



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

December 4, 2023

Ontario, OR

Attendance

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

Members Present Via Zoom: Montessa Young

Staff Present: Shawna Peterson, Executive Director

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

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

Meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

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

Bill Johnson made a motion to amend the draft minutes to clearly reflect all grant applications not receiving a vote failed to advance for lack of a motion, then moved to approve the November 7, 2023 meeting minutes as amended. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

None.

Fiscal Report

As of December 1, 2023, the Border Board fund has a total of \$7,933,838.93. This balance does not yet reflect payment of the most recently awarded grants. 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 a written executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting.

The board members discussed the upcoming short legislative session and concepts, including: allocation of cannabis tax proceeds and provisional licensure. The board tasked Peterson with gathering additional information about these concepts and any education and workforce bills that will be present in the 2024 session.

County Planner Presentation

Malheur County Planning Director Eric Evans delivered a presentation to the board on the implementation of SB16/SB70, which allows for limited rezoning of property in the Border Region zoned as exclusive farm use to rural residential.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

The board considered two applications for the Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) and twenty-two applications for the tax incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve CHIP applications #51 and #52 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. Nickie Shira made a motion to approve applications #43-49 and 51-64 for the CHIP property tax incentive in the amount of \$1500 each, for a total of \$33,000. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. Application #50 was not approved for the property tax incentive payment, as it was only recently approved for the initial CHIP incentive.

Budget Discussion


The board reviewed cumulative financial information since the inception of the Border Fund and the most recent four-year budget. As that was prepared prior to the recent \$6 million appropriation, the board intends to continue the discussion on allocation and budgeted spending of the current funds on hand at its next meeting and to develop an updated budget.

The compensation subcommittee of the board reported that it reviewed the circumstances of the board's administrative services and recommended a 5% increase for 2024 for the services contract with S Peterson Law, LLC. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the committee's recommendation to renew the contract with S Peterson Law, LLC with a 5% increase for 2024. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next board meeting is January 8, 2024. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, and the Border Fund budget.

Meeting closed at 5:10pm.

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