

	<p>Board Meeting Agenda Zoom Meeting 1:30 pm May 27, 2021 700 16th Street NE, Suite 301 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402</p>
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The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) May Board Meeting will be held online as authorized under Iowa Code Section 21.8. **You can join the meeting by calling +1 312 626 6799 and use the Meeting ID: 965 3400 4616. Board members will receive a Zoom meeting invitation with a web link to join the meeting using their computer’s video and audio.**

Members of the public can participate during the meeting, but only during the public comment portions of the agenda. Based on recent public health guidance, the board will resume in-person meetings next month.

Board members are asked to follow the meeting etiquette guidelines below:

- **Mute your computer audio or phone when not speaking**
- **Identify yourself by name when speaking**

Meeting Agenda

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	1. Call to Order
	a. Recognition of Alternates
	b. Public Comments
	o General Public
	o Legislators or Legislative Staff
	c. Approve Agenda
3-5	2. Approve Minutes
	a. Minutes of April 29, 2021 Board Meeting
6-18	3. Financial Report
	a. Receive and File April Financial Statements for Audit
	b. Approve Expenditures for May
	4. Action Items
19-28	a. Contract with Future IQ to Update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
29-35	b. Lease Agreement with Benton County
36	5. Reports
37-38	a. Director’s Report
39-43	b. Economic and Strategic Services Report
44-48	c. Community Development and Housing Report
49-51	d. Transportation and Transit Report
52-54	e. Environmental Services Report

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6. Discussions/Presentations

- a. Iowa Watershed Approach Update
- b. Board Member Updates

7. Adjourn – Next Meeting: June 24, 2021

MINUTES

East Central Iowa Council of Governments
Board Meeting Video/Conference Call 1:30 pm, May 27, 2021
700 16th Street NE, Suite 301, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dave Fish-City of Belle Plaine
Kathleen Van Steenhuyse-Benton County Citizen
Tracy Seeman-Benton County Supervisor
Kevin Heitshusen-Iowa County Supervisor
Vicki Pope-Iowa County Supervisor
Louise From-Mayor of University Heights
Rod Sullivan-Johnson County Supervisor
Donna Brooks-Johnson County Citizen
Derek Lumsden-Jones County Citizen
Jon Zirkelbach-Jones County Supervisor
Rod Smith-City of Anamosa
Bethany Sarazin-Mayor of Alburnett
David Connolly-Linn County Citizen
Darrin Gage-Linn County Policy & Administration
Adam Griggs-Mayor of Central City
Brent Hinson-City of Washington
Bob Yoder-Washington County Supervisor
Mary Audia-Washington County Citizen

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lauren Whitehead-City of Solon Mayor ProTem
Tony Hocamp-Iowa County Citizen
Ben Rogers-Linn County Supervisor

ALTERNATES PRESENT-none

OTHERS PRESENT

Rochelle Fuller-Senator Grassley's Office
David Beurle-Future IQ

STAFF PRESENT

Karen Kurt-Executive Director
Gina Peters-Office Manager
Brittany Rempe- Communications Specialist
Tracey Achenbach-Community Development & Housing Director
Jennifer Fencl-Environmental Services Director
Harrison Freund-Planning Fellow
Paula Mitchell-Planner/Grant Specialist
Mary Rump-Transportation Director
Robyn Jacobson-Contract Manager
Alicia Presto-Iowa Waste Exchange/Planner
Nicole Wise-Housing Recovery Specialist
Mark Culver-Housing Specialist

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hinson at 1:31 p.m.

- a. Recognition of Alternates** - none
- b. Public Comments** - none
- c. Approve Agenda**

M/S/C (Yoder/Griggs) to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes.

2. APPROVE MINUTES

- a. Minutes of April 29, 2021 Board Meeting**

M/S/C (Lumsden/Audia) to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2021 Board Meeting as presented. All ayes.

3. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

a. **Receive and File April Financial Statements for Audit**

Kurt gave an overview of the April financial statements. Hinson asked the status of the Iowa City Business Assistance Program. Freund gave an overview and noted about 89% of the funds have been spent to date. M/S/C (Sullivan/Brooks) to receive and file the April financial statements for audit. All ayes.

b. **Approve Expenditures for April**

M/S/C (Lumsden/Heitshusen) to approve the expenditures as presented. All ayes.

4. **ACTION ITEMS**

a. **Contract with Future IQ to Update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**

Kurt said the CEDS was last updated in 2018. ECICOG included updating the plan in light of COVID-19 as part of the EDA CARES Act grant workplan. ECICOG worked with the Regional Vision Strategy Committee to prepare an RFP for consultant services, review responses and interview finalists. With the input of the committee, staff has selected Future IQ to lead the project. David Beurle from Future IQ joined the meeting and introduced himself and his company. Hinson asked if Kurt had worked with Future IQ when she worked in Edina, MN. She noted she had and had a positive experience. Hinson also asked if the Long Range Transportation Plan would be a part of the plan as it has in the past. Rump noted they would be two separate plans per the request of the IDOT but some of the data collected by Future IQ will be used to inform the Long Range Transportation Plan. Discussion followed on the proposal and inclusion of the rural counties in the region. Kurt noted the total cost of the project is \$95,000, ECICOG will pay for \$80,000 of the project with EDA CARES funds and the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance has agreed to be responsible for the remaining \$15,000.

M/S (Gage/Sarazin) to authorize staff to sign a contract with Future IQ to update the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Connolly said EDA grants typically ask for a list of projects and asked if that would those be part of the plan. Kurt said a list of projects was no longer a requirement from EDA. Lumsden asked since ECICOG doesn't currently have a contract with the Cedar Rapids Metro Alliance to pay the \$15,000, would ECICOG pay the full amount if they backed out. Discussion followed.

Gage/Sarazin agreed to amend the motion to include authorizing the contract subject to the Executive Director securing a commitment for the \$15,000 match from the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance. All ayes.

b. **Lease Agreement with Benton County**

Grenis said ECICOG received a Public Transit Infrastructure Grant (PTIG) to construct a transit facility for Benton County Transportation. A requirement of the PTIG program is the grant recipient must own the facility for a minimum of 30 years so a lease agreement is necessary to make the facility available to Benton County for their use. The lease is similar to the lease we currently have with Jones County for their facility funded with a PTIG grant. A copy was included in the packet.

M/S (Lumsden/Van Steenhuyse) to authorize the Chairperson to sign the lease agreement between ECICOG and Benton County. Seeman asked if ECICOG would carry the insurance on the facility. Rump stated the contract is similar to the contract used for JETS and she thought Benton County would be responsible for insurance. She said she would confirm with Grenis, who had been working with the contract, when he returns from vacation and have him contact Seeman. Motion carried.

5. **REPORTS**

a. **Director's Report**

b. **Economic and Strategic Services Report**

Kurt said staff will report back to the office on June 1 and noted a majority of staff will work 3 days in the office and 2 days at home. She said the Board will meet in person in June but may meet in Iowa City to be able to tour the Homes for Iowa house. She is working on putting together a tour to Platteville, WI on July 7 to visit projects that have been funded with EDA dollars and invited any board members to let her know if they were interested in being included. Lumsden asked if the ICOC lobbyist gave a reason why he thought COG Assistance had not been increased for the next year. Kurt said there was no direct response from the lobbyist regarding COG Assistance. Connolly asked since the Board will be meeting in person if Zoom would still be an option. Kurt noted she is working to set up new technology in the office but didn't know if it would be complete by the June meeting.

c. **Community Development and Housing Report**

Achenbach noted the homebuyer programs in the region continue to be a challenge due to current housing stock and high home prices. She gave an update on the PATCH Program and said ECICOG will be writing a comprehensive plan for the City of Wyoming. The first Home for Iowa house will be delivered on June 3rd in Iowa City and hoped to be able to have a tour before the June board meeting. Achenbach said IEDA will host a webinar on June 3 at 1 pm regarding CDBG housing funding.

d. Transportation and Transit Report

Rump said last year ECICOG received two rounds of CARES funding from the IDOT and recently signed a third contract for relief funding totaling a little over \$1 million. She said these funds would be available until 2023. Rump said ECICOG has submitted a PTIG application for Washington County Mini Bus and expects to hear award announcements from the IDOT by late summer. Discussion followed. Audia asked if there is funding available for EV Charging stations. Rump will ask the IDOT and report back to Audia.

e. Environmental Services Report

Fencl said Presto is working on finalizing the Summer Reading Program and gave an update on the Iowa Watershed Approach's new State Resilience Partnership Program. Seeman referred to the solid waste assessments on page 53 of the board packet and asked for clarification on CR/Linn County Solid Waste Agency and Iowa City Landfill's hourly rate. Fencl explained when those landfills contract for ECICOG services, they pay double the agency rate.

6. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATIONS

a. Iowa Watershed Approach

Fencl gave a presentation on the Iowa Watershed Approach projects and answered questions.

b. Board Member Updates - none

7. NEXT MEETING: June 24, 2021

M/S/C (Yoder/Pope) to adjourn the meeting at 2:52 p.m. All ayes.

Dave Fish, Secretary