



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

October 7, 2024

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Andrew Maeda, Cheri Hung, Ron Haidle, Montessa Young, Nickie Shira

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

Guests Present: Derrick Knoll, Energy Trust of Oregon

Members Present Via Zoom: Taylor Rembowski

Guests Present Via Zoom: Melisa Drugge, Business Oregon; Dawn Hert, Department of Land Conservation and Development

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

Andrew Maeda acted as board chair in Chair Dana Young's absence. Andrew Maeda opened the meeting and board members and guests made introductions.

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the September 9th meeting minutes. Cheri Hung 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 October 3, 2024, the Border Board fund has a total of \$4,501,580.57. The board also reviewed Executive Director Shawna Peterson's financial report detailing expenses and disbursements for the month.

Executive Director Update

Executive Director Shawna Peterson submitted an executive summary and reported her activities since last month's meeting. Board Staff is currently working on details for the upcoming Housing Incentive Outreach Luncheon that will be discussed later in the agenda.

This round of grant applicants include 13 Scott Fairley Memorial Edge Grant applications, 1 Ready Workforce Mobilization Grant application, and 1 Community Planning Improvement Grant application; there will be a total of 15 applications for the board to review and score in the coming month. Peterson encouraged small work groups in advance of the November meeting to best prepare for application scoring discussion. The board also discussed guidelines for next month's

attendees/applicants and emphasized that applicants will be given a maximum of 3 minutes to speak during the Public Comment section of the agenda only.

This month, Peterson submitted the Economic Equity Investment Program application for the board's proposed Border Region Incentive for Growing Homeownership and Taxbase program. This cycle, Business Oregon received 88 applications, requesting \$35 million; they have \$8 million of funding to award. Awards for the grant are expected in the beginning of November.

Executive Director Peterson updated the board on the Oregon Legislative Session. The Owyhee Toll Road discussed at the last meeting has been pushed out and will be brought to legislation in future sessions.

Strategic Fund Grant Discussion

Executive Director Peterson brought to the attention of the board two Strategic Fund grants that need attention. The Treasure Valley Community College Foundation (TVCCF) was awarded \$1,000,000 million in November 2023 and the Ontario Recreation District (ORD) was awarded \$909,739.34 in May 2024; these funds have been disbursed but not spent. Forgone interest on the \$1,000,000 award to TVCCF equals approximately \$33,300 and forgone interest on the \$909,739.34 award to OCF equals approximately \$9,800. Peterson would like to discuss with the board their disbursement process for Strategic Fund grants, and collect feedback from the board regarding repayment to the board of the above awards until funds are needed by the recipients. Cheri Hung made a motion to initiate action by Board Staff to seek the return of all Strategic Fund awards that have not been expended for their intended purpose in more than 6 months of the award date. After discussion, Cheri Hung amended her motion to include all grant program awards. Nickie Shira seconded the motion as amended and all present board members voted in favor.

Board members discussed Strategic Fund grant awards and scoring of Strategic Fund applications. In an upcoming meeting, the board would like to review the handbook and elaborate on the Strategic Fund parameters. The board discussed additional funding rejection as a requirement for the Strategic Fund application. Montessa Young made a motion to add a section of the Strategic Fund application that requires applicants to detail funding sources that have been sought and turned down. Cheri Hung seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Housing Incentive Outreach Discussion

Board Staff has been coordinating the details for the Housing Incentive Outreach Luncheon. The event will be on October 30th at the Frosty Badger in Ontario and catered by Matsy's. Board Staff will be disbursing marketing for the event to local real estate agents, lenders, and contractors.

Incentive Programs Application Approvals

The board reviewed one Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) application and one Property Improvement Rebate Program (PIRP) application. Nickie Shira made a motion to approve CHIP application #64 in the amount of \$6,000. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve PIRP application #12 in the amount of \$16,597.20. Nickie Shira seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.

Loan Program Application Approvals

The board reviewed three Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program applications. Cheri Hung made a motion to approve application #14 in the amount of \$1,900 repaid at \$100 monthly for 19 months, application #15 in the amount of \$15,000 repaid at \$250 monthly for 5 years, and application #16 in the amount of \$13,729 repaid at \$250 monthly for 55 months conditioned upon confirmation of current property taxes. Montessa Young seconded the motion and all present board members voted in favor.


Leadership Program Discussion

Board Staff presented an updated on the Border Board Leadership Program concept. The proposed program will consist of 9 sessions spread out over 12 months to a cohort of 12-18 individuals. There will be a capstone project and potential grant component. The board discussed budget adjustments, timing of the sessions and timing of the capstone project. Next steps include refining the budget, creating the application form, gathering a candidates, speakers, and potential sponsors list.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next board meeting will be on November 4th, 2024. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, and application and scoring discussion.

Meeting closed at 4:41pm.

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