



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

September 1, 2026

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Andrew Maeda, Cheri Hung, Daniel Longoni, Montessa Young, Taylor Rembowski, Tatiana Burgess

Staff Present: Shawna Peterson, Executive Director

Staff Present Via Zoom: Emily Conlon, Board Coordinator

Guests Present Via Zoom: Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon; Jeff Carpenter, Snake River Economic Development Alliance; 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.

Cheri Hung made a motion to approve the August 10, 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. As of August 28, 2026, the balance of the border fund is \$2,682,918.54. Executive Director Peterson also reviewed the internal financial report.

Executive Director Update

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

Border Board Programs. Peterson noted progress made on 2026-2027 Rural Roots participation and planning, the Border Bucks Shop Local program, and the Eastern Oregon Regional Food & Ag Business Center. Peterson also noted that Grant cycle 14 closes at the end of September with board review scheduled for the November board meeting.

Peterson reported that the Border Region Housing Review Board approved three new two-acre parcels in the month of August.

The Eastern Oregon Economic Summit was well attended and a good opportunity to network; Tuesday's session had over 300 attendees and feedback on the Border Board was uniformly positive.

Board Staff is finalizing the annual report to the Oregon legislature which is due September 9; the board has awarded over \$9.2 million to date, attracting more than \$20 million in additional investment in the Border Region.

Executive Director Peterson also provided an update on the Strategic Grant awarded to the Rural Engagement Vitality Center of up to \$100,000 in November 2025. The board will discuss this grant update following their Strategic Grant Applications discussion.

Board Initiated Strategic Projects – Shop Local, Studies

The board discussed the Border Bucks program, a shop local rewards program to incentivize shopping within the Border Region. Board staff will continue the advancement of this program and push out the application to Border Region businesses.

Executive Director Peterson proposed a data gathering initiative and invited the board to submit requests for what type of data would benefit Border Board efforts. Topics discussed included childcare, transportation, worker migration, and job statistics (wage benefits, public, private).

Housing Incentive Application Approvals

The board reviewed three Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) applications. Taylor Rembowski made a motion to approve CHIP applications #129-131 in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$18,000. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

The board discussed a recent inquiry regarding commercial zoned property and eligibility with border board housing programs.

Loan Program Application Approvals

None.

Small Business Signage Grant Application Approvals

None.

Board Strategic Grant Applications

The board continued their discussion on the following Strategic Fund Applications.

Fry Foods, Inc. The board reviewed Fry Foods request, which is a \$350,000 grant paired with a \$150,000 infrastructure loan to be repaid over 5 years with a 1% interest rate. After discussion, no vote was made for lack of a motion. The board would like the company to proceed with the water line and consider a new application in a future phase.

Paws on Fourth. The board discussed conditions of an appraisal, financial reports, and the Paws on Fourth business plan. After discussion, Cheri Hung made a motion to approve a Strategic Fund

grant in the amount of \$50,000 to Paws on Fourth contingent upon a \$25,000 match, confirmation of an appraisal that values the property at or above the purchase price, and participation in the Rural Roots Leadership Academy 2026-27 cohort. Additionally, the grant will be recoverable upon the sale of the property within 5 years of the award. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

The board then discussed the Rural Engagement Vitality (REV) Center Strategic grant awarded in November 2025. The board confirmed that funding will be disbursed as contributions from partners are received in a 2:1 match by the board.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for October 5, 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 4:40 pm.

Approved by: <u>Andrew Maeda</u>	<u>10/05/26</u>
Andrew Maeda, Board Chair	Date
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board	