**SREDA Board Meeting**

**August 3, 2021, 7 am**

**Plaza Inn, Ontario, Oregon**

Directors, Members & Guests present: Ken Bishop, Patrick Nauman, Bob Komoto, Sandy Hemenway, Adam Brown, Brad Bailey, Andy Creech, Alicia Cavazos, Jeff Williams, Larry Hogg, John Breidenbach, Ron Rembelski, John Stuart, Andrea Testi, Blas Guerra, Allison Field, Rebeca Morgan, Cathy Yasuda, Rick LaHuis, Ken Hart, Georgia Hanigan, Stuart Grimes, Caryn Appler and Brad Moore.

Staff: Kit Kamo, Executive Director, and Kristen Nieskens, Community Development Specialist

1. The breakfast and networking began at 7 am. Chairman Patrick Nauman called the board meeting to order at 7:15 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. Thanks to Oregon Energy Trust for sponsoring our meeting this morning and buying breakfast.
3. Chairman Nauman reported that the Selection Committee had conducted interviews of four very good candidates for the SREDA Executive Director position and they recommended Kristen Nieskens for the position. Jeff Williams made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Selection Committee, Ken Bishop 2nd the motion. Motion passed.
4. Approval of the July 2021 minutes as emailed out. Nauman asked for a motion to approve the minutes July minutes. Larry Hogg made the motion, Ken Bishop 2nd, motion passed.
5. Chairman Nauman asked for the Financial Report, presented by Sandy Hemenway for July 2021. Sandy reported that the checking balance was $39,350.53 and the Money Market was $35,656.43. Private dollars were received from Red Apple Market Place and Weiser Classic Candy. Sandy also thanks the public funds that were received in June from the City of Fruitland, the City of Payette, Payette County, City of Ontario and Washington County. Ken Bishop made the motion to approve the minutes and 2nd was made by Larry Hogg. Motion passed.
6. Chairman Nauman introduced Caryn Appler from Energy Trust of Oregon. She talked about the organization and her role of helping to connect businesses with the organization. She then introduced Brad Moore. He represents the industrial and agriculture part of their organization and they give incentives and grants for energy upgrades. In Malheur County they provide incentive money to customers of Cascade Natural Gas. Brad is located in Bend. He suggested going to the Energy Trust website to learn more about their incentives and encourages those interested to reach out to him. They provide incentive money to install improvements in radiant heating, boilers, steam traps, building insulation, pipe insulation, greenhouses heating and nurseries. They do both capital and O&M projects.
7. City and Community Reports:

Payette: Mayor Jeff reported that they are finishing up the strategic plan and working on the new budget.

A&W Cruise Night will be organized by the Payette Chamber this year and will focus on the Friday night cruise.

Nyssa, Vale and New Plymouth: No report.

Weiser: Councilman Larry Hogg reported that year to date 2021 permits totaled 43 new building permits and there were 23 other permits issued as well. Weiser Memorial Hospital is donating outdoor fitness equipment to the park. 10 more homes in the E 9th subdivision are nearing permit completion and they will be pounding nails soon. They have received inquiries on 2 new subdivisions as well.

In community news, Patrick Nauman reported that there will be an 18 hole disc golf course built at the Union Pacific Train Park. The Weiser Car Show is coming to the Park this Saturday and the Washington County Fair starts Wednesday.

Fruitland: New City Administrator Stuart Grimes reported 14 new family home permits bringing the YTD total to 53. A new subdivision North Baja Estates has 35 lots ready. Three new businesses are Stice Brothers, Fast Track Station, and Corra Hospice. Sidewalk project from 95 to Colorado is moving forward. Tonight will be First Night Out with the Police Department at Mesa Park.

Ken Bishop reported that there will be a Fruitland Chamber meeting tomorrow at Sweet Willy’s, and Fruitland Family Fun Days will happen the weekend after Labor Day. They are looking for vendors.

Ontario: City Manager Adam Brown reported that a new burger joint will occupy the old Papa Murphy building on SW 4th Ave. It will be a Farm to Table food with drive through service. The new Dutch Bros on SW 4th Ave has broken ground. A new subdivision off Sunset is breaking ground. The foundation for the gazebo at Moore Park has been poured. BLM will be fixing and upgrading the airport for helicopter and fixed wing aircraft. The last weekend in September there will a Short Take-off and Landing contest at the airport. These are modified planes. The world record is 11 feet.

In Ontario Community report, John Breidenbach, Ontario Chamber, reported that the City is renewed their Façade Grand program for businesses on Oregon or SW 4th Ave. Also a Security Grant of up to $500 can be used to purchase video cameras. September 17-18 is the Tater Tot Festival. The Saturday Market will continue. Clothes Line Laundromat is a new business. Ontario Chamber lunch is every Monday at Four River Cultural Center.

1. County Reports:

Payette County: County Commissioner Georgia Hanigan reported that the Payette County Fair starts this week, August 5-7th. The County is working on their comprehensive plan and they are working with the City of Fruitland on coordinating ordinances.

Washington County: No report.

Malheur County: John Breidenbach reported that the Reload Center is getting closer to breaking ground.

1. Director update:

Executive Director Kit Kamo thanked everyone for their support during her tenure as Executive Director. She is excited to have Kristen take the helm. Kit will continue to work part time as needed through at least the end of 2021. Kit presented the written report for the staff from July and highlighted the need for a warehouse type building for a small manufacturing business expansion. Kit also requested that if anyone knew of any startup businesses that need a place to work, the new business incubator is officially ready for occupants at 121 Main Street in Payette.

Kristen reported on the Brownsfield activities that they have been working on in the Vale area. This has been a great partnership with the City of Ontario, Ontario Area Chamber, City of Vale and the City of Nyssa. SREDA has assisted with meetings and connecting with local land owners.

Here is the written report:

**PROJECTS**

Project Ruby – Darigold – Unfortunately, Ontario lost out on this project to Pasco! Pasco has infrastructure to accommodate the plant already in place. They also have a separate waste treatment for industry and another one for regular city waste. This plant will produce dry milk and butter for international sales and was going to help sell the extra milk that is produced in the Pacific NW.

Project Life Size – Weiser won this project! The company, soon to be named, is in the process of purchasing the old 4 Rivers Onion packing facility. We are continuing to assist the company as this will be their first Idaho plant! The company comes from Western Washington and Oregon.

Project Fusion – ready to submit Wada property to the Oregon Lead for an advanced materials manufacturer. Project was due 6/29; then 7/26; and now it will be sometime in August as the company is putting together a better request for information.

Project Organic – Second site visit from investor. Project is still moving forward.

Project Steam – submitted Wada property in for this project to Oregon.

Project PNW (formerly Project Steam) – This project has expanded slightly, and they are looking at needing more acreage than the Wada Property. We have sent them additional information on the Treasure 200. It is some kind of distribution center and right now Ontario is in the top four.

Project Steve – This was a double request for information for a Boise broker who has a client looking for 40 acres. We received the request from both John Breidenbach and Rick Watkins. Regional information was sent to him.

Project Candy – Getting data pulled together for one of Patrick’s clients on a project in the Weiser area.

Project Pony – This is a small manufacturer that reached out to us to find a larger building they could lease and expand into. We toured their existing facility to get an idea of what they needed. They manufacture a horse supplement. Looking for at least a 25’ x 50 warehouse, or so. If you know of something available let us know.

Project Brownsfield – Site visit with landowners in Vale to start the process of analyzing the status of the ground, so that they can sell it or develop it.

**OTHER**

Grants:

SREDA completed and submitted a grant application for the Idaho Commerce Economic Development Rural Professional Grant Program. We requested and received the same amount as last fiscal year, $22,750. We have the MOU for signature and will prepare the Appendix A as well as our financials so that we can request the first draw. Thank you, City of Fruitland, for allowing us to run the funds through.

We have also received a 2-year MOU/Contract to continue to manage the SW Idaho I-84 Visitor Center! This is great news. We are looking forward to having the bathrooms operational sometime this fall!

Meetings and Trainings:

Kit and Kristen have attended numerous Virtual meetings and trainings including Ontario Main Street Hub Workshop; Local Boots on the Ground meeting; Idaho Economic Development Association Education Meeting; Intermountain Gas Company’s planning meeting, TVCC Community Summit meeting, and Idaho Commerce’s ED Pro virtual trainings. We attended some of the Chamber of Commerce luncheons around the valley as well.

Kristen attended another OEDA professional development class.

State & Federal Partner reports: Allison Field, Business Oregon, reported that they are still working on the details for the infrastructure and small business programs.

Blas Guerra, Idaho Dept of Labor, said that there will be more changes coming from his agency. He is working a couple of days in Payette, some in Emmett and 1 in Weiser.

Rebecca Morgan from Boise State University reported that their Community Impact Program last year in Payette had 3 students. But this year there are 10! They will receive the 50% off tuition scholarships and will be able to receive 12 credit hours. Classes begin on the 27th of August. This year’s students are from Emmett, Weiser, Fruitland, Parma, etc. It’s not too late if you know of anyone else that would like to take local BSU classes, please let her know!

1. Roundtable:

Caryn Appler announced that the Eastern Oregon Women’s Coalition sponsored Eastern Oregon Economic Development conference will be in Hermiston on August 19 and 20th. It is a great conference and will cover many subjects including workforce development, housing, water, and more.

Bob Komoto reported that Ontario Kiwanis Club will hold its annual Chicken BBQ Fund Raiser will be August 19th at Beck Kiwanis Park. This year it will be a drive-up and take-out meals.

Cathy Yasuda, TVCC Foundation, reported that TVCC is working with BSU on a 5 year grant focused on our underserved population and the health care industry. The students would start at TVCC and then go on to BSU to finish their degree. Fall classes begin on 8/27. TVCC will have a booth at both the Payette and Malheur County fairs.

Small Business Development Center Andrea Testi reported that there is lots of business interest. 6 local businesses are for sale. Some people are moving back to Ontario and they are looking for a business opportunity. There are scholarships for training in HVAC, plumbing and electrical jobs. The EMT program has 12 students.

Chairman Nauman announced that the next SREDA board meeting will be September 7th, at 7 am at the FMTC Conference Room in Fruitland, with a ZOOM option.

Kit Kamo mentioned that we will need to plan a site for our Annual Meeting, which usually is a dinner meeting. An event center outside of Ontario on Hwy 201 was suggested. Staff will check out the options.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 am.

Minutes prepared by Secretary Bob Komoto.