



# THE REVIEW

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter

April 2020

## CALENDAR

### May

- 13 - RPA TAC  
10:00 A.M., TBD  
RDC Loan Review Comm.;  
11:30 AM, Electronic
- 14 - Executive Board Meeting;  
4:00 PM, Electronic  
RWDB Meeting;  
5:30 PM, Electronic
- 25 - Memorial Day;  
Office Closed

### June

- 10 - RPA TAC;  
10:00 AM, COG Training Room  
RDC Loan Review Comm.;  
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 11 - Executive Board Meeting;  
12:30 PM, COG Board Room

### July

- 4 - 4th of July;  
Office Closed
- 8 - RPA TAC;  
10:00 AM, COG Training Room  
RDC Loan Review Comm.;  
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 9 - Executive Board Meeting;  
5:00 PM, COG Board Room  
Policy Council Meeting;  
6:00 PM, COG Training Room

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eric Skoog, Chair  
*Crawford Co. Supervisor*

Jack Lloyd, Vice Chair  
*Guthrie Co. Supervisor*

Ranell Drake, Secretary  
*Sac Co. Supervisor*

John Muir, Treasurer  
*Greene Co. Supervisor*

Rick Thompson  
*Audubon Co. Supervisor*

Rich Ruggles  
*Carroll Co. Supervisor*

## Region XII RLF Assists Lake Panorama Pizzeria

The Lake Panorama Pizzeria (LPP) is a new casual and comfortable restaurant located in downtown Panora. Ryan Smith, owner of the pizzeria offers high quality pizzas using fresh ingredients at an affordable price. He cooks them in a UL certified wood burning oven, which gives it that extra crispy crust. In addition to pizzas, they offer salads, wings, lasagna and sandwiches. Congratulations to Ryan for achieving his goal of opening his first restaurant. Region XII was honored to partner with Guthrie County State Bank on this project. **A spotlight video showcasing the LPP can be found [HERE](#).** The video showcases pictures of the business and some of its products while telling more about the business. Due to COVID-19, the LPP is offering carry-out or delivery. Please check out their Facebook page for their menu and hours of operation.



RDC provides loans to businesses located in Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac counties. The revolving loan fund was created to assist new or existing businesses with development and expansion. The funds may be used for land acquisition, expansion, building construction or renovation, equipment, inventory, and working capital. The business must leverage other financing first as the RLF program is intended to be used for gap financing. The program aims to create or retain jobs, therefore all applicants must include information on jobs to be created or retained by the proposed project. For more information on applying, contact Tami Lehmann at [tlehmann@region12cog.org](mailto:tlehmann@region12cog.org) or 712-775-7802.

## Census Response Rates in Region XII Area

The State of Iowa is third in the nation in Census Self-Response rates. Here is a summary of our region response rates, by county as of 4/25/20:

Audubon County	62.8%
Carroll County	64.9%
Crawford County	56.8%
Greene County	59.4%
Guthrie County	51.5%
Sac County	55.5%



To see how your community is doing in responding to the Census, Check out the Response Rate Tracker and drill down by city. Remember, you can complete the Census online, by mail or by phone! Your count matters! City and county population totals directly impact funding received for roads and other infrastructure. It is important that we all respond!

## Assistance to Firefighter Grant Applications Submitted

Most years, the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) are among the most popular. In recent years, staff have assisted with a few applications, this year, Region XII assisted with 15 application submittals. There were two organizations which requested ambulances, Greene County EMS and Panorama EMS. The other 13 applications were fire departments requesting equipment and vehicles. These departments were: Adel, Auburn, Carroll, Casey, Coon Rapids, Early, Glidden, Halbur, Kimballton, Paton Fire Agency, Ralston, Templeton, and Wall Lake.

The total amount requested was \$1,392,313. Region XII worked hard with each applicant to help them identify and seek the kinds and quantities of each item to ensure each application would be most competitive. We anticipate award announcements will begin in July and end in September.

If your department has a project it is looking to complete and is in need of additional funding, please contact the COG planning staff at 712-792-9914 or via e-mail. Staff will be happy to discuss your project and potential funding sources with you.



## Western Iowa Transit Responding to Area Transportation Needs

As an essential service provider, Western Iowa Transit is continuing to offer transit services in all six counties of our region. Our transit drivers have access to the latest Covid 19 transportation safety protocols and make every effort to ensure the safety of their passengers and themselves. Our transit vehicles are disinfected and wiped after each trip leg and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected at the end of each work-day. Our drivers wear masks and gloves and limit close contact with passengers as much as possible. Select vehicles are being outfitted with barriers to protect both drivers and passengers. (see photo). WIT will continue to offer transit services through this Pandemic unless directed to cease operations by our government.



## Region XII Partnership Program

The COG's Partnership Program is an opportunity for private, non-government businesses and organizations to become a part of the COG's mission to provide various needed services to the region's cities and counties. The COG appreciates the investments made so far this year by the 2020 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org. This list is up to date as of April 22, 2020.

### GOLD MEMBERSHIP - \$1,000

**Bank Iowa**, Denison

**Bauer Built Manufacturing, Inc**, Paton  
**Scranton Manufacturing/New Way**, Scranton

### SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

**Guthrie County REC**, Guthrie Center

**Home State Bank**, Jefferson

**Iowa Corn Processors**, Glidden

**Iowa State Bank**, Sac City

**Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate**, Carroll

**Midland Power Cooperative**, Jefferson

**Raccoon Valley REC**, Glidden

**United Bank of Iowa**, Carroll

**West Central Iowa Rural Water Association**, Manning

### BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

**Agri Drain Corporation**, Adair

**Audubon County Economic Development**, Audubon

**Audubon State Bank**, Audubon

**Availa Bank**, Carroll

**Badding Construction**, Carroll

**Breda Telephone Corp. DBA Western Iowa Networks**, Breda

**Bruner Bruner & Reinhart**, Carroll

**Carroll Area Development Corporation**, Carroll

**Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County**, Denison

**Commercial Savings Bank**, Carroll

**Community State Bank**, Paton

**Computer Concepts of Iowa, Inc.**, Carroll

**Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities**, Coon Rapids

**Core-Mark DBA Farner-Bocken**, Carroll

**Corn Belt Telephone**, Wall Lake

**Crawford County Memorial Hospital**, Denison

**Denison Municipal Utilities**, Denison

**Drees Company**, Carroll

**Exchange State Bank**, Exira

**Farmers State Bank**, Wall Lake

**Farmers State Bank**, Yale

**First State Bank**, Ida Grove

**Greene County Development Corporation**, Jefferson

**Guthrie County State Bank**, Guthrie Center

**Iowa Savings Bank**, Carroll

**Iowa Trust & Savings Bank**, Panorama

**Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company**, Elk Horn

**Panora Telecommunications**, Panora

**Power Lift/Conner Athletic**, Jefferson

**Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers**, Carroll

**St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home**, Carroll

**Snyder & Associates**, Atlantic

**Sundquist Engineering**, Denison

**Templeton Savings Bank**, Templeton

**Templeton Telephone Company**, Templeton

**Westside State Bank**, Westside

**Wild Rose Casino & Resort**, Jefferson

## Western Iowa Transit in Search of New Transit Director

Tom Feldman has recently announced his retirement with the COG for this coming fall. Tom is retiring after 30 years with the COG, eight of which were served as the Transit Director. The COG is searching for a new transit director and the posting is as follows: Region XII COG is seeking qualified applicants to serve as its Transit Director. This position answers to the Executive Director and operates as part of the management team. The Transit Director is responsible for the continued successful operation of the COG's public transit system including budgeting; personnel hiring, training, deployment, and motivation; federal and state regulation administration including recordkeeping and reporting; maintaining and increasing ridership through contracting, relationship-building, and ensuring safe and efficient service; safety including implementing the COG's drug testing policies; and, overseeing the maintenance and acquisition of transit's capital assets. The position is open due to a pending retirement. A bachelor's degree in business, transportation logistics, management, or a related field is required. Extensive related experience may be considered in lieu of a degree. The preferred candidate will have fleet management and personnel experience. Familiarity with federal and/or state program management and reporting is ideal but not required. Candidates should have excellent interpersonal skills, and unquestionable ethics. The successful candidate will have or will be expected to acquire a CDL and will be subject to a background check. The starting range for the position is anticipated to be \$62,000 – \$70,000 (depending on qualifications). The position is covered under the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System. Interested persons must submit a cover letter, resume, references and COG application found at [www.region12cog.org/career-opportunities/](http://www.region12cog.org/career-opportunities/) to: Rick Hunsaker, Region XII COG, 1009 E Anthony Street, PO Box 768, Carroll IA 51401. This position is open until filled; the first review of applications will take place May 15, 2020. Region XII COG is an equal opportunity employer.

## Region XII COG Fiscal Year 2018 Audit Released

John D. Morrow, Certified Public Accountant, Wall Lake, Iowa released an audit report on Region XII Council of Governments, Inc., Carroll, Iowa.

John D. Morrow CPA reported the organizations had revenues of \$5,933,106 for the year ended June 30, 2019, which was a 11.5% increase from the prior year. Support included \$3,064,927 from Federal and state agencies; \$2,466,924 from public support, fees, contributions, matching funds, etc; \$179,525 from loan repayments; and \$221,730 from interest from invested funds and loans.

Expenditures for the organizations totaled \$5,867,749, an 7.3% increase from the prior year. Program expenditures administered by the organizations included \$2,648,739 for Rural Transit programs and planning, \$255,658 for Workforce Development and workforce related programs, \$1,231,041 for affordable housing and housing assistance programs, \$69,240 for Western Iowa Advantage Partners, and \$1,663,071 for other state and local programs.

A copy of the audit report is available for review on the Office of the Auditor of State's website or the Region XII Council of Government's administrative office.



## Upcoming Grants

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
Union Pacific Community Grant Program	Projects should support one of the following categories: Community and civic: projects aimed at improving and enriching the quality of life in the community, health and human services: projects that improve the level of health care or human services in the community	May 31, 2020	Non-profits along the UP Railroad
State Recreation Trails Fund (Iowa DOT)	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails	July 1, 2020	Local governments, non-profit organizations
CDBG Water and Sewer Fund	Grants to assist cities and counties with sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storm sewer projects related to sanitary sewer system improvements and rural water connections.	July 1, 2020 October 1, 2020 January 1, 2021 April 1, 2021	Cities and Counties
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	July 1, 2020 October 1, 2020 January 1, 2021 April 1, 2021	Local governments, public or private groups
Warren H. Timmerman Charitable Trust	Funding for projects in Carroll County.	Early to Mid July	Local governments, non-profit organizations in Carroll County
Gilbert and Barbara Renze Charitable Foundation	Funding for projects in Carroll and Sac Counties	Early to Mid July	Local governments, non-profits in Carroll and Sac Counties.
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education and human needs projects.	July 15, 2020 November 15, 2020 March 15, 2021	Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll, and Crawford Counties
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	Community development and recreation projects	July 15, 2020 October 15, 2020 January 15, 2021 April 15, 2021	Local governments and non-profit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha Nebraska.
Resource Enhancement and Protection (Iowa DNR)	City parks and open space; county conservation, including land acquisition, facility repair and upgrades, and equipment; and private/public open space acquisition	August 15, 2020	Local governments and county conservation boards
RISE Local Development Grant Program	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas.	September 1, 2020 February 1, 2020	Local governments
Iowa Economic Development Authority	Business recovery related to COVID-19. Resources can be found at <a href="https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/businessrecovery">https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/businessrecovery</a>		Business, industry and local governments
Iowa Small Business Development Center COVID-19 Resources	Resources can be found at <a href="http://iowasbdc.org/covid-19/">http://iowasbdc.org/covid-19/</a>		Business and industry
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	Provides grants for low-cost, systematic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes	Ongoing	Counties
Small Town Sign Replacement Program	The program will provide up to \$5,000 for signs and signposts per applying community on a first-come, first-served basis	Ongoing	Cities
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	Provides 100 hours of engineering assistance for operations and traffic safety issues	Ongoing	Cities and Counties
Alliant Hometown Challenge Grants	Dollar-for-dollar match to local fundraising for one-time safety related projects for local response teams	Rolling	Local governments, private non-profits
New Cooperative Foundation	Enhancements to emergency and medical services in rural communities. Community events and celebrations as well as local civic betterment projects. Fundraising events in support of community programs and projects.	Open	Local governments, private non-profits
Black Hills Energy	Community development and recreation projects	Open	Local governments, private non-profits

**Recently Awarded Grants**

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
Mid-American Energy Partnership Program	Bagley Public Library	\$1,500	Bagley Library Roof Replacement
IDOT Transportation Alternatives	City of Manning	\$49,200	Safe Routes to School South Phase I Trail
IDNR State Revolving Fund	City of Dedham	\$300,000	WCIRWA Connection
Carroll Community Foundation	City of Dedham	\$5,000	Schmitz Grocery Demo
Carroll Community Foundation	City of Lanesboro	\$7,000	Lanesboro City Park Improvements
Carroll Community Foundation	Maple River	\$5,500	Park Improvements
Carroll Community Foundation	City of Glidden	\$3,500	City of Glidden Liberty Rock
Healthy Hometown Powered by Wellmark	City of Manning	\$5,000	Health-Based Projects within the Community
CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	City of Auburn	\$300,000	Water System Improvements
CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	City of Glidden	\$500,000	Wastewater Lagoon Construction
CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	City of Jamaica	\$224,000	Water System Improvements

*Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Chris Whitaker, [cwhitaker@region12cog.org](mailto:cwhitaker@region12cog.org) or 712-775-7811, for assistance in locating funding opportunities.*

**STAFF**

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