



# Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

November 7, 2023

Ontario, OR

## Attendance

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

**Members Present Via Zoom:** Ron Haidle

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

**Guests Present:** Brianne Haun, TVCC Nursing; Molly Lightfield, TVCC Nursing; Dave Bean, TVCC Foundation; Frank & Patty Yraguen, TVCC Foundation; Shirley Haidle, TVCC; Bernie Babcock, TVCC; Betty Carter, TVCC Board; Shawn Reynolds, Giggles & Grace; Cheryl Cruson, TVCC Foundation; Derrick Noll, Energy Trust of Oregon; Caryn Appler, Energy Trust of Oregon; anne Brauer Norco, TVCC Foundation; Rachel Grace, TVCC Nursing; Maura Poynter, TVCC; Darin Bell, TVCC

**Guests Present Via Zoom:** Dawn Hert, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development; Hillary Morales, Acre Bliss & Events; Mario Grimaldo, Final Third Futbol; Tom Vialpando, TVCC SBDC; Elizabeth Bly, Trust for Public Land; Steven Mitchell, Malheur Enterprise

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm.

## 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 October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 and October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting minutes. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## Public Comment

None.

## Fiscal Report

As November 1, 2023, the Border Board fund has a total of \$8,197,234.91. 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.

During the month of October, Executive Director Peterson had productive conversations with border board partners Craft3, Community in Action, and Oregon Community Foundation. She also attended a meeting with Senator Elizabeth Steiner along with other leaders in Malheur, Baker, Harney, and Wallowa counties to discuss various Eastern Oregon issues.

She is currently in discussion with the Governor's office in appointing a new board member to fill Bill Johnson's seat.

Looking at the months ahead, Executive Director Peterson will be presenting at the REAL Oregon leadership program in February and will be showcasing the board's history, structure, and successes with the program's new cohort.

### **Incentive Program Application Approvals**

The board considered five applications for the Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP), one application for the Property Improvement Rebate Program (PIRP), and two applications for the tax incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program. After reviewing applicant #41's statement, Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve CHIP application #41 in the amount of \$6,000. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. Nickie Shira made a motion to approve applications #47-50 of the CHIP in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$24,000. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Andrew Maeda made a motion to approve PIRP application #9 in the amount of \$6,934.95. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve applications #41 and #42 of the tax incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program in the amount of \$1,500 each for a total of \$3,000. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

### **Application Review: Round 8 Applications**

The board reviewed the application summary presented by Board Staff. A total of 16 applications were submitted for scoring in this grant cycle. See Exhibit A for a complete list of funded and non-funded award decisions.

Owyhee Irrigation District requested a \$60,000 Community Improvement Planning Grant to address employee housing improvements. After discussion, the board did not consider the grant request eligible for a community planning grant and no vote was made on this application. The applicant will be notified and encouraged to re-apply under a different Border Board program.

Pioneer Place Nursing Home requested a \$100,000 Community Improvement Grant for a kitchen remodel at their facility. Board members commented that the facility is the only skilled nursing facility in the Border Region and could benefit greatly from a comprehensive plan to keep its doors open. After discussion, Bill Johnson made a motion to award Pioneer Place Nursing Home up to \$100,000 for a Community Improvement Planning Grant upon presentation to the satisfaction of

board staff of a planning proposal. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Acre Bliss Venue & Events requested a \$25,000 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant for the start up of a local event venue. Board members commented that a new local event venue could offer a mutual benefit for several local businesses and would encourage business in the Border Region over Idaho. Montessa Young made a motion to approve the Acre Bliss Venue & Events request in the amount of \$25,000. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Drexel H Foundation requested a \$25,000 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant to add an ADA bathroom to the downtown area of Vale. The board discussed how the addition of a bathroom to the downtown area of Vale could be considered economic development. No vote was made on this application.

Final Third Futbol requested a \$13,500 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant to start up a local soccer training academy. The board had questions regarding secured use of a physical space. Applicant Mario Grimaldo identified Four Rivers Charter School, TVCC and Ontario School District as potential physical locations for the project. Bill Johnson made a motion to grant Final Third Futbol \$13,500 contingent upon written confirmation that a site has been secured. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Friends of Softball requested a \$24,112 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant to aid in the completion of the Ontario Softball and Baseball complex. After discussion, the board concluded that more information is required in order thoroughly review the application (what has and has not been completed, what the timeline of the project is, what specifically will the grant funds be used for). No vote was made on this application.

Giggles & Grace requested a \$25,000 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant to bring Teach Your Heart Out, an educator training conference, to the Border Region. Executive Director of Giggles & Grace Shawn Reynolds elaborated on the importance of early childhood development conferences and the positive impact bringing Teach Your Heart Out will have on Border Region businesses. After discussion, Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve the Giggles & Grace grant request in the amount of \$25,000. Bill Johnson seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Revitalize Ontario requested a \$11,600 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant to create an economic hub in the downtown area by bringing in various forms of art to downtown Ontario. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the Revitalize Ontario grant request in the amount of \$11,600. Bill Johnson seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Trust for Public Land requested a \$25,000 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant to advance the Ontario Community Schoolyard Project; specifically, to fund a coordinator position for the project. The board discussed whether board grant funds should be used to support wages and salaries. After discussion, Andrew Maeda made a motion to approve a grant to Trust for Public Land in the amount of \$25,000 to be used directly for the project and excluding the use of funds for personnel expenses. Montessa Young seconded the motion and the motion passed with a 6 aye, 1 nay vote.

Vineyard Family, Inc. submitted two application that were reviewed in tandem. They requested a \$25,000 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant to establish a non-profit status for Learning Empowerment to Able the Disabled (LEAD) and to fund a coordinator position to further their efforts. They also requested a \$100,000 Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant to fund a program coordinator position to stand up a workforce development program for youth with disabilities. Board Staff noted that the Border Board Handbook provides that an applicant can only have one open grant at a time. The board noted that both applications included use of border board funds for personnel, salaries, and wages, which is not something they typically like to fund. Montessa Young made a motion to approve Vineyard Family, Inc's Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant in the amount of \$100,000 with a contingency that a 501(c)(3) is formed before funds become available to them. There was no second and the motion failed to advance to a vote. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve a Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant to Vineyard Family, Inc in the amount of \$44,000 contingent upon a 501(c)(3) status being obtained. Montessa Young seconded the motion. There was a 1 aye, 6 nay vote and the motion failed to pass.

Willowcreek Store & Café requested a \$25,000 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant to enhance their outdoor picnic area. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the Willowcreek Store & Café grant request in the amount of \$25,000. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Boys & Girls Club of the Western Treasure Valley requested a \$100,000 Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant to make updates to their existing Teen Center. All board members commented on the good work that the Boys & Girls Club is doing in the Border Region and acknowledged the importance of their role in the community. Bill Johnson commented that there is great value in the club, however, does not see how the project addresses the board's economic development priorities. No vote was made on this application.

HRP, LLC requested a \$100,000 Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant to engineer a job software that will assist individuals with criminal backgrounds in entering the workforce. Bill Johnson commented that this is not an issue specific to the Border Region, but one that is state-wide. No vote was made on this application.

Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery requested a \$98,236 Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant to begin participation in the State of Oregon's Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program as well as participation in Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). Bill Johnson believes this project will produce a long term benefit to the Border Region communities. Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery grant request in the amount of \$98,236. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

The Treasure Valley Community College Foundation submitted two application that were reviewed in tandem. They requested a \$100,000 Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant to create a healthcare workforce advisory board to provide continuous quality improvement on the healthcare workforce. They also requested a \$1,000,000 Strategic Fund grant to aid in the construction efforts of the Nursing & Allied Health Professions Center. Board Staff noted that the Border Board Handbook provides that an applicant can only have one open grant at a time. Bill Johnson made a motion to approve TVCC Foundation's Strategic Fund grant request in the

amount of \$1,000,000. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion. Discussion included the following points:


- Scholarship funding: the use of funds to create scholarships would not qualify as a Border Board priority.
- Addressing educating nursing and healthcare students: the application failed to highlight information regarding faculty of the Nursing and Allied Health Professions building.
- Staffing challenges: challenges of staffing a new facility, and how TVCC will combat staffing shortages.
- Full time faculty: number of full time faculty supported by the project.

The motion passed with a 4 aye, 2 nay vote.

### **Next Meeting / Agenda**

The next board meeting is December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, contract renewal discussion for S Peterson Law, LLC, and review of the annual budget.

Meeting closed at 5:20pm.

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

**Exhibit A**  
**Cycle 8 Grant Applications**  
**Strategic Fund Application: TVCC Foundation**

**Community Improvement Planning Grant – Funded**

Name: Pioneer Place Nursing Home Health District

Description: planning proposal to identify capital needs, an operational plan, and a strategic plan

Requested amount: \$100,000

Awarded amount: \$100,000, conditional

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

**Community Improvement Planning Grant – Not Funded**

Name: Owyhee Irrigation District

Description: Employee Housing Improvements

Requested amount: \$60,000

Awarded amount: \$0

Vote: no vote

**Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant – Funded**

Name: Acre Bliss Venue & Events

Description: new event venue in the Border Region

Requested amount: \$25,000

Awarded amount: \$25,000

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Final Third Futbol

Description: new soccer training academy

Requested amount: \$13,500

Awarded amount: \$13,500

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Giggles & Grace

Description: bringing an educator training conference to the Border Region

Requested amount: \$25,000

Awarded amount: \$25,000

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Revitalize Ontario

Description: art installations in downtown Ontario

Requested amount: \$11,600

Awarded amount: \$11,600

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Trust for Public Land

Description: continuance of Ontario Community Schoolyard Project

Requested amount: \$25,000

Awarded amount: \$25,000

Vote: 6 aye, 1 nay

Name: Willowcreek Store & Café

Description: enhance outdoor picnic area

Requested amount: \$25,000

Awarded amount: \$25,000

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

**Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant – Not Funded**

Name: Drexel H Foundation

Description: new ADA bathroom in downtown Vale

Requested amount: \$25,000

Awarded amount: \$0

Vote: no vote

Name: Friends of Softball

Description: completion of Ontario softball and baseball complex

Requested amount: \$24,112

Awarded amount: \$0

Vote: no vote

Name: Vineyard Family, Inc.

Description: obtain a 501(c)(3) status and funding a coordinator position for LEAD

Requested amount: \$25,000

Awarded amount: \$0

Vote: no vote

**Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant – Funded**

Name: Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery

Description: begin participation in Oregon's ERDC program and CACFP

Requested amount: \$98,236

Awarded amount: \$98,236

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

**Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant – Not Funded**

Name: Boys & Girls Club of the Western Treasure Valley

Description: building improvements to Teen Center

Requested amount: \$100,000

Awarded amount: \$0

Vote: no vote

Name: HRP, LLC

Description: engineer a job software that will assist individuals with criminal backgrounds in entering the workforce

Requested amount: \$100,000

Awarded amount: \$0

Vote: no vote

Name: TVCC Foundation

Description: create a healthcare workforce advisory board to provide continuous quality improvement on the healthcare workforce

Requested amount: \$100,000

Awarded amount: \$0

Vote: no vote

Name: Vineyard Family, Inc.

Description: fund a program coordinator position to stand up a workforce development program for youth with disabilities

Requested amount: \$100,000

Awarded amount: \$0

Vote: 1 aye, 6 nay

**Strategic Fund Application: TVCC Foundation**

Name: TVCC Foundation

Description: to aid in the construction efforts of the Nursing & Allied Health Professions Center

Requested amount: \$1,000,000

Awarded amount: \$1,000,000

Vote: 4 aye, 2 nay