



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

November 7, 2022

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Chair Tiffany Cruickshank, Stuart Reitz, Bill Johnson, Andrew Maeda

Members Present Via Zoom: Ron Haidle, Roberto Gamboa

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

Guests Present: Megan Cook, Ontario Recreation District

Guests Present Via Zoom: Lisa Reeser, Ontario Recreation District Pool Committee; Dawn Hert, Eastern Oregon Development of Land Conservation; Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon; Susan Christensen, Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation

Meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

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

Bill Johnson proposed an amendment to the October 3, 2022 minutes, calling out incorrect spelling of Andrew Maeda's name on page three. Bill Johnson made a motion to approve the October 3, 2022 meeting minutes as amended. Start Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Public Comment

None.

Fiscal Report

As of November 2, 2022 the Border Fund has a total of \$2,511,482.01.

Executive Director Shawna Peterson continues to refine the monthly budget and asked the Board for input on any changes they would like to see.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Shawna Peterson submitted an executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting. The S Peterson Law, LLC Executive Services Contract expired on October 31, 2022; Chair Tiffany Cruickshank has communicated with Oregon Community

Foundation about getting a new contract in place. The new contract will be an 14 month contract that will expire December of 2023.

Board Staff has updated the application scoring process, and Executive Director Shawna Peterson encourages feedback on the new system.

Executive Director Shawna Peterson continues to work on concepts discussed by the Board to pursue as prospective opportunities. One concept, funding a coordinator position to address the homelessness, substance abuse, and mental health problem in the region, could overlap with a new proposal from the Oregon Mayor's Association. Executive Peterson is exploring how this might inform the Board's efforts. Executive Peterson is working on a budget for the Leadership Development Program, and is pulling together a list of prospective board members for the Business Incubator concept. Executive Peterson is also working on quote requests to two entities in regards to the Land Inventory and Readiness Assessment concept.

Executive Director Shawna Peterson has created a draft Service Agreement with Community in Action to launch the final loan program. Executive Peterson encourages the board to review the draft agreement and provide feedback. Executive Peterson would like to see the contract in place and the program up and running prior to Executive Director Barb Higinbotham retiring in the coming months.

Two Board members will be terming out in December, but will be staying on as members until after the Oregon election. In the meantime, Executive Director Shawna Peterson will work with the County Clerk's office to ensure election will be in place and ready to go when the Oregon Governor's Office is ready to elect new members of the board. Chair Tiffany Cruickshank encourages the board to begin a running list of potential board members.

Executive Director Shawna Peterson continues to work on coverage of the Border Board and relationship building with local and state stakeholders.

Chair Tiffany Cruickshank informed the Board that Grant Kitamura has contacted her about asking for Border Board funding for the Treasure Valley Reload Center. Chair Tiffany Cruickshank encouraged Grant Kitamura to review the Board's programs, the Board's top priorities, and attending a meeting to speak to the Board about the project.

Incentive Program Application Approvals

Andrew Maeda made a motion to approve three Competitive Housing Incentive Program applications in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$18,000. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members were in favor.

Andrew Maeda made a motion to approve two applications for the tax incentive portion of the Competitive Housing Incentive Program in the amount of \$1,500 each for a total of \$3,000. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members were in favor.

Bill Johnson left the room for this portion of the meeting and did not participate in the vote for the Property Improvement Rebate Program applications. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve two

Property Improvement Rebate Program applications in the amounts of \$17,923.35 and \$13,578 for a total of \$31,501.35. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members were in favor.

Ontario Recreation District

Megan Cook, a member of the Oregon Recreation District Pool Committee, presented to the Board a plan overview for the Ontario Community Recreation Center. The project consists of a six-phase plan, with the first two phases—the Splash Park and the Foyer/Locker Rooms—already completed. The 4 remaining phases are as follows:

- Phase 3 – completion of an Outdoor Pool, an approximate \$2.4million phase
- Phase 4 – construction of the Tennis Courts and Skate Park, an approximate \$750,000 phase
- Phase 5 – completion of a Gymnasium, an approximate \$2.5million phase
- Phase 6 – addition of shade structures and a Pool Cover, an approximate \$750,000 phase

Megan Cook and Executive Director Andrew Maeda included in their presentation how each of the Border Board's top priorities align with this project. Key points included the following:

1. **Enhance Prosperity.** Megan Cook expressed that offering a place for kids and families from inside as well as outside the Border Region creates a positive direct and indirect economic impact on the Border Region and the community. With Ontario being the largest town you come across when entering the Border Region, the space will add an element of beautification to the city. Creating a space with amenities for kids, adults, and families increases the regions livability and doubles our current community spaces.
2. **Increase Property Tax Base.** The Ontario Recreation District explained that the increase in amenities in the Border Region increases residents, businesses, and property value. Adding a Community Recreation Center will increase the attractiveness to live in the Border Region. More residents could lead to more business and employers, which leads to a larger labor pool. This creates an advantage for adults and young families to relocate to the Border Region.
3. **Competitiveness to Idaho.** The Ontario Recreation District's Community Center will provide more sports programs, enhanced coaches trainings, and other performance services that will increase the Border Region's competitiveness to Idaho. The Recreation District added that constructing a Community Center in the Border Region will create a "hub" for the growing youth sports industry.
4. **Increase Workforce and Skills.** The Community Center will enhance the Border Region's leadership development by including a Peer Center for credit recovery, certifications, and trainings. The Ontario Recreation District emphasizes building essential job skills and establishing connections to the community to create strong, local, young leaders.
5. **Improved Image.** By crating the Community Recreation Center, the Ontario Recreation District seeks to address the needs of adults and youth in our communities. The Center will: make available services for engaging the entire family unit, support physical activity and creating healthy habits, create a safe and secure space for youth, and provide access to structured activities in the Border Region.

Megan Cook presented to the Board an estimated budget for all phases of the Ontario Community Recreation Center of \$6.4million. Executive Director Andrew Maeda has emphasized creating a

sustainability plan and budget so that the center is sustainable for future plans and use. In sharing the plans for the center, the Ontario Recreation District requested a letter of support for the State Legislature Bill #1465 from the Eastern Oregon Border Board. In addition, the Ontario Recreation District formally requested \$2million for the Community Recreation Center Project. The District has requested this request be added as an action item to the December Border Board meeting.

Stuart Reitz appreciated the emphasis on sustainability for the center moving forward. He asked the Ontario Recreation District how they will establish equity in the Border Region's impoverished community. Andrew Maeda responded by describing their Sports Scholarship Fund that aids families in registering their kids in the Recreation District's sports programs. The fund is growing every year, and bridges the gap between families that are capable of meeting the financial burden and families that are not.

Bill Johnson commented that he is excited to the capacity of the new pool committee, and excited to see the new model for funding of the center. He went on to express that the \$2million is a large ask, and that the Border Board has never before spent that amount of money. Bill Johnson would like the Board to see a more detailed budget breakdown, a comparison of this taxing district to others, and leveraged funding opportunities. Bill Johnson would also like to further discuss how the Board will monitor the project going forward, if the Board elects to fund the project in some capacity.

The Board Staff will work on a draft letter of support for State Legislature Bill #1465 for the December board meeting.

Grant Application Scoring

See attached Exhibit A for a complete list of funded and non-funded award decisions.

The Board began this discussion with the two Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant applications. Owyhee Grocery requested \$25,000 from the Border Board for their Beer Barn project. The Board discussed the use of the Owyhee canyon for outdoor recreation and the amount of tourism that Owyhee Grocery captures. The application also included a kitchen expansion and other improvements that have been successful. The project scored an average of 66%. Stuart Reitz made a motion to award \$25,000 to Owyhee Grocery. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. Trust for Public Land requested \$25,000 for the Ontario Schoolyard Project. The board emphasized the local buy-in from the community, the small ask relative to the total project cost, and the positive influence the project will have on the community's youth. The project scored an average of 71%. Bill Johnson made a motion to award \$25,000 to Trust for Public Land. Stuart Reitz seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

The board reviewed scoring for one Community Improvement Planning Grant application. The City of Vale requested \$13,000 for Hangar and Taxiway Development. The board discussed the importance of a survey in order to do any future development of hangars. The project scored an average of 66%. Bill Johnson made a motion to award \$13,000 to the City of Vale. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members were in favor.

The board reviewed scoring for one Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant application. St. Peter Catholic School requested \$50,174 for the Expansion to Serve More Working Families. The board discussed the struggle to find childcare in the community that is reliable and trustworthy. This project scored an average of 76%. This project will increase efforts to sustain employment in the Border Region. Andrew Maeda made a motion to award \$50,174 to St. Peter Catholic School Roberto Gamboa seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Next Meeting / Agenda Build

The next meeting will be Monday, December 5th, 2022. The agenda items will include a fiscal report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, a draft resource page for incoming large project requests, and time for discussion on the Bill #1465 Letter of Support to the Ontario Recreation District.

Meeting closed at 4:59pm.

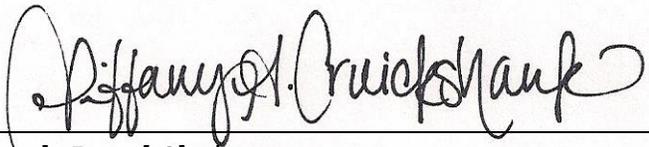
Approved by:  _____
Tiffany Cruickshank, Board Chair
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development

EXHIBIT A

Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant – Funded

Name: Owyhee Grocery

Description: Beer Bar Project

Total project cost: \$100,000

Requested amount: \$25,000

Awarded amount: \$25,000

Name: Trust for Public Land

Description: Ontario Community Schoolyard Project

Total project cost: \$1,428,000

Requested amount: \$25,000

Awarded amount: \$25,000

Community Improvement Planning Grant – Funded

Name: City of Vale

Description: Miller Memorial Airpark Hangar and Taxiway Development

Total project cost: \$15,000

Requested amount: \$13,000

Awarded amount: \$13,000

Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant – Funded

Name: St. Peter Catholic School

Description: Expansion to Serve More Working Families

Total project cost: \$160,309

Requested amount: \$50,174

Awarded amount: \$50,174