



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

August 10, 2026

Ontario, OR

Attendance

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

Members Present Via Zoom: Ron Haidle

Staff Present Via Zoom: Emily Conlon, Board Coordinator

Guests Present Via Zoom: Tory Stinett, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation, Derrick Noll, Energy Trust of Oregon; Tatiana Burgess, City of Ontario; Dawn Hert, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

Andrew Maeda opened the meeting and board members and guest made introductions.

Nickie Shira made a motion to approve the July 13, 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, showing \$1,007,564 funds spent this year. Oregon Community Foundation is behind on disbursements and board staff has requested a status update on pending disbursements and payments.

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. The board has two Strategic Fund Applications for review: the Fry Foods water line project and a Paws on Fourth loan request for property acquisition.

The Scott Fairley Edge Grant, Community Improvement Planning Grant, and the Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant are open and the board will review applications in November.

Board staff continues to advance the Rural Food & Ag Business Resource Center for Eastern Oregon as well as finalizing the third-party administrator agreement with the Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation.

The Rural Roots Leadership Academy is open to applications and the board is encouraged to provide names cohort prospects to board staff.

Advocacy and Relationship Building. The EOBB booth at the Malheur County Fair was successful and featured information on all our programs, as well as on the Rural Food & Ag Business Resource Center.

The Eastern Oregon Economic Summit is this month and board members are encouraged to attend.

Housing Incentive Application Approvals

The board reviewed five Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) applications. Nickie Shira made a motion to approve CHIP applications #124-128 in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$30,000. Daniel Longoni seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Loan Program Application Approvals

None.

Small Business Signage Grant Application Approvals

None.

Board Strategic Grant Applications

The board reviewed and discussed the following Strategic Fund Applications.

Fry Foods, Inc. Fry Foods is proposing the development of a 2.3-mile waterline to connect with the City of Ontario that will allow for the expansion of their current operations. The waterline and expansion projects are a phased investment of over \$7 million and expected to add 136 jobs. The board heard from Ken Dippman, CFO, about the project and will follow up with additional questions and consider the application at its September meeting.

Paws on Fourth. Paws on Fourth, a local pet boarding business, is requesting a \$75,000 loan to be used as down payment for the purchase of the property where the business is currently located. The balance of the \$550,000 purchase price would be structured as an owner carry. The board will follow up with additional questions and consider the application at its September meeting.

Shop Local Proposal Discussion

Executive Director Peterson circulated a concept for the Border Bucks, a Border Region Shop Local program. Through Open Rewards, the program allows shoppers to sign up for free and earn dollars to be used for purchases made at participating Border Region businesses. The board likes the concept and directed Executive Director Peterson to confirm sufficient business participation to

proceed, with a target of at least 50 businesses. They will give additional thought to eligibility requirements and further discuss this opportunity at the September meeting.

Other Business

Nickie Shira, on behalf of the Malheur ESD/Frontier Stem Hub, reported that staffing constraints limited the number of homes hardened through the EOCC Home Hardening/Construction project. The grant funds of \$53,500 were not all expended and the unused balance will be returned to the Border Fund.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2026, but will be rescheduled by consensus of the board due to the conflicting Labor Day holiday. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an Executive Director update, and other routine business.

Meeting closed at 5:15 pm.

Approved by: Andrew Maeda

Andrew Maeda, Board Chair

Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board

09/01/26

Date