



# Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

November 3, 2025

Ontario, OR

## Attendance

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

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

**Guests Present:** Courtney Warner-Crowell, Oregon Governor's Office; Clint Benson, City of Ontario Fire Chief; Dan Cummings, City of Ontario; Tory Stinnett, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation; Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon

**Guests Present Via Zoom:** Derrick Noll, Energy Trust of Oregon

## Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

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

Nickie Shira made a motion to approve the October 6, 2025 meeting minutes. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## Public Comment

Clint Benson, City of Ontario Fire Chief, gave a brief summary of the application submitted for the Ontario Fire & Rescue Station 2 expansion project. Dan Cummings, City Manager for the City of Ontario, spoke on funding for the project.

Courtney Warner-Crowell shared that she attended the NOVA meeting early that day where Executive Director Peterson provided an update on the exciting work the Border Board is accomplishing. Warner-Crowell reminded the board to begin thinking about potential concepts to bring to the next legislative session.

## Fiscal Report

There was no Oregon Community Foundation fiscal report to review this month.

## Executive Director Update

Executive Director Peterson gave an update on her activities since last month's meeting and plans for the month ahead. She reviewed the funds spent to date compared to the multi-year budget. Total investment to date is \$5,699,678 for grants and \$1,213,938 for loans. Remaining in the budget for the year is \$221,847 for grants and \$550,400 for strategic fund awards.

Peterson noted that the grant awarded to the Mirage in May 2025 has not been distributed as their disbursement requirements have not been met. These funds will be returned to the Border Fund after December 1<sup>st</sup> if no response has been received by the Mirage.

Executive Director Peterson also reported on the leadership program that held its first in person session in October. Peterson has heard very positive feedback from the team at RDI as well as some of the cohort members. RDI did raise a logistical issue concerning the space used and proposed finding a larger space with break out spaces. Peterson proposed using the S Peterson Law office conference rooms. To accommodate this, more tables and chairs would need to be purchased.

Additionally, Peterson reported that two applications were approved in October at the Border Region Housing Rezoning Review Board and she was able to speak at the quarterly NOVA meeting and provide an update on the board's work.

### **Leadership Program Logistics**

The board discussed alternate locations for the leadership program sessions. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve the purchase of tables and chairs to host the leadership program at S Peterson Law of up to \$600. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Board members were also encouraged to brainstorm local sponsorships for upcoming sessions.

### **Housing Incentive Application Approvals**

The board reviewed five Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) applications, two Property Improvement Rebate Program (PIRP) applications, and three CHIP re-applications.

Cheri Hung made a motion to approve CHIP applications #89-93 in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$30,000. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve PIRP applications #19 in the amount of \$1,981 and #20 in the amount of \$3,173 for a total of \$5,153. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor; Cheri Hung abstained from voting, declaring a conflict of interest.

Nickie Shira made a motion to approve CHIP re-applications #116-118 in the amount of \$1,500 each for a total of \$4,500. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

### **Loan Program Application Approvals**

The board reviewed three Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program applications. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve application #40 in the amount of \$15,000 to be repaid at \$250 monthly for 5 years, application #41 in the amount of \$15,000 to be repaid at \$250 monthly for 5 years, and application #42 in the amount of \$5,087.22 to be repaid at \$250 monthly for 21 months. 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 (SBSG) Applications. Board staff noted that applications #8 and #9 included already committed funds. After discussion, Cheri Hung made a motion to approve application #8 in the amount of \$1,265, contingent upon confirmation that funds have not already been committed, and application #10 in the amount of \$3,357.25. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## **Strategic Fund Application Review**

The board discussed the recently submitted Rural Engagement and Vitality Center application. The Strategic Fund request is for \$100,000 to help fund the Regional Planner Pilot Program. The board discussed the following:

- Additional funding sources
- Hiring and supervision responsibility and physical location
- Business Oregon input
- Time allotment across participating communities
- Contracted services in the Malheur County budget
- Structure of the award

Andrew Maeda made a motion to approve the REV Center Strategic Fund grant application in the form of a 2:1 match up to \$100,000 over a 3-year period based on a matching requirement wherein the EOBB will grant \$2 for every \$1 committed to the project from other partners upon verification of the commitment. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor; Taylor Rembowski abstained from voting, declaring a conflict of interest.

## **Cycle 12 Application Review**

The board received 20 applications for this grant cycle: 2 Community Improvement Planning Grant applications, 17 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant applications, and 1 Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant application. See Exhibit A for a complete list of award decisions.

Of the received applications, 8 of them received an average score of less than 50%; per the Board's scoring matrix, applications scoring less than 50% will be returned and the applicant will be provided some technical assistance and can re-apply in the following round.

**Ontario Fire & Rescue.** Ontario Fire & Rescue requested a grant in the amount of \$80,000 for the Fire Station 2 addition engineering design. This application scored a 59.4%. Topics of discussion included: support and investment from the City of Ontario and the budget for the project. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve a Community Improvement Planning Grant in the amount of \$80,000 to Ontario Fire & Rescue to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

**Malheur County.** Malheur County requested a grant in the amount of \$90,750 for an economic plan expansion. This application scored a 62.5%. The board discussed a surcharge to growers, profitability, and out of state use. Cheri Hung made a motion to approve a Community Improvement Planning Grant in the amount of \$90,750 to Malheur County Economic Development with a commitment to include a plan for a grower surcharge and addressing how out of state use

in the planning assessment. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor; Taylor Rembowski abstained from voting, declaring a conflict of interest.

**Salon Salon and the Spa.** Salon Salon and the Spa requested a \$25,000 grant for equipment upgrades. The application scored a 57.9%. The board concluded that there is a lack of evidence of an Oregon apprenticeship program being utilized and directed board staff to encourage the applicant to re-apply emphasizing the history and structure of the business. No vote was made for lack of a motion.

**The Rock Store.** The Rock Store requested a \$25,000 grant for a kitchen renovation project. The application scored a 61.6%. Nickie Shira made a motion to approve a Scott Fairley Memorial Edge (Edge) Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to Rock Store Company, LLC upon confirmation that any necessary permits have been issued and to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Daniel Longoni seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

**The Rock Yard.** The Rock Yard requested a grant in the amount of \$25,000 for the purchase of a dump truck. The application scored a 62.9%. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve an Edge Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to The Rock Yard to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

**The Furry Cow.** The Furry Cow requested a \$25,000 grant for the startup of The Furry Cow Bakery. The application scored a 65%. The board directed board staff to encourage the applicant to re-apply and include a business plan for the bakery business. No vote was made for lack of a motion.

**Paws on 4<sup>th</sup>.** Paws on 4<sup>th</sup> requested a \$25,000 grant for their business expansion project. The application scored a 67.9%. The board discussed the current phase of the project as the new business location is still pending. The board directed board staff to encourage the applicant to re-apply when she has obtained a new building. No vote was made for lack of a motion.

**Alpine Dental Studio.** Alpine Dental Studio requested a \$25,000 grant for CAD/CAM Expansion and Workforce Development. The application received a score of 67.9%. The board discussed the submitted documents and licensure in Oregon. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve an Edge Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to Alpine Dental Studio upon confirmation that the applicant is licensed in Oregon and to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

**Ace Hardware.** Ace Hardware requested a \$25,000 grant for their rental department expansion. The application scored a 69.1%. The board discussed the completeness of the application and the need for additional rental services in the Border Region. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve an Edge Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to T&Z Hardware, Inc. to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

**Steve's Backhoe.** Steve's Backhoe requested a \$25,000 grant for their gravel pit upgrades and expansion project. The application received a score of 71.3%. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve an Edge Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to Steve's Backhoe Service, Inc. to be disbursed on a

reimbursement basis. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

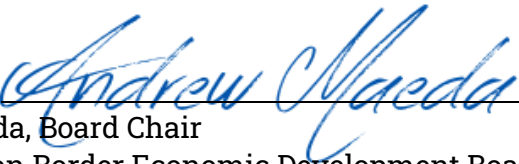
**Evergreen Garden Events.** Evergreen Garden Events requested \$25,000 for event venue expenses. The application scored a 73.7%. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve an Edge Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to Evergreen Garden Events upon confirmation that any necessary permits have been issued and to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

**Ontario Kiwanis Club.** Ontario Kiwanis Club requested a \$25,000 grant for the Norman & Marolyn Poole Memorial Field Complex project. This application received a score of 73.9%. Cheri Hung made a motion to approve an Edge Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to the Ontario Kiwanis Club to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

### **Next Meeting / Agenda**

The next meeting will be December 1, 2025. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, and an Executive Director update.

Meeting closed at 4:55pm.

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

12/01/25

Date

**Exhibit A**  
**Cycle 12 Grant Applications**

**Community Improvement Planning Grant – funded**

Name: Malheur County Economic Development

Project Description: economic plan expansion project

Request: \$90,750

Award: \$90,750

Conditions: awarded with a commitment to include a plan for a grower surcharge and addressing how out of state use in the planning assessment

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Ontario Fire & Rescue

Project Description: Station 2 addition engineering design

Request: \$80,000

Award: \$80,000

Conditions: award will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

**Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant – funded**

Name: Alpine Dental Studio, LLC

Project Description: CAD/CAM expansion & workforce development

Request: \$25,000

Award: \$25,000

Conditions: award will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Evergreen Garden Events

Project Description: event venue expenses

Request: \$25,000

Award: \$25,000

Conditions: award to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Ontario Kiwanis Club

Project Description: Norman & Marolyn Poole Memorial Field Complex project

Request: \$25,000

Award: \$25,000

Conditions: award to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Rock Store Company, LLC

Project Description: kitchen renovation project

Request: \$25,000

Award: \$25,000

Conditions: award will be disbursed upon confirmation that all necessary permits have been issued and on a reimbursement basis

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: The Rock Yard

Project Description: dump truck purchase

Request: \$25,000

Award: \$25,000

Conditions: award will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: Steve's Backhoe Service Inc.

Project Description: gravel pit upgrades and expansion

Request: \$25,000

Award: \$25,000

Conditions: award to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

Name: T&Z Hardware, Inc.

Project Description: rental department expansion

Request: \$25,000

Award: \$25,000

Conditions: award to be disbursed on a reimbursement basis

Vote: 7 aye, 0 nay

**Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant – not funded**

Name: CAP Contract Alliance

Project Description: rural infrastructure sustainability initiative

Request: \$25,000

Vote: no vote

Name: Catherine Creek Christian Youth Camp, Inc.

Project Description: Grants for Plants

Request: \$6,000

Vote: no vote

Name: The Furry Cow Bakery

Project Description: The Furry Cow Bakery

Request: \$25,000

Vote: no vote

Name: High Country Plastics  
Project Description: new shoe molds, lasts, and tooling  
Request: \$25,000  
Vote: no vote

Name: Kiki's Kreations  
Project Description: Kiki's Kreations Food Truck  
Request: \$38,400  
Vote: no vote

Name: Oregon Business Incubator  
Project Description: Border Region business incubator  
Request: \$25,000  
Vote: no vote

Name: Paws on 4<sup>th</sup>  
Project Description: business expansion project  
Request: \$25,000  
Vote: no vote

Name: Salon Salon & the Spa  
Project Description: equipment upgrades  
Request: \$25,000  
Vote: no vote

Name: Vale Laundry  
Project Description: equipment upgrades and maintenance  
Request: \$25,000  
Vote: no vote

Name: Woodland Wonders Play Cafe  
Project Description: play café startup  
Request: \$25,000  
Vote: no vote

**Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant – not funded**

Name: Treasure Valley Children's Relief Nursery  
Project Description: Nyssa early childhood workforce access initiative  
Request: \$100,000  
Vote: no vote