



Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Iowa Extension Council Association

January 28, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Iowa Extension Council Association met via videoconference on January 28, 2026. Board members present include: Tom Monroe, Roger Helmricks, LeAnn Lawler, Paul Gieselman, Paige Grandgeorge, Ruth Wilcox, Julie McVay, Hayley Moss, Kirk, Kristy, Jenny Colbert, Marisue Hartung, Sara Kuboushek, Christy Saylor, Roberta Hersom, and Matt Rohrig. Also present were Jason Henderson, Andrea Welchans,

President-Elect Jenny Colbert called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the absence of the president.

Julie Baumler added the following bills to the agenda:

Whitfield & Eddy - \$965.00

Greg Svoboda - \$166.75

LeAnn Lawler moved to approve the agenda. Marisue Hartung seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Tom Monroe moved to approve the minutes from November 15, 2025. Kirk Phelps seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report was provided by LeAnn Lawler. There is a checking balance on hand of \$47,626.20.

The following bills were presented:

Payee	Item/Service	Total Amt
Roger Helmricks	Legislative contact travel	\$ 1,356.11
Ann Leonard	Legislative contact travel	76.95
Barattas (paid on 1/21/26)	Legislative Day Lunch	6,704.19
Great Caterers of Iowa (paid on 1/21/26)	Legislative Day Reception	1,738.95
David Roszak (Dallas)	Legislative day mileage	20.30
Kelly Larson (Winnebago)	Legislative day mileage	220.40
Marisue Hartung (Story)	Legislative day mileage	47.85
Hayley Moss (Sioux)	Legislative day mileage	362.50
Linda Schluter (Cerro Gordo)	Legislative day mileage	55.10
Lori Rew (Mills)	Legislative day mileage	189.95
Nathan Stauffer (Floyd)	Legislative day mileage	97.88
Greg Svoboda (Benton)	Legislative day mileage	166.75
Whitfield & Eddy	December	965.00

ISU Extension and Outreach – Comm. Economic Dev	Property tax analysis	5,000.00
Julie Baumler	Legislative day supplies, copies	130.03
Jennifer Vit	Extension Council Conference supplies	104.14
MailChimp (EFT)	January	48.15
Total all bills		\$17,284.25

Sara Kuboushek took over as president. Tom Monroe moved to approve the payment of the bills and the treasurer's report. Mark Davitt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Dr. Jason Henderson, Vice President for Extension and Outreach, shared an ISU Extension and Outreach Update. He has met with incoming ISU President David Cook. President Cook will be engaging with lowans in counties across the state in the early months of his taking office. We would like to invite him to the Extension Council Day on Campus. Dr. Henderson also discussed the status of the ISU legislative request for Extension.

Andrea Welchans, Assistant Vice President for County Services shared the County Services Update. Nearly all extension staff have now created a plan of work for the upcoming year with a focus on quantity, quality, revenue generation, and impact. All counties have also submitted a 4-H growth plan. The 4-H unit will identify similar themes among the growth plans and find ways to connect counties who are working on similar goals. Welchans reported that new regional directors have been hired in Region 7 (Nicole Kleespies) and Region 29 (Ann Torbert).

The Extension & 4-H Voices at the Capitol event was reviewed. There were 218 participants consisting of 27 council members, 110 4-H members, and 81 staff and volunteers. The 4-H and IECA legislative briefings provided excellent preparation for the day to tell their 4-H and extension stories. IECA lobbying firm Cornerstone was very pleased with our showing that day.

Roger Helmrichs moved to approve a contract with the Community and Economic Development unit for \$10,000 to hire an analyst to model the impact of the property tax reform bills on each county agricultural extension district. There will be two payments of \$5,000 each. Roberta Hersom seconded the motion. The motion carried. Erin Mullenix, CED Research Scientist, has started working on analyzing the House bill.

Tomorrow is the first meeting of the House Ways and Means Committee. Jennifer Vit has been working with Cornerstone to answer questions that have come in about how to keep extension funding whole.

Marisue Hartung moved to approve the payment of any upcoming travel expenses from extension council members for the Extension & 4-H Voices at the Capitol. Matt Rohrig seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The upcoming Extension Council Conference on the Road was discussed. The program includes the following agenda items:

- The Iowa Economy & County Extension
- The Extension Levy and an Iowa Legislative Update
- Achieving the Extension Mission through Budget Allocation
 - Calculating Your County's Fiscal Health
 - Fund analysis
 - Program vs administration costs
 - Stewardship of public dollars

- Talking with Stakeholders about County Extension Funding

Board members can sign up to help with registration and opening comments.

Jennifer Vit shared that the attorneys from ISU and Kay Oskvig from Whitfield & Eddy are reviewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) draft right now. The MOU will be for a one-year term. Dr. Jason Henderson, Andrea Welchans, and Jennifer Vit will meet with the attorneys next week to discuss any suggested changes. Kay Oskvig has a couple of suggestions for wording, but is overall pleased with the document. Following this discussion, the MOU will be finalized and sent to counties for approval and signatures.

The board briefly discussed plans for the 2026 Extension Council Day on Campus. They are considering adding a football game as a package option for the event, depending on availability.

An executive director report was provided by Jennifer Vit. She reported that EAP and Calm will be renewing for the April 1, 2026-March 31, 2027 timeframe. The EAP charge for IECA remains \$24.15 per employee. Calm will be \$46.44 per employee.

Marisue Hartung moved to keep the rate for Calm at \$25 for this year with an intention that it may increase by 10% next year to \$27.50. Roger Helmricks seconded the motion. The motion carried. Julie McVay moved to charge counties \$25 for EAP. LeAnn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jennifer Vit announced that board elections will take place in Regions 2, 4, 7, 9, 10 & 28, 21, 22, 24, and 26 this spring. Nomination forms will be available in February. Voting will take place in April.

Marisue Hartung encouraged people to attend their local legislative forums and continue to share their extension story.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Colbert, Secretary