



**SREDA Board Meeting  
September 1, 2020  
FMTC Conference Center, Fruitland, Idaho**

Directors, Members & Guests present: Sandy Hemenway, Ken Bishop, Patrick Nauman, Dan Cummings, Jennifer Huff, Dan Greig, Larry Hogg, Andy Oyervides, Jeff Williams, Dina Ellwanger, Tim Heinze, Krista King, Georgia Hanigan, Lisa Collini, Alicia Cavazos, Norma Ramirez, Andy Creech, Laura Gross, and Andrea Testi.

Directors, Members & Guests via Zoom: Adam Brown, Mike Kee, Bob Komoto, Allison Field, Brad Moore, Ed Susman, Dave Kohler, and Cathy Yasuda.

Staff: Kit Kamo, Executive Director

1. Chairman Patrick Nauman called the meeting to order at 7:01 a.m. Patrick welcomed everyone to the Tuesday morning meeting.
2. Introductions of Attendees: Chairman Nauman asked everyone present to introduce themselves and the business or entity they were representing. Chairman Nauman started with the members joining the meeting by Zoom and then proceeded with the in-person attendees. This month's meeting was held at the FMTC Conference Center in Fruitland, Idaho. Chairman Nauman thanked FMTC for providing the room and the delicious Rodriguez Bakery Empanadas (made right here in Fruitland Idaho). He also thanked Payette County Sheriff Lieutenant Andy Creech for providing access to Zoom for those who couldn't make the meeting.
3. Approval of the June 2nd Board Minutes: Chairman Nauman asked if anyone had any additions or corrections to the minutes as emailed out. Hearing none, Chairman Nauman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Larry Hogg made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Dan Cummings. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Chairman Nauman then asked for the Financial Report which was presented by Sandy Hemenway. Sandy referred to the Snap Shot in the board packet for the months of June, July and August. She reported that renewing private members during that time were: Nichols Accounting (annual), Red Apple Market Place, and Weiser Classic Candy. New private member was Treasure Valley Classical Academy. Public local members renewing were Washington County, City of Payette, City of Weiser, City of New Plymouth and City of Ontario. Sandy also reported that SREDA has received the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the State Grant funds for the Rural Economic Development Professional program. However, we have not yet received the Visitor Center funds for managing the state center.  
It was noted by Andy Oyervides that the payroll expenses were a little higher than usual for August and Kit explained that the amount included Oregon quarterly payments, annual workman's comp payment, and annual life insurance payment. Jeff Williams made a motion to approve with a second by Lisa Collini. Motion Carried.
5. City and Community reports:



Fruitland: The Biz Zone owner Ken Bishop gave a Fruitland Community report stating that things continue to be quite brisk with residential building permits being issued at a furious rate. He noted that in conversation with the developer of Zellers Crossing that phase one was filled and every lot in phase two was sold in 35 days. They are continuing to move on to phase three and four. Bishop also said that there are several commercial projects coming through the pipeline and that it will be interesting to see what happens along Highway 95 with a couple of developments going on there.

Ontario: City Manager Adam Brown indicated that the downtown beautification project is progressing well, with the paving and the bulb outs complete, more beautification is planned. The city submitted a grant request for the National Endowment for the Arts. It is called The Our Town grant, and they plan on using that to launch a public art program, and to help with their Wayfinding signs. The plans include implementing the new signage over the coming year or two. The City is also working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for co-location of their Helitack and fixed wing operations at the Ontario Airport. The BLM is investing two and a half million dollars into the new airbase. Brown also noted that the city has a river trail now and they are still working on ramps and docks, but if you are experienced with a kayak or canoe, you can access the river from Malheur drive and get off at the Idaho Power transfer station.

City Development Director Dan Cummings stated that they have several projects moving forward. One is a transportation study on East Idaho Avenue to try and handle the traffic, as well as working with a plan to beautify East Idaho Avenue. The plan calls for offsetting the sidewalks away from the traffic pattern by routing them through the swale and having them meander through a landscaped path. The path will also tie into the new river trail and have viewpoint and wayfinding signs telling you about the community. Several other sidewalk improvements are in the works that they hope to work on into next year. Cummings stated that they have a new eye clinic and a new tire facility, and those new starts are what spurred the East Side development. Ontario has seen 17 new homes built in the last year and a half which is great news for the city. Dan has been working with Kit on putting together project proposals to the State for recruiting companies to the area.

Payette: Mayor Jeff Williams indicated that he has been working with Carl Mellon, Boise State University, on the community impact program on for distance learning in three specific Idaho communities. Classes in Payette revolve around entrepreneur leadership courses, with classes to start this fall term. The City of Payette has a new development going on north of The Cottages. Phase one is built and phase two is starting, with a planned sewer lift station which will benefit the development and possibly other nearby areas. There is also a large development going in by the Dutch Brothers area. Williams also noted that even though water and sewer rates in Payette have been historically low, they will probably have to be bumped up soon. Plans are also in place to pave a section of the Payette River Trail. The City is working with Seneca on an expansion project.

Payette Councilman Mike Kee talked about the ongoing discussions regarding opening of the swimming pool. The pool has been closed due to Covid, but the City has budgeted to fully fund the pool operations in the upcoming budget. They are hopeful to get it opened.



Weiser: Councilman Larry Hogg stated that the city has made some major adjustments in reducing the cost for water and sewer hookups to spur development. The city's budget passed and it includes a new garbage truck. They are also taking a very preliminary look at the possibility of combining the City and Rural Fire Departments. The city is looking at a stronger enforcement of weed and debris ordinances to keep the city cleaned up.

No reports presented for the cities of Vale, Nyssa, or New Plymouth.

6. County Reports:

Payette County: County Commissioner Georgia Hanigan stated that Payette County really appreciates all the development that is going on in Payette, Fruitland, and New Plymouth. She mentioned that Wild West Seed just south of Fruitland is preparing to break ground. Payette County will have a budget hearing September 8 at 1:15 in the afternoon. Although she did not have the numbers in front of her, she noted that the budget this year is significantly lower than last year, so the leverage should be going down.

Washington County: County Commissioner Lisa Collini stated that they have approved their budget. They are working on some planning and zoning code changes to help with property and home building.

7. Executive Director Kit Kamo report:

Kit presented her written report (please see attached). In addition to the report, she discussed the BSU Leadership/Entrepreneur course in Payette and that there were potentially six people interested from Cambridge, Weiser, Fruitland and Payette in the course. She asked the board about the budgeted education line item and if the board would be willing to assist the partners of SREDA with the training costs. The board was in favor and the Executive Board will further examine the dollars and decide on the amount. SREDA has also asked Idaho Power to use the training grant awarded to SREDA for this program as well as it would be a 50-50 match.

Kit also reported on the Visitor Center progress. The center has been staffed since the Memorial Day weekend, but at limited hours due to the center's doors closing early by the cleaning personnel. SREDA should have a contract shortly.

Kit talked about the 10 year anniversary of SREDA and discussion centered on combining that celebration with our annual meeting. Locations were discussed and Kit will follow up on this.

Kit asked the board and members to adjourn to executive session. Chairman Nauman adjourned the meeting at 7:38 am and re-opened the meeting at 7:47 am.

8. Agency Reports

Allison Field, Business Oregon Regional Development Officer, updated the group about the availability of \$10 million dollars of Personal Protective Equipment that the state is trying to get it out to the communities. She also stated that round four funding should be coming out soon for the economic development districts. Kit asked to clarify if that would be grant money or loans and Allison said that it was grant money. She mentioned that Oregon will have a virtual trade mission to South America October 19 through 23 and registration is now open to attend.



Allison also stated that the Oregon Tax Incentives webinar with Art Fish that will be held September 10, from 10:30 am to noon mountain time.

Adam Brown stated that the City of Ontario has taken advantage of several loan and grant programs from Business Oregon to help local businesses.

Brad Moore, with Energy Trust of Oregon, spoke on programs that Energy Trust has available for Cascade Natural Gas customers, noting that they can pay incentives to customers that reduce their use of natural gas. Examples of this might be installing infrared radiant heaters or installing pipe insulation on hot water pipes. Energy Trust is offering bonus incentives through 2020.

#### 9. Round Table Discussion:

Laura Gross reported that there is no farmers markets in Payette this year due to Covid. She gave information on a social walking group that she has started with current routes in Payette but has also expanded out to other areas. The program is called Walk and Talk Payette. They meet two Saturdays a month and it is open to anyone. Next Walk and Talk will be in New Plymouth on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Krista King, Executive Director for the Fruitland Chamber, said that due to Covid they had to cancel the annual Chamber dinner/fund raiser, and the Fruitland Family fun days, but they plan on launching a business booster raffle in which they will be giving away a sustaining member package and a professional/commercial **package** and other incentives as well. The overall value of the packages is expected to be about \$3000. More information will be presented at the next chamber meeting, which will be next week at Heart and Home. The chamber plans on promoting "Christmas on Main Street" again this year. Krista mentioned the opening of the new **car** wash on Highway 95 and the fact that it is staffed by several BSU football players. The ribbon cutting will probably be sometime in September. Country Flower Kettle will also be having a grand opening sometime in September. They are offering cinnamon rolls and pies as well as flowers.

Chairman Nauman noted that the Prescription Pad along with Sweet Willy's **Ice Cream** Shop will be holding a grand opening on September 17th from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. This will be a scaled down ribbon cutting and customer appreciation. This will also be a "Business after Hours" event. There will be giveaways and promotional items. Then on the 18th they will have an all-day customer appreciation with promotional events going on. The location is 1620 North Whitley.

Nauman also mentioned Aces Arrow, a new western wear boutique shop opening in Weiser, will be having a grand opening on September 12 from 6 pm to 10 pm, with live music and food and all kinds of things happening.

Jennifer Huff, Weiser Chamber, mentioned that more events will be happening at the Vendome in Weiser such as the Rocky Mountain Elk banquet and the Weiser hospital is also planning their Festival of Trees at the Vendome. Jennifer reported that State Street Produce will



be open Wednesdays through Sundays and that the Thursday Farmer's market will continue until mid-September. It is from 5 pm to 7:30 pm.

Cathy Yasuda with TVCC stated that fall quarter will be starting September 28 and that they will be going live in person. Classes will be smaller, with social distancing and safety of both students and staff in mind. The construction of the new Career and Technical Center is ahead of schedule, with completion planned on happening in the next couple of months.

Dina Ellwanger, the new President of St. Alphonsus Ontario, gave an update on their operations, saying that they are continuing to grow and hire new doctors, such as another orthopedic surgeon and an ophthalmologist. The Ontario facility is slowly building up their number of surgeries this year after the slow down due to Covid.

Tim Heinze with Valley Family Health Care stated that they have tested about 2,000 people now with very low positive results. They are primarily using **Interpath** Labs for their testing. They are working on a Telehealth plan but are running into an issue of the lack of internet for several of their patients. They are also somewhat limited by the number of available kits for testing.

Bob Komoto reported that the Four Rivers Cultural Center is open for visitors **to the Museum and Japanese Garden**. Most of the usual events have been cancelled due to Covid, but the **Cultural Center** is open thanks to grant funding. They had a flatbed **truck DJ** going around to various parts of Ontario and performing for the neighborhoods. Bob also stated that the annual Kiwanis chicken feed fund raiser is cancelled. The Kiwanis are getting some donations that will help fund some of their programs.

Norma Ramirez, from Euvalcree, reported that they received a grant to assist with Covid contact tracing for all of Eastern Oregon. They need to hire 10 people to work on this project. They are primarily looking **at** college age people but anyone can apply. Euvalcree is also assisting people who are quarantined from Covid, or possible exposure. **Those people can apply in-applying** for the \$1,300 available to help them meet their financial obligations.

Chairman Patrick Nauman spoke briefly about the upcoming annual meeting, stating that it would normally be next month and that he and Kit will be working on planning for that. He noted that we may be somewhat limited due to available facilities this year, but they will work on that and get back to us. A question was asked on plans for the 10-year anniversary, and Nauman said that they would work on a plan to honor those who were instrumental in getting SREDA started.

Mayor Jeff Williams asked Commissioner Hanigan about the demolition of one of the National Guard Armory buildings. Commissioner Hanigan said that it was an old, unsafe building **out-back** that they had torn down.

The meeting was then adjourned at 08:27 AM



Minutes prepared by Dan Greig, Co-Secretary