

ESS Coordinating Meeting
Virtual Meeting and Web Conference
November 26, 2024

Attendance

ESS Coordinating Committee and ICRA Executive Board Members

Lisa Kent, Wapello County Recorder*+	Julie Haggerty, Polk County Recorder*
Jolynn Goodchild, Plymouth County Recorder*	Denise Baker, Wright County Recorder*
Melissa Bahnsen, Cedar County Recorder*+	Jamie Stargell, Adams County Recorder*
Dillon Malone, Iowa Title Guaranty*	Eric Sloan, IT Boone County*
Stacie Herridge, Story County Recorder+	Nancy Booten, Lee County Recorder+
Megan Clyman, Davis County Recorder+	Sheri Jones, Jones County Recorder+
Ann Ditsworth, Dickinson County Recorder+	Mary Ward, Cass County Recorder+

*ESS Committee Member

+ICRA Executive Board Member

Other Participants

Erin Canfield, Boone County Recorder	Naomi Ellis, Marion County Recorder
Katie Carlton, Union County Recorder	Carolyn Siebrecht, Linn County Recorder
Travis Case, Grundy County Recorder	Jan Gemar, ILTA
Cathy Voith, Calhoun County Recorder	Nick Laning, Rafferty Group

Lisa Long, Iowa Land Records
Census Lo-liyong, Iowa Land Records
Samantha McMahon, Iowa Land Records

Phil Dunshee, Iowa Land Records
Kristen Delaney-Cole, Iowa Land Records

Welcome

A virtual meeting of the ESS Coordinating Committee and the ICRA Executive Board was held via web conference.

Fee Policy Modernization Legislative Proposal

Fee Policy Amendment

At a special joint meeting on November 14, 2024, the ESS Coordinating Committee and the ICRA Executive Board approved an overall package of legislative proposals to change and simplify recording fees, to modify policies for document preparation, content, recording and indexing, and to advance projects to modernize recording and related land record services. Based on this action, a comprehensive preliminary legislative bill draft was prepared. During that process various edits and changes were made including some substantive policy adjustments. Because there were changes in form and substance, it was determined that the two governing boards should give the package a final review.

Amendment 1:

The ESS Project Manager presented a recommendation in the updated package to proceed with the conversion of the Back the Blue redaction program into a “shielding program. Some concerns were expressed about provisions requiring that professionals with access to shielded information would be responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of the information. The governing boards determined that the provisions of the proposal needed further work, and an amendment to the draft bill was advanced to maintain the Back the Blue policy in its current form and move it from Iowa code section 331.604 subsection 3 into a proposed new section of Iowa code 331.606A. Changes could be brought forward at a later time after further work was completed.

Stacie Herridge made a motion to approve the amendment. Ann Ditsworth seconded, and the motion was approved.

Amendment 2:

An amendment to add the word “statewide” before “county land record information system” in the proposed Iowa code 331.605B subsection 1. This was proposed by a governing board member to clarify that while the term county is used in the title of the system, it was and continues to be operated as a statewide system.

Julie Haggerty made a motion to approve the amendment. Melissa Bahnsen seconded, and the motion was approved.

Amendment 3:

The governing boards discussed concerns recently expressed by the Iowa State Bar Association about the amount of the recording fee that would be charged for documents with more than 50 pages. After a review of actual data about multi-page documents, the Project Manager recommended that a cap of \$500.00 be applied to address this concern.

When considering this amendment, the governing boards also discussed several other typographical and non-substantive changes incorporated throughout the draft document. An amendment to the comprehensive bill draft proposed to implement the \$500.00 recording fee cap, and to approve the various typographical and non-substantive changes.

Sheri Jones made a motion to approve the amendment. Julie Haggerty seconded, and the motion was approved.

Next meeting

The meeting was adjourned. The next regular meeting of the ESS Coordinating Committee will be on February 20, 2025 (tentative).