



THE REVIEW

CALENDAR

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter

April 2024

May

- 8 - **RDC Loan Review Comm.**
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 9 - **Executive Board Meeting**
12:30 PM, COG Training Room
- 16 - **City Managers Meeting**
11:00 AM, COG Board Room
- 27 - **Memorial Day;**
Office Closed

June

- 5 - **RPA XII TAC**
10:00 AM, COG Board Room
- RDC Loan Review Comm.**
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 13 - **Executive Board Meeting**
12:30 PM, COG Training Room
- 19 - **MIDF**
3:00 PM, Virtual

July

- 4 - **Independence Day;**
Office Closed
- 10 - **RPA XII TAC**
10:00 AM, COG Board Room
- RDC Loan Review Comm.**
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 11 - **Executive Board Meeting**
5:00 PM, COG Training Room
- Policy Council**
6:00 PM, COG Training Room

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Muir, Chair
Greene Co. Supervisor

Ranell Drake, Vice Chair
Sac Co. Supervisor

Stephanie Hausman, Treasurer
Carroll Co. Supervisor

Rick Thompson, Secretary
Audubon Co. Supervisor

Dave Muhlbauer
Crawford Co. Supervisor

Steve Smith
Guthrie Co. Supervisor

Region XII Hosts Workshop Series

Region XII hosted four workshops in February, March, and April to provide opportunities for local officials and partners to learn more about a number of programs and topics.

On February 1, Mel Pins, Programs Coordinator with the Iowa Brownfield Redevelopment Program was the keynote speaker discussing Brownfields redevelopment and related funding opportunities.



*Mel Pins,
Iowa Brownfield Redevelopment Program*



*Abby Lukehart & Jenna Tennant,
USDA Rural Development*

Local bankers, developers, and others gathered at the COG to learn more about USDA Rural Development's Section 502 and 504 housing programs. Abbey Lukehart, Single Family Housing Program Director and Jenna Tennant, Loan Specialist/ Outreach Coordinator were the guest presenters.

Best Practices for Public Meetings was the topic of conversation during the March 13 webinar. Mickey Shields, Director of Membership Services with the Iowa League of Cities provided listeners with an overview of the Iowa Code in relationship to open meetings and open records and policies and techniques for running efficient public meetings.



*Mickey Shields,
Iowa League of Cities*

All full Region XII COG Training Room crowd of 35 local officials learned about Best Practices and Effective Techniques for Nuisance Abatement on April 2. Mickey Shields again led the discussion and presentation on this popular topic.

Thank you to our partners with IDNR, USDA, and the Iowa League of Cities for assisting COG staff provide these educational forums for our members. Summaries and meeting materials from each of these workshops can be found at the [Region XII Website](#). Please follow us on [Facebook](#) or watch for emails and newsletter articles about upcoming workshops and educational opportunities.

Increased Food Storage Capacity Grants Available

Through the Increased Food Storage Capacity Grant, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offers up to \$8,000 to non-profit food banks, food pantries and other nonprofit entities receiving donated food for distribution to food insecure Iowans. Funding allows for the purchase of Energy Star refrigerators, Energy Star freezers and shelving. These eligible items make it possible to accept additional food donations and to properly store additional perishable and non-perishable food items for longer periods.

A 2022 waste characterization study performed by DNR indicated that landfilled food waste comprises 19.2% of Iowa's total waste stream. The increase in food storage capacity allows a greater diversion of food items from the landfill and assists in providing more nutritious meals for a greater number of food-insecure Iowans. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. For assistance or additional information please contact Paige Alesch, palesch@region12cog.org, (712) 775-7813 or Shelly Codner, scodner@region12cog.org, (319) 404-1942.

Region XII RLF Lends to Britches & Bows Country Store

Kandi Meinecke has owned Britches & Bows Country Store, which was located on their acreage, for over 25 years. In November, a building in downtown Panora became available and Kandi decided it was time to relocate to a larger facility and expand her product lines. She changed the name to B & B Marketplace and will increase the home décor, women’s clothing and wedding décor inventory as well as add fresh florals, a small coffee shop and bakery items. With this larger facility, she will also be able to offer a small room to rent for parties or to host classes for crafting projects. Region XII Development Corporation was honored to assist Kandi with the relocation and expansion of her business to Panora.



Region XII Development Corporation (RDC) currently has over \$2 million dollars available in its revolving loan fund. RDC provides loans to businesses located in Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac counties. The revolving loan fund was created to assist new or existing businesses with development and expansion. The funds may be used for land acquisition, expansion, building construction or renovation, equipment, inventory, and working capital. The business must leverage other financing first as the RLF program is intended to be used for gap financing. The program aims to create or retain jobs, therefore all applicants must include information on jobs to be created or retained by the proposed project. For more information on applying, contact Tami Lehmann at tlehmann@region12cog.org or 712-792-9914.



New Western Iowa Transit Staff

Region XII COG is excited to announce the hiring of four new transit drivers. Linda Prince joined the WIT staff as a part-time driver in January 2024 and operates out of Greene County. Rodney Ballard also joined the WIT team in January 2024 and operates out of Guthrie Center. In April 2024, Lyn Swing and John Reinart joined the WIT team as part-time drivers. Lyn operates out of Coon Rapids and John operates out of Carroll. If you see these new drivers on the road, give them a wave!

2023 Region XII Partnership Program

The COG’s Partnership Program is an opportunity for private, non-government businesses and organizations to become a part of the COG’s mission to provide various needed services to the region’s cities and counties. Partners listed below. For more information, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org. This list contains all partners from 2023.

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP - \$2,000
Monogram Quality Foods, Denison

GOLD MEMBERSHIP - \$1,000

Availa Bank, Carroll

Dakota Business Finance, Sioux Falls

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

Bank Iowa, Denison

Bauer Built, Paton

Greene County Medical Center, Jefferson

Guthrie County REC, Guthrie Center

Holmes Murphy & Associates, Waukee

Home State Bank, Jefferson

Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden

Iowa State Bank, Sac City

Landmands Bank, Audubon

Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll

Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, Glidden

United Bank of Iowa, Carroll

West Central Iowa Rural Water Association, Manning

Western Iowa Power Cooperative, Denison

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

Agri Drain Corporation, Adair

American Home Shield, Carroll

Audubon County Economic Development, Audubon

Audubon County Mem. Hospital & Clinics, Audubon

Audubon State Bank, Audubon

Badding Construction, Carroll

Bruner Bruner Reinhart & Morton, Carroll

Carroll County Growth Partnership, Carroll

Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County, Denison

Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll

Community State Bank, Paton

Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids

Core-Mark DBA Farner-Bocken, Carroll

Corn Belt Telephone, Wall Lake

Crawford County Memorial Hospital, Denison

Denison Municipal Utilities, Denison

Drees Company, Carroll

Exchange State Bank, Exira

Farmers State Bank, Lake View

Farmers State Bank, Yale

Ed M Feld Equipment Company, Carroll

Game One, Carroll

Greene County Development Corporation, Jefferson

Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center

Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll

Iowa Trust & Savings Bank, Panora

JEO Consulting Group, Inc., Carroll

Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company, Elk Horn

Panora Telecommunications, Panora

Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers, Carroll

Scranton Manufacturing/New Way, Scranton

Snyder & Associates, Atlantic

St. Anthony Regional Hospital, Carroll

Sundquist Engineering, Denison

Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton

Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton

Veenstra & Kimm, West Des Moines

Wall Lake Lumber Company, Wall Lake

Western Iowa Networks, Breda

Westside State Bank, Westside

Upcoming Grants

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
Union Pacific Community Grant Program	Projects should support one of the following categories: Community and civic: projects aimed at improving and enriching the quality of life in the community, health and human services: projects that improve the level of health care or human services in the community	May 31, 2024	Non-profits along the UP Railroad
State Recreation Trails Fund (Iowa DOT)	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails	July 1, 2024	Local governments, non-profit organizations
Warren H. Timmerman Charitable Trust	Funding for projects in Carroll County	Early July 2024	Local governments, non-profit organizations
Gilbert and Barbara Renze Charitable Foundation	Funding for projects Carroll and Sac Counties	Early July 2024	Local governments, non-profit organizations
CDBG Water and Sewer Fund	Grants to assist cities and counties with sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storm sewer projects related to sanitary sewer system improvements and rural water connections.	July 1, 2024 October 1, 2024 January 1, 2025 April 1, 2025	Cities and Counties
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	July 1, 2024 October 1, 2024 January 1, 2025 April 1, 2025	Local governments, public or private groups
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	Community development and recreation projects	July 15, 2024 October 15, 2024 January 15, 2025 April 15, 2025	Local governments and non-profit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha Nebraska.
Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program	Funding can be used to replace existing non-zero-emission Class 6 and 7 heavy-duty vehicles with eligible Class 6 and 7 zero-emission vehicles. To support zero-emission vehicle adoption and deployment, funding may also be used for: zero-emission vehicle refueling infrastructure, workforce development and training, and project implementation costs.	July 25, 2024	States, Municipalities, Public School Districts, Nonprofit School Transportation Associations
Resource Enhancement and Protection (Iowa DNR)	City parks and open space; county conservation, including land acquisition, facility repair and upgrades, and equipment; and private/public open space acquisition	August 15, 2024	Local governments and County Conservation Boards
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	Provides grants for low-cost, systemic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes.	Ongoing	Counties
Small Town Sign Replacement Program	The program will provide up to \$5,000 of signs and signposts per applying community on a first- come, first-served basis	Ongoing	Cities
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	Provides 100 hours of engineering assistance for operations and traffic safety issues.	Ongoing	Cities and Counties
CDBG Community Facilities and Services	This annual competitive program offers grants to assist communities for a variety of projects including day care facilities, senior centers, vocational workshops and other community services such as stormwater projects	Rolling Cycle	Cities and Counties
IDNR Food Storage Capacity Grant	The competitive grant opportunity helps efforts to expand storage and cold storage of donated food.	Open	Food banks, food pantries, and other non-profit organizations.

Recent COG Projects

Carroll County Comprehensive Plan

Carroll County recently completed the planning process to update their comprehensive plan. COG Staff wrote the plan and facilitated the meetings with the steering committee. The plan is currently out for public comment, which can be left at [this link](#).



Manilla Duplex Completed

A duplex in Manilla has recently been completed and is now available for sale. A donated lot by the city and a Workforce Housing Tax Credit application written by Region XII made this project possible.



Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	City of Deloit	\$370,000	Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation
CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	City of Casey	\$328,500	Replacement of water mains
FHLB Affordable Housing Program	Region XII Council of Governments	\$501,750	Regional Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
Local Housing Trust Fund	Council of Governments Housing, Inc.	\$379,792	Regional Housing Trust Fund
CDBG Comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization Planning Grant	City of Manning	\$25,000	Comprehensive Neighborhood Planning around Manning City Park
Community Foundation of Carroll County	Arcadia Betterment & Development Corp.	\$12,000	Shelter House Parking Lot Improvements
Community Foundation of Carroll County	Maple River Area Park	\$3,000	Cabinets & Counter tops for the Shelter House
Community Foundation of Carroll County	Carroll Athletic Association	\$15,000	Merchants Park Renovations
Community Foundation of Carroll County	City of Dedham	\$7,500	Community Sign Construction
Crawford County Community Foundation	City of Buck Grove	\$5,000	New Playground Equipment
Enhance Iowa Community Attraction and Tourism	City of Carroll	\$203,000	Merchants Park Renovations
CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	City of Dedham	\$500,000	Water Distribution System Improvements
CDBG Community Facilities	City of Schleswig	\$420,000	Under the Son Childcare Center Purchase

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Chris Whitaker, cwhitaker@region12cog.org or 712-775-7811, for assistance in locating funding opportunities.

STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

- Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director rhunsaker@region12cog.org
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- Julie Larsen, Fiscal Clerk..... jlarsen@region12cog.org
- Tami Lehmann, Revolving Loan Fund Administrator..... tlehmann@region12cog.org
- Scott Steffen, Loan Officer.....ssteffen@region12cog.org
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- Michelle Kooiker, Executive Assistant mkooiker@region12cog.org

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- Lauren Mortensen, Economic Development Planner..... lmortensen@region12cog.org
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- Karla Janning, Housing Programs Coordinator..... kjanning@region12cog.org
- Ashley Owen, Housing Specialist..... aowen@region12cog.org
- Brett Nieland, Housing Inspector.....bnieland@region12cog.org
- Aaron Schulz, Housing Inspector.....aschulz@region12cog.org

WESTERN IOWA TRANSIT

- Matt Cleveland, Transit Director.....mcleveland@region12cog.org
- Mike Rath, Service Manager..... mrath@region12cog.org
- Jill Anthofer, Transit Assistant..... janthofer@region12cog.org
- Chris Brown, Office Assistant..... cbrown@region12cog.org

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