



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

September 10, 2025

The Board of Directors of the Iowa Extension Council Association met via Zoom on September 10, 2025. Board members present include Sara Kuboushek, Ann Leonard, LeAnn Lawler, Roger Helmrichs, Bruce Clark, Julie McVay, Ruth Wilcox, Paige Grandgeorge, Paul Gieselman, Kristy Knutson, Cheryl Beaver, Benjamin Uhl, Kirk Phelps, Tom Monroe, Mollie Scott, and Christy Saylor. Also present were Jennifer Vit and Julie Baumler

President Sara Kuboushek called the meeting to order. Tom Monroe moved to approve the agenda. Ann Leonard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ben Uhl moved to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2025 board meeting. Paul Gieselman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report was given. There is a checking balance on hand of \$94,736.15. A bill to reimburse Jennifer Vit in the amount of \$67.38 for tablecloths for the legislative breakfast was presented. Roger Helmrichs moved to approve the treasurer's report and payment of the bill. LeAnn Lawler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The subcommittee of Roger Helmrichs, Paul Gieselman, Ann Leonard and Tom Monroe presented their findings in the search to hire a legislative consultant to work on behalf of IECA on property tax reform impacts to county extension councils. After evaluating five candidates, they narrowed it down to two firms, with Cornerstone from Des Moines emerging as the preferred choice due to their strong legislative connections, comprehensive communication methods, and understanding of Iowa's property tax system. Ann Leonard moved to hire Cornerstone consulting group to lobby on behalf IECA on the impact of property tax legislation upon county extension councils for the amount of \$40,000. Roger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jennifer Vit presented an executive director's report including the following items:

- Councils need to ensure that county staff are continually documenting their impact, including adding information to MyData. They also need to prioritize putting together a county impact report that showcases impactful extension work happening in their county.
- There is a scheduling conflict with January 20 for the legislative breakfast. We will be looking at a new date with input from Cornerstone to determine our best option.
- The November 15 board meeting will focus on legislative communication, including understanding county finances in a way that can be explained to our funders.

- An accountant will need to be hired by IECA to work with our tax filing requirements as a non-profit. Vit will identify an accountant to work with, along with an estimated cost and will bring the request to a future meeting.
- Vit proposed that the Extension Council Conference on the Road focus on a finance theme this year. She has worked with the directors of field operations and Andrea Welchans to identify 9 locations across the state, allowing for shorter drive time and greater attendance.
- A survey regarding Vit's performance will be sent to board members soon. They are asked to providing feedback prior to the deadline.
- A fiscal review of the IECA books occurred on August 20. The only finding was a mis-entered check number that was corrected.
- A new guidance document, *Iowa 4-H Working Together*, defines how staff will work together in partnership across the extension system to provide high quality 4-H youth development programming. The document will provide guidance to the work of county and ISU staff in the 2026-2029 MOU. Vit has requested that Iowa 4-H Program Director Mitch Hoyer share this document with extension councils.
- Board members are encouraged to view the 2026-2029 MOU draft and provide feedback by September 30.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Lichty, Secretary