ICEC Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

15 April 2026
4:30 p.m.
via Google Meet

Attending:			
Kyla Burns	X	*Ex Officio:*	
Ellen Carman, Treasurer	X	Gus Elliott	X
Jared McGovern, Chair	X	Dien Judge	
Tiffany Morgan, Vice-Chair	X	Chris Like	
Ted Neal, Co-sec'y		Jerry Neppel	X
Jim Pifer, Co-sec'y	X		
Penny Perkins	X		
Jessica Schellhorn		*Contractor:* Linette Bernard	X
Kean Roberts, Co-sec'y			
Peg Steffen		*Guests:*	
		Danielle Hoenig	X

Quorum was confirmed then Jared McGovern called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Tiffany Morgan made the motion to approve the agenda. Kyla Burns seconded. Motion Passes.

Tiffany Morgan made the motion to approve the minutes of the 20 February 2026 as written. Ellen Carman seconds. Motion Passes.

Reports

1. Review Treasurer's Report – Ellen Carman presented the treasurer's report, noting the big movement was the WILD Resources funds being transferred to the Iowa Hunter Education Instructor Association per not renewing the contract ($21,696.68), this closes the WILD Resources fund. Carman noted that two new grants, META and ee360+, are now listed in the budget. Winter Workshop 2026 realized a sizeable profit this year. The overall budget remains steady since the end of January 2026.

Action Items

1. Appoint member to fill M Haugo's 2025-2027 term – Tiffany Morgan made a motion to appoint Danielle Hoenig (Southeast Polk, environmental science teacher) to fill Melissa Haugo's elected term (remainder of 2025–2027). Second by Jim Pifer. Motion passes.
2. Request to support the Iowa Prairie Conference (University of Dubuque, Aug 7-9, 2026, reply by 1 May 2026) - ExCom consensus is to decline at this time due to lack of budgeted funds; no formal vote required since no funds allocated. ExCom will revisit sponsorship requests when developing the CY2027 budget.
3. Request to support The Wildlife Society Annual Conference (Des Moines, Nov 1-5, 2026) – ExCom consensus is to decline at this time due to lack of budgeted funds; no formal vote required since no funds were allocated.
    - ExCom asked Bernard about the IAEYC Fall Conference booth fee has been around $200 and that WILD Resources funds had covered costs.
4. Bernard contract update – Tiffany Morgan and Jared McGovern have reviewed the contract and have revised to remove WILD Resources work. Base compensation remains $500/month for administrative duties with grant-specific tasks billed separately at $35/hour. A final draft will be circulated for ExCom review. ExCom discussed the need for the annual contract to be reviewed prior to the budgeting process to reassess compensation and scope.

Discussion Items

1. 2026 Winter Workshop final details, Actual Expenditures – Tiffany Morgan reported there were 67 paid attendees (up 7 from 2025), 16 survey responses (24% response rate). Positive feedback—networking and environmental education inspiration were top motivators. PayPal processing fees totaled $84; communications/finance committee to explore donor option to cover fees.
2. 2027 Winter Workshop – Jim Pifer reported that the location is confirmed at Southeast Polk Middle School for Saturday, 6 February. Planning is underway for logistics (lunch/hotels); fundraising outreach materials have been developed.

3. Project WET – How do we roll out? ICEC is the state sponsor; rollout planning to be assigned to the Member Events & Outreach ad hoc committee for recommendations. Committee members listed: Jerry Neppel, Kyla Burns, Ellen Carman, Peg Steffen, and Linette Bernard with no chair currently. ExCom agreed that the committee should meet in May or early June. Peg Steffen was informally nominated to chair; Jared McGovern offered to assist if needed.
4. ICEC and Iowa Envirothon – Linette Bernard noted that the State competition is scheduled for 27 April at Jester Park Nature Center. Envirothon is an historic competition of the Conservation Districts of Iowa (CDI). ICEC has partnered with CDI since 2023. In 2025, ICEC stepped in to help with Envirothon due to CDI losing funding. CDI staff now handling planning. ExCom agreed to refer ongoing support and potential formal recognition/MOU to the Events & Outreach Committee for recommendation on sustainability and website recognition. Bernard tracks volunteer hours; most Envirothon tasks are largely volunteer or CDI-supported this year.

Updates

1. Conservation Game Jam - Tiffany Morgan and Peg Steffen will represent ICEC at the Meta grant recognition event on April 21. Steffen is also looking for people who might like to get involved in the next iteration of the Game Jam. Steffen has several game designers who are interested in helping and they are investigating how we might help use AI to investigate local environmental issues and phenomena as a beginning point for game design and at digging into information verification. This work will be done over the summer so we can announce the new Conservation Game Jam in early fall.
2. Student Chapters – Four student chapters will launch (three funded via grant, one from Wartburg). ICEC board members assigned as mentors; Bernard to work with Ellsworth, McGovern with Kirkwood; liaison needed for Wartburg (mentor volunteer still needed); Ted Neal will be the ExCom liaison and faculty advisor. Mileage/one trip funding for grant-covered chapters noted; remote support acceptable.
3. Finance Committee – Committee members include Ellen Carman (chair), Heather Gamm, Jared McGovern, Linette Bernard) to meet in May to discuss forward budgeting, discretionary funds, and possible line item for future event sponsorships.
4. Communications Committee – Members include Tiffany Morgan, Jessica Schellhorn, Linette Bernard) The newsletter will be shifting to a bimonthly newsletter (Feb/Apr/Jun/Aug/Oct/Dec) to a wider audience (not limited to members). Newsletter content will include short contributions (~100 words) from board members on rotating basis. Morgan noted that the committee will be evaluating newsletter platforms (Mailchimp free tier limit almost reached) and plans to retire Twitter and consider Instagram and LinkedIn.

Informational

1. ExCom terms are 3-year-terms – Confusion from several ExCom members noted about displayed term years on website; example clarified—terms are three years tied to the Annual Membership Meeting. Bernard tasked to update the website language/chart to clarify term start/end dates.
2. Iowa Academy of Science gathering on 25 April 2026 to talk about their future
3. Iowa Envirothon Site Competition is 27 April 2026 at Jester Park Nature Center

With no further business, McGovern adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.