



# Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

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August 4, 2025

Ontario, OR

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## **Attendance**

**Members Present:** Andrew Maeda, Cheri Hung, Taylor Rembowski, Ron Haidle, Nickie Shira, Montessa Young, Daniel Longoni

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

**Guests Present:** Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon; Tory Stinnett, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation; Dawn Hert, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

## **Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval**

Chair Maeda opened the meeting and board members and guests made introductions.

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the July 7, 2025 meeting minutes. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## **Public Comment**

None.

## **Fiscal Report**

Executive Director Shawna Peterson reviewed the OCF fiscal report/statements. As of July 31, 2025, the Border Board fund has a total of \$5,396,371.79. The board also reviewed Executive Director Shawna Peterson's financial report detailing expenses and disbursements for the month.

## **Executive Director Update**

Executive Director Peterson reported on her activities since last month's meeting and plans for the month ahead. Peterson has been working on an analysis of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program and will discuss that today.

Board staff continues to receive applications for Rural Roots Leadership Academy and Peterson encouraged board members to invite applicants. Peterson reminded the board that Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant, the Community Improvement Planning Grant, and the Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant opened on August 1 and will close September 30.

Board staff secured a vendor booth at the Malheur County Fair this month to promote board programs and the upcoming Rural Roots Leadership Academy.

## **Incentive Program Discussion**

Executive Director Peterson reviewed her analysis of the board's Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP). She provided a comparison of property taxes paid on various properties in the Border Region versus in Payette County. Peterson stated that the structure of the CHIP continues to achieve what it was intended to and that property tax value increases have been consistent into Idaho. Executive Director Peterson recommended that the board consider complimentary programs to the CHIP that address access to land and capital for developers and incentives for contractors.

After discussion, board staff will work with Dawn Hert on what DLCD programs could aid in complimenting the current border board housing programs. The board will also review and continue discussion on special conditions of the current Competitive Housing Incentive and Property Improvement Rebate Programs.

## **Housing Incentive Application Approvals**

The board reviewed one Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) application. Nickie Shira made a motion and to approve CHIP application #84 in the amount of \$6,000. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## **Loan Program Application Approvals**

The board reviewed two Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program applications. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve application #36 in the amount of \$9,072.80 to be repaid at \$252.03 monthly for 3 years or until paid in full and application #37 in the amount of \$15,000 to be repaid at \$250 monthly for 5 years. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## **Small Business Signage Grant Application Approvals**

The board reviewed two Small Business Signage Grant Applications. Cheri Hung made a motion to approve application #1 in the amount of \$1,900 and application #2 in the amount of \$2,052.67. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## **Next Meeting / Agenda**

The next meeting will be September 8, 2025, location to be determined. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, and Executive Director update, and continued discussion on programming.

Meeting closed at 5:04pm.

Approved by:   
Andrew Maeda, Board Chair  
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board

Date