

# **SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING COUNCIL**

## **SWIPCO Policy Council Meeting**

April 23, 2026, 1:30 p.m.  
SWIPCO Conference Room (1501 SW 7th St., Atlantic, IA)  
OR via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order.** Chair Green called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call.** SWIPCO Policy Council Members present: Alex Burton, Richard Crouch, Rob Clausen, Steve Green, Ross Hastert, AJ Lyman, Todd Maher, Susan Miller, Charlie Parkhurst, Jenna Ramsey, Jeff Shearer, Susan Shepherd, Tony Smith, and Sherman Struble. SWIPCO Staff present: John McCurdy, Mark Lander, Daurine Petersen, Rhonda Brown, and Chris Parks. Also present: Kristopher Madsen, Legal Counsel.
3. **Discuss/Approve Agenda.** Parkhurst moved to approve the agenda. Burton seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
4. **Public Hearing – Iowa DOT Consolidated Funding Grant Application.**  
Lander opened the public hearing at 1:32 p.m. Lander read the details of the FY26 Consolidated Funding Grant Application. Green asked about some funding possibilities and Lander explained that the Iowa Public Transit Association is advocating for more state involvement on local match to bring that cost down, especially just for this big grant year. Green asked if a state bid was used and Lander explained that yes, we purchase vehicles off a state bid. Crouch moved to close the public hearing and Hastert seconded. The motion carried with all ayes. Public hearing was closed at 1:36 p.m.
5. **Closed Session Per Iowa Code 21.5 (c) To discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation.** Roll call vote was taken to enter closed session. All members present voted Aye: Burton, Crouch, Clausen, Green, Hastert, Lyman, Maher, Miller, Parkhurst, Ramsey, Shearer, Smith, and Struble. Entered closed session at 1:38 p.m. Report from Kristopher Madsen with Stuart Tinley Law Firm on recent litigation and agreed settlement from ICAP. Clausen moved to leave the closed session, Struble seconded. The motion carried with all ayes. Leave closed session at 1:53 p.m.
6. **Discuss/Approve Minutes – March 26, 2026.** Struble moved to approve the March 26, 2026, Policy Council Meeting Minutes. Ramsey seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.

7. **Discuss/Approve Financial Report.** No financial report this meeting due to early date in the month.
8. **Discuss/Approve Payment of Bills.** Brown highlighted engine and transmission replacements on three buses. Parkhurst moved to approve the payment of bills. Burton seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
9. **Discuss/Approve Agency Expenditures.** None.
10. **Appoint Budget Committee.** McCurdy explained the role of the budget committee and the process by which they will help develop the budget. No required number of people but the board chair and treasurer are always on it. Committee will include Green, Ramsey, Parkhurst, Crouch, and Struble. Struble moved to approve the budget committee, Ramsey seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
11. **Approve the Iowa DOT Consolidated Funding Application Authorizing Resolution.** McCurdy read the full resolution for approval. Maher moved to approve the resolution. Miller seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
12. **Discuss/Approve Executive Director Annual Compensation.** Green discussed the executive committee meeting for lunch with John to discuss his position. They had a productive meeting with good feedback from both sides. McCurdy requested a 3.5% pay increase and the executive committee agreed with that increase. Crouch moved to approve the 3.5% pay increase for McCurdy. Ramsey seconded. The motion carried with all ayes. Pay rate will be retroactive to McCurdy's work anniversary of April 1<sup>st</sup>.
13. **Transit Report.** Lander discussed numbers being good. He expects more interest for workforce transportation with rising fuel costs. He also discussed the receipt of three Ford Transit vehicles but there was a mix up with the equipment package. The lifts will be fitted for a sliding mechanism that moved it out of the way for ambulatory passengers. He said the company has been good to work with to keep the total cost at what it would have been with proper package to begin with. The only extra cost that is going to come from this is decal and camera installation. Lander will ask the board to approve that extra amount once he has figures next month.
14. **Director's Report.** McCurdy thanked the executive committee for their discussion today on his performance review. He talked about the Ecolane transit software transition process that has begun and the big undertaking that will be in the next few months. He gave an update on the Griswold grocery building that has long been in litigation. New legal representation was acquired and has done a great job expediting the situation. SWIPCO will be able to sell the building soon and McCurdy is hoping to recover legal costs associated the process, doesn't expect the property to bring in a lot. The Hamburg disaster recovery housing project is to the point of searching for a new developer through

an RFP. He said he has had talks with IEDA to renew SWIPCO's contract on the grant administration since funds have been exhausted from the first attempt on the project that ran into legal problems with the developer. He also reminded the policy council of the impact that the DHS shutdown is still having, including holding up funds that SWIPCO is owed. Part of that is BRIC grant money that was allocated by the courts to be implemented.

**15. Public Comment Period.** None

**16. Board Sharing.** Crouch shared that he will be retiring at the end of his Supervisor term. He shared his praise for what SWIPCO has accomplished and the great leadership that has made a lot happen in the region. He appreciated his time on the board. McCurdy thanked him for his contributions and looks forward to his finishing his service. Others thanked Crouch as well. Ramsey shared that during her trip to DC with IPTA and CTAA she was pulled aside by officials to let her know what a great job SWITA does and the strength of Lander's leadership and contributions to advocacy. She wanted the board to know what a great job others think we are doing.

**17. Other Business.** None.

**18. Adjourn.** Parkhurst moved to adjourn the meeting. Crouch seconded. The motion carried with all ayes. Chair Green adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m.

## **Transit Director's Report 04-23-2026**

We are still missing some numbers, so I am expecting these numbers to increase considerably

Rides---34,446      Miles---146,956      Hours---9,151  
Student—7,795  
Taxi—5,207  
Workroutes---8,730

We have received the 3 Ford Transits we ordered back in September, unfortunately we have an issue with the lifts. I ordered the Paratransit package which I thought had the sliding lift as part of the base. It does not. What does this mean? It means these vehicles are going to cost \$12,000 more per vehicle as that's the cost of the sliding lift which eats up our entire make-ready budget for these vehicles. A&J has been good to work with and have taken out several charges on their end to get these vehicles priced at the amount they would be if the slider had been in at the start.