



GOVERNOR'S
EMPOWER RURAL IOWA
INITIATIVE

Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Initiative
Growing Rural Iowa Task Force Meeting Minutes
Monticello, IA
Thursday, February 24, 2022
12-1PM

1. Roll Call In-Person

Lt. Governor Gregg	Sandy Ehrig	James Hoelscher	Caleb Knutson
Ashley Moyer	Jason Neises	Chris Ward	

Roll Call Virtual

Rob Denson	Stephanie Fromm	Jenae Jenison	Linc Kroeger
Shannon Landauer	Ron Reischl	Sharon Stroh	Gary Taylor

2. Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2021 meeting

Minutes had been previously distributed for review and were unanimously approved

3. Welcoming Remarks from Lt. Governor Gregg

The Lt. Governor thanked members and sponsors, reviewed meeting agenda and discussed revised meeting schedule for the year including alignment with the IRDC.

4. Remarks by Co-Chair Sandy Ehrig

Thanked members and provided an overview of the upcoming IRDC Rural Summit to be held in April.

5. Panel of Rural Innovation Lab Communities

- Molly Knuth - Cascade Innovation Lab

- Jordan DeGree – Creative Adventure Lab
- Eric Dregne - Rural Innovation Lab
- Maryann Baldwin – Lansing Innovation Lab

DeGree and Dregne provided an overview on the development of the Rural Innovation Lab model, starting with the success of the Creative Adventure Lab in Dubuque, Iowa. After that success, rural communities were interested in launching their own model, resulting in the Rural Innovation Lab.

Knuth joined virtually and shared her experience as a supporter and user of the Rural Innovation Lab in Cascade, outlining how important it is to her business to have the remote work opportunity as well as the training in partnership with the Creative Adventure Lab model.

Baldwin owns and manages the Rural Innovation Lab in downtown Lansing and shares how much of a partnership the effort was with the community and Dregne and DeGree. While only recently opened, and still developing the community kitchen component, the space has already seen substantial use.

Task force members and guests asked questions regarding costs, annual fees, and flexibility in programming. Panelists expressed that each community is different by the model allows communities to select the components that work best for them.

6. Public Comment, Wrap up & Next Steps

Sacha Wise and Jessi Carver, who manage the AmeriCorps program at IEDA, are helping Liesl with more rural projects. Child Care market study grant opened second round will open second round March 1. Deadline is May 3.

7. Adjourn

Thank you to the local planning committee: City of Monticello, Monticello Chamber of Commerce, and Jones County Economic Development