



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

April 4, 2022

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Tiffany Cruickshank, Board Chair; Bill Johnson; Stuart Reitz; Ron Haidle

Members Present Via Zoom: Roberto Gamboa; Andrew Maeda; Melisa Drugge

Staff Present: Lisa Reeser, Board Coordinator

Guests Present: Senator Lynn Findley; Sierra Watson, Office of Senator Findley; Clayton Crowhurst, Northwest Housing Alliance

Guests Present Via Zoom: Feather Sams Huesties, Business Oregon

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm.

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

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

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the March 7, 2022 meeting minutes. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

None.

Fiscal Report

As of April 3, 2022 the Border Fund has a total of \$3,828,893.37.

Ontario Affordable Housing Update

Clayton Crowhurst with Northwest Housing Alliance was in attendance at the board meeting to present updates regarding the new River Bend Place Affordable Housing project in Ontario. The project is scheduled to be completed in June, opening in July 2022.

2022 Legislative Session Update

Senator Lynn Findley joined the Border Board meeting to update the board on the happenings during the 2022 Legislative Session. Senator Findley spoke about HB4002B, the agriculture workers overtime bill that will affect the Border Region immensely, along with other bills that he supported during the session. The Christmas Tree Bill provided an additional \$6 million to the Eastern Oregon Border Board to spend on grants and loans in the Border Board, no strings attached. Senator Findley emphasized the board

should contact state agency directors to educate them about the Border Region's unique needs, as well as work to understand what each agency offers. Education is important to work through regulatory issues. Senator Findley expressed his support for the board and wants to stay as involved as possible.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Shawna Peterson submitted an executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting. There was a total of 12 applications submitted during this open grant round. The operating terms of the EOBB loan programs that will be managed by Craft3 are finalized and ready to launch. Executive Peterson is working on the logistics of the new \$6 million appropriation, and she plans to present to the board in advance of the funding. She enjoyed presenting to the REAL-Oregon agricultural leadership program participants and made some good contacts. The State of the Region report is in draft form, and she will continue to look for input.

Lisa Reeser, Eastern Oregon Border Board coordinator, gave her 30-day notice to board members and staff. Her last meeting will be May 2, 2022. It was discussed to have the duties of board coordinator be absorbed by the executive director and her current staff. Stuart Reitz made a motion to support an amendment to the current Executive Director contract to include board coordinator duties and supplies and increase the pay to \$7,800 per month. Bill Johnson seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

Stuart Reitz made a motion to approve one Competitive Housing Incentive Program application in the amount of \$6,000. Bill Johnson seconded the motion and all present board members were in favor.

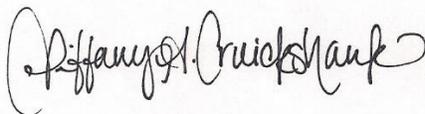
Policy and Initiative Discussion

The board has been tasked by Chair Cruickshank with brainstorming ideas for future funding programs and initiatives that will benefit economic development in the Border Region, as well as new policy ideas or changes to current policy.

Next Meeting/Agenda Build

The next Border Board meeting will be held on May 2, 2022 from 3pm-5pm, in the Hanigan Board Room at Treasure Valley Community College. The agenda items will include a fiscal report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, and brainstorming session for new legislative ideas for the 2023 session.

Meeting closed at 8:00 pm.



Approved by: _____
Tiffany Cruickshank, Board Chair
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board

5/2/2022

Date