



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

August 7, 2023

Ontario, OR

Attendance

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

Members Present Via Zoom: Taylor Rembowski; Melissa Drugge, Business Oregon

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

Guests Present: Derrick Noll, Energy Trust of Oregon;

Guests Present Via Zoom: Dawn Hert, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

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.

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the July 10th meeting minutes. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the July 19th special meeting minutes. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

None.

Fiscal Report

As August 3, 2023, the Border Board fund has a total of \$8,162,260.85. 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. Board Staff met with the Business Incubator Work Group and the Leadership Program Work Group and will continue work on progressing these concepts. Executive Director Peterson met with Kelly Brooks, Oregon Transportation Advisor, regarding Border Board programs, specifically the Infrastructure Loan Program. She has a meeting with new director of Community in Action next week to acquaint her with the Border Board. She also is

scheduled to speak at the Vale School Board meeting regarding Vale's participation in the board's housing incentive programs. Board members are encouraged to attend.

This month, Executive Director Peterson has received inquiries from Valley Family Healthcare, Ontario Police / Malheur County Sherriff, and a local processing plant about the new Strategic Fund application. Board Staff is working with these entities and facilitating the application process.

Executive Director Peterson highlighted that Senate Bill 70 was signed by the Governor on July 31st. In light of its passing, Eric Evans from the County is putting together an advisory panel for Senate Bill 16. After discussion, the board will vote on a Border Board participant at the next board meeting.

Border Board Website: hosting request

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the Owyhee Technology quote for the Eastern Oregon Border Board's website migration and 3-year hosting services. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

Andrew Maeda made a motion to approve the Competitive Housing Incentive Program's Tax Incentive Reapplication #39 in the amount of \$1,500. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Work Groups: Business Incubator

The board will use board member Bill Johnson's "'Go!' Proposal" as a framework for the business incubator. Discussion included emphasis on offerings that do not replicate what is already available, and creating something that community members can be excited about participating in. Discussion regarding the Business Incubator included the following points:

- There needs to be a physical space for entrepreneurs to use; there needs to be an emphasis on interaction and connection among local entrepreneurs
- The board needs to incentivize participation in a unique way
- The board needs to consider who will direct and run the incubator. Board Staff has been directed to pursue collaboration with Malheur County regarding the Economic Development position currently open.

Discussion moving forward will focus on identifying target participants and creating a list of resources and services offered. Board Staff will coordinate meeting(s) in the month of September and be prepared for further discussion at the October board meeting.

Work Groups: Leadership Program

The work group built a framework around a Leadership Program that will offer a series of lecture-style seminars brought by unique and engaging speakers; the goal of the program will be to build strong community members that will have the skills to confidently go out into the community to fill important leadership roles. Discussion regarding the Leadership Program included the following points:

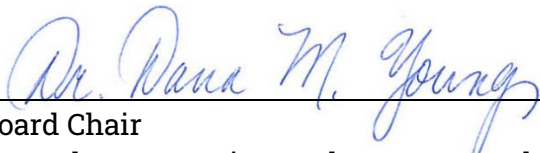
- The program will include Economic Development in the Border Region as an underlying message throughout the series of sessions.
- There should be an incentive to participate in the program, this could be compensation upon completion or receiving some type of certification or recognition upon completion.
- The board should offer incentives to sponsors for sending their employees to the program; what could this look like?
- The board will require a deliverable at the conclusion of the program. How can the board frame a deliverable around public policy participation/output?

Discussion moving forward will focus on identifying possible third-party certifications that align with the program’s goals, identifying potential incentives for participation, and research on other leadership program models. Board Staff will coordinate meeting(s) in the month of September and be prepared for further discussion at the October board meeting.

Next Meeting / Agenda Build

The next board meeting is October 2nd. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, legislative concepts discussion, an executive director update, and continued discussion on the Business Incubator and Leadership Program.

Meeting closed at 4:50pm.

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