

Big Problems in the Heart of Iowa

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ICMA Conference Presenter

#ICMA2018

ICMA
conference

BALTIMORE
104th Annual Conference
SEPTEMBER 23-26 **2018**



**City Clerk,
City of
Elkhart,
Iowa**

Why am I here? 2017 Scholarship Recipient, felt I had a story to tell from a truly small city with big budget problems

What can I accomplish? Provide insight and perspective on how even a small city with a small budget can accomplish big changes

What will you glean from listening to me? Rejuvenation and excitement, hope and renewed passion to accomplish projects back in the communities you represent

Case Study:

Iowa Living
Roadways Program

Community visioning program providing small communities with access to professional planning and design resources through grant funding mechanisms

City of Elkhart conducted Community Visioning through the program, concluding in the summer of 2015

In typical small town fashion, the final report and visioning plan was filed away to collect dust



FIGURE C.1: TYPICAL STORM SEWER SYSTEM ALONG MAIN STREET (LOOKING EAST)



lements
 evey River, FLA - Rollan & Mack, Inc.
 e Landscape Architecture



Visioning Pictures

Fast Forward to 2016

City clerk position transitions from Uhl to Michel in Elkhart

MOST POPULAR

- 1 Ames firefighters looking to improve cardiac health testing
Jun 16 at 10:21 PM



Fast Forward to 2016 – 2017

\$5 million WWTF Project

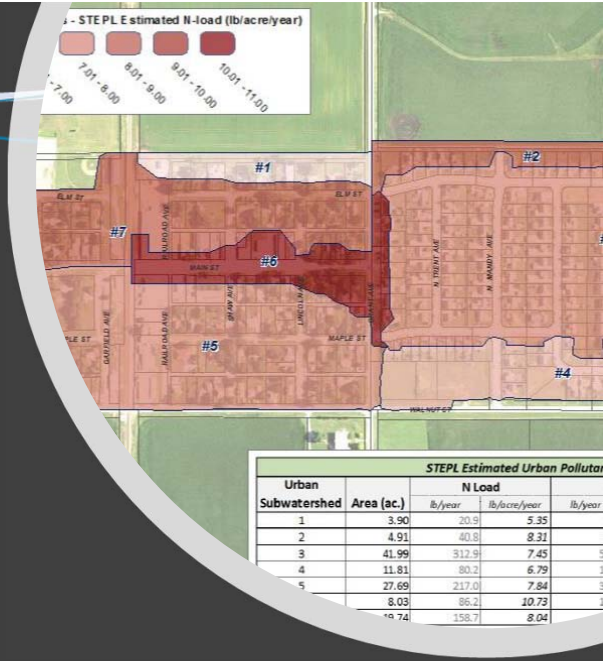
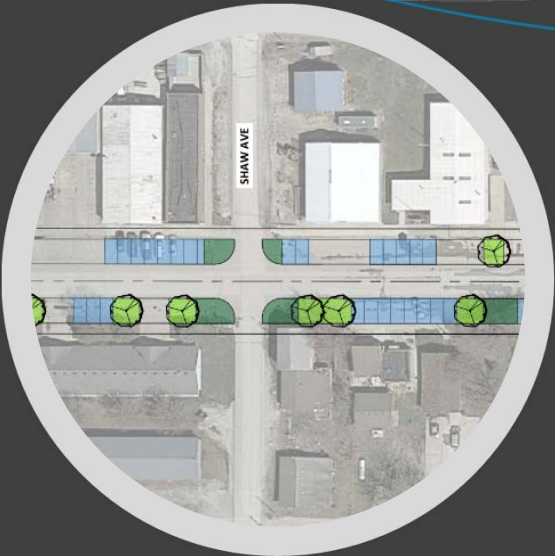
New to the City, green in the profession

Asked for help

Attended conferences

Reconnected with interested parties

Found my success and sparked a catalyst



Progress Pictures

Moral of the Story?

Help exists, you just need to ask for it

Stay connected with your local, regional and state planning organizations

Get second opinions from entities your municipality doesn't currently work with

Get your elected officials out of your municipality to learn and connect with others

Have passion for progress. It is ultimately your job to inspire your community and your elected officials to go after those big projects

Where are we now?



Transitioned to the City of Van Meter, Iowa in July 2018 as the City Administrator



Currently pursuing the Iowa Living Roadways Community Visioning grant to jumpstart community collaboration and planning



Currently utilizing grant dollars and volunteer labor to expand our rec complex with the addition of parking, boat ramp access and hard surface trails



Keeping the Heater from Van Meter alive through a lease/purchase agreement of the Bob Feller Baseball Museum that is now HOME to the administrative offices of the City in addition to museum displays

Shared public spaces



Van Meter Progress Pictures

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Questions?

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An aerial photograph of Baltimore, Maryland, showing the harbor, city buildings, and a marina. A banner is overlaid on the top center of the image.

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