

THE WINDMILL

Creston Comprehensive Plan Community Kickoff



A comprehensive plan looks at the next 20 years of community and land use development needs for a community. The plan focuses on issues like housing, economic development, community infrastructure and facilities, recreation, transportation, quality of life, land use patterns, and more. Creston has begun the process of updating a plan from the late 1990s. Planners Jeremy Rounds, Joel Lamb, and Marcus Amman lead a planning kickoff meeting August 27 at the Creston Restored Depot. Approximately 30 residents attended and gave their insight on some initial planning topics. A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) discussion was held, where participants could verbalize some aspects of Creston in each category and write ideas on paper to submit at the end of the meeting. We also utilized a Community Scorecard, a resource from the Wallace Foundation of Iowa, which grades the community on topics such as democracy in local

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A View From the First Tee

If the below "A View from the First Tee" looks unusual or familiar, it is because it is the original "Comments from the Director's Chair" published September 1993.

I am not sure, but this weather reminds me of the summer I spent in North Dakota as an Economic Development Specialist. It was a wonderful time; the trees were green and the ground was white. I think I moved from the wonderful state of North Dakota for a reason and now I remember why.

Many things are happening and they are positive. New construction projects are getting underway and existing businesses are expanding.

I recently read an article from an organization like ours in northwest Iowa. (I won't identify the COG because I am about to poke fun at the director.)

The like organization, (not really because we at SICOG do a lot more than they do), experienced some computer problems. Well more specifically, the director LOST EVERYTHING ON HIS COMPUTER. I do not know how often we at SICOG back our material up. It is important in this computer day and age.



SICOG is a total Apple environment, unless you consider that we have Macs that have DOS cards installed so we can communicate with our IBM friends. Our organization has never experienced a loss of information, but that is because we know there are two types of computers - computers that have CRASHED and computers that are going to CRASH. We make efforts to purchase only computers that will not crash. Computers are great. SICOG's first computer was a Radio Shack TRS80. (Editors note: \$599.95 - with monitor)

The SICOG First Time Home Buyers Revolving Loan Program is nearing its completion of its first capitalization (began in 1988). We are near the bottom of the barrel so to speak. We have used almost all of the money in the fund. Our total, as of this writing, is 72 loans that have been made to individuals, couples and families. We are glad to be part of a program that makes it possible to achieve one of your dreams.

It is time for the "coffee cup contest". The two questions date from my college days and my degree (geography). Number 1 -- Why are roosters on wind directional indicators? Number 2 -- What is the difference between "partly cloudy" and "partly sunny"?



Remember, the first person to answer either one of these questions will receive a SICOG coffee mug.



As always, if there is anything I can do, please let me know. Our phone number is 641.782.8491. Remember, we are working for you.



Timothy Ostroski

SICOG Executive Board Meeting of July 3, 2018

Treasurer Ron Riley called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at the SICOG office in Creston. The following members were in attendance: Davidson, Lesan, McCann, Minnick, Riley, Trickey, Tullberg, Twombly, and Waddle. Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm.

Twombly made a motion to approve the agenda. Minnick seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried. McCann made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 5, 2018. Waddle seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion carried.

Tullberg made a motion to approve the financial reports for the month of June, as presented. McCann seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried. Trickey made a motion to accept the audit report once all of the responses have been accepted. Twombly seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried. Lesan made a motion to accept the Form 990 and to authorize the chairman to sign the return. Tullberg seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Davidson made a motion to approve the lowest bid from J & J Plumbing in Creston to replace both a/c units. Twombly seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried. Waddle made a motion to approve the repairs to the roof and walls on the north building. Twombly seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Other items discussed included: Personnel Committee, Budget Committee, Building Repairs, and Grant Report. Tullberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:21 p.m. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Minutes Submitted by Brimm (The Executive Board did not meet in August)

Iowa Trails Summit

October 11 - 12, at Panora, Iowa

The Iowa Trails Summit is a conference for professional and volunteer trail advocates to unite through a collaborative learning experience. The summit is a crash course in developing multi-use trails for communities and is hosted by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Trees Forever, and Golden Hills Resource Conservation & Development. Regional trail experts will dig into topics such as corridor acquisition and easements, engineering and construction, grants and funding, maintenance, marketing and promotion, trail enhancements and volunteer retention. The summit will begin with trail stories from attendees and facilitators--setting the stage for breakout sessions focused on those who want a trail and those who have a trail--and wrap up with a comprehensive vision for the future of trails in Iowa: creating, maintaining, promoting and growing Iowa as the World Capital of Trails!

Additional information and a link for registration may be found at the summit website:

<https://www.iowatrailssummit.com/>

October 2

SICOG Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.

SIDG Executive Board Meeting to follow

Southern IA COG Housing Trust Fund Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

October 11 - 12

Iowa Trails Summit, Panora (see above article)

October 25

Future Ready Iowa Regional Summit, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
Southwestern Community College, Creston



October 25

Local Road Safety Workshop, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30, Prairie Meadows Event Center, Altoona (see article on page 5)

In the Spotlight

Community of Creston

What unique characteristics are you proud of in Creston?

- Regional hub of southwest Iowa for business, education, medicine, industry, shopping and recreation
- Small town service with big-town products
- Friendly faces and home-town hospitality
- Creston was founded by the railroad and has continued to keep our Restored Depot a point of pride for the community

What is Creston's claim to fame?

- Award winning lakes that draw many visitors to the area

Tell us about a successful project/partnership in Creston.

- The rehabilitation of the Iowana, which was once an eyesore, is now a centerpiece of our Uptown area

What projects are you working on now in Creston?

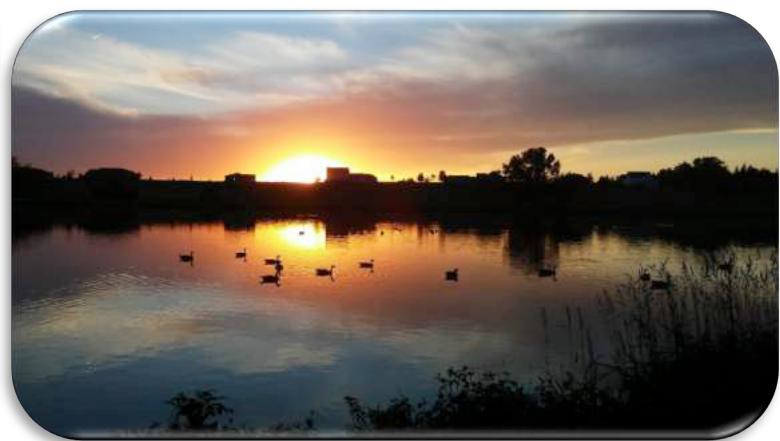
- Our Paint Creston Program is an annual project that gives paint to owner occupied homes to help maintain our housing stock
- Recruiting new businesses to add to our retail mix
- Preparation for Creston's Sesquicentennial celebration in 2019

If you were asked to give a tour of your community to a visiting legislator or dignitary, what would you show them?

- SWCC, Medical Center, great schools, local newspaper and radio station, YMCA, Restored Depot, lakes of Union County, parks and trails

Do you have a website or social media links for Creston?

- www.crestoniowachamber.com
- Facebook & Twitter: Creston Chamber of Commerce



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government, investing wisely, and preserving history. Worksheets were also turned in from that session.

Before residents left, they were asked to do three things. To begin, take a photograph of an area and provide a vision for what that area could be in 20 years. The second request was to sign up for focus groups to concentrate on issues such as housing and infrastructure as the plan proceeds. The final task was to have each person complete a survey for the plan, either on paper or online. For Creston citizens who wish to participate in this survey, please visit:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/CrestonCommunityPlanSurvey

Please contact Jeremy, Marcus, or Joel with any planning needs for your community.

Local Road Safety Workshop

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), Office of Traffic and Safety, together with the Iowa DOT Systems Planning and Local Systems offices, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - Iowa Division, Governors Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB), and the Iowa Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP), is presenting a series of Local Road Safety Workshops. These free workshops are presented at various locations to provide current information and advice for improving safety on local roads and streets in terms of planning, law enforcement, education, and engineering. Interested professionals from planning agencies, law enforcement, engineering, consulting, and other disciplines from all levels of government are provided an opportunity to meet, learn, interact, and share experiences, opinions, and suggestions for strengthening and expanding the overall safety program for local roads and streets in Iowa, often resulting in addressing identified safety concerns in an effective multidisciplinary manner. Crash data is also summarized, graphed, and provided to each local agency in attendance.

The most convenient workshop for those in the RPA 14/ATURA region is being held in **Altoona**:

October 25, 2018 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Prairie Meadows Events & Conference Center
Skinner A
1 Prairie Meadows Drive
Altoona, IA 50009

For additional information, a listing of other workshop locations, or to register, visit:

<https://register.extension.iastate.edu/iowaltap/upcoming-workshops/local-road-safety-workshops>

2018 SICOG PARTNERSHIPS

PLATINUM (\$2,500)

- John Wayne Birthplace Society, Ltd. of Winterset
- City of Osceola
- Clarke County Development Corporation

DIAMOND (\$1,500)

- Creston City Water Works
- First National Bank of Afton & Creston
- Iowa State Savings Bank of Corning, Creston, Diagonal, & Lenox
- Lenox Municipal Utilities

GOLD (\$1,000)

- Garden & Associates, Ltd. of Creston & Oskaloosa

SILVER (\$500)

- American State Bank of Lamoni, Osceola & Winterset
- Clarke County State Bank of Murray & Osceola
- Community Development Corporation of Greenfield
- Corning Municipal Utilities
- Greater Regional Medical Center of Creston
- JEO Consulting Group, Inc. of Ankeny
- Michael Foods of Lenox
- PCSB Bank in Clarinda, Corning, Creston, Lenox, & Mount Ayr
- Snyder & Associates, Inc. of Ankeny & Atlantic
- Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative of Corning, Mount Ayr, & Stanton
- Tyler Insurance Services of Creston & Mount Ayr
- Union County Development Association
- Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. of West Des Moines

BRONZE (\$250)

- Adams Community Economic Development Corporation
- Akin Building Centers of Corning & Creston
- Bradley Angus Farms of Lenox
- City State Bank of Mount Ayr
- Clarke Electrical Cooperative of Osceola
- Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Orient, St. Charles, & Winterset
- FNB Bank of Fontanelle & Greenfield
- Gilbert True Value of Leon & Osceola
- Lenox Development Corporation
- Ringgold County Development Corporation
- Saylor Realty, LLC of Osceola
- Southwestern Community College
- State Bank of Brooks
- Union State Bank of Greenfield
- Union State Bank of Winterset

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Approaching Grant Opportunities

The following are deadlines for popular grants our members and associated organizations should consider. SICOG has the staff and experience to assist our communities in submitting the best possible applications for these funds. [There are many other sources, so if you have a project, please contact us.](#)

Source/Program	Funding Uses	Due Date
Main Street Challenge Grant ²	Brick and mortar projects located within districts of participating Main Street Iowa Communities.	September 21
Iowa Water Recreation Access Cost Share Program	Water access projects such as docks, boat ramps, etc.	September 30
Federal Recreational Trail Grant (IDOT) ¹	Large regionally significant trail development projects ***Note: \$2 Million set aside of special funding for existing trail upgrades	October 1
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) ⁵	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects	October 15
Solid Waste Management Grant Program ³	USDA funds for various solid waste projects including studies and implementation.	December 31
IDNR Wildlife Diversity Funds	Grants for research, habitat management, and environmental education supporting non-game life.	November 1
Arts Build Communities Grant Program ⁹	A financial (\$10,000) and technical assistance program that brings artists and State universities into communities to help with creative problem solving.	November 1
Iowa West Foundation ⁷	Community development, economic development, education, and human need projects.	November 15
IDNR Fish Habitat Program and Wildlife Habitat Promotion ⁸	Programs and projects to improve fishing and wildlife habitat.	November 30
CDBG Sustainable Community Demonstration	Innovative and creative projects to support community sustainability. Possible green energy or streetscape projects.	December 31
CDBG Water and Sewer Program ¹	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, etc.	December 31
Solid Waste Alternatives Program ⁵	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives - recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc.	January 2
FEMA Assistance for Firefighters Grant ⁶	Purchase fire equipment, personal protection equipment, training, station modifications, wellness programs, and vehicles.	Date not announced, but should be around November
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Hazard mitigation plans and projects, including tornado safe rooms, building and utility retrofits, minor flood control projects, elevations and relocations of buildings in flood hazard areas and storm water management projects.	Open Ended

1 – Non-profit

2 – Main Street Iowa Communities

3 – Communities < 10,000; rural counties

4 – Dam owners

5 – Some for-profits

6 – Fire Depts. & non-affiliated EMS

7 – Must be located in Adams or Taylor County

8 – Only County Conservation Boards

9 – K-12 Schools

As always, SICOG provides this un-exhaustive list of grants to generate ideas about possible projects and provide funding guidance. Grant funding sources are increasingly interested in creative solutions to problems and many are willing to support not just construction but also operations. If your community has a problem that outside funding might address, then please contact your SICOG office. We would be glad to help and can attend a local meeting at no cost to discuss the project or idea.

From the Planner's Desk



13 Ways to Kill Your Community:

Way 13: Don't Take Responsibility

This final way sums up well the previous 12 ways to kill a community: simply do not embrace your proper role in the future of the community. When someone does not take their role in the process or does so in an inappropriate way, the proverbial ball is dropped, and the problems are not solved. The authors agree that this is the most powerful way, because complacency is very habitual, and soon no one will take responsibility. Taking responsibility is required in two areas: a) embracing your role in the future of the community and b) admitting to your mistakes and errors of the past so that the community can move on. Both of these are needed if your town will improve.

One of the greatest examples the author uses is the person who complains about all the problems but will not even discuss solutions or will only say that others are responsible for formulating and implementing solutions. "Positive-thinking people see a problem and turn it into an opportunity. Negative-thinking people take an opportunity and find a problem in it." The authors point out another important point about this lack of responsibility, which is blaming everyone else about the problem was actually distracting from the real issue and actually prevented action from being taken. We must take action rather than blame it on things that are out of anyone's control.

Part of taking responsibility is recognizing that the entire world is not against you. Some things happen that are detrimental to a community, but that does not meet that, for example, all the State grants are going to urban areas, or your county is ignored. Rather, resources are limited, and we all must do our due diligence to maximize and leverage them.

Casting blame on another for the community's woes clears our consciences of the guilt from taking no action. We know that taking action is hard work, and it may be years before a project is completed or a solution is realized. But if the solution is needed, there are resources...somewhere. Complacency keeps us from seeking those resources and then weathering the storms and pitfalls that always come against a worthwhile and transformative project.

Thank you all for reading the 13 Ways articles the past year-plus. Please check out or buy "13 Ways to Kill Your Community." It will almost certainly help you immensely in your community development and leadership activities.

**Leadership - leadership is
about taking responsibility,
not making excuses.**

not making excuses.

Southern Iowa Council of Governments Executive Board

Karl McCarty	Adams County	Chairperson
Dan Christensen	Decatur County	Vice-Chairperson
Karen Zabel	City of Lenox Representing	Secretary
Ron Riley	Union County	Treasurer
John Twombly	Adair County	
Marvin McCann	Clarke County	
Aaron Price	Madison County	
Lyle Minnick	Ringgold County	
Doug Davidson	Private Sector Representative	
William Trickey	Private Sector Representative	
Michelle Tullberg	Private Sector Representative	
Beth Waddle	Private Sector Representative	
Tom Lesan	Member - At - Large	



SICOG is a non-profit organization that provides and coordinates community and economic development services primarily through the delivery of planning services, technical program assistance, grant writing and administration to assist local governments and others in their efforts to improve the social and economic well-being of its eight county service area.

SOUTHERN IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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