



# Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

June 5, 2023

Ontario, OR

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## Attendance

**Members Present:** Chair Dana Young, Ron Haidle, Nickie Shira, Montessa Young, Taylor Rembowski

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

**Guests Present:** Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon; Derrick Noll, Energy Trust of Oregon

**Guests Present Via Zoom:** Steven Mitchell, Malheur Enterprise; Dawn Hert, Eastern Oregon Development of Land Conservation; Art Fish, Business Oregon

Meeting was called to order at 3:03pm.

## Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

Chair Dana Young opened the meeting and board members and guests made introductions.

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## Public Comment

None.

## Fiscal Report

As of May 30, 2023, the Border Board fund has a total of \$8,288,348.66. The grant applications awarded at the May meeting are not expressed in this month's fiscal report, but will show on July's report. The board also reviewed Executive Director Shawna Peterson's financial report detailing expenses and disbursements for the month.

## Executive Director Update

Executive Director Shawna Peterson submitted an executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting. Executive Director Peterson has been contacted by the new Infrastructure Loan Program applicant as well as the City of Vale mayor regarding the board's Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) and the Property Improvement Rebate Program (PIRP) and Vale's participation in them. At the inception of the CHIP and PIRP, Vale School District was a taxing district that decided to opt out of participating. After discussion, all present board members support the idea of having Executive Director Peterson re-visit Vale's participation in the CHIP and PIRP programs. Executive Director Peterson will move forward with preparing resources to present to Vale and the Vale School District.

As new board members become oriented to the identified border board priorities for this year, Board Staff will form work groups for the Leadership Development Program and the Business Incubator concept. Board Staff will reach out to the board in the following weeks to establish roles in each of these work groups.

The Oregon Legislative Session is still not advancing, but Executive Director Peterson is keeping a close eye on Senate Bill 70 and will report back when there is an update.

### **Business Oregon: Enterprise Zones**

Art Fish joined the meeting from Business Oregon to provide some information on the Enterprise Zones. Mr. Fish provided information on the local Enterprise Zone, the Malheur County Enterprise Zone, and gave a brief overview of Oregon Enterprise Zones and their purpose. The primary purpose of Enterprise Zones is to induce new non-retail business development. Eligible business may apply for property tax exemption for at least three years (and up to five years). Judge Joyce is the interim local zone manager, and works closely with Art Fish and the County Assessor to process applications. More information on eligibility and requirements can be found on the Business Oregon – Enterprise Zones webpage, or by contacting Art Fish directly.

### **Incentive Program Application Approvals**

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve Competitive Housing Incentive Program applications #38, #39, and #40 in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$18,000. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Montessa Young made a motion to approve the Property Improvement Rebate Program application #8 in the amount of \$20,000. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

### **City of Vale award: excess funds discussion**

The board received a letter from Todd Fuller of the City of Vale addressing excess Eastern Oregon Border Board grant funds after the completion of their Master Parks Plan. The board awarded \$61,000 to the City of Vale for their Master Parks Plan project; they are requesting the board authorize use of the excess funds to purchase picnic tables for their public parks. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve use of remaining funds for purposes requested by the City of Vale in the amount of \$5,082.45. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

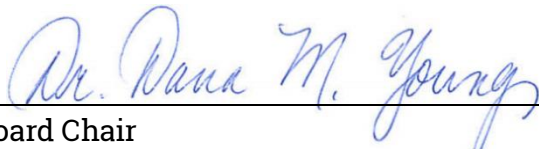
### **Strategic Board Fund proposals discussion**

The board continued discussion on the proposed Strategic Board Fund application presented by Board Staff. After discussion, the board members decided to use the following weeks to orient themselves to this application and continue discussion at the July board meeting.

## Next Meeting / Agenda Build

The next board meeting is July 10<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, and continued discussion on the Board Strategic Fund proposal and application.

Meeting closed at 4:50pm.

Approved by:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Dana Young, Board Chair  
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board