

**OMAHA-COUNCIL BLUFFS METROPOLITAN AREA PLANNING AGENCY
COUNCIL OF OFFICIALS MEETING MINUTES**

March 11, 2026

The March 11, 2026 Council of Officials Meeting was held at The Arts Center at Iowa Western 2700 College Road Arts Center, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503

A. Welcome & Introductions:

1. Call to Order and Introductions – President Dethlefs called the meeting to order at 11:51 a.m.

Members Present:

Andy Biller	Council Bluffs Airport Authority
Patrick Boyle	Director of Community Engagement, Metropolitan Community College
Richard Crouch	Supervisor, Mills County
Steve Dethlefs	Washington County Supervisor
Don Groesser	Mayor, City of Ralston
Michael Holton	City Administrator, City of Treynor
Chris Meeks	Government & Community Relations Strategist, OPPD
Brian Shea	Supervisor, Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors
Jill Shudak	Mayor, City of Council Bluffs
Keith Station	Deputy Chief of Staff - External Affairs, City of Omaha
Angie Winquist	Mayor, City of Glenwood

Other Guests:

Brook Aken	Director of Economic Development & External Relations, OPPD
Shannon Coleman	Director of Energy Portfolio Planning, OPPD
Carson Clarys	Member, MAPA Infrastructure Committee
Noah Daniel	Renewable Energy Siting Associate, Iowa Environmental Council
Nicholas Davis	Guest
Alex Delworth	Senior Energy Policy Associate, Center for Rural Affairs
Pat Dowse	City Engineer, City of LaVista
Meghan Engberg	Building & Planning Administrator, City of Ralston
Cory Erspamer	Business Development, Metropolitan Utilities District
Bruce Fountain	Community Development Director, City of Lavista
Karen Gibler	President, Sarpy County Chamber of Commerce
Charley Hedstorm	Business Development Director, Black Hills Energy
Kent Holm	Director, Douglas County Environmental Services
Lindsay Huse	Director, Douglas County Health Department
Kattie Lewis	Director/Career Coach, Southwest Iowa Technical Career Hub (SWITCH)
Jim Lund	Account Manager, Black Hills Energy
Susan Miller	Board of Supervisor, Pottawattamie County
Stephanie Mueller	Vice President Customer Service, Metropolitan Utilities District
Jennifer Peters	Community Relations, Black Hills Energy
Luke Seaberg	Community Development Specialist, ISU Extension
Michaela Valentine	Government & Community Relations Manager, OPPD
Jarrold Walker	Highway Planning Manager, Nebraska Department of Transportation
Eric Williams	Natural Resources Planner, Papio NRD
Matt Wyant	Director of Planning, Pottawattamie County

MAPA Staff:

Grant Anderson	Court Barber	Natasha Barrett	Jim Boerner	Christina Brownell
Sue Cutsforth	Elise Emanuel	Rachel Goettsch	Bradley Grefe	Laura Heilman
Michael Helgerson	Carlos Morales	Connie Viner	Elizabeth Zeller	

- B. Welcome to Douglas County & Metropolitan Community College –
1. Welcome to Pottawattamie County – Supervisor Brian Shea, Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors
 2. Welcome to Council Bluffs – Mayor Jill Shudak, City of Council Bluffs
 3. Welcome to Iowa Western Community College – Kattie Lewis, Director - Southwest IA Technical Career Hub (SWITCH)

C. Business – **(ACTION)**

1. Approval of the December 10, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Shea, Second by Station to approve the December 10, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

D. Agency Reports (Information)

1. Executive Director's Report – Mike Helgerson, MAPA Executive Director
Mr. Helgerson gave the Council an update on MAPA Projects, including: February 2026 trip to Washington D.C. for the National Conference of Regions and Capitol Hill meetings including staff and MAPA Officials; a review of the FY 2027 MAPA Member Survey results and overview of community responses; member training opportunities.
2. FY 2027 Work Program Priorities – MAPA Staff
Mr. Anderson & Mr. Morales gave updates on the Community Development & Transportation funding, projects and priorities

- E. Lunch Keynote Panel – The lunch keynote panel featured local leaders speaking about the energy landscape in the MAPA region, local government policies, and resources for decision makers at the local level. The panel included: Shannon Coleman, Director of Energy Portfolio Planning - OPPD; Charley Hedstrom, Business Development Director - Black Hills Energy; and Luke Seaberg, Community Development Specialist - ISU Extension Office.

- F. Adjournment – President Dethlefs adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.