



We are excited to introduce two new members to the SICOG Team



Beth Waddle Executive Director

I am excited and honored to begin my role as Executive Director of SICOG. I'm almost 30 days in and have decided it is a good thing I like to read contracts and legal documents. Just to give you a little background, I previously was the Executive Director of the Adams Community Economic Development Corporation for almost two decades and had been a part-time program manager of the award-winning Main Street Corning while serving as the Executive Director of the Adams Community Chamber of Commerce. I was raised in Adams County, then left to attend college. I have lived in Nebraska, Missouri and New York before returning to Iowa in 1988. Upon my return to Iowa I worked as a legal secretary, an insurance specialist, and as Executive Director of the Southwest Iowa Coalition before accepting a position in 2001 with ACEDC and Chamber. I have been an active community volunteer and recently received the Joe Cook Lifetime Volunteer Award in Corning, an Iowa Rural Development Council "Iowa Rural Hero" award, and volunteer award from the Iowa High School Athletic Association. My husband, Dan and I are proud to live in the SICOG region. I look forward to meeting with everyone and continuing the SICOG legacy of excellent service to our counties and communities.

My name is Kendra Wilkinson and I recently accepted a job with SICOG as a Planning Tech. Born and raised in Corning, I moved to Creston in 2015 to attend SWCC. In 2018, I moved back home, and currently reside on a farm South of Corning with my fiancé, Aaron, and our pup, Luna. With plans to further my education in the future, I am beyond grateful for this opportunity, and I am very excited to grow with such a great organization.



Kendra Wilkinson Planning Tech

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Governor Kim Reynolds ★ Lt. Governor Adam Gregg

Gov. Reynolds announces \$20M investment in nonprofits to serve Iowans in need DES MOINES -- On May 26, 2022 Gov. Reynolds announced a \$20 million investment to help nonprofit organizations in Iowa expand to meet the needs of more Iowans.

The new Nonprofit Innovation Fund will provide a competitive grant opportunity to help nonprofit organizations make transformational investments in vertical infrastructure that will enable them to offer additional services or help more Iowans.

"Iowa nonprofits provide critical support to Iowans most in need," said Gov. Reynolds. "While these organizations work around the clock to meet today's needs, the Nonprofit Innovation Fund will provide innovative and transformational investments to help prepare Iowans for tomorrow."

Nonprofits are encouraged to apply with shovel ready projects that expand the number of services provided to Iowans and/or projects that increase the number of Iowans served by the nonprofit. Eligible expenses for infrastructure projects include construction costs, acquisition, site development, engineering and architectural services. The program provides awards up to \$3 million for infrastructure projects.

Applications will be accepted starting June 27th at iowaagants.gov. Grant recipients must have all funds obligated no later than December 31, 2024 and expended by June 30, 2026. For more information, visit iowaeda.com/nonprofit-innovation-fund/.

Funding for this grant opportunity is made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.



Planner's Desk – Pondering Parking Policies

Nothing reshapes our way of planning in modern America more than parking. Many zoning and subdivision regulations are built around cars and traffic rather than around quality of life and sustainability. The problem with parking, and most transportation as a whole, is that it is no real asset. The only time it is a true asset is when there is some kind of income to be generated, normally through property taxes for garages and parking permits and fees.

Certainly, some parking is needed. SICOG performed an interesting study when updating Creston's comprehensive plan a few years ago. We walked around the downtown area, called Uptown Creston, and counted roughly 1,100 parking spaces, nearly 75% of which were public parking spaces, meaning they were City owned, were on public ROW, or were otherwise not privately controlled. Many of these were off-street parking areas, meaning they took the place of potentially viable building spaces that could generate tax revenue and economic activity. Only a few times each year, during the main parades/festivals, do anywhere nearly all the public parking spaces fill up and some parking areas are almost always entirely vacant. Yet, there were people who would say during the planning process that the lack of parking in Uptown was hindering development.

I would venture the opposite is true. When someone sees lots of open space with concrete, it looks uninviting. I'd feel like my car is invited but I personally am not. What is true is that people will park and walk some distance to see or experience something they really enjoy, as illustrated in any major city. People walk a few blocks to Court Avenue in Des Moines or the Old Market in Omaha. We need community centers that attract people and they will make good use of the parking available.

Besides a master planning process facilitated by a design firm with a pulse on this issue, one area where this comes to the fore is zoning. Many rural towns have adopted zoning codes with, in my opinion, arbitrary off-street parking regulations. An example may be 1 parking stall for every 100 square feet of retail space. First, this type of policy is flawed once we consider that the use or parcel in question may have different features or surroundings compared to others, yet the zoning regulations apply the same to a broad area. Second, it assumes all retail is the same or that even one type of retail has universal parking needs. Finally, it bases its policies on parking and retail trends from the past. I would contend that a modern retail store does not need more parking than the store itself.

Let us ponder our parking policies a bit more. It may attract modern and innovative developers and development to our region, which we desperately need.



FEMA

Disaster Mitigation Funding

The State of Iowa will receive FEMA disaster funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of Presidential disaster declaration DR-4642-IA (February 23, 2022) as a result of severe storms, straight-line winds and tornadoes that occurred in our State in December 2021.

Project Types

The State is accepting Notice of Interests (NOIs) for those eligible hazard mitigation project types that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, including but not limited to:

- Priority #1 (category A) Property Acquisition/Elevation, electric utility hardening, detention basins, warning sirens.
• Priority #2 (category B) Elevate/protect wastewater lift stations, backup generators.
• Priority #3 (category C) Tornado Safe Rooms, small flood barriers.

Eligible Applicants

Potentially eligible applicants include State agencies and local governments and private nonprofit (PNP) organizations or institutions that operate a PNP facility as defined in the 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 206.221(e).

Cost Share

This is a cost share grant program which means that awarded grants will be funded as follows:

- Federal (FEMA) share of total eligible costs – 75% maximum
• Non Federal share of total eligible costs – 25%
• State of Iowa – 10% (typical)
• Local – 15%

Applicants need not be located in a disaster area, but must complete the appropriate (project specific) NOI form located in the EMGrantsPro grants management system. The NOI forms can be found on the Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management website. NOI's will be accepted on a continuous basis or until otherwise notified.

If your jurisdiction is interested in submitting a Notice of Interest or you have questions regarding this program please contact Jeremy Rounds at 641-782-8491 or rounds@sicog.com.

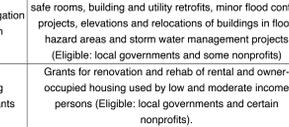


Table with 4 columns: Source/Program, Funding Uses, SICOG Due Date, and details of various grant programs including FEMA Hazard Mitigation, USDA Housing, EPA Brownfields, etc.

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.



SICOG Executive Board Meeting of May 3, 2022

Chairperson Jerry Walker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the SICOG office. The following members were present: Christensen, Davidson, Fitch, Holmes, Leners, Lesan, Nelson, Riley, Taylor, Trickey, Walker and Zabel.

Staff present: Waddle and Brimm.

Walker inquired about changes to the agenda and Waddle suggested removing items # 13, 14 and 15. Fitch made a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of items #13, 14 and 15. Trickey seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Fitch made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 29th meeting and correcting the date of the April meeting from the 14th to the 4th. Nelson seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Trickey made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented for the months of March and April. Leners seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Fitch made a motion to approve the Resolution authorizing Waddle as the official / agent to obligate the agency's funds by signing the application materials, effective May 16, 2022. Riley seconded the motion. Walker took the roll call vote: Birt (absent), Christensen (aye), Davidson (aye), Fitch (aye), Holmes (aye), Leners (aye), Lesan (aye), Nelson (aye), Riley (aye), Taylor (aye), Trickey (aye), Walker (aye) and Zabel (aye). Motion carried.

Trickey made a motion to bill SIDG for RLF administration. Christensen seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Other items discussed included: committee appointments, IEDA CDBG contracts, EDA contracts, building renovations, RLF applications received, insurance claim, audit report, grant report, attorney invoice, financial projections, and budget committee meeting.

Fitch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Riley seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Brimm



- July 4, 2022 - Independence Day, SICOG Closed.
• July 5, 2022 - SICOG Executive Board Meetings
• July 12, 2022 - ATURA Board Meetings
• August 2, 2022 - SICOG Executive Board Meetings

SICOG Staff

- Beth Waddle – Executive Director
Judy Brimm – Finance Director
Jeremy Rounds – Regional Planner
Jessica Hagen – Transportation Planner
Kendra Wilkinson – Planning Tech

SICOG Executive Board

- Jerry Walker – Chairperson, Adair County
Diane Fitch – Vice Chairperson, Madison County
Karen Zabel – Secretary, Taylor County
Ron Riley – Treasurer, Union County
Doug Birt – Adams County
Austin Taylor – Clarke County
Dan Christensen – Decatur County
Colby Holmes – Ringgold County
Doug Davidson – Private Sector Representative
Tom Leners – Private Sector Representative
William Trickey – Private Sector Representative
Paul Nelson – Private Sector Representative
Tom Lesan – Private Sector Representative

