



Eastern Oregon Border Region Economic Development Board

February 3, 2025

Ontario, OR

Attendance

Members Present: Cheri Hung, Taylor Rembowski, Nickie Shira, Ron Haidle, Daniel Longoni, Montessa Young

Members Present Via Zoom: Melisa Drugge, Business Oregon

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

Guests Present: Derrick Noll, Energy Trust of Oregon; Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon

Guests Present Via Zoom: Steven Mitchell, Malheur Enterprise; Courtney Crowell, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek's Office

Welcome, Introductions, Minute Approval

Taylor Rembowski acted as Board Chair in Andrew Maeda's absence. Rembowski opened the meeting and board members and guests made introductions.

Ron Haidle made a motion to approve the January 6th meeting minutes. Nickie Shira 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 January 30, 2025, the Border Board fund has a total of \$6,217,342.92. The board also reviewed Executive Director Shawna Peterson's financial report detailing expenses and disbursements for the month.

New Board Member Introduction: Daniel Longoni

Daniel Longoni is the newest member of the Eastern Oregon Border Board. He introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his background and career in the Border Region.

Executive Director Update

Executive Director Peterson reported on her activities since last month's meeting and plans for the month ahead. She continues to monitor cycle 10 grant awards and will notify the board as conditions are met. The Housing Rezoning Review Board did not meet this month but is planning to review applications in March. Peterson has a meeting scheduled this month with Senator Mike McLane and Representative Mark Owens to provide an update on the border board. Peterson plans

to discuss the legislative session as well. She encouraged board members to subscribe to Senator McLane's and Representative Owens' email updates.

Housing Incentive Application Approvals

The board reviewed one Competitive Housing Incentive Program (CHIP) re-application. Ron Haidle made a motion to approve CHIP re-application #114 in the amount of \$1,500. Cheri Hung seconded that and all present board members voted in favor.

Loan Program Application Approvals

None.

Budget

Executive Director Peterson presented the multi-year budget for discussion. The board discussed investment returns and how best to project returns. Executive Director Peterson will work with the CFO at Oregon Community Foundation to get an accurate projection. The board also discussed adjusting the board initiated strategic fund budgeting to discretionary funds. Peterson will amend the multi-year budget and present it at the next meeting. Board Staff will compile trending patterns of applications for the current border board programs for the board to review as they discuss and revise the multi-year budget.

2025 Calendar

Board Staff prepared a 2025 calendar of important border board dates for board review. Executive Director Peterson encouraged the board to review the calendar and notify staff if they would like to make revisions and/or additions to the calendar. Board Staff will add the calendar to the border board website.

Programming Discussion

The board discussed current programming. Discussion included:

- **Loan Programs and the current lending partner.** The current activity in loan programs and the productivity of the current lending partners Craft3 and Community in Action.
- **Industrial Land Certification Loan Program.** The board discussed the possibility of partnering with Malheur County to identify and updating industrial lands inventory in the Border Region.
- **Incentivizing workforce in the Border Region.** The board discussed developing a training grant for apprenticeship students and incentivizing working within the Border Region following completion of apprenticeship. Board Staff will work on a draft model for this concept.
- **Beautification grants.** The board discussed piggy-backing on current façade and beautification grants offered through the City of Ontario and the City of Vale.
- **Leadership Program.** The board discussed the status of the leadership program. Executive Director Peterson will continue to work with Rural Development Initiative and obtain a new quote from them since revisions have been made to this concept.
- **Resource Center.** The board discussed the need for a resource center within the Border Region and how the board can collaborate with other entities to provide resources to community members.

Melisa Drugge encouraged the board to discuss the potential of sending a border board representative to an upcoming Mainstreet America annual conference. More information on this organization can be found on their website – mainstreet.org.

Next Meeting / Agenda

The next board meeting will be on March 3, 2025. Agenda items will include a Fiscal Report from Oregon Community Foundation, an executive director update, and review of the current Strategic Fund application.

Meeting closed at 4:30pm.

Approved by: /s/ *Andrew Maeda*

Andrew Maeda, Board Chair
Eastern Oregon Border Economic Development Board

03/03/25

Date