



CALENDAR

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter

June 2025

June

- 11 - **RDC Loan Review Comm.**
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 12 - **Executive Board Meeting**
12:30 PM, COG Training Room
- 18 - **Mid Iowa Dev. Fund**
3:00 PM, Virtual

July

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

August

- 6 - **RDC Loan Review Comm.**
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 7 - **Executive Board Meeting**
12:30 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

Steve Smith, Secretary
Guthrie Co. Supervisor

Don Mosinski
Audubon Co. Supervisor

Dave Muhlbauer
Crawford Co. Supervisor

Big Things Happening in Dedham

The City of Dedham, population 224, is experiencing big changes. In April 2024, the City was awarded \$500,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to use towards their \$1.6 million water distribution system improvement project. The remaining \$1.1 million is being funded through a State Revolving Loan. This project is currently under construction and is anticipated to be completed by the end of this year. The improvement project will replace nearly 80% of the city's total water mains, reducing the number of leaks and breaks.



The City has also received funding through numerous local foundations to complete smaller projects within the community. Specifically these projects included improvements to the ball field plaza, general park improvements, community sign construction, and tennis court resurfacing. The City has received \$34,500 from the Warren H. Timmerman Charitable Trust, the Community Foundation of Carroll County, and POET since fall 2023 for these projects. These grants, which were authored by Region XII, have covered 33% of the total project costs.

In 2023, Region XII COG, in partnership with the City of Dedham, submitted a workforce housing tax credit application to construct new workforce housing within the community. As a part of this application, the City donated two lots to the COG for the development of two new single-family homes. The application was successful and these two units are currently under construction and are anticipated to be complete by the end of this year. Tuning Construction, of Dedham, is constructing these two homes valued at approximately \$567,000.



Iowa Waste Exchange Tours Pella Windows and Doors Facility

The Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE), along with colleagues from the Iowa Waste Reduction Center and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, recently had the opportunity to tour the Pella Windows and Doors facility in Carroll. As one of the area's largest employers, Pella plays a key role in the local economy and sets a strong example in sustainability. Tour guides provided an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at the company's operations, highlighting how Pella works to use materials as efficiently as possible to minimize waste. It was an excellent opportunity to witness responsible manufacturing in action and learn from their commitment to continuous improvement.



The Iowa Waste Exchange, a program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and administered through a contract held by Region XII Council of Governments, is a free, non-regulatory service that helps businesses, schools, municipalities, and nonprofits find new uses for surplus materials. Since its inception in 1990, IWE has facilitated the exchange of over 4.5 million tons of materials, diverting waste from landfills and saving Iowans nearly \$140 million in disposal and raw material costs. Through a statewide network of resource specialists, the program connects those with surplus materials to organizations that can reuse them—promoting sustainability, resource conservation, and economic efficiency.

NEW STAFF

Connor Womacks has recently joined Region XII as a Regional Planner. Connor is originally from Urbandale, Iowa and in May, he graduated with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Community & Regional planning from Iowa State University. He is excited to work as hard as he can, build relationships, and make a positive impact on every community he works with. In his free time, he enjoys spending quality time with his wife Ella and his family, getting active, and watching movies.

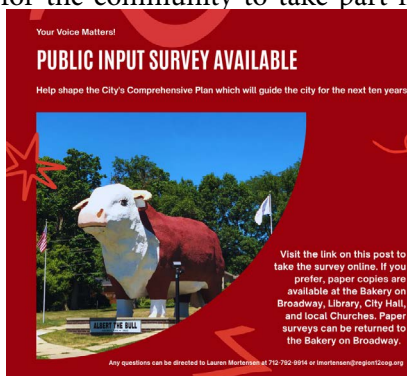


Womacks

City of Audubon Updating Comprehensive Plan

On May 21, the City of Audubon held their Comprehensive Plan kickoff meeting. The City of Audubon hired Region XII to facilitate the comprehensive plan update process as the city's last comprehensive plan was completed in 2003. This process is anticipated to take approximately 8 months to complete and will involve public input and numerous meetings to gather insight about a diverse range of topics that impact the city.

Currently, as part of the planning process, a public input survey is available for the community to take part in. The survey will be open until July 8, 2025 and can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Input received as a part of this process will be used to shape the city's direction over the



Western Iowa Transit
FY 25 Q3 Stats

23,148 Rides
168,654 Revenue Miles

2025 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 as of June 2, 2025.

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP - \$2,000

Manilla Municipal Utilities, Manilla

GOLD MEMBERSHIP - \$1,000

The Andersons Marathon Holdings LLC, Denison
Dakota Business Finance, Sioux Falls

- ### SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500
- Bank Iowa, Denison
 - Bruner, Bruner, Reinhart & Morton, Carroll
 - Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
 - Crawford County Trust & Savings Bank, Denison
 - Dakota Business Finance, Sioux Falls
 - Exchange State Bank, Exira
 - Guthrie County REC, Guthrie Center
 - Holmes-Murphy & Associates, West Des Moines
 - Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden
 - Iowa State Bank, Sac City
 - Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
 - Midland Power Cooperative, Boone
 - New Way, Scranton
 - Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, Glidden
 - United Bank of Iowa, Carroll
 - Western Iowa Power Cooperative, Denison

- ### BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250
- Audubon County Economic Development, Audubon
 - Audubon County Memorial Hospital, Audubon
 - Audubon State Bank, Audubon
 - Badding Construction, Carroll
 - Carroll Athletic Association, Carroll
 - Carroll County Growth Partnership, Carroll
 - Central Iowa Surveying, Jefferson
 - Community State Bank, Paton
 - Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
 - Core-Mark Midcontinent, Carroll
 - Corn Belt Telephone, Wall Lake
 - Crawford County Memorial Hospital, Denison
 - Drees Company, Carroll
 - Ed M Feld Equipment Company, Carroll
 - Farmers Cooperative Elevator Company, Arcadia
 - Farmers State Bank, Lake View
 - Farmers State Bank, Yale
 - First State Bank, Lake View
 - Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center
 - Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center
 - Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
 - Iowa Trust, Panora
 - JEO Consulting Group, Carroll
 - Marne Elk Horn Communications, Elk Horn
 - Panora Telecommunications, Panora
 - Peoples Bank, Clive
 - Principal Financial/Matt Ramaekers, Carroll
 - St. Anthony Regional Hospital, Carroll
 - Snyder & Associates, Atlantic
 - Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
 - Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
 - Wall Lake Lumber Company, Wall Lake
 - Western Iowa Networks, Carroll
 - Westside State Bank, Westside

Iowa Waste Exchange Brings Wiggles, Giggles, and Green Fun to Roy R. Estle Memorial Library, Dallas Center Iowa

The Roy R. Estle Memorial Library buzzed with the sounds of young learners on May 21st, as the Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE) hosted the library's final story hour of the season in the morning and subsequently the library's final "Early Out" after school program in the afternoon. The day, a collaborative effort with Children's Librarian Holly Barnhart, offered a mix of environmental education and artistic expression, all centered around the power of repurposing.

The story hour was filled with "wiggles and giggles" as Shelly Codner, IWE Coordinator and Area Resource Specialist read Doreen Cronin's book, "Diary of a Worm." Children and their caregivers learned a valuable lesson about the unsung heroes of our ecosystems: worms. The session highlighted how these creatures are nature's ultimate recyclers, playing a crucial role in breaking down organic matter. Discussions revolved around how worms can assist in reducing food waste in our homes, transforming kitchen scraps into a nutrient-rich soil amendment – perfect for thriving gardens. Attendees participated in a worm relay and got an up close and personal view of composting worms in action.



In the afternoon, IWE transitioned into an upcycled "make and take" workshop for older children. Participants were encouraged to unleash their inner artists, transforming what might otherwise be considered waste into beautiful and functional creations. A particularly poignant aspect of the workshop involved the repurposing of overstuffed face shields, a stark reminder of the pandemic. These symbols of darker times were crafted into suncatchers and bookmarks, literally bringing sunshine and light in. The bookmarks were adorned with tassels made from scrap vinyl, salvaged from a tent and tarp company, further demonstrating how materials, formerly destined for the landfill, can be given new life.

The creativity didn't stop there. Attendees also worked with upcycled jewel cases, upholstery samples, and even unsalable leaf blower bags, all of which found new purpose in the hands of the imaginative young artists.

According to Barnhart, "Shelly, made learning about recycling and repurposing so much fun!! Many of my younger kiddos will not get dirty, but all of them wanted to touch and look at the worms. For my school aged kids, Shelly repurposed items that were engaging, hands-on and encouraged creativity. The kids didn't want to leave and asked to make multiple crafts. Shelly's enthusiasm and knowledge of the program made learning so much fun. We can't wait to have her back!"

If you are interested in the Iowa Waste Exchange presenting to your group or organization please contact your area resource specialist by visiting www.iowawasteexchange.org or contact Paige Alesch, palesch@region12cog.org, 712-775-7813 or Shelly Codner, scodner@region12cog.org, (319) 404-1942.



Upcoming Grants

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
State Recreation Trials Fund (Iowa DOT)	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails	July 1, 2025	Local governments, non-profit organizations
Warren H. Timmerman Charitable Trust	Funding for projects in Carroll County	July 11, 2025	Local governments, non-profit organizations
Gilbert and Barbara Renze Charitable Foundation	Funding for projects Carroll and Sac Counties	July 11, 2025	Local governments, non-profit organizations
River Enhancement CAT Grant (RECAT)	Funding for projects that improve recreation opportunities on or near rivers and lakes within cities.	July 15, 2025	Local governments
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.	August 1, 2025 March 1, 2026	Cities and Counties
National Endowment for the Arts Our Town	Project based funding for projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities.	August 9, 2025	Local Governments and 501c3 Organizations
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, 2025	Local governments and County Conservation Boards
Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP)	TSIP provides safety funds to cities, counties for site specific improvements, traffic control devices or studies	August 15, 2025	Cities and Counties
RISE Local Development Grant Program	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas	September 1, 2025 February 1, 2026	Local Governments
Rural Housing Readiness Assessment	The program funding will empower communities to assess the current development environment and enact changes resulting in the creation of policies and procedures attractive to potential developers.	August 30, 2025	Local city and county governments, or federally recognized tribal governments physically located in Iowa.
Federal Rec Trails Program	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails and related facilities.	October 1, 2025	Cities and Counties
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
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.

Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	City of Yale	\$425,000	Water Treatment Plant Filter Removal and Replacement
Community Foundation of Carroll County	Maple River Area Park	\$6,000	Shelter House Countertops and Cabinets
CDBG Downtown Revitalization	City of Exira	\$650,000	Rehabilitation of 8 Downtown Building Facades
Community Foundation of Carroll County	City of Carroll	\$10,000	Graham Park Band Shell Rehabilitation
Community Foundation of Carroll County	City of Dedham	\$10,000	City Park Tennis Court Resurfacing
Denison Rotary	City of Vail	\$10,000	Playground
Iowa DNR Derelict Building Grant	City of Scranton	\$5,625	1121 Main Street Deconstruction
Iowa DNR Derelict Building Grant	City of Scranton	\$5,625	1123 Main Street Deconstruction
Iowa DNR Derelict Building Grant	City of Bayard	\$16,363	311 Main Street Asbestos Abatement and Deconstruction
Iowa DNR Derelict Building Grant	City of Bayard	\$21,363	313 Main Street Deconstruction

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.

CODE UPDATES



Region XII COG offers City Code update services to our member communities. These updates are based on a statewide model code developed in coordination with the Iowa Councils of Governments (ICOG), ensuring consistency, legal clarity, and alignment with current State of Iowa statutes and best practices.

Code update service include modernizing outdated ordinances, improving usability, and addressing emerging policy needs in areas such as nuisance abatement and administration. Customized to each community, this service ensures that local codes reflect both local priorities and statewide standards.

Communities interested in updating their City Code are encouraged to contact Chris Whitaker at cwhitaker@region12cog.org or 712-775-7811 for more information.

STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

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

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

- Chris Whitaker, Local Assistance Director cwhitaker@region12cog.org
- Lauren Mortensen, Economic Development Planner..... lmortensen@region12cog.org
- Paige Harman, Regional Planner.....pharman@region12cog.org
- Shannan Potts, Regional Planner..... spotts@region12cog.org
- Connor Womacks, Regional Planner..... cwomacks@region12cog.org
- Shelly Codner, Iowa Waste Exchange Program Manager scodner@region12cog.org
- Paige Alesch, Iowa Waste Exchange Specialist..... palesch@region12cog.org
- 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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