



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

Saturday, June 6, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Iowa Extension Council Association met in Ames on June 6, 2026. Board members present include Sara Kuboushek, Ann Leonard, Jenny Colbert, Matt Rohrig, Marisue Hartung, Hayley Moss, Dennis Hammen, Bruce Clark, Paul Gieselman, Julie McVay, Paige Grandgeorge, Crystal Doering, Le Ann Lawler, Joan Wiskus, Cheryl Beaver, Roger Helmrichs, Christy Sayler, Ruth Wilcox, Kristy Knutson, Linda Jacobsen, and Lisa Jones. Also present were Andrea Welchans, Jennifer Vit, and Julie Baumler. Jason Henderson attended the morning portion of the meeting via Zoom.

Sara Kuboushek called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A bill from LeAnn Lawler for stamps in the amount of \$78.00 was added to the agenda. Jenny Colbert moved to approve the amended agenda. Roger Helmrichs seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Paul Gieselman moved to approve the minutes from March 16, 2026. Paige Grandgeorge seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report was presented by LeAnn Lawler. The balance on hand is \$44,493.39. Jenny Colbert moved to approve the treasurer's report and pay the following bills. Matt Rohrig seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Payee	Item/Service	Total Amt
UHY	Tax filing	\$1,300.00
Iowa 4-H Foundation	Reimbursement: Historical Building Rental for Extension & 4-H Voices at the Capitol	1,080.00
Community and Economic Development	Property tax bill analysis	5,000.00
Hickory Park	Board lunch	429.14
Whitfield & Eddy	April legal services	425.00
AssuredPartners	D&O insurance	1,090.00
Cause Team	Board shirts	130.54
Julie Baumler	Copies, stamps, Quicken renewal	306.40
Le Ann Lawler	Stamps	\$78.00
TOTAL		\$ 9,839.08

Julie Baumler shared that 80 counties have paid their 2026-27 dues to date.

Dr. Jason Henderson, Andrea Welchans, and Jennifer Vit led the board in a discussion about refining the narrative and what comes next with regard to how the board of directors can lead and guide the profile of ISU Extension and Outreach with Iowans.

Prior to lunch, outgoing board members Bruce Clark and Ruth Wilcox had an opportunity to provide some reflection on their time as board members and give advice to the new and continuing board members. They encouraged the group to keep dealing with unfinished business working to engage council members.

Following lunch, the 2026-2027 Board of Directors were called to order and officers were elected. Roger Helmrichs moved to nominate Ann Leonard president. Paul Gieselman seconded the motion. The motion carried. Jenny Colbert moved to nominate Roger Helmrichs for President-Elect. Julie McVay seconded the motion. The motion carried. Jenny Colbert moved to nominate Christy Sayler for secretary. Sara Kuboushek seconded the motion. The motion carried. Sara Kuboushek nominated LeAnn Lawler for treasurer. Joan Wiskus seconded the nomination. The motion carried.

Roger Helmrichs moved to approve the board process issues as presented. Jenny Colbert seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Le Ann Lawler move to approve Veridian Credit Union as the IECA financial institution for the upcoming year. Sara Kuboushek seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Sub-committee meetings were held.

Communication & Networking

- Joan Wiskus, chair
- Sara Kuboushek
- Linda Jacobsen
- Hayley Moss
- Crystal Doering
- Lisa Jones

The communication and networking committee discussed ways that councils can be more visible in the public including at fairs, community events, and helping to connect staff members with local agencies and businesses. They would like to see counties offering council member spotlights on social media. They also identified some opportunities for new council orientation.

Human Resources & Member Services

- Paige Grandgeorge, chair
- LeAnn Lawler
- Julie McVay
- Cheryl Beaver

The human resources and member services committee discussed council training including the following:

- Training targeted for different county administrative model types.
- How staffing structure changes can enhance fiscal responsibility.
- Overview of available programs to help them determine which offered programs might meet identified county needs.
- How can council members recognize staff stress to reduce/prevent burnout

Finance, Policy, & Legislation

- Marisue Hartung, Chair
- Jenny Colbert
- Matt Rohrig
- Dennis Hammen
- Paul Gieselman
- Roger Helmrichs
- Christy Sayler
- Kristy Knutson
- Ann Leonard

The finance, policy, and legislation committee briefly discussed the 2027 legislative event. The rotunda has been reserved for March 17. 4-H has been invited to join IECA, but there has been no commitment yet at this point.

The committee discussed the 2026-2027 budget and recommended allocating \$500 from the budget to assist with efforts an IECA task force charged with identifying opportunities to improve the profile of extension in the state.

Jenny Colbert moved to approve the following budget. Paul Gieselman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INCOME	
Membership Dues	\$ 30,720.00
EAP Payments	9,500.00
Calm Payments	5,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 45,220.00
EXPENSES	
General	
Bank Charges	\$ 50.00
Copies	800.00
Misc.	500.00
Office Supplies	300.00
Postage	650.00
Travel	6,500.00
Insurance	1,090.00
Board Meeting Expenses	1,200.00
TOTAL General	\$ 11,090.00
Comm. & Networking	
Communications	\$ 700.00
Marketing/Promotions	1,400.00
TOTAL Comm & Networking	\$ 2,100.00
Human Resources & Member Services	
Council Conference	\$ 500.00
Extension Council Day on Campus	3,000.00
EAP	9,500.00
Calm	5,000.00
Council Training	250.00
Legal Services	20,000.00
TOTAL Human Resources & Member Services	\$ 38,250.00
Finance, Policy, & Legislation	
Legislative Contacts	\$ 7,000.00
TOTAL Finance, Policy, & Legislation	\$ 7,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 58,440.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$ (13,220.00)

Jennifer Vit shared her executive director report including the following items

- The governor signed the property tax bill. Andrea Welchans created a spreadsheet tool to help counties project their tax income for the future under the new 2% growth cap. Council members should continue to engage with legislators over the summer and fall and help share the impact of extension locally.
- 97 counties have signed and returned the new 2026-2027 Memorandum of Understanding with Iowa State University. The MOU committee will be reconvening to develop a 2027-2029 MOU that focuses more on the financial piece of the partnership.
- UHY completed the IECA tax filing for FY25 and is working with the IRS for acceptance of the filing. As noted, IECA is filing for the first time this year because we have now exceeded the \$50,000 income threshold that triggers the need to file. A financial review will need to be completed for FY26.
- The Extension Council Conference on the Road was well-received with good feedback. We had total attendance of 124 (94 council members, 15 county staff, 15 regional staff) at 8 sites across the state.
- Extension Council Day on Campus will be held on Friday, Sept. 18 with a morning Extension Tailgate for the 11:00 a.m. ISU-Bowling Green game on Saturday, Sept. 19. She has confirmed the following tours: Cyclone Kitchen, ISU Greenhouse, ISU Agrivoltaics, 4-H AI, Mission Moon (4-H program). Registration will open by the end of the month. Spouses and staff may come if they accompany a council member.

An ad hoc committee was formed to identify opportunities to improve the profile of ISU Extension and Outreach in the state. Members include Linda Jacobsen, Crystal Doering, Paul Gieselman, Ann Leonard, Paige Grandgeorge, Christy Sayler, and Jenny Colbert.

The board requested that 4-H program leader Mitch Hoyer be invited to attend our next meeting.

A concern that was brought up was a request that statewide 4-H messages about upcoming deadlines provide county staff with more lead time to share them with members. Jennifer Vit and Andrea Welchans will pass this feedback along to the appropriate 4-H staff members.

Roger moved to approve the following additional expenses:

- Board member travel: \$3,114.58
- Cyclone Awards, nametags and outgoing president gift: \$120.65
- Jennifer Vit, board meeting refreshments: \$111.28

Joan Wiskus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next meeting will be in October or November. Julie Baumler will send out a poll to identify a date that will work for most of the board members.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Sayler, Secretary