

## One Marshall County Board Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2025, at Marshall County Community Foundation (MCCF)

**Board Members in attendance:** Keegan Campbell, Matthew Celmer, Roger Ecker, Keith Fraine, Jeff Houin, Eric Holsopple, Justine Johnson, Lisa Mullaney, Amanda Morris, Martin Oosterbann, Shawn Peterson, Chelsea Smith, Nicholas Witwer, Angela Workman, and Linda Yoder.

**Absent:** Ed Barcus, Jonah Best, Jesse Bohannon, Kevin Danti, Sandy Garrison, Robert Listenberger, Gary Neidig, Jeremy Riffle, Andy Seddelmeyer

**Committee Leads:** Sandy Garrison, Greg Hildebrand, Allie Shook

**enFocus:** Egla Bregu, Lisa Slomka, Andrew Wiand

### Discussion Topics

#### Quarterly Financial Update

- No new income or outstanding liabilities.

#### Committee Presentations - Housing & Infrastructure

The committee shared its strategic progress, highlighting development as vital to the county's future and identifying housing and infrastructure as primary barriers. Four Focus Areas were:

- **1- Transportation Infrastructure**
  - Improve highway interchanges for safety and freight mobility, and actively advocate for Marshall County's needs with external project owners.
  - Leverage the proposed Chicago-Columbus-Plymouth passenger rail line to increase connectivity and drive regional growth.
- **2- Housing Infrastructure**
  - Towns should align on zoning, permitting, and funding mechanism best practices.
  - CDC launched via READI funding to drive housing implementation.
  - The committee noted that zoning reforms and local codes are within scope and should be prioritized.
- **3- Utilities and Industrial Growth**
  - Engineering firm to be hired to assess each town's utility capacity for long-term growth.
  - No countywide database exists for water, sewer, and utility capacity, limiting investment potential.
  - Key Projects will be implemented in 3 phases:
    - *Phase 1:* Collect town infrastructure plans and growth preferences.
    - *Phase 2:* Evaluate land availability and housing accessibility.
    - *Phase 3:* Develop an infrastructure plan for La Paz.
- **4- Investment Drivers**
  - Downtown development initiatives under consideration, potential partnership with Lilly.
  - Proposed education needs assessment to support talent retention and community vitality.
    - Aims to benchmark needs and improve teacher/student attraction.
- **Board Feedback**
  - The board acknowledged that infrastructure assessments will likely be needed before large-scale housing investments can be pursued.

#### Quality of Life Presentation

The committee shared their community-based strategies that address top challenges, seize key opportunities, and connect efforts across OneMC.

Methodology used: studies/reports analysis, monthly meetings, and data-informed focus area development. Three Focus Areas were presented:

- **Economic Stability**
  - Low wages and poor job quality have a significant impact on health, education, and family stability.
  - Public transportation was raised as a barrier to workforce participation.
- **Community Wellness**
  - The Recovery Cafe initiative aims to foster a sense of belonging and provide supportive services.
  - The committee is exploring employer-led wellness programs as part of a broader community health strategy.
- **Child Care and Family Support**
  - Early childhood education and care were emphasized as critical, even though direct solutions may be beyond the committee's current scope.
  - Emphasis on collaboration to develop long-term solutions.
- **Board Feedback.**
  - Community Foundation is identifying needs, but is limited by staffing and resources.
  - Low wages were broadly recognized as a root cause of many challenges affecting the quality of life.
  - Despite strong local education outcomes, workforce shortages deter employers, and high school grads often lack life skills and financial literacy.
  - The board discussed how individuals needing mental health support are often the least likely to seek it, creating cycles that affect entire families.
  - Current uncertainty around healthcare and education systems is making it harder for employers to plan and invest.

### **Outreach Updates**

- Plymouth and Culver visits are approved to continue with their original scheduling
- Board members will plan to include Redevelopment Commissions in this outreach

### **Official Business**

New Motion: approve minutes from last meeting

- Forwarded by Matthew Celmer
- Seconded by Eric Holsopple
- Approved unanimously

New Motion: Financials Approval

- Forwarded by Matthew Celmer
- Seconded by Keith Fraine
- Approved unanimously

New Motion: adjourn

- Forwarded by Matthew Celmer
- Seconded by Lisa Mullaney
- Approved unanimously