



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

October 6, 2025

Ontario, OR

Attendance

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

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

Guests Present: Jaime Nuno, J Nuno Construction; Kyle McCauley, Cascade Natural Gas; Dawn Hert, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development; Grace Donavon, Rural Engagement & Vitality Center; Derrick Knoll, Energy Trust of Oregon; Clint Benson, Ontario Fire & Rescue

Guests Present Via Zoom: Tory Stinnett, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation; Marc Berg, Malheur County

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

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

Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve the September 8, 2025 meeting minutes. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

Jaime Nuno is the first recipient of the Infrastructure Loan Program. He was approved for a \$250,000 loan for the development of a 27-lot subdivision in Nyssa. Nuno provided an update on development and discussed future projects and the potential to qualify for additional loan funding. The board encouraged him to apply for a similar loan for other project locations.

Cascade Natural Gas Introduction

Kyle McCauley attended the meeting and gave a brief introduction to himself and Cascade Natural Gas. McCauley discussed current incentive programs available for industrial, commercial, and residential properties.

Regional Planner Position Discussion

Taylor Rembowski along with Grace Donavon (REV), Dawn Hert (DLCD), and Tory Stinnett (GEODC) attended the meeting to provide an update on their current regional planner pilot project. The project has continued to develop and they have recently submitted a Strategic Fund application which the board will be reviewing this month.

Fiscal Report

Executive Director Shawna Peterson reviewed the OCF fiscal report/statements. As of September 30, 2025, the Border Board fund has a total of \$5,427,652.15. The board also reviewed Executive Director Shawna Peterson's financial report detailing expenses and disbursements for the month.

Executive Director Update

Executive Director Peterson gave an update on her activities since last month's meeting and plans for the month ahead. The first cohort of the Rural Roots Leadership Academy is made up of 11 community members selected by the leadership program subcommittee. The virtual "Ready Set Grant" sessions began on October 2nd and the first in-person session is October 17th at the Valley Family Health Care conference room. Peterson discussed the "Rural Vital Signs" worksheet from RDI and the importance of the work that the board is doing in the Border Region communities.

Peterson reported that there were 20 grant applications submitted in the latest grant cycle and 19 total to score and review at the board's November meeting. The total includes 15 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant applications, 1 Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant application, and 3 Community Improvement Planning Grant applications.

Executive Director Peterson noted that the Border Region Housing Rezoning committee approved one 2-acre lot this month.

This month, she will be presenting at the NOVA meeting and continue working with the RDI team as Rural Roots kicks off.

The board discussed upcoming events and potential advertisement options.

Housing Incentive Application Approvals

The board reviewed two Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) applications and one Property Improvement Rebate Program (PIRP) application. Nickie Shira made a motion to approve CHIP applications #87 and #88 in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$12,000. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Cheri Hung made a motion to approve PIRP application #18 in the amount of \$9,150. Daniel Longoni seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Loan Program Application Approvals

The board reviewed one application and one loan change request. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve loan change request for application #28 in the amount of \$14,392 to be repaid at \$400 monthly for 36 months and application #39 in the amount of \$15,000 to be repaid at \$250 monthly for 5 years. Nickie Shira 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 (SBSG) Applications. Board Staff noted that application #7 included already committed funds. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve

application #6 in the amount of \$3,092.66. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Strategic Fund Application Discussion

The board discussed the recently submitted CAPS Wholesale application. The board discussed job creation, the types of jobs created, and the value of the business in Border Region small communities. The board then discussed potential Border Board funding through other programs and a loan vs. grant award distribution.

After discussion, Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve the following award to CAPS Wholesale: a \$100,000 grant for workforce development, a \$140,000 recoverable grant for jobs created (\$20,000 per job created), and an up to \$200,000 recoverable grant per job retained at the Ontario and Vale locations (\$10,000 per job retained). Of the total (up to \$440,000), half will be disbursed upon confirmation that the building package has been purchased and building permits issued and the second half will be disbursed upon issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the building once constructed. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. The board would also like to encourage CAPS Wholesale to apply for an Infrastructure Loan and the Property Improvement Rebate Program.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next meeting will be November 3, 2025. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, and Executive Director update, and grant applications review.

Meeting closed at 5:17pm.

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

11/03/2025

Date