



# Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

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February 6, 2023

Ontario, OR

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## **Attendance**

**Members Present:** Board Chair Tiffany Cruickshank, Stuart Reitz, Bill Johnson, Andrew Maeda

**Members Present Via Zoom:** Ron Haidle; Roberto Gamboa; Melisa Drugge, Business Oregon

**Staff Present:** Emily Conlon, Board Coordinator; Shawna Peterson, Executive Director

**Guests Present:** Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon; Courtney Warner Crowell, Office of Governor Tina Kotek

**Guests Present Via Zoom:** Steven Mitchell, Malheur Enterprise

Meeting was called to order at 4:05pm.

## **Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval**

Chair Tiffany Cruickshank opened the meeting. Board members, guests and audience members made introductions.

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the January minutes. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members were in favor.

## **Public Comment**

Courtney Warner Crowell from the Office of Governor Tina Kotek attended the meeting and gave an update on the status of appointing new board members. She informed the board that the executive process for appointment is getting back up and running, and she is beginning to get new office staff oriented to the process so that the board can fill Chair Tiffany Cruickshank's and Stuart Reitz's board seats. She will work with Board Staff to gather potential interested individuals for the board seats.

## **Incentive Program Application Approvals**

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve applications #33-35 of the Tax Incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program in the amount of \$1,500 each and application #36 of the Tax Incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program in the amount of \$540.78 for a total of \$5,040.78. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## **Draft Letter of Support – ORD Community Center**

The draft Letter of Support regarding the Ontario Recreation District Community Center presented to the board focuses on what the Eastern Oregon Border Board is, and how the priorities of the

board are reflected in this project. After discussion, Andrew Maeda declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from voting. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the Letter of Support for HB 2410. Bill Johnson seconded the motion. All present board members voted in favor.

### **Proposal: Infrastructure Loan Program**

The board discussed the proposal prepared by Executive Director Shawna Peterson and the workgroup tasked with this program. Stuart Reitz suggested inviting Dan Cummings, or others in the Border Region familiar with the industry, to a board meeting to provide input on limitations and ideas for the program. The board discussed how applicants will provide analysis upfront as well as what reporting will be required of recipients. After discussion, the board would like to see marketing materials promoting the program and ideas to get information regarding the loan program out into the Border Region.

### **Proposal: Large Requests Process**

The board discussed the proposal prepared by Executive Director Shawna Peterson and the workgroup tasked with this program. This proposes unsolicited and large requests are processed through Board Strategic fund. Similar to other border board programs, this process will run on a cycle and will require a completed application providing a budget, matched and leveraged funds, and information correlating to the board's top priorities. Board Chair Tiffany Cruickshank asked the board to review the proposal and provide input on what the maximum award amount should be.

### **Fiscal Report**

As of February 2, 2023, the Border Fund has a total of \$2,272,869.97. Chair Tiffany Cruickshank reviewed the in-house budget report prepared by Executive Director Shawna Peterson.

### **Executive Director Report**

Executive Director Shawna Peterson reported on her work in the last month. The Community Improvement Planning Grant and the Education and Workforce Training Program both opened for applications on February 1<sup>st</sup>, and the board will review those applications in May. This month, she spoke with local developers to provide input on the Infrastructure Loan Program. In doing so, a local developer will be applying for the loan program.

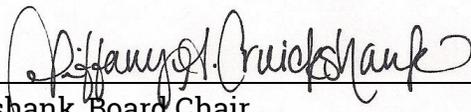
Executive Director Shawna Peterson is registered to provide testimony at the committee hearing for Senate Bill 70, the Border Board's bill to fix the definition of high value farmland in Senate Bill 16, on Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Executive Director Shawna Peterson is also submitting written testimony and will circulate it to the board.

Executive Director Shawna Peterson met with a director at Valley Family Health Care to discuss possible collaboration with them for the homelessness coordinator position discussed by the board. She and Board Chair Tiffany Cruickshank will continue to work with the Malheur Enterprise and other press to educate the public and promote the border board's work.

## Next Meeting / Agenda Build

The next board meeting is March 6<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, and executive director update, and continued discussion on the Infrastructure Loan Program and the process for large requests.

Meeting closed at 5:24pm.

Approved by:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Tiffany Cruickshank, Board Chair Date  
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board