



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

January 12, 2022

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Attendance

Members Present: Tiffany Cruickshank, Board Chair; Dana Young, Bill Johnson

Members Present Via Zoom: Stuart Reitz; Roberto Gamboa; Melisa Drugge, Business Oregon

Staff Present: Lisa Reeser, Board Coordinator; Shawna Peterson, EOBB Executive Director

Guests Present: Eric Evans, Malheur County

Guests Present Via Zoom: Courtney Warner-Crowell, Office of the Governor; Jason Miller, Argus Observer; Cathy Yasuda, Treasure Valley Community College

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm.

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

Chair Cruickshank opened the meeting. Board members, guests and audience members made introductions.

Dana Young made a motion to approve the December 6, 2021 meeting minutes. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

Courtney Warner-Crowell with Governor Brown's office updated the board regarding new board members. Governor Brown has extended an invitation to a local citizen in the Border Region to fill one of the vacant board positions and they are waiting to hear back about an acceptance. There is still one seat vacant; if any board members have suggestions, please let Courtney know. She also let the board know there is a \$200,000,000 workforce package for the 2022 legislative short session and would be happy to set up someone to brief the board on what that entails during the February board meeting.

Fiscal Report

As of January 7, 2022, the Border Fund has a total of \$3,876,855.07.

Grant Recipient Final Reports

Eric Evans with the Malheur County Planning Department presented an update on how the Malheur County Rural Housing Initiative and report done by Winterbrook Planning is going and how the \$50,000 grant from the Eastern Oregon Border Board was spent.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Shawna Peterson submitted an executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting. She and Lisa Reeser are still receiving responses to the State of the Border Region request, the due date for those is January 24. She has also been engaged with Senator Findley and Representative Owens as the 2022 legislative short session will be starting in February. The board asked Executive Director Peterson to draft a letter to the Capital Construction Committee requesting funding to replenish the Border Fund as the board continues to help strengthen economic development and workforce training in the Border Region.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve four applications submitted since the November 2021 EOBB meeting for the property tax incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Rebate Program. Bill Johnson amended his motion to include the total amount approved as \$1,500 for each property for a total of \$6,000. All applicants submitted a re-application and receipt of paid property taxes. Dana Young seconded the amended motion and all present board members voted in favor.

2022 EOBB Budget Review

Executive Director Peterson presented the ending budget for 2021 and annual budget for 2022, as well as the 4-year draft budget. Bill Johnson made a motion to accept the 2022 annual budget as shown on the 4-year budget document. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. The board also decided to keep the Community Improvement Planning Grant open for this next round.

EOBB Program Handbook Review

The board, along with Executive Director Peterson and Lisa Reeser, reviewed the proposed changes to the handbook made by Executive Director Peterson and various board members. The changes will include a maximum amount per project instead of per entity for the Community Improvement Planning Grant and verbiage updates to the Competitive Housing Incentive Program. Dana Young made a motion to approve the EOBB Program Handbook with the two above amendments as discussed in today's meeting. Bill Johnson seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

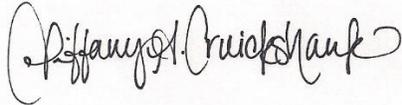
EOBB Program Discussion

Chair Cruickshank presented the results of the latest google poll completed by the Eastern Oregon Border Board members, staff and past board members regarding the current grant, loan and incentive programs offered by the Border Board. After discussion, Dana Young made a motion to increase the open application cycles for the Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant, increasing it to twice per year. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. Members of the board shared their interest in a Leadership Malheur type program and helping to work towards a solution for the homeless population in the Border Region.

Next Meeting/Agenda Build

The next Border Board meeting will be held on February 7, 2022 from 3pm-5pm, location TBD. The agenda items will include a fiscal report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, grant recipient final reports and incentive application approvals.

Meeting closed at 4:55 pm.



Approved by:

Tiffany Cruickshank, Board Chair
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board

2/7/2021

Date