



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Weiser Vendome, Weiser, Idaho  
April 5, 2017 ~ 7 am

Members and guests present: Sandy Hemenway, Ken Bishop, Patrick Nauman, Randy Griffin, Bob Komoto, Charlotte Fugate, Adam Brown, John Breidenbach, Jeff Williams, Georgia Hanigan, Nate Marvin, Andrea Testi, Layna Hafer, Jeff Hafer, Steve Hale, Dana Young, Abby Lee, Kalyn Hochstrat, Elsa Freeman, Ryan Kerby, Diana Thomas, Laura Gross, and Carmen Runner.

Staff: Kit Kamo, Executive Director Absent, attending the IDEA conference.

1. Call the Meeting to Order: Chairman Patrick Nauman called the meeting to order at 7:13 a.m.
2. Next Chairman Nauman explained to the group that for SREDA to apply for the State Economic Development Rural Professional grant, we will now be required to go through a city. We are asking Fruitland to be our pass through. SREDA was told that even as a non-profit organization we can no longer apply on our own behalf as we have for many years. Patrick then passed a sheet around for anyone contributing money to SREDA to sign indicating their support.
3. Introductions of Attendees: Chairman Nauman then thanked everyone for coming to today's meeting as the turnout again this month was very good with multiple communities represented. Everyone found their way to Weiser. We then went around the room and everyone present introduced themselves and the business or entity they are representing.
4. Approval of March 1, 2017 Board Minutes: Chairman Nauman asked if everyone had a chance to read and review the March 1, 2017 board minutes that were sent out. Chairman Nauman asked if anyone had any questions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, Chairman Nauman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as printed and presented. Ken Bishop made a motion to approve the minutes as printed, seconded by Jeff Williams. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Financial Update: Treasurer Sandy Hemenway went over in detail the financial handouts for the month of March discussing balances at the end of the month in both the checking and money market accounts, and then totals for month end. She then reviewed the income received and expenses for the month commenting on certain ones as she presented the financial information. Sandy also reviewed for the group income received from renewed memberships in SREDA. After Sandy's review and explanations, Chairman Nauman asked if anyone had any questions on the financial report. Hearing none, Patrick then asked for a motion to approve the treasurer's report as discussed and presented. Dana Young made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as printed and presented, seconded by Layna Hafer. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Business/Community Update: No business update was given for this month.

7. City and Community Highlights:

- a. Fruitland: Mayor Ken Bishop said spring has sprung and building and development is going crazy. Fruitland has been busy reviewing plans and working with new businesses, new housing and onion shed rebuilds. They are continuing work on the Woodgrain annexation and on improving streets in the city looking at various ways to fund these needed upgrades.
- b. Payette: Mayor Jeff Williams said the City of Payette is also experiencing a lot of building activity and that plan and permit reviews are keeping city staff very busy. They are gearing up now for the budget process.
- c. Ontario: City Manager Adam Brown said they just attended an Oregon Transportation meeting and that Oregon plans to begin using salt on the highways this fall. This will be the first time Oregon has done this. Adam then said the City has applied for a grant to install a new splash pad in Lions Park. The City currently has some available matching dollars for this project. Manager Brown then said the city has hosted three separate forums on the possible city sales tax with over 130 people attending. Adam said they have been doing a lot of listening. The next step may be to hire a consultant to complete a market survey on the issue. They will be presenting this proposal again at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce this coming Monday, April 10, 2017. Please attend if you can. Lastly, they are in the budget process too.
- d. Nyssa: No one was present from the City of Nyssa so no report was given. However, it was reported that Nyssa has a new city manager, Jim Maret.
- e. Weiser: Council member Layna Hafer said the City has been doing a lot of cleanup after winter events. Layna also said the city is going to raise the price of garbage pickup but has voted to delay this price increase to give residents a chance to recover from the winter devastation. They are now dealing with a metal container issue. Weiser will very soon have a new full service restaurant called the Anglers. They will provide breakfast, lunch, dinner and full service catering. Weiser is also experiencing some new business growth and the Weiser Memorial Hospital is working on some needed renovations and upgrades beginning with nurses' stations.

Mayor Diane Thomas said after the severe winter the city is working on fixing pot holes in the various roadways which have been a problem. She also said the Ridley's grocery store is now moving ahead with a store renovation after their store collapsed and will not have to tear down the entire old building. This should speed things up and they hope to reopen this fall in the previous location after renovations are complete. Mayor Thomas then let the group know that fuel can now be purchased at the airport from a private vendor who also manages the airport. Lastly, the city has begun planning work for a street renovation on West 9th Street beginning in 2018-2019. This will include replacing a bridge and installing new sidewalks to be more user friendly.

- f. New Plymouth: No one was present from the City of New Plymouth so no report was given.
- g. Vale: No one was present from the City of Vale so no report was given.
- h. Midvale: Representatives from the City of Midvale said they just recently completed a fundraising project to improve the city park and raised over \$20,000 which was fantastic. Once completed this project will also include public restrooms and they hope at that time more people will then stop in Midvale. A trail head is also located there so they will have highway 95, the trailhead and the renovated city park. They also reported they have been working with a company called Boot Strap Solutions on economic development issues and things have been going very well.

#### Community Highlights:

- a. Fruitland: Mayor Ken Bishop said he is really pleased with how the new chamber of commerce is taking off and that Kimberly Burgess is doing a great job. The chamber is now taking over various community events which includes the upcoming eclipse. Lastly, Ken said they will be hosting a Farmers and Merchants event on June 3rd.
- b. Payette: Payette will be publishing a local food directory listing area food processors representing the three county region, Washington, Payette and Malheur. The deadline for submitting information is April 15, 2017. If you have information for the publication please get it in soon.
- c. Ontario: John Breidenbach, Executive Director for the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, said the recent ONTCCY chamber fundraising event went very well with well over 225 folks attending. Next they are getting ready for the Global Village Event on June 3, 2017 in Lions Park and working on the Eclipse too. John said the Chamber's website is up and running, is working very well, so if you have any community events, please post them as this site is receiving a lot of hits.
- d. Weiser: Council women Hafer said the annual crab feed fundraiser just completed and was again very successful. This Friday night is the NRA event and this weekend they will be holding a breakfast to honor the volunteers in the Fire Department.

Patrick said he is pleased that all of the local communities are working together on the Eclipse event. He is concerned about traffic as Weiser estimates around 50,000 coming to town at that time.

#### 8. County Highlights:

- a. Payette County: County Commissioner Georgia Hanigan said that various rebuilding is taking place throughout the county and the County is in their budget process too.

b. Washington County: Nate said the county has now completed an MOU with Sun Spuds and they are applying for a community development block grant which they hope will help with power line, road and infrastructure installation. Regarding project Adam, the property has now closed. He also informed the group that the county is working on starting a county wide recycling program.

c. Malheur County: No report was given for Malheur County as no one was present. However, John Breidenbach did remind everyone that the Chamber will be hosting an elections candidate's forum at Treasure Valley Community College on April 26th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

9. Executive Director Report: Chairman Nauman said that Kit was out of town this month attending the IEDA conference in Fort Hall. Patrick then told the group that Kit is an excellent ambassador for our region, is highly thought of, and was asked to speak on a panel at the conference as well. He then commented on Project Tractor, an RV resort that will be up and running this summer or fall. Kit's executive report is as follows:

We had a couple of official Wins (closing on properties) this month. One was Project Tractor. This is the project that is purchasing the old Sale Yard in Weiser. The new owner is relocating from California and plans on a very nice RV Park, walking paths, picnic areas and access to the Snake River. This will help to further beautify Weiser's charming downtown area. The 2<sup>nd</sup> one is Project Adam. Project Adam was initially started back in August of 2012 by Laurel Adams. It involved one company and their friend from Northern California (the friend has since also moved his business to Washington County). This project is successful due to a lot of hard work and timely follow up. At one point the project was seriously looking at Eastern Idaho. We are thrilled that they have chosen the old Sunny Side Feedlot in the Washington County Industrial Park. Project Adam is a well-established manufacturing company that makes air filtration systems and professional paint booths. A 3<sup>rd</sup> project, Project Neighbor, continues to move forward with their value-added agriculture project. They are actively working with the state agencies on permitting and developing another piece of property within the Washington County Industrial Park.

Other projects worked on this month include:

Project Hereford – New Plymouth; this project is a retention and expansion type project. SREDA assisted with potential site availability, worked with state and local partners, etc. The project has made it through P & Z, county water & sewer requirements, highway access requirements and is moving forward! Last month this amazing locally grown company was interviewed by INC Magazine, New York for outstanding rural entrepreneurs. SREDA is also quoted here: <http://www.inc.com/leigh-buchanan/why-country-girls-everywhere-cant-get-enough-of-this-sassy-idaho-shop.html>

Project Airport, Ontario – met with Business Oregon and Ontario to discuss potential expansion projects and infrastructure needs. The potential is a couple of new businesses that are looking at the potential of city services in order to expand and locate.

Project Jim – Start up business and was referred onto SBDC.

Project Jackson's & Project McDonald's – Ontario. Expansion and improvement projects. Jackson's is a major project at approx. \$2 million.

Project Dave – Older project that has come back to life in Payette County. Looking at a potential site visit with folks from Washington.

Project Aww – Update by Patrick – Company is still looking at either Payette or Weiser, but currently is tied up with consulting on another facility in Texas.

Project Babe – Oregon project that is wanting to work with Malheur County on becoming a PACE (property access clean energy) county.

Project Pumpkin – Met with a small company at the Natural Products show who is looking to purchase 100-200 lbs/yr of seed for their snack products. Kit will connect them to our growers. Kit also has been working with a Midwestern pumpkin grower who is going to try a harvester out of Turkey. They are wanting to harvest pumpkin seed for dog food. Kit has connected them with the Purdums.

Project Chipotle – was looking strongly at Canyon County, but due to the unfriendly P & Z Commission, they are looking at other sites in Fruitland and Nyssa as well. This company would take sorghum grown locally and process it into natural food containers. The project has joined with 2 other companies that are involved with biodiesel and other energy production processes.

Projects met with at Natural Products Expo (NPE) include: Project Dirty Diaper, Project Sun Burn and Project Pretty. Team Oregon was given a number of business appointments while at the trade show. Kit signed up for 3 and had the opportunity to visit with the companies about doing business in Oregon.

During March, Kit and Jenny Hemly toured Teton Machine in Payette. Ground has been broken for the new facility which will be double in size and should be done by late summer. Kit also toured another Idaho-grown company near Boise. Rekluse, maker of motorcycle clutches, has grown into a great company that manufactures their own parts and tools to make those parts. Their company, like Teton, uses robotics. Also, like Teton, they are looking for those employees who have automated type skills. Skilled labor for many companies that utilize robotics is in hot demand! And the pay is excellent. Rekluse is also a dog friendly work place for those that want to take their best friend to work with them!

10. Senator Abby Lee and House Representative Ryan Kirby: Patrick asked these two esteemed statesmen to give us an update on District 9 and the recently concluded legislative session. Senator Lee began by discussing the town halls that will be starting in all local communities which will provide a great update of the recently concluded session. Abby then discussed the Idaho grocery tax bill and stated this is a big deal for all Idaho families. This is simply good public policy that will benefit the entire region. Governor Otter now has the bill on his desk for signature. Next she explained that Canyon County just declared an emergency because of flooding and then said the recently passed transportation bill of \$50 million dollars was also a big

deal and that all District 9 representatives voted in favor of the bill. Lastly, Abby informed the group stating various onion producers have looked to leave Oregon and rebuild in Idaho, but these businesses will be denied tax incentives due to unnecessary competition. Idaho wants to be fair to the existing onion packers and shippers.

House Representative Kirby then discussed further the recently passed transportation bill and how important this was. Representative Kirby said he has heard from a lot of local constituents with some excellent feedback. Ryan was happy with the 60/40 split as the 40% will now go back to the counties to help with road upgrades. Next he discussed the lowering of the threshold for incentives for small businesses which was \$3 million and now will be \$500,000 investment. This makes it much easier for small businesses to qualify and these dollars can be used for either personal or real property improvements. Ryan indicated they received letters of support from all four counties on this issue which really helped a lot. He is also hoping through the transportation bill that highway 95 between Payette and Weiser will get improved. He is hoping the work will begin this summer.

Both Senator Lee and Representative Kirby indicated they have a great job and that the local constituents have been helpful and wonderful to work with. It is very fast and easy for either of them to get immediate feedback which also works either way. They then thanked all of the Mayors, Commissioners, Councilman, etc. for their help and efforts. Together, we all make Idaho great!

11. Round Table Discussion: Charlotte Fugate told the group that Revitalize Ontario will be having its Chocolate Walk fundraiser on May 6th from 4-7 p.m. and that they have applied for a grant. Love Inc. will also be hosting the battle of the bands event.

TVCC President Dana Young then updated everyone on upcoming events at Treasure Valley Community College. The College hopes to have a fixed wing aviation training program up and running this fall at the Ontario Airport. They are also working with both St. Alphonsus and St. Luke's Hospitals on a medical assistant program which is much needed in the local communities. Also, they are working to expand the industrial maintenance and industrial controls programs working with companies like Simplot, Dairy Gold, Heinz ORE-IDA, and Woodgrain Molding.

The College is also working on some post-harvest agriculture classes which would allow agriculture workers to register late fall term and then complete classes in a shorter amount of time. Currently, often agricultural workers do not register for fall quarter because many of them are working the harvest season. President Young addressed House Bill 2012 which is the Eastern Oregon Development bill which would allocate \$10 million for eastern Oregon. Next the President said she again will be in Salem testifying on the community college budget bill and that Oregon Community Colleges are asking for an increase of the currently allocated \$550 million to \$634 million to help with needed career and technical training issues statewide. The President will also be testifying on the capital construction bill for a new TVCC Allied Health and Nursing building which was just dropped off the list. Lastly, the President discussed a potential new framing class to start in Ontario. This class is in operation in Caldwell.

Mayor Jeff Williams invited everyone to Killebrew days in Payette which starts on Thursday and runs through Sunday. It is a fun event with a lot of activities.

12. Adjournment: Chairman Patrick Nauman then asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 a.m. Mayor Jeff Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Mayor Ken Bishop. The motion passed unanimously.

Patrick then stated our next meeting will be held on May 3, 2017 at Lifeways in Ontario beginning at 7:00 a.m.

#### Calendar of Events

April 4-6, 2017	IEDA Meeting, Pocatello, ID
April 5, 2017	SREDA Monthly Meeting – Weiser Vendome, Weiser, ID
April 13, 2017	Business Essential Summit – Elevate your business sponsored by U o I, Zions Bank and Hawley Troxell, Boise, ID
April 24-25, 2017	Malheur County Budget Hearings
May 3, 2017	SREDA Monthly Meeting – Lifeways, Ontario, OR – 7a.m.
May 9, 2017	Idaho Rural Professional Grant Application Due
May 23-25, 2017	Pacific NW Regional Economic Conference, Bend, OR

\*\* All SREDA Monthly Meetings are open to the public\*\*

Minutes prepared by Randy Griffin, SREDA Secretary