



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

October 3, 2022

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Chair Tiffany Cruicksank, Bill Johnson, Ron Haidle, Dana Young

Members Present Via Zoom: Stuart Reitz, Roberto Gamboa

Staff Present: Emily Conlon, Board Coordinator; Shawna Peterson, Executive Director

Guests Present: Dawn Hert, Eastern Oregon Development of Land Conservation; Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon

Meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

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

Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the September 15, 2022 meeting minutes. Ron Haidle seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

Feather Sams-Huesties spoke on industrial lands development and will be working with Jill Miles from Business Oregon in the coming weeks to provide training on Industrial Lands. She commented that Jill Miles would possibly be in attendance at the November board meeting to further this discussion.

Fiscal Report

As of September 29, 2022 the Border Fund has a total of \$2,525,782.01.

Executive Director Shawna Peterson had a discussion with Oregon Community Foundation on the Investment Returns number and why it has not changed. Oregon Community Foundation explained that this is an "ultra short-term" fund and has not had a positive return since 2021, which is why the number has not changed. Executive Director Shawna Peterson presented to the Board a draft budget to compliment the Oregon Community Foundation report that shows more detail and shows an annual breakdown and a Year to Date budget. The draft budget will be refined to best fit what the Board would like to see in a monthly report.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Shawna Peterson submitted an executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting. There are four applications for review – one CIPG, one RWMG, and two Edge.

Executive Director Shawna Peterson continues to work on proposals and input for prospective opportunities for the new \$6million. She recently spoke at the Ontario Chamber meeting and continues work on outreach and getting the word out to the community. Bill Johnson and Stuart Reitz were both in attendance at the Chamber meeting in support of Executive Director Shawna Peterson's presentation on the Boarder Board.

Bill Johnson and Dana Young both complimented Executive Director Shawna Peterson on her outreach efforts and communication with the community and legislature. and acknowledged

October 31, 2022 is the end date for Shawna's Contract. Dana Young made a motion to the Board to notify Oregon Community Foundation to extend the contract with S Peterson Law, LLC and that we empower Chair Cruickshank to negotiation of a contract that will be completed by October 31, 2022. Bill Johnson seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

None.

Small Business Development Center

Feather Sams-Husties read to the board a note from Andrea Testi from the Small Business Development Center. Andrea would like the Board to know that the Small Business Development Center is ready and willing to assist the Board by working directly with community members in understanding and preparing their grant applications. She goes on to say that she is confident the center can offer guidance in applying for the Boarder Board grants. Andrea also suggested incorporating in the website a list of prior grant awards so that potential applicants can see the scope of what has been awarded in the past.

Border Fund – New Appropriation Discussion

Chair Tiffany Cruickshank complimented the Board on its thoughtful and diligent spending, but would like to see the new appropriation being spent in a way to help community members. She posed the following question to the Board: How can we best use these funds to serve our community? How can we use our Strategic Fund?

Bill Johnson elaborated on the "Business Incubator" idea. The focus of this concept would be business innovation in the area, with a social component as well as an entrepreneurial component. Business owners would have a place to engage with others in our region, and share resources with one another. Executive Director Shawna Peterson suggested a starting point of forming the structure with a Board of Director. The Board further discussed identifying the composition of that board. Bill Johnson commented that the board would need to be made up of individuals with strong finance skills, operations experience, marketing skills, and individuals who are energetic and entrepreneurial. Chair Cruickshank commented that the concept needs to be fun and exciting, and needs to be something people are encouraged by. Executive Director Shawna

Peterson suggested a "study club" type of structure that would consist of a monthly meeting with dinner, a speaker, and a case presentation.

The Board also discusses the Leadership Development Program. Chair Cruickshank suggested that the Board fund a scholarship program for attending leadership programs rather than build one. This concept could be put in place quickly and easily that would benefit community members that want to better their leadership skills. Bill Johnson added that a program like this takes time and a lot work. Still likes the idea of creating a program. The board further discussed what the scope of such program or scholarship would be and what reporting parameters could be put in place to awardees.

Chair Cruickshank spoke on education and a possible scholarship program to assist Instructional Aids in furthering their education to become teachers. Executive Director Shawna Peterson proposed reaching out to superintendents in the area and the Malheur ESD to qualify this concept, to get data, and to gage interest.

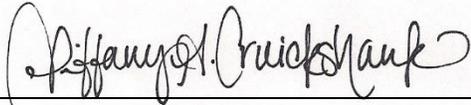
Executive Director Shawna Peterson spoke on funding a Coordinator position in the community to address the homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health problem in the Region. The Police Chief is in support of this concept. The Board discussed working with the City to outline what the position would like, what the price tag will be, and what the City will contribute.

Chair Cruickshank presented a possible new concept. She spoke on the various recreation organizations in the border region and that most of them participate and pay fees to Payette County Recreation. Chair Cruickshank proposed creating one recreation center for the entire Border Region. Executive Director Shawna Peterson suggested the Board start the discussion with Andrew Maeda on getting recreational activities in the Border Region centralized. This concept could be further elaborated by helping fund a community center for recreational activities to take place, and offer a gathering place for families in the region. Chair Cruickshank also suggested the Board think about improving our community meeting places and breathing life back into already existing buildings.

Next Meeting/Agenda Build

The next meeting will be Monday, November 7th, 2022. The agenda items will include a fiscal report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, guest speakers, and continued brainstorming for the new \$6million appropriation.

Meeting closed at 8:03 pm.

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