



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

April 3, 2023

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Stuart Reitz, Ron Haidle, Bill Johnson, Andrew Maeda, Dana Young

Staff Present: Shawna Peterson, Executive Director

Staff Present Via Zoom: Emily Conlon, Board Coordinator

Guests Present: Shawn and Robin McKay; Ronda Gibbons, Ontario Speedway

Guests Present Via Zoom: Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon; Steven Mitchell, Malheur Enterprise; Dawn Hert, Eastern Oregon Development of Land Conservation

Meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

Chair Tiffany Cruickshank opened the meeting.

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the March minutes. All present board members were in favor.

Public Comment

None.

Fiscal Report

As of March 30, 2023, the Border Board fund has a total of \$2,301,180.66.

Executive Director Update

Executive Director Shawna Peterson submitted an executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting. Board Staff has been working closely with Oregon Community Foundation on application updates for the current grant cycle. Out of 11 active applications, only 2 were completed and submitted. 5 applications for the Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant were submitted.

Executive Director Shawna Peterson continues to guide development on current concepts for new programming; these include: the Leadership Program, the Business Incubator, the Homeless/Mental Health Coordinator position, and the Broadband project.

Executive Director Peterson's relationship building efforts this month included participation in the Community Ag Summit at TVCC, as well as participation in sessions on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act hosted by Senator Wyden. She also had a visit with a representative of University of Oregon who is working on a project concerning doing business across states in the US and in the European Union.

Andrew Maeda made a motion to direct Executive Director Shawna Peterson to engage in conversation with the Governor's Office to fill the board seat currently held by Roberto Gamboa during this appointment cycle. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Legislative Update

This month, Executive Director Shawna Peterson had numerous meetings with Malheur County, Winterbrook Planning, and the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission to select an accurate and appropriate definition for Senate Bill 70. Work Sessions are still underway and Executive Director Peterson remains hopeful the bill will pass.

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve up to \$15,000 out of the Board Strategic Fund to pay Winterbrook Planning for their work on Senate Bill 70. Dana Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Business Oregon – Broadband Project Update

Seth Thompson attended the meeting to present an update on the Business Oregon's Broadband Project. He shared with the board information on the Broadband Technical Assistance Program (BTAP) and the ARPA Capital Projects Fund (CPF): Broadband Deployment Program. The purpose of BTAP is to provide eligible applicants with technical assistance relating to strategic planning, feasibility study, business plans, and pre-engineering. The purpose of the ARPA CPF: Broadband Deployment Program is "to develop broadband infrastructure capable of serving locations currently lacking high-speed internet." Seth Thompson shared with the board engagement opportunities and encouraged the board to think about hosting a listening session.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

Dana Young made a motion to approve applications #35 and #36 of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$12,000. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Andrew Maeda made a motion to approve applications #37 and #38 of the tax incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program in the amount of \$1,500 each for a total of \$3,000. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Board Strategic Fund Process Discussion

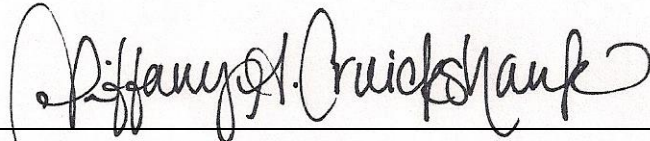
Andrew Maeda recused himself from this discussion. The board reviewed Executive Director Shawna Peterson's proposal. The board discussed the cycle of this type of application and agreed an open-ended basis is preferred. The board would also like to see scoring criteria for a loan award and a separate criteria for a grant award. Chair Tiffany Cruickshank also suggested adding a checklist to all applications for all programs. The board would like to expand on the "supplemental

questions” to include an emphasis on the border board’s top five priorities, as well as expanding on accounting practices. Board staff will take the board’s notes and prepare an updated proposal for the May meeting.

Next Meeting / Agenda Build

The next board meeting is May 1st. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, and executive director update, continued work on the large request proposal.

Meeting closed at 5:00pm.



Approved by: _____

Tiffany Cruickshank, Board Chair

Date

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