



# Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

July 8, 2024

Ontario, OR

## **Attendance**

**Members Present:** Dana Young, Taylor Rembowski, Cheri Hung, Andrew Maeda, Nickie Shira

**Members Present Via Zoom:** Ron Haidle

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

**Guests Present:** Feather Sams-Huesties

**Guests Present Via Zoom:** Melisa Drugge, Business Oregon

Meeting was called to order at 3:11pm.

## **Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval**

Chair Dana Young opened the meeting and board members and guests made introductions.

Cheri Hung made a motion to approve the May 6 meeting minutes as amended. Andrew Maeda seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

## **Public Comment**

None.

## **Fiscal Report**

Executive Director Shawna Peterson reviewed the OCF fiscal report/statements. As of June 27, 2024, the Border Board fund has a total of \$4,511,020.56. The board also reviewed Executive Director Shawna Peterson's financial report detailing expenses and disbursements for the month. Peterson noted that the \$25,000 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant award to Water Hole Saloon will be returned as they have decided not to proceed with the Westside Grill project.

## **Executive Director Update**

Executive Director Shawna Peterson submitted an executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting.

Peterson updated the board on the Pioneer Place Nursing Home Health District award, a Community Improvement Planning Grant awarded in November of 2023. An award letter sent to Corey Crismon, Director of Pioneer Place, from Oregon Community Foundation identified a grant

purpose that conflicted with the terms and conditions of this award. Executive Director Peterson continues to follow this and will update the board as needed.

Since the last board meeting, Peterson met with representatives from Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development while visiting Malheur County. Discussion included work associated with SB17 and SB70.

Executive Director Peterson discussed the Priorities Assessment survey that was circulated this month as well as the Leadership Program and Business Incubator concepts.

### **Incentive Program Application Approvals**

The board considered three applications for the Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP). Andrew Maeda moved to approve the CHIP applications #57, #58, and #59 in the amount of \$6,000 each for a total of \$18,000. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

### **Loan Program Application Approvals**

The board also reviewed two Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program applications. The board discussed excluding the income portion of the application from their summary review. Cheri Hung made a motion to approve application #7-Yesenia Conchas Ponce and Javier Conchas Carrilo in the amount of \$15,000 repayable over 5 years at \$250 per month and application #8-Jose M. Santos Bautista in the amount of \$15,000 repayable over 5 years at \$250 per month. Taylor Rembowski seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. The border board would like to review updates on the housing loan recipients; Board Staff will reach out to Community in Action for updates on each project as they are completed.

### **Priority Setting**

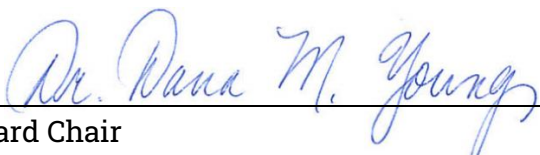
The board submitted responses to a Priorities Assessment survey that asked them to rank "future opportunities" for the border board. The list included: Broadband Access, Improve Local Trade Programs, Derelict Building Removals, Business Resource Center/Business Incubator, Homeless Strategy, Beautification, Leadership Development Programs, Conference Room Technology Upgrade Grants, Small Business Microloans, Retail Development, Internet Cleanup/Positive Marketing, Tax Differential, Marijuana Dollars & Mental Health Dollars Association, and Housing/Subdivision Development. Based on responses, Leadership Development Programs and Improving Local Trade Programs are the highest priority for future opportunities to the board. Lowest priority opportunities were Homeless Strategy and Conference Room Technology Upgrade Grants.

The board began discussion on improving local trade programs. Board Staff will speak with Adele Schaffeld of the Malheur County Building Department on ideas to further this concept. The board also discussed the infrastructure loan program and next steps to reframing this program. The board continued discussion on the Leadership Program and will move this concept forward by picking back up with work groups.

## Next Meeting / Agenda

Board Staff will send out a poll regarding upcoming board meeting dates. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, and legislative session priorities.

Meeting closed at 4:55pm.

Approved by:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date  
Dana Young, Board Chair  
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board