

One Marshall County Board Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2024, at Marshall County Community Foundation (MCCF)

One Marshall County Attendance: Jonah Best, Keegan Campbell, Matthew Celmer, Kevin Danti, Roger Ecker, Keith Fraine, Bethany Hartley, Eric Holsopple, Jeff Houin, Robert Listenberger, Lisa Mullaney, Gary Neidig, Marty Oosterbaan, Shawn Peterson, Chelsea Smith, Linda Yoder

Absent: Mike Burroughs, Amanda Morris-Feldman, Justine Johnson, Jason Nine, Andy Seddelmeyer, Jeremy Riffle, Nicolas Witwer

enFocus: Eglia Bregu, Megan Dale, Lisa Slomka, Andrew Wiand

Guests: Sandy Garrison

Discussion Topics

- READI/Lilly Updates:
 - READI awards pending 12/18 afternoon meeting.
 - A regional arts plan is expected to begin in June 2025. To proceed, Marshall County's plan must align with the regional plan. Heartland is a key project for consideration.
 - SBERP is a key regional advocate; continued connection is important.
 - The region received \$37.5M in the recent Lilly Endowment Gift VIII awards, offering a significant opportunity to address housing and community development priorities.
- Operational Updates:
 - Three One Marshall County funding pitches to municipalities have been completed and approved by elected officials. One more is scheduled for 12/19 with the Culver RDC. MOUs and invoices for the committed funds are being processed.
 - Aim to involve La Paz, Bourbon, Bremen, and Argos in future funding discussions and continued progress updates.
 - Minutes have been sent to councils to keep them informed, potential for 1MC to attend more meetings; and hold informational sessions to share updates.
 - The first draft of the website is being developed, and the final version is to be launched in 2025.
- Beyond the Bridge Sponsorship Check-in:
 - The board anticipates to decide in January regarding the potential One Marshall gift with restricted funds to support the "Beyond the Bridge" documentary.
 - The board requests to view "Beyond the Bridge" to ensure it aligns with goals.
 - Discussion on the benefits of committees (as they are formed) providing recommendations for key initiatives in the future; and the benefits of catalyzing open dialogue with Marshall County community leaders around key issues such as homelessness.
- Open Board Seats
 - No identified candidates have expressed interest to date in the open at-large seat.
 - Bethany Hartley appointed Angela Workman, READI Finance Manager, as her proxy to the Board in the regional advisory role.

- Committee Updates
 - Discovery meetings were conducted to inform existing groups and interested potential members of One Marshall County and begin assessing key priorities, needs, and resources. The next steps are to continue engaging committees to gather data and priorities, which will inform Board strategic planning.
 - **Quality of Life:** The Health & Wellness committee has met twice, with members enthusiastic about the transition to a broader “quality of life” focus. A January 6 meeting will focus on a SWOT analysis and begin to identify priorities.
 - **Quality of Place:** The initial discovery session was held with 12 attendees with a high interest in joining the committee. A second discovery session is tentatively planned. The Board discussed ways to engage members from underrepresented areas of Marshall County, along with hotels, tourism, streetscaping, and parks.
 - **Housing & Infrastructure:** MCEDC's Dec. 11 meeting in Bremen focused on infrastructure challenges. The next quarterly meeting on March 5 will prioritize three focus areas. Regional efforts to develop a concept of a regional district.
 - **Education & Workforce Development (LLN):** Joined a recent executive board meeting to discuss challenges and priorities. Career Center has been a major priority; LLN intends to revisit its 2022-2025 strategic plan to ensure priorities align with current needs.
 - **Business Innovation & Growth (MCEDC):** MCEDC board members highlighted housing as a key area of focus for One Marshall County to support their priorities for attracting business. Another priority is additional support for small businesses.
 - Board discussion regarding the alignment of committee priorities and specific projects with the strategic planning process and opportunities for the Board to provide support.

New Business

- Free Discussion
 - Continued priority is to ensure all communities are represented and included in committees, pursue funding opportunities, and share information to understand how municipalities, counties, and One Marshall County can support one another.
- Next Official Business Meeting: January 15.
- Meeting Adjourned at -10:10 AM

Official Business

- New Motion: approve minutes from the last meeting
 - Forwarded by Jonah Best
 - Seconded by Matthew Celmer
 - Approved unanimously
- New Motion: adjourn
 - Forwarded by Matthew Celmer
 - Seconded by Kevin Danti
 - Approved unanimously