



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

February 5, 2024

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Nickie Shira, Taylor Rembowski, Ron Haidle, Montessa Young, Melisa Drugge

Staff Present Via Zoom: Emily Conlon, Board Coordinator

Staff Present: Shawna Peterson, Executive Director

Guests Present: Tim Stephenson, Vale Textiles; Adele Schaffeld, Malheur County Building Department

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

Meeting was called to order at 3:10pm.

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

Nickie Shira acted as chair in Chair Dana Young's absence. Nickie Shira opened the meeting and board members and guests made introductions.

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the January 8, 2024 meeting minutes. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

Tim Stephenson attended the meeting and gave the Border Board an update Vale Textiles.

Fiscal Report

As of February 1, 2024, the Border Board fund has a total of \$5,966,196.37. 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. This month, Peterson finalized a proposed multiyear budget for board review and approval. She and Board Staff are working on marketing materials for upcoming events and promotion of the board's current programs.

Executive Director Peterson will be attending the Western Treasure Valley Economic Breakfast at the end of the month on behalf of the Border Board, and she is speaking at the Ontario session of

the REAL Oregon leadership cohort this week. Peterson has a meeting with Oregon DEQ's Eastern Region management team to talk about local priorities and concerns.

In the month ahead, Board Staff will coordinate discussion with the workgroups to continue the progress of both the Business Incubator and Leadership Program concepts.

Incentive Programs Discussion

Adele Schaffeld from the Malheur County Building Department attended the meeting to discuss her promotion of the board's housing incentive programs as she delivers Certificates of Occupancy throughout the county. Schaffeld knows the housing incentive programs well and is thorough in ensuring all new and existing home owners are connected with Board Staff to submit applications. Schaffeld shared and commented on ways the board could promote its incentive programs to contractors and new home owners.

Schaffeld noted that she will be meeting with local contractors in the near future and invited the Border Board to attend and promote the current housing incentive programs. Schaffeld also discussed BOLI and apprenticeships in Oregon and a potential internship program in collaboration with Vale High School to promote electrical and plumbing trades in the Border Region.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

The board considered 5 applications for the tax incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP). Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve CHIP re-applications #50, #68, #69, and #71 in the amount of \$1,500 and re-application #70 in the amount of \$1,274.54 for a total of \$7,274.54. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Program & Marketing Discussion

Executive Director Shawna Peterson presented to the board an \$80 spend to print marketing flyers that will be available at the upcoming Economic Development Breakfast as well as future events. Board member Nickie Shira commented that the addition of a QR code to the flyers could be useful in pointing individuals to the Border Board website. Board Staff is currently working on a design for a yard sign that would promote the board's Competitive Housing Incentive Program. Executive Director Peterson presented a quote for 40 yard signs for \$369. Board discussed other potential marketing strategies, such as providing digital branding to grant recipients, signage in new subdivision developments, and marketing at local building supply stores. After discussion, Taylor made a motion to approve the purchase of marketing flyers in the amount of \$80 and yard signs in the amount of \$369. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

The board entered into discussion regarding the Community Improvement Planning Grant. The board discussed the current program requirements and its limitations as only local governments are eligible to apply. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to include eligibility to qualifying non-profit organizations. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Budget Discussion

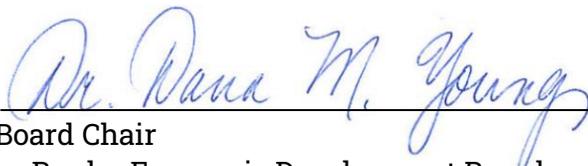
Executive Director Peterson presented a multiyear budget for board review. They discussed more aggressive spending in the next 3 years and creating the potential to receive further funding from the legislature in the future. Ron Haidle motioned to approve the budget as presented. Taylor Rembowski seconded and all present board members voted in favor.

Ron made a motion to approve the Economic Development Breakfast sponsorship in the amount of \$500. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next board meeting is March 4th, 2024. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, and a legislative update.

Meeting closed at 4:55pm.

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