

SOUTHWEST IOWA PLANNING COUNCIL

SWIPCO Policy Council Meeting

May 28, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
SWIPCO Conference Room (1501 SW 7th St., Atlantic, IA)
OR via Zoom

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** Vice Chair George called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call.** SWIPCO Policy Council Members Present: Fran Branan, Alex Burton, Richard Crouch, Rob Clausen, Joe George, Ross Hastert, AJ Lyman, Todd Maher, Susan Miller, Charlie Parkhurst, Jenna Ramsey, Jeff Shearer, Susan Shepherd, Tony Smith, Sherman Struble.
SWIPCO Staff Members Present: John McCurdy, Rhonda Brown, Mark Lander, Chris Parks.
Others present: Jonathan Bladt (Sen. Grassley Rep), Tracee Knapp (Rep. Nunn Rep)
3. **Discuss/Approve Agenda.** Parkhurst moved to approve the agenda. Crouch seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
4. **Public Hearing – Iowa DOT Consolidated Funding Grant Application.** George opened the public hearing at 1:32 p.m. McCurdy discussed that some numbers were updated from the DOT, so this public hearing and application needed to be repeated from last meeting. Lander read the updated consolidated funding application request. No public comment was received written or present. George closed the public hearing at 1:34 p.m.
5. **Discuss/Approve Minutes – April 23, 2026.** Struble moved to approve the April 23, 2026, meeting minutes. Crouch seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
6. **Discuss/Approve Financial Report.** Brown discussed the community development side was normal through the month of March. Transit will see \$231,000 in capital revenue in April and more to come in May. She noted Federal Transit Assistance is through quarter 3 so 75% of those annual funds have been realized. George asked about matching funds for transit given the influx of grant awards. McCurdy said that capital is there now, but funds will need to be added to meet those matches in the next few years, making reserves tighter. Loans and internal loans were discussed as possible solutions if really needed. Staffing was also discussed and how focuses will shift as disaster projects wind down. Hastert moved to approve the financial report. Burton seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
7. **Discuss/Approve Payment of Bills.** Brown pointed out \$300,000 for 3 vans and \$548,000 for 3 light duty buses that were received in transit. She also noted the higher line item for fuel. McCurdy said that with rising fuel costs that will eat into that line item a bit hard the last three months, but the budget was ahead of schedule for the rest of the year in that category. Hastert asked about fuel contracting and the difficulties of our system's usage total and varied locations making that not really a possibility. Parkhurst moved to approve the payment of bills, Struble seconded.

8. **Discuss/Approve Agency Expenditures.** None
9. **Discuss/Approve Bridge of Service Policy Update.** McCurdy discussed the purpose of the policy to incentivize good employees that leave on good terms to potentially return at their same wage and benefit rates if they return to employment within 6 months. Some of these types of situations have come up and McCurdy felt a policy in place would be useful. He requested the board to approve adding the policy to the employee handbook as article 2.16. Struble moved to approve addition of the policy. Miller seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
10. **Set Date for Annual Meeting.** Was September 25th last year. McCurdy said the annual meeting date is typically in September and the regular meeting date this year would fall on September 24, 2026. Struble asked where the meeting would be. Parks stated Pottawattamie County would be the location in the rotation this year. Miller volunteered to help find a location and arrangements as a representative in that county. McCurdy asked Miller if September 24th was good with her and she confirmed it was. Time and details would be approved later. Miller moved to set the annual meeting date for September 24, 2026. Maher seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
11. **Discuss/Approve At-Large SWIPCO Policy Council Member – Monica Bartlett.** McCurdy talked about the vacant At-Large position on the SWIPCO Policy Council since Todd Valline went off the board at the beginning of the year. He said Monica Bartlett has volunteered to serve. She lives in Shenandoah and is the Executive Director of Nishna Productions. McCurdy said Nishna has been a user and partner of SWIPCO and SWITA services and feels she would be a good representative on the board. He asked that the board approve her appointment to the council. Ramsey moved to approve Monica Bartlett to the SWIPCO Policy Council. Maher seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
12. **Approve the Iowa DOT Consolidated Funding Application Authorizing Resolution.** McCurdy read the full authorizing resolution. Smith moved to approve the resolution. Crouch seconded. The motion carried with all ayes.
13. **Transit Report.** Lander talked about April numbers which aren't fully official yet because some contracted services numbers are still coming in. Numbers were at a good pace year over year. He also discussed attendance of staff at the CTAA Expo and receiving a partnership award for helping with their rodeo and Driver Steve Herrington receiving the 2026 Frontline Hero Award. McCurdy added that we just held our Spring Driver Meeting which is always good for training and recognition.
14. **Executive Director's Report.** McCurdy discussed that a lot of work has been done on the budget process lately. He talked about the state budget zeroing out the \$350,000 annual support to COG's. He discussed how this funding is a big deal to many COG's but is important to SWIPCO for match funds for federal grant support. McCurdy also discussed receiving a final judgement on the Griswold grocery property and a sheriff's sale for the building has been set.

SWIPCO will end up getting what the building sells for out of the judgement, but it is a relief that the process is coming to an end.

15. **Public Comment Period.** None

16. **Board Sharing.** None.

17. **Other Business.** None.

18. **Adjourn.** Struble moved to adjourn the meeting. Hastert seconded. The motion carried with all ayes. George adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Transit Board Report 05-28-2026

Please note we are still waiting on additional numbers to come in so these numbers are not official.

Rides—34,109 Miles—151,972 Hours—9,270

Workroutes—8,640 Students—7,674 Taxi—4,874

Me, Kristen and Chris traveled to Omaha for the CTAA National conference on May 11-13th where we received a partnership award for our help with the national rodeo and our driver Steve Herrington was honored as the CTAA 2026 Frontline Hero for the help he provided transporting folks from the Interstate into Atlantic during the blizzard in March. CTAA has over 1,300 members so it's pretty impressive that we were recognized twice.