



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

December 1, 2025

Ontario, OR

Attendance

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

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

Guests Present: Dr. Dana Young, Treasure Valley Community College; Darin Bell, Treasure Valley Community College; Cathy Yasuda, Treasure Valley Community College; Bernie Babcock, Treasure Valley Community College

Guests Present Via Zoom: Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon;

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

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

Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve the November 3, 2025 meeting minutes. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

None.

Fiscal Report

The board reviewed Executive Director Peterson's financial report, capturing the board's expenditures to date. As of November 20, 2025, the Border Board has a total of \$5,348,888.23.

Executive Director Update

Executive Director Peterson gave an update on her activities since last month's meeting and plans for the month ahead. Peterson reported that the location change of Rural Roots has produced positive feedback, and she has secured lunch sponsorships from TVCC and Malheur County Economic Development for upcoming sessions.

Peterson also circulated a paper written by Halle Peterson on the Border Region that directly aligns with the board's ongoing work.

Executive Director Peterson reported that Senator McLane and Representative Owens are hosting a local town hall meeting and encouraged board members to attend. She also reported that the Housing Rezoning Review Board will not meet again until January, and she will be presenting at the 2026 Ag Law Round Up on this housing bill.

Peterson continues to educate members of the Border Region and businesses on the new border board programs.

Update from Treasure Valley Community College

Staff from Treasure Valley Community College attended the meeting to provide an update on the Nursing and Allied Health Professions Building. TVCC was granted a \$1,000,000 strategic fund grant in November 2023 for this project. Cathy Yasuda, TVCC Foundation Executive Director, introduced the project team and her gratitude for the board's strategic fund application.

Bernie Babcock, Project Manager, provided a brief summary on the progress of construction. As of October 31, 2025, construction is 49% complete. The contractual completion date is February 18, with March 18 being the project completion date. Babcock did note that the project is roughly 30 days behind schedule. The board discussed change orders and the project contingency budget. Overall, Babcock expressed TVCC's satisfaction with how the project has progressed up to this point.

Darin Bell, Vice President of Administrative Services, provided a financial update on the project. To date, TVCC has expended \$6million of the project budget. Bell reviewed TVCC's current \$1,000,000 reimbursement request, that includes an invoice in the amount of \$1,239,858.40 for structural steel, concrete, HVAC, electrical, and other building systems. Executive Director Peterson noted that the grant is committed and no board action is needed, and Board Staff will work with Bell on the distribution of funds.

Dr. Dana Young, President of TVCC, expressed her gratitude for the board's project support and noted scheduling a tour of the building in the new year.

Housing Incentive Application Approvals

The board reviewed eight Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) applications, one Property Improvement Rebate Program (PIRP) application, and 61 CHIP tax incentive re-applications. Cheri Hung made a motion to approve the CHIP applications #94-101 in the amount of \$6,000 each, PIRP application #21 in the amount of \$4,178, and CHIP re-applications #119-#179 as listed on the spreadsheet at today's meeting with the amount up to \$1,500*. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

*CHIP re-applications #119-142, #144-169, and #171-179 were approved in the amount of \$1,500 each; re-application #143 was approved in the amount of \$534.86 and re-application #170 was approved in the amount of \$1,245.44.

Loan Program Application Approvals

None.

Small Business Signage Grant Application Approvals

The board reviewed two Small Business Signage Grant (SBSG) Applications. Executive Director Peterson received clarification previously reviewed application #9 regarding the timeline of the sign's installment and payment, and confirmed that the expenses incurred have not yet been paid. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve application #9 in the amount of \$714.67 and

application #11 in the amount of \$646.00. Daniel Longoni seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

2026 Budget Discussion

The board discussed the multi-year budget prepared by Executive Director Peterson. The budget includes years 2026-2028. The board discussed the budget for each year, the Competitive Housing Incentive Program and its reserve to pay out the tax incentives, and future legislative requests. The board would like to add approval of the 2026 budget to the January 2026 agenda.

Rural Roots Update

Executive Director Peterson reported on the progress of the Rural Roots cohort and discussed the capstone project. The board discussed youth leadership programming as the capstone project and encouraging alternative projects to the group.


2026 Meeting Schedule

The current meeting schedule is the first Monday of the month from 3pm-5pm. The board would like to keep this schedule in 2026.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next meeting will be January 5, 2026. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an Executive Director update, and approval of the 2026 budget.

Meeting closed at 4:30pm.

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

01/05/2026

Date