bills, and the elimination of COG Assistance funding.

Schoon presented the Fiscal Year 2025 INRCOG Audit completed by CLA. The Audit has been posted to the Iowa State Auditor and Federal Audit Clearinghouse websites. There were no findings or issues, suggestions made by the Auditors have been implemented, and previous findings have been addressed.

There being no further business, motion by Steve Geerts, seconded by Barnett to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Schoon
Acting Secretary