

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING, 2025 SESSION (47)
NOVEMBER 18, 2025**

The Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 8:30 A.M. in the Boardroom with Chairman Merten presiding and the following other members present Croker, Hartman, Ringgenberg, Snyder, and with Auditor Susan Lloyd as clerk for the meeting. Absent: None.

Unless otherwise indicated, all the following **motions** offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Croker, Hartman, Merten, Ringgenberg, Snyder. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve **today's agenda**. Carried.

Tracy Feathers, Director of Development for **Family Crisis Centers**, and an advocate expressed their gratitude for the funds received from the County and gave an update to the Board on the previous year's activities. In Buena Vista County, they saw 47 domestic violence clients, 42 homicide & violent crime clients, 16 clients for medical clinic outreach, 15 clients for housing, and took 90 crisis line calls. Feathers also presented a letter requesting funds for FY'27 in the amount of \$7,500, which is the same as the current signed contract.

Chairman Merten asked if there was anyone online that wished to be heard during **Hear the Public** and there was none.

Motion by Ringgenberg, second by Croker, to approve the **minutes** of 11/12/2025 as corrected, today's **claims approval list, stamped warrant list, and Auxiant disbursements**, and accepting the following **reports**: Two sets of Conservation Board minutes from 10/14/25, FY'25 Annual Report for Elderbridge, and October BV County Solid Waste Commission minutes. Carried.

Election Deputy Karla Ahrendsen was present for the 2nd Tier canvass of the School portion of the City/School Election. Ahrendsen stated that one write-in candidate for Alta Park Board declined the appointment (Brian Shreck) so it will go to the next highest vote getter, Linda Pickett. Motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to declare the results of the **2nd Tier Canvass** of the 2025 Regular City-School Election held November 4, as follows:

Albert City-Truesdale School District:

For School Board Director - elect 3

Roman De La Torre	99	elected
Kayla McCarthy	107	elected
Megan Lovin	110	elected
Scattering	4	

Alta- Aurelia Community School District:

For School Board Director - elect 2

Jayden Van Berkum	590	elected
Thomas Hinkeldey	679	elected
Lindsay Brown	282	
Scattering	13	

Newell-Fonda School District:

For School Board Director, District 1 - elect 1

John Sievers	270	elected
Scattering	7	

For School Board Director, District 2 - elect 1

Amanda Johnson	269	elected
Scattering	1	

Sioux Central School District:

For School Board Director, District 2 - elect 1		
Randy Ripke	413	elected
Scattering	2	
For School Board Director, District 3 – elect 1		
Jennifer Thomsen	394	elected
Scattering	5	
For School Board Director, District 5 To Fill a Vacancy - elect 1		
Lynn Sharn	6	elected
Scattering	31	

For Public Measure CJ – Shall the Sioux Central Community School District change the method of electing school directors from using 5 director districts to having 3 director districts and 2 directors elected at large.

Yes	301	Approved
No	138	

Storm Lake School District:

For School Board Director - elect 2		
Steven Mills	661	elected
Erika Dierking	747	elected
Scattering	12	Motion carried.

Emily Winker, LifeLong Links Director from **Elderbridge Agency**, presented the agency's annual report. Elderbridge supports the 60 and over population in BV County, helping them to stay in their own homes rather than going to a nursing home. They are asking for \$3.30 per senior in county support for the FY'27 budget allocation for a total of \$14,797, up from \$13,778 approved in FY'26. Winker thanked the board for past and future support to the seniors of our county.

Platinum Crush Road Project update: Engineer Bret Wilkinson informed the Board that the railroad diagnostic meeting took place onsite with the CN Railroad and Iowa DOT. Wilkinson stated that he received draft minutes from the diagnostic meeting from HNTB, the DOT engineering firm. Wilkinson stated that the draft minutes state that the railroad wants 70th Ave. shifted north so that it is 90° with Hwy 7, yet he thought that the railroad stated that they were fine with a 75°, and they would like a semi fully on the road ahead of the tracks. Croker asked Wilkinson if he could send back comments to HNTB regarding their draft minutes, Wilkinson stated that there will be an online meeting update tomorrow morning and see how HNTB will move forward. Wilkinson stated that the plan is roughly 30% complete and expects HNTB to modify the plan with what came out of the meeting, and once they get to 30%, they will send the plan to the railroad for their approval. Wilkinson stated that the 30% plans are due in March, 2026, with a public meeting to be held in April, 2026. Phase 2: They have finished all the pouring on the box culvert, waiting for it to cure, and they will begin backfilling in the next week. After the backfilling is complete, the road will be opened for traffic.

Secondary Road Report: The crews are continuing to work on brush cutting, tile repairs, and driveways.

10:30 a.m. — The time having arrived for a joint meeting online with Calhoun and Sac Counties, as the Joint Board of Trustees for **Jt. DD #16-30-92.** All members of the Boards were present, except Supervisor Mike Fischer from Sac County, along with Calhoun County Auditor Robin Batz, Calhoun County

Drainage Clerk Savana Dettmann, Sac County Auditor Jim Dowling, Sac County Deputy Auditor Renee Roland, Buena Vista County Auditor Susan Lloyd, Buena Vista County Drainage Clerk Lynnette Jacobs, and Jt. Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme. Blomme stated that the purpose of the meeting was to have the Jt. Boards consider/approve an MOU so that each county can approve repairs up to \$5,000 without having a joint meeting to approve. Blomme stated that the same information will be sent to all the counties at the same time. A motion was made and seconded for Ranell Drake-Sac County to be the Chair and Renee Roland-Sac County to be the Secretary of the meeting. The motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the MOU regarding **Jt. DD #16-30-92** to allow for repairs up to \$5,000, between Calhoun, Sac, and Buena Vista Counties without having a joint meeting. Carried. A motion was made and seconded to **adjourn** this joint meeting with Calhoun, Sac, and Buena Vista Counties. Carried.

Next on the agenda was discussing/approving the MOU regarding BV County controlled Jt. DD #43-41, Jt. DD #156, and Jt. DD #274, and Sac County controlled Jt. DD #19-26, Jt. DD #64-105, and Jt. DD #76-133. All members of both Boards were present except Supervisor Mike Fischer from Sac County, along with Sac County Auditor Jim Dowling, Sac County Deputy Auditor Renee Roland, Buena Vista County Auditor Susan Lloyd, Buena Vista County Drainage Clerk Lynnette Jacobs, and Jt. Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme. Blomme stated that the purpose of the meeting was to have the Jt. Boards consider/approve an MOU so that each county can approve repairs up to \$5,000 without having a joint meeting to approve. Blomme stated that the same information will be sent to all the counties at the same time. A motion was made and seconded for Ranell Drake-Sac County to be the Chair and Renee Roland-Sac County to be the Secretary of the meeting regarding **Jt. DD #43-41**, **Jt. DD #156**, and **Jt. DD #274**, and Sac County controlled **Jt. DD #19-26**, **Jt. DD #64-105**, and **Jt. DD #76-133**. The motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the MOU regarding BV County controlled **Jt. DD #43-41**, **Jt. DD #156**, and **Jt. DD #274**, and Sac County controlled **Jt. DD #19-26**, **Jt. DD #64-105**, and **Jt. DD #76-133**, to allow for repairs up to \$5,000 between Sac and Buena Vista Counties, without having a joint meeting. Carried. A motion was made and seconded to **adjourn** this joint meeting with Sac and Buena Vista Counties. Carried.

10:45 a.m. — The time having arrived for a joint meeting online with Buena Vista, Pocahontas, and Sac Counties, as the Joint Board of Trustees for BV controlled Jt. DD #199. All members of the Boards were present except Supervisor Mike Fischer from Sac County, along with Pocahontas County Auditor Nita Hinrickson, Sac County Auditor Jim Dowling, Sac County Deputy Auditor Renee Roland, Buena Vista County Auditor Susan Lloyd, Buena Vista County Drainage Clerk Lynnette Jacobs, and Jt. Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme. Blomme stated that the purpose of the meeting was to have the Jt. Boards consider/approve an MOU so that each county can approve repairs up to \$5,000 without having a joint meeting to approve. Blomme stated that the same information will be sent to all the counties at the same time. A motion was made by Stauter (Pocahontas County) and seconded by Drake (Sac County) for Paul Merten-Buena Vista County to be the Chair and Susan Lloyd-Buena Vista County to be the Secretary of the meeting regarding **Jt. DD #199**. Carried. A motion was made by Drake (Sac County) and seconded by Snyder (Buena Vista County) to approve the MOU regarding BV County controlled **Jt. DD #199**, to allow for repairs up to \$5,000 between Pocahontas, Sac and Buena Vista Counties, without having a joint meeting. Carried. A motion was made by Smith (Pocahontas County) and seconded by Wissler (Sac County) to **adjourn** this joint meeting with Pocahontas, Sac, and Buena Vista Counties. Carried.

Next on the agenda was a joint meeting online with Buena Vista and Pocahontas Counties, as the Joint Board of Trustees for BV controlled Jt. DD #1 MOD, Jt. DD #18-42, Jt. DD #143, Jt. DD #144, Jt. DD #146, Jt. DD #183, and Pocahontas controlled Jt. DD #109, Jt. DD #145, and Jt. DD #150. All members of both Boards were present along with Pocahontas County Auditor Nita Hinrickson, Buena Vista County Auditor Susan Lloyd, Buena Vista County Drainage Clerk Lynnette Jacobs, and Jt. Drainage Engineer Brian Blomme. Blomme stated that the purpose of the meeting was to have the Jt. Boards consider/approve an

MOU so that each county can approve repairs up to \$5,000 without having a joint meeting to approve. Blomme stated that the same information will be sent to all the counties at the same time. A motion was made by Stauter (Pocahontas County) and seconded by Ringgenberg (Buena Vista County) for Paul Merten-Buena Vista County to be the Chair and Susan Lloyd-Buena Vista County to be the Secretary of the meeting regarding BV controlled Jt. DD #1 MOD, Jt. DD #18-42, Jt. DD #143, Jt. DD #144, Jt. DD #146, Jt. DD #183, and Pocahontas controlled Jt. DD #109, Jt. DD #145, and Jt. DD #150. Carried. Motion by Snyder (Buena Vista County), second by Seehusen (Pocahontas County) to approve the MOU regarding BV County controlled Jt. DD #1 MOD, Jt. DD #18-42, Jt. DD #143, Jt. DD #144, Jt. DD #146, Jt. DD #183, and Pocahontas controlled Jt. DD #109, Jt. DD #145, and Jt. DD #150, to allow for repairs up to \$5,000 between Pocahontas and Buena Vista Counties, without having a joint meeting. Carried. A motion was made by Smith (Pocahontas County) and seconded by Croker (Buena Vista County) to adjourn this joint meeting with Pocahontas and Buena Vista Counties. Carried.

Motion by Croker, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Board to sign Resolution #2025-11-18-A Adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between Buena Vista County and Sac County regarding Joint Drainage Districts. Carried.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN BUENA VISTA COUNTY AND SAC COUNTY
REGARDING JOINT DRAINAGE DISTRICTS**

Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2025-11-18-A

A resolution by Buena Vista County to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between Sac County, Iowa and Buena Vista County, Iowa establishing procedures for joint drainage districts to promote efficient repairs and maintenance.

WHEREAS, the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of efficient management of joint drainage districts within the county, including cooperation with neighboring counties for repairs and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its authority under Iowa Code 331.301 and Chapter 468, and acting as Drainage District Trustees, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Sac County, Iowa and Buena Vista County, Iowa regarding joint drainage district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between Sac County, Iowa and Buena Vista County, Iowa, regarding joint drainage districts is hereby adopted in the form attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
2. The agreement shall take effect upon adoption by resolution of both the Sac County Board of Supervisors and Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors, acting as Drainage District Trustees, as provided in paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

APPROVAL:

Supervisor Croker moved to adopt the foregoing resolution.

Supervisor Ringgenberg moved to adopt the foregoing resolution.

The vote was: Ayes all.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 18th day of November, 2025

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson, /s/ Kathy Croker, Vice-Chair, /s/ Kelly Snyder, Board Member, /s/ Rhonda Ringgenberg, Board Member, /s/ Dan Hartman, Board Member.....Attest: Susan Lloyd, County Auditor

Motion by Snyder, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Board to sign **Resolution #2025-11-18-B** Adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between Buena Vista County and Pocahontas County regarding Joint Drainage Districts. Carried.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN BUENA VISTA COUNTY AND POCAHONTAS COUNTY
REGARDING JOINT DRAINAGE DISTRICTS**

Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2025-11-18-B

A resolution by Buena Vista County to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between Pocahontas County, Iowa and Buena Vista County, Iowa establishing procedures for joint drainage districts to promote efficient repairs and maintenance.

WHEREAS, the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of efficient management of joint drainage districts within the county, including cooperation with neighboring counties for repairs and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its authority under Iowa Code 331.301 and Chapter 468, and acting as Drainage District Trustees, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Pocahontas County, Iowa and Buena Vista County, Iowa regarding joint drainage district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between Pocahontas County, Iowa and Buena Vista County, Iowa, regarding joint drainage districts is hereby adopted in the form attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
2. The agreement shall take effect upon adoption by resolution of both the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors and Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors, acting as Drainage District Trustees, as provided in paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

APPROVAL:

Supervisor Snyder moved to adopt the foregoing resolution.

Supervisor Hartman moved to adopt the foregoing resolution.

The vote was: Ayes all.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 18th day of November, 2025

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson, /s/ Kathy Croker, Vice-Chair, /s/ Kelly Snyder, Board Member, /s/ Rhonda Ringgenberg, Board Member, /s/ Dan Hartman, Board Member.....Attest: Susan Lloyd, County Auditor

Motion by Croker, second by Hartman, to approve and authorize the Board to sign **Resolution #2025-11-18-C** Adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between Sac County, Buena Vista County, and Calhoun County regarding Joint Drainage Districts. Carried.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN SAC, BUENA VISTA, AND CALHOUN COUNTIES**

REGARDING JOINT DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2025-11-18-C

A resolution by Buena Vista County to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between Sac County, Iowa, Calhoun County, Iowa, and Buena Vista County, Iowa establishing procedures for joint drainage districts to promote efficient repairs and maintenance.

WHEREAS, the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of efficient management of joint drainage districts within the county, including cooperation with neighboring counties for repairs and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its authority under Iowa Code 331.301 and Chapter 468, and acting as Drainage District Trustees, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Sac County, Iowa, Buena Vista County, Iowa, and Calhoun County, Iowa regarding joint drainage district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between Sac County, Iowa, Buena Vista County, Iowa and Calhoun County, Iowa, regarding joint drainage districts is hereby adopted in the form attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
2. The agreement shall take effect upon adoption by resolution of the Sac County Board of Supervisors, Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors and Calhoun County Board of Supervisors, acting as Drainage District Trustees, as provided in paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

APPROVAL:

Supervisor Croker moved to adopt the foregoing resolution.

Supervisor Hartman moved to adopt the foregoing resolution.

The vote was: Ayes all.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 18th day of November, 2025

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson, /s/ Kathy Croker, Vice-Chair, /s/ Kelly Snyder, Board Member, /s/ Rhonda Ringgenberg, Board Member, /s/ Dan Hartman, Board Member.....Attest: Susan Lloyd, County Auditor

Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to approve and authorize the Board to sign **Resolution #2025-11-18-D** Adopting the Memorandum of Understanding between Buena Vista County, Sac County, and Pocahontas County regarding Joint Drainage Districts. Carried.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BUENA VISTA, SAC AND POCAHONTAS COUNTIES REGARDING JOINT DRAINAGE DISTRICTS

Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2025-11-18-D

A resolution by Buena Vista County to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding between Sac County, Iowa, Pocahontas County, Iowa, and Buena Vista County, Iowa establishing procedures for joint drainage districts to promote efficient repairs and maintenance.

WHEREAS, the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors recognizes the importance of efficient management of joint drainage districts within the county, including cooperation with neighboring counties for repairs and maintenance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its authority under Iowa Code 331.301 and Chapter 468, and acting as Drainage District Trustees, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed and considered the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Buena Vista County, Iowa, Sac County, Iowa, and Pocahontas County, Iowa regarding joint drainage district; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors as follows:

1. The Memorandum of Understanding between Buena Vista County, Iowa, Sac County, Iowa and Pocahontas County, Iowa, regarding joint drainage districts is hereby adopted in the form attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
2. The agreement shall take effect upon adoption by resolution of both the Buena Vista County Board of Supervisors, Sac County Board of Supervisors, and Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors acting as Drainage District Trustees, as provided in paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Understanding.

APPROVAL:

Supervisor Snyder moved to adopt the foregoing resolution.

Supervisor Ringgenberg moved to adopt the foregoing resolution.

The vote was: Ayes all.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 18th day of November, 2025

/s/ Paul Merten, Chairperson, /s/ Kathy Croker, Vice-Chair, /s/ Kelly Snyder, Board Member, /s/ Rhonda Ringgenberg, Board Member, /s/ Dan Hartman, Board Member.....Attest: Susan Lloyd, County Auditor

A letter was received from ISAC stating that Shelby and Story Counties have been battling a local ordinance case through the courts over the last few years. This case is specifically on the preemption of the pipeline safety act, and Iowa Code regarding hazardous liquid pipelines. The counties have now voted to petition the U.S. Supreme Court to hear Couser v. Shelby County, et al. The question in this case has the potential to impact all counties nationwide, and therefore, the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) has voted to weigh in with the Court. The letter states that ISAC intends to file an amicus brief on behalf of ISAC members which will focus on the importance of local control. ISAC is asking counties to support Shelby and Story Counties by joining its amicus brief and contributing \$500 to ISAC to help cover the cost of this endeavor. Snyder stated that he has received some phone calls asking for the county to join this effort. Merten stated that he would add a caveat stating that when the lawsuit was going on with the Des Moines Water Works, ISAC declined to contribute to help the counties involved, but others did provide support and contributed, just not ISAC. Merten stated that he would be willing to reciprocate and join the other counties by contributing \$500 to help cover the cost. Motion by Snyder, second by Ringgenberg, to commit a \$500 contribution to ISAC to support **Shelby and Story Counties** by joining its amicus brief. Carried.

Supervisor Reports: Croker and Merten contacted a contractor to look at remodeling the back building at the Marina and presented an alternative plan to the Conservation Board at their last meeting.

There being no further business, motion by Hartman, second by Snyder, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. until Tuesday, November 25 at 8:30 a.m. for a special session. Carried.