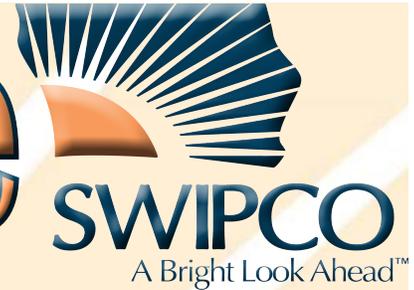


The Update



October 2023

Serving the Counties of Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Montgomery, Mills, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby

SWIPCO holds 48th Annual Meeting in Hamburg

Five partnership awards presented, and four past board members honored

HAMBURG, IOWA – Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) members, staff, and stakeholders came together for the 48th Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 28th at the newly renovated Hamburg Fire Station. The day included a tour of Hamburg, a luncheon, awards presentation, and annual report.

The day started with a tour of the City of Hamburg led by Mayor Harry Adams and Councilman Mike Stenzel to celebrate many of the projects that have been completed or are in progress following the 2019 flood. Stops on the tour included the newly opened Hamburg Inn & Suites, ConAgra popcorn production facility, The Hamburg Locker, and the disaster recovery housing development site North Ridge Acres.



SWIPCO Executive Director John McCurdy delivers the annual report

Following the tour, attendees enjoyed a luncheon catered by Horseshoe Café and Catering from Sidney. The program was then opened with a welcome by Mayor Adams and introductions by SWIPCO Board Chair Todd Valline.

Five partnership awards were then presented by SWIPCO staff to various entities that helped SWIPCO achieve end goals in fiscal year 2023. Those awards included:

Connections Area Agency on Aging for their continued partnership with Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA) to help disabled lowans get to where they need to go at a reduced cost.

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Denver Regional Office of the U.S. Economic Development Administration for their work managing an unprecedented amount of funding for disaster recovery from the 2019 floods and the Covid pandemic. Regional Representative Alex Smith was on hand to accept the award.

Faith In Action for their continued partnership with SWITA to provide rides for the residents of Fremont and Page Counties.

Continued page 2.....

Annual Meeting Continued

F&M Carpentry for their excellent work and very high client satisfaction as a contractor for many SWIPCO housing projects in the past year. Owners Roy and Tammy Fifer were on hand to accept the award.

Terry Brown, Disaster Project Officer with Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for his exemplary help in coordinating long term recovery efforts in Hamburg and Fremont and Mills Counties after the 2019 floods.

Four former members of the SWIPCO Policy Board were honored for their service at the meeting. John Hartkopf, Cass County Supervisor, 2 years. Alan Armstrong, Page County Supervisor, 5 years. Lynn Grobe, Pottawattamie County Supervisor, 10 years. Brad Wright, Red Oak City Administrator, 20 years.

Four SWIPCO office staff employees were honored for employment milestones. Dani Briggs, Lead Planner, 5 years. Dee Holtz, Administrative Assistant, 5 years. John McCurdy, Executive Director, 10 years. Mark Hansen, Fleet Mechanic, 15 years. SWITA driver of the year Dean Driskell was also recognized.

To finish up the meeting, Executive Director John McCurdy presented annual report information and shared the many success stories for SWIPCO in fiscal year 2023. Highlights included that SWITA provided 526,300 rides in fiscal year 2023, the most any rural public transit agency ever has in the state of Iowa. SWIPCO's planning staff are also currently managing over \$120 million in grant funds. SWIPCO and the Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund (SWIHTF) completed 61 housing rehabilitation projects, assisted with the purchase of 19 homes, demolished 15 dilapidated houses, and conducted dozens of building inspections. SWIPCO's administrative team managing resources and came in right on target for SWIPCO's \$7 million operating budget, the largest portion of which is payroll for SWIPCO's 100 employees.



Hearing all about popcorn production at ConAgra Snack Foods in Hamburg

Annual Meeting Images



SWIPCO Executive Director John McCurdy pictured presenting awards in tan jacket. Left to Right: Alex Smith, US Economic Development Administration Regional Representative. F&M Carpentry’s Roy and Tammy Fifer with SWIPCO Building Inspector Matthew Lee. Alan Armstrong, Page County Supervisor.



Left to Right: Lynn Grobe, Pottawattamie County Supervisor. Terry Brown, Disaster Project Officer with Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Visit to newly opened Hamburg Inn & Suites.



Left to Right: Dani Briggs, Lead Planner, 5 years of service. Dee Holtz, Administrative Assistant, 5 years of service. SWIPCO Board Chair Todd Valline presenting to John McCurdy, Exexutive Director, 10 years as Director. Visit to Hamburg Locker, logo from Hamburg Fire Department floor, metal flag from Hamburg Inn & Suites.

Kanesville Honor Guard Honor Flight transported to Eppeley by SWITA

SWITA had the pleasure of transporting an Honor Flight group sponsored by the Kanesville Honor Guard to Eppeley Airfield in Omaha from Council Bluffs on Tuesday, October 3rd. Four buses and a van transported the Veterans and their companions to begin their trip to see memorials in the nation's capital. Thanks to all these local Veterans for their service.



SWITA by the Numbers

	September 2023	YTD (Since July 1)	
Total Miles	170,798	514,850	
Total Hours	9,870	30,550	
Total Rides	45,592	130,775	
<u>September Rides by Service</u>		<u>September Rides by Demographic</u>	
Workforce Rides	6,463	Disabled	23,010
Taxi Rides	5,164	Elderly	2,435
Student Rides	6,731	Other Gen. Public	20,147
Other	27,234	Total	45,592
Total	45,592		



SWIPCO looks to fill a number of roles to support growth



- Human Resources Specialist
- Benefits and Payroll Specialist
- Community Development Specialist I - Planner
- Maintenance Assistant
- SWITA Driver

**WE ARE
LOOKING FOR**

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www.swipco.org

SWIPCO is consistently rated as a top employer with great pay, benefits, and hours.



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Human Resources Specialist

Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) is on the hunt for a talented Human Resources Specialist. to join our team. In this position, you will assist the Human Resources Coordinator with recruitment, onboarding, and retention of staff. Successful candidate would maintain employee files and records, ensure training and onboarding is completed properly, and work with Communications Coordinator on recruitment outreach. The position is under the direct supervision of the Human Resources Coordinator and general supervision of the Administrative Services Director. The position is full-time with a starting wage of \$20-\$25 per hour.

Benefits and Payroll Specialist

Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) is searching for a Benefits and Payroll Specialist. to join our team. This team member will provide efficient and effective management of all aspects of employee benefits and employee payroll. This position functions under the direct supervision of the Administrative Services Director in close cooperation with the Human Resource Coordinator and Finance Manager. The position is full-time with a starting wage of \$20-\$25 per hour.

SWIPCO is Hiring continued....

Community Development Specialist I- Planner

Do you like to be out in the community helping local leaders and stakeholders solve complex problems? Do you want a career that is diverse and challenging? Do you have a background in local government, planning, or economic development? Are you organized and get excited about seeing a project you helped start become a reality? If this sound like you, consider becoming a community development specialist at SWIPCO. This is a full-time, salaried position starting between \$55,000 and \$65,000 depending on qualifications.

Maintenance Assistant

Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) is looking for a Maintenance Assistant to join our team. The main responsibility is to ensure the cleanliness of SWITA vehicles and preserve the excellent condition and functionality of our business premises. Duties include cleaning and sanitizing vehicles, performing maintenance on SWIPCO buildings and grounds, shuttling vehicles, and filling-in as a transit driver. The position involves a considerable amount of independent work and travel between Atlantic and Council Bluffs and other areas within SWIPCO's region. This is a full-time position with a starting wage of \$17/hour.

Council Bluffs and Atlantic Area Drivers

Southwest Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA) is seeking a part-time driver in Council Bluffs to transport 1st and 2nd shift workers to various job sites in Council Bluffs, Oakland or Shelby IA. SWITA is also seeking part-time drivers in the Atlantic area for a number of shifts. Applicant must possess or be willing to acquire a commercial driver's license class C with passenger endorsement (SWITA will assist with ELDT and drive test), and enjoy working with the public. Starting wage is \$16.00 per hour plus IPERS and PTO. Applicant must be able to obtain a CDL Medical Exam and pass a DOT pre-employment drug screen.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Daurine Petersen
Human Resources
Coordinator
Birthday Month October



Mary Auten
Grants Specialist I
1 Year of Service

Full job descriptions and the ability to apply for all of these positions is located on the careers page at www.swipco.org. For questions contact Daurine Petersen at 800-842-8065. Please apply online or send the application to SWIPCO, Attn: Daurine, 1501 SW 7th St., Atlantic, Iowa, 50022 or email to daurine.petersen@swipco.org.

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From the Desk of the Executive Director...

John McCurdy
Executive Director

Early fall can be one of the busiest and stressful times in our office. We're reporting on the previous fiscal year, working with our auditors on our annual financials, and it just seems like everything that needed to get done in the summer all comes together at once! Likewise, school is back in session and everyone's lives just get more hectic. But, it is important even in the busy times to reflect on where we've been in the last year and we were fortunate to have had an excellent annual meeting in Hamburg to showcase and celebrate the previous year.

If you've paid much attention to our recent communications, you will have not been able to miss that we have a number of positions currently open. It seems like we are always hiring, but I think at this moment its really important to note the diversity of the positions that we have available. If you want to make a difference in Southwest Iowa and want to work with a rock solid team, now's a great time to reach out and see if there is a good fit for you. We offer very competitive pay and absolutely excellent benefits. On a personal note, the reason I love working for SWIPCO is the fact that the wide variety of the work that we do is not just confined to one town, one county, or one company but really does have an impact across our 8 county region and has ripple effects far beyond that. Bring your passion and skills and we'll position you to make an impact on day 1! (Well, day 1 is usually a lot of training and onboarding, let's say day 2!)

Interested in Being Involved?

SWIPCO currently has vacancies on our policy council, housing trust fund, and revolving loan fund boards. Contact Executive Director John McCurdy if you have an interest in any vacancy.

Upcoming Grant Information:

- IEDA CDBG Downtown Revitalization Fund. *Taking applications through November 22nd.*
- Statewide Transportation Alternatives. *November 27, 2023*
- CDBG Water and Sewer Fund and Solid Waste Alternatives Program *January 1, 2024*
- Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant Program. *January 26, 2024*
- Regional Transportation Alternatives. *January 26, 2024*
- Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program. *January 29, 2024*
- Derelict Building Grant Program. *February 23, 2024*

SWIPCO STAFF

John McCurdy, AICP
Executive Director

Mark Lander
Transit Director

Erin Hudson
Community Development Director

Karen Mauer
Administrative Services Director

Rhonda Brown
Finance Manager

Daurine Petersen
Human Resources Coordinator

Kersten Abild
Transit Scheduler II

Ann Anstey
Grants Specialist II

Mary Auten
Grants Specialist I

Michael Ballinger
Safety Coordinator

Barb Boggs
Grants Specialist I

Dani Briggs
Lead Planner

Tracy Clark
Transit Scheduler III

Tammy DeBord
Grants Specialist III

Mark Hansen
Fleet Mechanic

Sandy Hansen
Grants Specialist III

Ashley Hayes
Disaster Recovery Coordinator

Julie Hays
Transit Scheduler I

Dee Holtz
Administrative Assistant

Aaron Koontz
Grants Specialist I

Matthew Lee
Building Inspector II

Chris Parks
Communications Coordinator

Christy Pederson
Transit Reporting Coordinator

Nicole Rhodes
Grants Specialist II

Phil Richter
Building Inspector I

Kristen Templeton
Transit Coordinator

Teresa Wright
Finance Specialist