



**SREDA Board Meeting
June 2, 2020**

Weiser Memorial Hospital Administration Building, Weiser, Idaho

Directors, Members & Guests present: Sandy Hemenway, Ken Bishop, Adam Brown, Patrick Nauman, Dan Cummings, Jennifer Huff, Dan Greig, Larry Hogg, Andy Oyervides, Ken Bishop, Layna Hafer, Steven Hale, Lisa Collini, Randy Hibbard, Wade Wilson, Rick Estes, Tony Judson, Sandra McKee, Alicia Cavazos, and Terri Fritts.

Staff: Kit Kamo, Executive Director

1. Chairman Patrick Nauman called the meeting to order at 7:12 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. This month's meeting was held at Weiser Memorial Hospital Administration Building in Weiser, Idaho. This was formerly the King's building, and then a temporary site for Ridley's.

3. Approval of the March 3rd Board Minutes: Chairman Nauman asked if anyone had any questions or corrections to the minutes as emailed out. Hearing none, Chairman Nauman asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Ken Bishop 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 went over the balances on the latest balance sheet discussing balances in both the checking and money market accounts. The ending balance in the checking account as of May 31 was \$21,437.26. Money market is \$35,649.99 for a total in accounts of \$57,087.25. March income from private was \$10,150, April was \$500.00, and May was 100.00. Public income in May was \$14,200.00. May private was Red Apple, public was City of Fruitland and Payette County. April for private was Lifeways. March for private was Idaho Power, First Interstate Bank, DL Evans Bank, Cascade Natural Gas, Kohn Foods (Subway), Columbia Bank, St. Luke's, and Red Apple. Other than the ongoing payroll expenses, the expenses for March were \$67.94 and April was \$10.00. Kit Kamo reported that she is not expecting the \$25,000 amount in July from the I84 Visitor Center because it is closed until they get the Sewer system fixed. She stated that we were hoping that they could just pump the two 12,000-gallon tanks weekly so it could open for the summer, but that option may not have been looked at by the Idaho Dept of Transportation. The last we heard was of a solution they were working on with the City of Fruitland to connect to the Fruitland City sewer system. Due to this reduction in income Kit is reducing planned amounts down to get to a balanced budget. Kit has also applied for a State grant and has asked for a little more money. She normally asks for \$20,000 (\$10K per county per year) from the Idaho Dept. of Commerce Rural Economic Development Professional grant program, but has raised that request to a total of \$28,000 to cover some of the changes we have had this year. Kit then



asked Jenny to check when she gets back to her office if any decisions have been made regarding the visitor center.

Chairman Nauman then asked if anyone had any questions on the financial report. Hearing none, a motion to approve was made by Ken Bishop and seconded by Andy Oyervides. The motion passed unanimously.

5. City and Community reports:

Ken Bishop reported for the Community and said that the Fruitland Chamber will be holding a luncheon in the park June 17, and there will be free opportunities to have a table to promote your business. If you want to bring some information, or have something to engage folks with, you may bring that and have it available on the table. Bishop also mentioned that both the 7th street and 9th street extensions have been paved and are nearing completion. Many building permits are being issued in various subdivisions and business areas. Steve's Hometown Auto dealership is now open for business in Fruitland and the new car wash is also nearing completion.

City of Payette: No report.

City of Ontario: Manager Adam Brown reported to the group, stating that Ontario rolled out the micro loan program through their business loan revolving fund, and because this program was in place the city was able to apply for a state matching funds grant, and they were notified Friday that the state approved that grant for \$65,000 in matching funds. Now the local businesses can apply for the local city loan, and then they can either pay off the loan immediately or pay it over 24 months after a six month grace period, and keep the matching funds. Brown praised his staff and the city council for developing the micro-loan program resulting in the city being able to also get the grant funds. This money should be available for many of the small businesses in Ontario who were unable to get PPP funding or the EIDL funding and who have less than 25 employees and had to close or experienced a 50% drop in revenue.

Brown also stated that the city will probably have a utility bill forgiveness program for probably three months of utility bills for those businesses that had to close or had a 50% reduction in revenue. The city meets weekly with Malheur County and SBDC groups with the primary purpose of having face to face contact with local businesses to try and hear what their needs are. They also participate in weekly calls with the Governor's office regional solutions team and the Eastern Oregon Recovery Team to vet a lot of the sector specific plans and guidelines that are coming out of each recovery phase. Last week phase two plans were added, and the final phase is planned for this week. The city was able to have some input to the guidance coming out for those phases. The Governor is expected to loosen up some of the guidelines that were set with phase one and the preliminary guidelines set for phase two. They are expecting and expanding gathering size, and the restaurants will be able to stay open a couple of hours later. Brown stated that he believes that the expanded gathering size will be 75 people with social distancing guidelines in place.

Brown indicated that the city still has housing applications coming in for the housing incentive program. Brown also noted that the city has finished their first trail in Ontario, and that construction was continuing on downtown streets and that the city should have a very nice looking downtown in the next three to four weeks. The fiber optic build out to the airport area is



progressing well and plans are to be able to provide high speed connections to businesses in the airport area within the next month.

Dan Cummings then stated that there are now five marijuana stores open in Ontario and three more under construction, making a possible eight this year depending on the state's ability to license them. Cummings also stated that someone is in the process of repurposing the old Twin Theater. Plans are to have a coffee shop in the front portion, and then the main theater area is going to be a convention type center that can be leased. The north side of the building is planned for a laundromat. Plans are to keep the old look of the building.

City of Weiser: City Councilman Larry Hogg said that the long-awaited west ninth street project is now progressing and that the swimming pool is now open (as long as you limit it to 50 people at a time). The city has started their budget process for the year. The city is expecting some drop in revenue from sales taxes. Hogg noted that the city council met and revised the water and sewer hookup connection fees. Some of them are lowered as much as 50% to get more building started. The city will not be having a Fiddle Contest this year, but they are going to have a Celebrate Idaho Parade on June 27, show up around 10 and parade starts at NOON – no pre entry required or any cost. Come and promote your business or organization!

Weiser Chamber Jennifer Huff, reported that they are hoping that the annual crab feed will be happening on June 20. That event is the biggest fundraiser for the community. Also, the Weiser River Music Festival is planned for June 26 and 27. A fireworks celebration is still planned for the fourth of July. There is some construction going on in the downtown area, remodeling the Oddfellows along with updating several other buildings in the area for businesses downstairs and apartments upstairs.

City of Cambridge: Sandra McKee reported that the city did not receive any of the grants that they had applied for. Most businesses in the Cambridge area still continued on during the Covid-19 pandemic as social distancing is often the norm for them.

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

6. County:

Washington County Commissioner Lisa Collini indicated that they are still in the appointment only access mode in the county offices, but they will be reviewing that policy on Monday.

Payette and Malheur County: No report.

7. Executive Director Kit Kamo report:

Kit started off her report by thanking Weiser Memorial Hospital for fixing up the building we were meeting in and for the provided food and refreshments. Kit reviewed the written notes provided in the board packets: Executive Director Report 6/1/2020 includes March, April, and May 2020. According to a recent National Survey on Economic Development and Covid-19, Over 80% of economic developers indicated that business attraction projects had been cancelled or put on hold or they have no projects at all. I'm happy to say that SREDA is NOT in this group. Things are still cruising forward. Of course, a large part of our focus is assisting the existing businesses stay in business during governmental shutdowns. We have been partnering with the local chambers of commerce, the cities, counties, SBDC, Idaho Dept. of Commerce and the businesses themselves.



We were able to assist in developing a shared Google Document for each county that recorded the businesses that we or other team members had visited with. This document showed if the businesses were closed, if they filed for the federal programs and if they were successful and what their reopening plans are, etc. After Snowmageddon, we learned that it was struggle to find the status of our business communities and this is very important when we are in a state of emergency.

SREDA has been working behind the scenes sharing updated Covid-19 information with the local chambers, SBDC and cities – these folks have done a great job disseminating the information on out to their businesses. SREDA has actively been meeting with various Covid-19 local taskforce groups and assisting where we can.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, SREDA’s regular activities are as follows:

Project Adam – visited about potential new industrial lot developments in the Sunny Side Industrial Park, Weiser. Talked about workforce and start up.

Project Tractor – assisted the County & City with a GEM grant application for this project. The grant was approved. Working with the client and the city with the project moving forward.

Project Rest Area – worked with the City of Fruitland, Idaho Tourism, Idaho DEQ, and local landowners near the rest area and legislators on the closure of the I-84 Idaho Rest Area and Visitor Center. This is a high priority project for our local region! Latest update from the City of Fruitland is that they are working with ITD and their engineers on a feasibility study of running sewer & water to the facility.

Project Champ – new manufacturing project submitted 2 sites for the City of Ontario.

Project Red Rock – assisted in locating an existing empty building; assisted in looking at upgrades with the City for storm drain and working with Idaho Power on power upgrades; assisted in gathering info for TVCC SBDC’s grant application to the Eastern Oregon Border Board; and writing a letter of support for the grant application. Thrilled to say that this project was awarded \$25k!

Project PTR – new project looking at developing on the Idaho side – very early stages.
Project Idaho Power – working with Idaho Power on promoting industrial sites in our region.

Project Rearin’ To Go – Local company looking at large expansion – early stages.

Other business updates – Rodriguez Bakery has expanded with more new equipment and also had to expand operational hours, hiring more people. Things are hopping in their world!

Sweet Willy’s - the new ‘old fashioned’ soda fountain/candy shop inside The Prescription Pad is open and what a fabulous set up! Adding new things daily! And 6 new jobs!



Project Spice it up – small food processor looking at different products. Has obtained some equipment and has a certified kitchen.

Project Food – assisted a local company with getting employees' information so that they were able to return to work.

Project Freeway – assisted local land owners with getting their property added to the state's free website for available industrial property.

Project Manager – local company is looking for manager intern candidates. This is an awesome opportunity for a person who wants on the job training and great career with a local manufacturing company. Have connected their folks with TVCC.

During the past 2.5 months a large number of business retention visits have been made – this data has been recorded on our google.docs. For Malheur County that number is over 100 businesses thanks to a great team of local folks!

I attended the Idaho Housing and Economic Development Conference in Boise. Great conference and excellent turnout right before the “stay at home” order. Spent the first part of March cancelling the trade shows, trainings and trips for the next 6 months! Fortunately all expenses were refunded and the Airlines gave travel credits.

I was asked to be on the Oregon Economic Development Association's Covid-19 Crisis panel for online training as a rural economic developer. Interesting to hear other issues from around the state! I have sat through numerous online trainings and meetings, as you all probably have.

Letters of support submitted for: the Lost Valley Reservoir, Project Red Rock grant application for EO Border Board, Lemhi/PNW Sportsmen show 2021 with the Idaho Tourism, and TVCC grant for online learning grant with USDA Rural Development.

Teleconferences, zoom and go to meeting conferences with: Oregon Dept of Ag International Division; City of Ontario, Chamber & SBDC (Restart the Local Economy); Malheur County Covid-19 Business Taskforce (numerous meetings); Idaho Department of Commerce Rural Professional meetings and trainings (numerous meetings); Governor's updates and Idaho Tourism Covid-19 conferences.

8. Business update:

Chairman Nauman then turned the floor over to Mr. Hale from Weiser Memorial Hospital. Mr. Hale gave a brief history of the building we were meeting in, noting that shortly after the hospital acquired the building the snowpocalypse hit and collapsed the nearby Riddleys grocery store, causing the need for a temporary structure to house the store. The hospital was asked if their building could be used and they agreed to let it be used as a temporary store for Riddleys. After three years it was turned back over to the hospital the remodeling resumed and it is now the hospital administration building. Hale stated that they recently hired a new Chief



Nursing Officer, Ginger Watco. The hospital is anxiously waiting to hear the election results to see if the hospital bond passed for some remodeling and construction work at the hospital to construct a new ER facility and imaging center and remodel some of the existing are for other purposes.

9. Round Table Discussion:

Wade Wilson, Weiser School District Superintendent, stated that they are actively working on whatever plans will be necessary to have school in the fall, whether it be in an actual classroom setting or done remotely.

Jenny Hemly from the Idaho State Commerce Department stated that the state now has a broadband office which will be led by Eric Forsch. Eric will be working with communities statewide to assess their broadband issues. The commerce has been hosting virtual industry roundtables and have learned through these roundtables that for the most part everybody is doing well. Tourism and trade shows are of course down, and everyone is trying to figure out how to help with that. The commerce department has put together some free webinars on ecommerce to help those in who might be able to use that platform. Sourcing and supply chain issues have been discussed to explore all avenues. Hemly stated that businesses are learning more ways to get creative and modify their practices to make the most out of the current situation.

Councilwoman Layna Hafer, representing the Weiser Economic Task Force stated that they have been meeting and assessing ways to be more of a resource to SREDA and ways to revamp visuals to do what they can to help. Kit stated that the task force has been an amazing help to SREDA as they work to identify and close deals for the area. Chairman Nauman stated that all our communities have been very helpful in working together with SREDA to take those connections that SREDA identifies and work with the prospects to close the deal. Nauman also thanked Kit for the amazing job that she does.

Nauman reiterated that the Celebrate Idaho Parade was open to any business individual or group that wants to participate that day. Idaho should be well into stage four by then, but social distancing rules will still be in effect. Anybody from any neighboring community that wants to participate is welcome. There is no application and no entry fee, just show up at the high school on June 27th any time before 11:30 on the morning of the parade. Miss Idaho, Grace Zimmerman, along with Miss of Idaho, Jasmine Rios, will be in attendance. Nauman also mentioned the opening of this new soda shop in Fruitland called Sweet Willy's.

Next meeting is July 7th at the Plaza Inn in Ontario. The meeting will be sponsored by Energy Trust of Oregon and they will be buying breakfast.

5. Adjournment: With no other business discussion, Chairman Nauman then adjourned the meeting at 8:03 a.m. and networking continued.

Minutes prepared by Dan Greig, Co-Secretary