



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

July 10, 2023

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Attendance

Members Present: Chair Dana Young, Ron Haidle, Nickie Shira, Montessa Young, Taylor Rembowski, Bill Johnson, Andrew Maeda

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

Guests Present: Derrick Noll, Energy Trust of Oregon; Bryan Tweit, Launch Pad Baker

Meeting was called to order at 3:05pm.

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 June meeting minutes. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

Bill Johnson attended Business Oregon broadband listening session. Bill Johnson recommends that the board keep broadband on their list of potential opportunities to serve Malheur County; Board Staff will add this to the list of upcoming agenda items.

Fiscal Report

As June 29, 2023, the Border Board fund has a total of \$8,203,653.50. 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.

She has assigned board members to work groups for the Leadership Development Program and the Business Incubator concept and will work this month on assignments for each work group.

Executive Director Peterson reported that Senate Bill 70 passed the Senate and House and awaits Governor Kotek's signature. The Bill will allow implementation of Senate Bill 16, allowing for rezoning of limited qualifying land in the Border Region to Rural Residential.

In August, Executive Director Peterson will be presenting at the Vale School District board meeting to encourage participation in the border board's property incentive and rebate programs. The meeting will be on August 9th at 7pm and board members are encouraged to attend.

Board Staff is currently working with Oregon Community Foundation's marketing team to disseminate marketing materials that highlight the border board's work and its programs.

Launch Pad Baker: Bryan Tweit

Bryan Tweit from Launch Pad Baker gave a presentation on his work in Baker City on Launch Pad Baker. Before joining Launch Pad Baker, Tweit worked in investments, computer software, and care facility ownership. Launch Pad Baker started through Hatch Innovation in Portland and brought Tweit onboard to get the center up and running. Launch Pad Baker offers entrepreneurs spaces to work and to collaborate. The space offers open and private work rooms as well as large screens and tech assistance for virtual meetings. The center also offers education to business owners on financing opportunities and incentives to utilize. Launch Pad Baker also plays a role in business programs offered at Baker High school, coordinating job fairs, and educating students on job search formalities. The center offers internal formal training programs, as well as directing entrepreneurs to outside training programs and opportunities. Launch Pad Baker offers business classes, both in person and virtual, that offer interaction and networking for new business owners. The Launch Pad Baker website is a great resource that highlight's the center's mission and work.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

None.

Work Groups: Business Incubator and Leadership Program

Executive Director Peterson assigned board members to the Business Incubator work group and the Leadership Program work group. Board staff will coordinate meeting, materials, and assignments for both work groups in the coming month. Board staff will circulate assignments to each work group to discuss and collaborate on before the August board meeting. The proposed timeline is that by the August board meeting, each work group will come with items discussed for full board input.

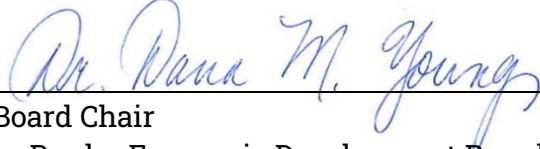
Strategic Board Fund proposals discussion

After discussion, Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve the draft proposal and amend the handbook as proposed by Executive Director Peterson. Montessa Young seconded the motion, and all present board members voted in favor. The board will determine a loan option and loan terms for incoming applications on a case-by-case basis; the board will continue to work on creating framework for loan terms.

Next Meeting / Agenda Build

The next board meeting is August 7th. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, and work group discussions.

Meeting closed at 5:01pm.

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