



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

July 13, 2026

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Andrew Maeda, Daniel Longoni, Taylor Rembowski, Ron Haidle, Nickie Shira, Melisa Drugge

Staff Present: Shawna Peterson, Executive Director

Staff Present Via Zoom: Emily Conlon, Board Coordinator

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

Cheri Hung opened the meeting and board members and guest made introductions.

Nickie Shira made a motion to approve the June 1, 2026, meeting minutes. Daniel Longoni 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. Executive Director Peterson also reviewed the internal financial report and provided an update on the agreement with the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation and what fiscal reports will look like moving forward.

Executive Director Update

Executive Director Peterson gave an update on her activities since last month's meeting and plans for the month ahead:

- **Board Programs.** Work continues with the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation on the third-party administrator agreement and a complete onboarding is expected in July.

The Rural Food & Ag Business Resource Center is still in progress and on track for completion by the end of 2026. The latest work includes sourcing photo and video resources. Peterson requested that the board provide any Food and Ag names within the Border Region to connect with regarding the resource center.

The Border Region Housing Review Board approved four new two-acre lots at the last meeting; Executive Peterson shared a report with the board showing the tracking of the BRH board activity.

- **Advocacy and Relationship Building.** The Oregon Business Development Department Commission was recently Ontario and Executive Director Peterson, along with Taylor Rembowski, was able to meet with this group to continue the strong relationship between Business Oregon and the Border Board.

Executive Director Peterson reminded board members of the upcoming Eastern Oregon Economic Summit in August.

Housing Incentive Application Approvals

The board reviewed five Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) applications and one Property Improvement Rebate Program (PIRP) application. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve CHIP applications #119-123 in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$48,000. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

The board reviewed the Property Improvement Rebate Program guidelines and Malheur County's current tax assessment process. Board Staff will recommend this month's PIRP applicant apply when a complete tax assessment has been completed.

Loan Program Application Approvals

The board reviewed one Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program application. Cheri Hung made a motion to approve application #49 in the amount of \$15,000 to be repaid at \$250 monthly until paid in full. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

The board reviewed a quarterly report for the program generated by Community In Action.

Small Business Signage Grant Application Approvals

The board reviewed one Small Business Signage grant application. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve application #20 in the amount of \$2,022. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Board Strategic Grant Prospects

Executive Director Peterson discussed potential incoming applications for the Board Strategic Fund, including Fry Foods and Jamieson Produce. Melisa Drugge also added an update on the Fry Foods prospective application as Business Oregon works with the company.

Matters of Concern to the Board

Executive Director Peterson commented on the following matters of concern:

- **Eastern Oregon Economic Summit.** Board members wishing to attend need to notify board staff to reserve their ticket.
- **Rural Roots Leadership Academy.** Board members may submit prospective applicants for the next leadership academy cohort to board staff. Board members also discussed potential trainers and potential meeting sites for next year.
- **Board Member Prospects.** Both Ron Haidle and Chair Maeda's board terms will end in December; board members may submit prospective members to board staff. Additionally, Nickie Shira is stepping down from her board seat and Tatiana Burgess, City of Ontario and a member of the Rural Roots Leadership Academy, will be filling her seat.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next meeting will be August 3, 2026. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an Executive Director update, and other routine business.

Meeting closed at 3:59 pm.

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

08/10/26